



The Barra

Weekly Newsletter of St Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook
4th Sunday of Advent - Year B
19th & 20th December 2020

Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16; Ps 88; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

Sunday 20th December <i>4th Sunday of Advent Year B</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass 10.30am Young Families Advent Group P/C
Monday 21st December	5.00pm SVDP Meeting M/R
Tuesday 22nd December	9.00am Mass 6.00pm Christmas Choir Practice
Wednesday 23rd December	9.00am Mass + Rosary
Thursday 24th December	9.00am Mass 7.00pm Christmas Vigil Mass 11.30pm Christmas Carols 12.00am Christmas Midnight Mass
Friday 25th December <i>The Nativity of the Lord</i>	8.30am Christmas Day Mass
Saturday 26th December <i>St. Stephen</i>	9.00am Mass 11.30am Te Deum Choir Practice 4.45pm Confession 5.30pm Vigil Mass
Sunday 27th December <i>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass

SATURDAY BAPTISM:

The Parish joyfully announces the Baptism of Benedict Rajnoch who is going to be Baptised this Saturday the 19th of December 2020 and warmly welcomes him into our Faith Community.



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.

Fr Joe's Musings

For nothing will be impossible for God...

Once Mikhail Bakunin (18 May said: "By striving to do the impossible, man has always achieved what is possible. Those who have cautiously done no more than they believed possible have never taken a single step forward." Bakunin believed in the unlimited capabilities of humans. The only obstacle is fear because fear is a step backwards.

Today, it seems that science has taken Bakunin by his own words. With the speed of the internet, we can access instantly mass information on all topics of interest. The advances in science and technology are impressive and perhaps even beyond our imagination. Attempts have been made to unlock the mystery of the incarnation of the Son of God. However, this proof must be done differently. Evidence that Jesus was God Incarnate is provided by the kind of life he led, and its culmination in the Resurrection. Pope Benedict XVI describes Jesus' way of life as "pro-existence": In his "being for others", Jesus becomes the face of his Father's mercy. It through this mercy that Mary was chosen to be the mother of Jesus. This is only possible because God can make impossible things possible. Hence, Mary could say: "May it be done to me according to your word."

Pope Benedict XVI reflects on the role of Mary in the history of salvation: "Mary's 'YES' is therefore the door through which God was able to enter the world, to become man. So it is that Mary is truly and profoundly involved in the Mystery of the Incarnation, of our salvation. And the Incarnation, the Son's becoming man, was the beginning that prepared the ground for the gift of himself; for giving himself with great love on the Cross to become Bread for the life of the world. Hence sacrifice, priesthood and Incarnation go together, and Mary is at the heart of this mystery."

Mary's 'YES' and our 'YES' may be taken as evidence against the distortion of the worldview that convinces us that no one — not even God — could love us.

Today, I would like to take up this opportunity to thank you for your YES and for your generous participation in the parish's life. From the very beginning of my ministry here in Glenbrook, I have always stressed that you are the real guardians and stewards of our parish. Priests come and go!

On behalf of the parish staff, please accept our sincere gratitude. We normally would have a thank you party for volunteers. COVID-19 has not allowed this to happen. However, we intend to have a WELCOME BACK PARTY in February 2021.

May I wish you all a joyous and blessed Christmas.

**PS. We have a new parish facebook page:
GLENBROOK CATHOLIC CHURCH ST FINBAR**

Fr. Joe

ST. FINBAR'S PARISH NEWS

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:

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).



CHURCH/HALL AND MEETING ROOM KEYS

If you have any of the keys that belong to the Parish can you please email me the number written on the key as I have been updating the parish key database and it appears that some of the keys are missing. Also, if you have a key and no longer need it, can you please return it to the Parish Office. Thank you. Juliana Khnouf



OFFICE CLOSURE BETWEEN CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

Please note that the Parish Office will be closed from Friday the 25th of December to Tuesday the 5th of January. There **will be no daily Masses except for Friday the 1st of January** as we celebrate **Mary, the Holy Mother of God solemnity**. Weekend Masses will be held at their regular times. Wishing you a blessed and safe Christmas and all the best for the New Year.

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS IN THE ST FINBAR'S CHURCH CARE MINISTRY FOR ALL THEIR HARD WORK DURING A PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT YEAR. I ESPECIALLY WANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE OUR EMERGENCY TEAM WHO WERE ON CALL TO CLEAN THE CHURCH ON SHORT NOTICE. MAY YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES ENJOY A HOLY & JOY-FILLED CHRISTMAS SEASON WITH A SAFE & HAPPY NEW YEAR.



EXTRA HELP IS NEEDED TO DO A FINAL CLEAN OF THE CHURCH PRIOR TO THE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS. WE ARE MEETING AT ST FINBAR'S AT 9.30AM ON TUESDAY, 22ND. IF YOU CAN SPARE AN HOUR ON THIS DATE THEN WE WOULD BE GRATEFUL OF ANY EXTRA HELP TO ENSURE THE CHURCH IS LOOKING AT ITS BEST. PLEASE CONTACT HEATHER ON 0403 779922 IF YOU'RE ABLE TO HELP OR MEET US AT TBE CHURCH ON THIS DATE. MANY THANKS

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:

Brian Jenkins, Monica Keating, Geoffrey Shalala, Angela Hector, Shirley Tregillgas, Madeleine Oxley, Alice Nolan, Violet Clements, Kathleen Macbeth, Colleen Pederson, Joy Serne, Allan Klein, Baby Lucy Barrett, Alice Quinn, John Simon, Colin Sell, Arthur Adamson, Richard Cranbrook, Phil O'Danaghoe, Kathleen Thomas, Harriet Walsh, Patrick Walsh, Dorothy Palise and Robyn Kopp.

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TAP'N'GO TERMINALS

You will have noticed the two Tap'n'Go terminals in the Narthex of the church.

This is in response to the cultural change whereby less people carry loose cash on them when they come to Mass and so are not able to contribute to the first or second collections.

Now all you have to do is tap your card once on either terminal to make a \$5 donation, tap twice for a \$10 donation etc. Use any card that you would normally use when making retail purchases, or use your phone if you have your card on your phone. (Each month the revenue from these terminals will be divided between the first and second collections in line with the ratio that has normally existed between these two collections in the past).

Please note that these terminals do NOT replace your envelopes, direct debit or credit card donations – please keep these going as usual.



Dear Parishioners

What a year this has been.

You will recall that earlier this year all your ideas and input for the future of our parish had been gathered together. None of this input has been lost.

While Covid put a hold on things we are thrilled by the expectation of re-engaging with you in the new year to continue our journey together.

Before Covid put a pause on things:

- We prayed and discerned this question: 'what is God asking of us is our parish at this time'?
- You shared your input through small group discussions and feedback box.
- We gathered as a parish community in our hall to see everyone's ideas presented.

A working group distilled all your input into six themes:

Early next year, these six themes will be presented to you in more detail and you will be asked to indicate the themes that you believe our parish should focus on first.

Look out for more details from the Plenary Committee about our next parish gathering in the new year!

Diocese of Parramatta Notices

Bishop Vincent's Christmas message

Will be available for play on YouTube d as a video file (.mp4) link for play on a laptop or similar device. Where possible, you are invited to play the message during your Christmas Masses. This will be emailed directly to parishes this week.

Year of St Joseph

Pope Francis on December 8, 2020 published an Apostolic Letter *Patris corde* (With a Father's Heart), commemorating the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a "Year of St Joseph", running from December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021.

Positions Vacant:

- Sacramental Coordinator (part-time) – Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown – **Applications close Monday 21 December.** More details at: parracatholic.org/employment

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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
 (Closed on Mondays)
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 26TH & 27TH DECEMBER 2020

Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	Anaru Veitch	Peter McMahon	Stephen Brown
Senior Server	Anaru Veitch	Peter McMahon	Stephen Brown
Junior Server	Ethan Cameron		Keira Vermaak & Nicola De La Mare
Warden	Huia Kingi	Volunteer Please	Gary Clune
1 st Reading	Beth Culliver	Leanne Brown	Patricia Murnane
2 nd Reading	Volunteer Please	Margaret Dickson	Irene Aligno
Intercession	Allan Jones	Kevin Flynn	Carmel Higgins
IT Operators	Eleanor Thompson	Terry Keogh	Joanne Stubbs
Cashiers	Robyn Flynn		
Church Care	Noreen Taylor, Ian Dickson, Heather & Steve Lee, Wendy Bohan & Amanda O'Leary		

A small truck is required to help us occasionally get tree cuttings to the tip. Recently we've had falls from a whole tree and several large branches from another tree. If you own or have access to a small truck and can help us, could you please contact the Parish Office. Volunteers will help load the truck and the Parish pays for the tip fees.

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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