



## CHRISTMAS 2020

**VIGIL MASS READINGS ARE:** Isaiah 62:1-5; Ps 88; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Matthew 1:1-25

**MIDNIGHT MASS READINGS ARE:** Isaiah 9:1-7; Ps 95; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14

**CHRISTMAS DAY MASS READINGS ARE:** Isaiah 52:7-10; Ps 97; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18

### Truth has arisen from the earth and justice has looked down from heaven

Awake, mankind! For your sake God has become man. Awake, you who sleep, rise up from the dead, and Christ will enlighten you. I tell you again: for your sake, God became man.

You would have suffered eternal death, had he not been born in time. Never would you have been freed from sinful flesh, had he not taken on himself the likeness of sinful flesh. You would have suffered everlasting unhappiness, had it not been for this mercy. You would never have returned to life, had he not shared your death. You would have been lost if he had not hastened to your aid. You would have perished, had he not come.

Let us then joyfully celebrate the coming of our salvation and redemption. Let us celebrate the festive day on which he who is the great and eternal day came from the great and endless day of eternity into our own short day of time.

He has become our justice, our sanctification, our redemption, so that, as it is written: Let him who glories glory in the Lord.

Truth, then, has arisen from the earth: Christ who said, I am the Truth, was born of the Virgin. And justice looked down from heaven: because believing in this new-born child, man is justified not by himself but by God.

Truth has arisen from the earth: because the Word was made flesh. And justice looked down from heaven: because every good gift and every perfect gift is from above.

Truth has arisen from the earth: flesh from Mary. And justice looked down from heaven: for man can receive nothing unless it has been given him from heaven.

Justified by faith, let us be at peace with God: for justice and peace have embraced one another. Through our Lord Jesus Christ: for Truth has arisen from the earth. Through whom we have access to that grace in which we stand, and our boast is in our hope of God's glory. He does not say: "of our glory," but of God's glory: for justice has not come out of us but has looked down from heaven. Therefore he who glories, let him glory, not in himself, but in the Lord.

For this reason, when our Lord was born of the Virgin, the message of the angelic voices was: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to men of good will.

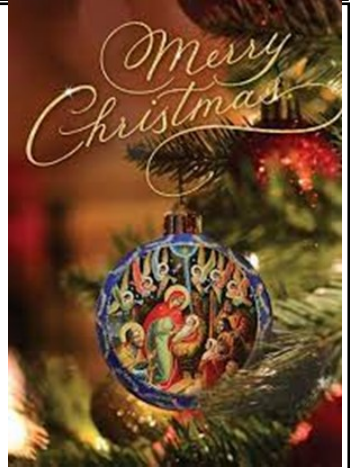
For how could there be peace on earth unless Truth has arisen from the earth, that is, unless Christ were born of our flesh? And he is our peace who made the two into one: that we might be men of good will, sweetly linked by the bond of unity.

Let us then rejoice in this grace, so that our glorying may bear witness to our good conscience by which we glory, not in ourselves, but in the Lord. That is why Scripture says: He is my glory, the one who lifts up my head. For what greater grace could God have made to dawn on us than to make his only Son become the son of man, so that a son of man might in his turn become son of God?

Ask if this were merited; ask for its reason, for its justification, and see whether you will find any other answer but sheer grace.

From A Sermon by St. Augustine (354-430)



*Father Joe*



***WELCOME all visitors to our church today. We extend our greetings to you. Wishing you and your family a blessed Christmas.***

# ST. FINBAR'S PARISH NEWS

<b>Parish Priest:</b> Father Joseph Lam OSA E-mail: joseph.lam@parracatholic.org Phone: 0490 148 387	<b>Address:</b> 52 Levy Street, Glenbrook 2773 PO Box 123 Glenbrook NSW 2773
<b>Secretary:</b> Juliana Khnouf E-mail: secretary@stfinbars.org.au	<b>Sacraments</b> Confessions: Sat 4.45-5.15pm Baptisms: By Appointment Weddings: By Appointment
<b>Admin:</b> Peter McMahon E-mail: glenbrook@parracatholic.org Phone: 0404 010 997	<b>Web:</b> www.stfinbars.org.au
<b>Office Hours:</b> 9.30am - 3.00pm Tuesday to Friday <b>(Closed on Mondays)</b> Office Phone: (02) 4739 8928	<b>Parish School:</b> Principal Mrs Robyn Clarke Phone: 4724 3600

	<p><b>OFFICE CLOSURE BETWEEN CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR</b></p> <p>Please note that the Parish Office will be closed from Friday the 25th of December to Monday the 4th of January. There <i>will be no daily Masses except for Friday the 1st of January</i> as we celebrate <i>Mary, the Holy Mother of God solemnity</i>. Weekend Masses will be held at their regular times. Wishing you a blessed and safe Christmas and all the best for the New Year.</p>	
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*Richard Mason passed away and his funeral was on Wednesday the 23rd. Please remember Jayne and the Mason family in your prayers this Christmas as they are going to have a sad Christmas.*

*Many thanks for Patrick Watson, Brian Robertson, Brian Egan, Kieren, Tricia & Hugo Murnane for their help in cutting the fallen trees and moving the branches to Blaxland Tip to make room for the disability car parking during Christmas. May God bless you and your families this Christmas.*  
*Father Joseph Lam OSA*

**Re: COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Update**  
NSW Health has revised the COVID-19 guidelines for places of worship effective from 21st December 2020 until further notice.

- 1) Rule changes for venues in Greater Sydney: The maximum number of people at places of worship and religious services has been revised to one person per 4 square metres. This applies to all indoor settings including places of worship. Places of worship will be limited to a maximum capacity of 300 people.
- 2) Rule changes for venues across NSW: No more than 5 performers should sing indoors, with 1.5 metres between performers and 5 metres between performers and the audience. The audience should not participate in singing or chanting indoors. NSW Health strongly recommends people across NSW wear face masks indoors.
- 3) Masks during Communion: Parish priests, priests and ministers of the Communion are strongly encouraged to wear masks when distributing Communion.

**“Peace on earth will come to stay, When we live Christmas every day.” – Helen Steiner Rice**

<b>Thursday 24th December</b> <i>Christmas Eve</i>	<b>9.00am Mass</b> <b>7.00pm Christmas Vigil Mass</b> <b>12.00pm Christmas Midnight Mass</b>	<b>Friday 25th December</b> <i>The Nativity of the Lord</i>	<b>8.30am Christmas Day Mass</b>
<b>Saturday 26th December</b> <i>St. Stephen</i>	<b>9.00am Mass</b> 11.30am Te Deum's Choir Practice 4.45pm Confession <b>5.30pm Vigil Mass</b>	<b>Sunday 27th December</b> <i>The Holy Family Of Jesus, Mary &amp; Joseph</i>	<b>7.30am Mass</b> <b>9.30am Mass</b>