



The Barra

Weekly Newsletter of St Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook
3rd Sunday of Advent - Year B

12th & 13th December 2020

Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11; Ps LK 1:46-50; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

Sunday 13th December <i>3rd Sunday of Advent - Year B</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass 10.30am Young Family Advent Group P/C 10.45am Baptisms	<p style="text-align: center;">Fr Joe's Musings</p> <p>The Joy of Christ</p> <p>The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally dedicated to the theme of "joy". In this Sunday's gospel, Luke ascribes to Mary the song of "Magnificat". Therein, Mary magnifies God for His immeasurable grace and mercy towards her and Israel: 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.' (Lk 1:46-48)</p> <p>On a particular matter I feel real relief. Some weeks ago, you may have heard about a discussion between bishop Vincent and the parish of Emu Plains on the possibility of twinning our parish with Emu Plains. By chance, I have read the following announcement by John Cowan, the chair of the pastoral council of OLOW: 'Last Tuesday evening, members of the Parish Pastoral Council and the Finance Committee met with Bishop Vincent and Fr. Peter Williams. The meeting was organised at our request following the Bishop's recent letter in which we were reminded that, some years ago, the Diocesan Pastoral Plan— Faith in our Future – recommended that it might be beneficial to consider that our parish "twin" with the parish of Glenbrook. Bishop Vincent advised that such a concept would need to be explored with both parishes involved. At present, the parish of Glenbrook has not been consulted and he has no firm view about the recommendation made in the report at this time. The overall atmosphere of the meeting was one of discernment. We expressed our views and also conveyed the views previously expressed to us by fellow parishioners. We spoke about having in place a Plan for the Future, developed under Fr. Paul's guidance and with the benefit of his experience. We expressed our strong view that we should proceed with this Plan under the leadership of a resident Pastor. In summarising the views of the meeting, Fr. Peter felt that there is no support at Emu Plains to consider "twinning" with the Parish of Glenbrook at this time. It was appropriate therefore to institute action for the appointment of a new Pastor in our parish.' (Bulletins on 6/12)</p> <p>It was also a joy for me to attend the primary school's Christmas concert last Friday. At least, we have experienced a sort of normality. Great to see so many parents and students. The school plays a crucial part in the mission of our Catholic faith.</p> <p>Last Sunday, St Finbar's also welcomed our brothers and sisters of the Uniting Church in Glenbrook. Because of the small size of the building, I am glad that we were able to "offer" our wonderful church's building to our brothers and sisters of the Uniting Church. I hope that ecclesiological differences do not prevent us from working closer in the future. Pope Francis said ecumenism is a priority and common prayers are the fuel for the path towards Christian unity. Hence, as disciples of Christ, we WALK, PRAY and WORK TOGETHER. God bless us all</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Fr. Joe</p>
Monday 14th December <i>St. John of the Cross</i>	9.15am Year 6 Graduation Mass	
Tuesday 15th December	9.00am Mass 6.00pm Christmas Choir Practice	
Wednesday 16th December	9.00am Mass + Rosary 7.30pm 2nd Rite of Reconciliation	
Thursday 17th December	9.00am Mass 7.30pm Christmas Biblical Reflection P/C	
Friday 18th December	9.00 Mass 1.00pm Bowlers 5.30pm Cantabile Choir Practice 7.30pm Advent Adoration	
Saturday 19th December	9.00am Mass 10.00am Baptism 11.30am Te Deum Choir Practice 4.45pm Confession 5.30pm Vigil Mass	
Sunday 20th December <i>4th Sunday of Advent Year B</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass 10.30am Young Family Advent Group P/C	

WEDDING

St. Finbar's Parish Community would like to congratulate

Nicola Parise & Vikram Kulkarni

who got married on last Friday the 11th of December, and wish them God's abundant blessings.



WELCOME all visitors to our church today. We extend our greetings to you. If you wish to join St Finbar's Parish, please make yourself known to one of our Wardens so we can give you our Parish Welcome Pack. Our Parish lies within the Traditional Country of the Darug people- The Aboriginal Custodians of our area.

SUNDAY BAPTISMS:

The Parish joyfully announces the Baptism of **Ivan Robert Murphy, Scarlett Valerie Murphy and Carter Falls** who are going to be Baptised this Sunday and warmly welcomes them into our Faith Community.

ST. FINBAR'S PARISH NEWS

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:

2nd Rite of reconciliation will be held on *Wednesday the 16th December at 7.30pm*

Christmas Eve Mass *Thursday the 24th of December at 7.00pm* (Readings for Vigil).

Children are encouraged to come dressed up as an angel or a shepherd.

Midnight Mass *will start at 11.30pm with Christmas Carols.* (Readings for the Night).

Christmas Day Mass *8.30am* (Readings of the Day).



2021 Religious calendars are now available at the Wardens' table. \$6 Franciscan and \$10 Columban.

SVDP CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2020

Christmas Hampers

Christmas Hampers will need to follow COVID-Safe controls this year:

- ◆ This year we are seeking the donation of complete hampers by each donor to minimise handling.
- ◆ Please wipe each item with an antibacterial cloth before placing in one or two shopping bags.
- ◆ Please ensure that all food items are within the expiry date

A suggested items list is available for collection at the Warden's Table.

Christmas Gift Tree

The Christmas Gift tree has been put up and if parishioners wish to support this activity then please take a tag from the tree or wardens table, purchase a gift for a child as suggested on the tag and return the wrapped gift with the tag securely attached to the outside.

All hampers and gifts will need to be left at the church no later than Thursday 17 December 2020.

Volunteers

We will need helpers at 9.30am on Saturday 19 December to assist with the delivery of the hampers. If you are able to assist us with this task please leave your name and contact details with the wardens or send a SMS message to 0413 549 518. Masks and gloves are needed for this task.

Poor Box Donations

All donations to the Poor Box till the end of December will count towards our Christmas Appeal. Any and all donations will be greatly appreciated and will support our work over the Christmas period and into 2021. If you want to make a larger donation and require a receipt for taxation purposes please, contact Vince Dobson personally or through the Parish Office.

Thank you, fellow parishioners, for your generosity in helping a family put food on the table this Christmas.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

Beatrice Doughty (Erika McNay's sister), Margaret Garvan, Mikaela Au, Chiqui Trujillo (Carl Moll's brother in law), Tricia McQuade (Jan Smith's cousin), Jeanette Rogers (Martin Rogers' mother) and Michael Taylor.

PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK PARISHIONERS, RELATIVES & FRIENDS:

Karen Bishop, Michael McMahon (Peter's brother), Christine McGillion, Margaret Christensen, Angela Dengate (Jim Pope's daughter), Adam Carlyon (Theresa Luczak's Son in Law), Ryder Lopez, Rev. Max Barrett (CSSR) (Jim Barrett's Brother), Joan Paine, Mark Bates, Lyn Downes, Reg Moore, Pam Clyne, Ellen Moffitt, Terry Stevens, Jacqui Visser, Joan Lohrey, Joanne Macrae, Maddison Farrugia, Catherine Kirk (Cameron), Sophie Hollies, Colleen Nolan, Michelle Anthony and Harrison Aggar (Margaret & Ian Dickson's Grandson).

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:

Paul Edelbrock, Elma O'Shea, Henry Brockway, Malcolm King, Coral Darr, Ann Lowe, Stephen Schaefer, Mark Broomhead, James Gapps, Marjorie Doyle, Margaret Gibson, Venita Bronlow and Phyllis Helm.

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ST. FINBAR'S PARISH NOTICES

COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) UPDATE

NSW Health has revised the COVID-19 guidelines for places of worship effective from 7 December 2020.

1) Places of Worship and Religious Services

The maximum number of people at places of worship and religious services will only be limited by the 2 square metre rule. If a place of public worship has separate buildings, the maximum number of people in each separate building is subject to the 2 square metre rule. If there are separate buildings, each building should have a COVID-19 Safety Plan in place.

2) Weddings and Funerals

There will be no upper cap on the number of people who can attend weddings and funerals, provided the new 2 square metre rule is adhered to.

3) Choir and Congregational Singing

Up to 50 singers/performers will be permitted to sing indoors. There will be no maximum cap for outdoor singing. Congregations may sing, but NSW Health continues to ask that anyone 12 years or older to wear a mask.

CHRISTMAS BIBLICAL REFLECTION "CHRISTMAS: FOLKTALE OR TRUTH?"

Some people think that the nativity story, being an obviously religious story, is neither historically nor scientifically accurate. Is it so? How did the authors of the Four Gospels and Paul see the birth of Jesus? Come and explore the biblical-theological dimension of the Nativity.

Where: St Finbar's Parish Hall, Glenbrook

When: 17 December 2020, at 7.30pm

Who: Fr Joseph Lam, PhD STD

Due to COVID restrictions the number of attendances will be limited. Please pre-register your attendance with the parish office on 47398928!

CHRISTMAS ROSTER.

Parishioners are invited to nominate themselves for the Liturgical Roles at one of our three Christmas Masses.

There is a blank roster on the notice board in the Narthex near the Warden's table. Please write your name against any one ministry vacancy that you can fill. Thank you for all your help and support.

CATHOLIC OUTLOOK MAGAZINE SUMMER 2020/21 EDITION

Catholic Outlook Summer edition is out now and free to all parishioners. Read about our amazing HSC students, the new bells of St Patrick's Cathedral and how the new Vatican Ambassador who originates from Castle Hill is settling in. Plus what the symbols of Advent really mean. Pick up your free copy from your local Catholic Church, Catholic School or Catholic office today.

BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL

This Christmas, let us unite in demonstrating God's unconditional love and keep families together. Your compassionate gifts and prayers will help CatholicCare's Project Elizabeth to support vulnerable families to build strong, loving relationships. You can help give people like Sharen, Dale and baby Jackson the emotional and practical support they need to live their lives in love and joy. Please give generously to the Bishop's Christmas Appeal: yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal. Envelopes are available on the church pews.

THE EPIPHANY PILGRIMAGE 2021

The Epiphany Pilgrimage is a not-for-profit event of the Diocese of Parramatta and outreach of the Blue Mountains Deanery. Beginning at Emu Plains on 2 January and finishing 7 days later at Bell, pilgrims walk through the beautiful Blue Mountains bushland and spend time in prayer and fellowship reflecting on the journey of the Magi to seek, encounter and adore the Christ-child. Limited overnight registrations are available to ensure the event is Covid Safe. Day walkers are welcome. For more information and to register visit www.epiphanypilgrimage.org. To follow the journey see <https://www.facebook.com/epiphanypilgrimage/>.

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PARISH INFORMATION

Parish Priest: Fr Joseph Lam OSA
E-mail: joseph.lam@parracatholic.org
Phone: 0490 148 387

Secretary: Juliana Khnouf
E-mail: secretary@stfinbars.org.au

Admin: Peter McMahon
E-mail: glenbrook@parracatholic.org
Phone: 0404 010 997

Office Hours: 9.30am - 3.00pm
 Tuesday to Friday
Office Phone: (02) 4739 8928

Address:
 52 Levy Street, Glenbrook 2773
 PO Box 123 Glenbrook NSW 2773

Sacraments
Confessions: Sat 4.45-5.15pm
Baptisms: By Appointment
Weddings: By Appointment

Web: www.stfinbars.org.au

Parish School: Principal Mrs Robyn Clarke
Phone: 4724 3600

ROSTER FOR 19TH & 20TH DECEMBER 2020

Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	Vince Dobson	Carl Moll	Stuart Sheary
Senior Server	Vince Dobson	Carl Moll	Martin Rogers
Junior Server	Joshua Toutounji & Dominic Scanlan		Andy Rogers
Warden	Volunteer Please	Volunteer Please	Frank Fitzpatrick
1 st Reading	Maire Griffin	John Killeen	Peter or Trish Hurley
2 nd Reading	Gideon Goosen	Volunteer Please	Gary Clune
Intercession	Margaret Moore	John De Mattia	Frank Fitzpatrick
IT Operators	Henry Hanco	Joseph Wilson	Susan Dowling
Cashiers	Joe Grange		
Church Care	Robyn Flynn, Jan de Bie & Jessica Doherty		
Garden Club	Kevin Debeck, Rob Lennon, Michael Lloyd & John Killeen		

Piety Stall Re-opens.

Our parish piety stall has re-opened, and just in time for the Advent and Christmas seasons. It is located now in the church kitchen. Please come in and buy all your Christmas cards at very reasonable prices, and maybe also a Christmas gift or two. Please contact Noreen 4739 8882

Immaculata Mission School 2021: Made for Heaven!

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Speakers: Archbishop Julian Porteous, Fr Rob Galea, James Parker, Paul Elarde, Sisters of the Immaculata & lay community. **For more info or to register:** www.sistersoftheimmaculata.org.au/ims or 0406 372 608



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