



The Barra

Weekly Newsletter of St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook
1st Sunday of Lent - Year B
20th & 21st February 2021

Genesis 9:8-15; Ps 24; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:12-15

FR JOE'S MUSINGS

Seeking the Face of God...

The Ash Wednesday's celebration marks the inauguration of the liturgical season of Lent. While we may be familiar with the Latin root of the forty days ("quadragesima"), the origin of LENT is less evident to us. Like other devotional practices and religious idioms, the word "lent" was frequently used in the late Middle Ages when popular preachers began to replace the Latin with English vernacular. So, the [English](#) word *lent* was adopted. This word initially simply meant *spring* and derives from the Germanic root for *spring* (specifically Old English *lencten*; also the Anglo-Saxon name for March—*lenct*). In modern Dutch, the word for "spring" is still "lente," while the forty-days fasting period is called "vasten." Historically, the practice of Lenten fasting was undertaken for practical reasons: during a time when food stored away in the previous autumn was running out, or had to be used up before it went bad in store, and little or no new food-crop was expected soon. Then, people called this period of shortage: "hungry gap".

Lent is not just a time to set personal goals, such as giving up smoking or eating less etc. These people, religious and non-religious, may be dedicated and sincere—but they are sincerely wrong.

According to the *Catholic Encyclopedia*, "the real aim of Lent is, above all else, to prepare Christians for the celebration of the death and Resurrection of Christ...the better the preparation the more effective the celebration will be. One can effectively relive the mystery only with purified mind and heart. The purpose of Lent is to provide that purification by weaning people from sin and selfishness through self-denial and prayer, by creating in them the desire to do God's will and to make His kingdom come by making it come first of all in their hearts."

This Sunday's Gospel considers the Lenten observance as a necessary preparation for the fulfilment of the Kingdom of God. For Jesus, the marks of the Kingdom of God are compassion and mercy. We don't enter the kingdom of God by thinking about it or by listening to one another talk about it. But we do it by following Jesus example. It is clear that Jesus intended for his disciples to actually do the things he did and taught 'love your enemies, give your money to the poor, love your neighbour, blessed are the peacemakers...' we are told anyone who hears these words and puts them into practice is like a wise person who builds their house on the rock.

The project COMPASSION is a concrete way to promote and to build a more just and compassionate and solidary society. This year, Project Compassion highlights the story of Jamila, a single mother who was forced to flee Myanmar on foot with her child after her village was burnt down in conflict. She walked for 6 days carrying her child to create a new home in a Bangladeshi refugee camp of more than 1.3 million people. Once there, Caritas Australia was able to provide her with emergency shelter, counselling and prepared the community for COVID-19 thanks to you and your community's support. Our prayers, advocacy, acts of solidarity and almsgiving changes lives and makes God's love for all His people known in the world, often when they need it the most.

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows **generously** will also reap **generously**. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Father Joe

PARISH INFORMATION

Parish Priest: Fr Joseph Lam OSA

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Secretary: Juliana Khnouf

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Phone: 0404 010 997

Office Hours: 9.30am – 3.00pm

Tuesday to Friday

(Closed on Mondays)

Office Phone: (02) 4739 8928

Address:

46 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

Facebook:

Glenbrook Catholic
Church St Finbars

Parish School: Principal

Mrs Robyn Clarke

Phone:

4724 3600

Parish Phone and Email

Please note that the Parish is having a problem with the phone and emails for the last 2 weeks as we have been trying for 9 months to have the NBN installed with Telstra and no success. Can you please use glenbrook@parracatholic.org email to contact the office. **Thank you**

APPOINTMENT OF GERARD EGAN TO THE PASTORAL COUNCIL OF BLUE MOUNTAINS DEANERY.

We congratulate Gerard for accepting the appointment to the Pastoral Council of the Blue Mountains Deanery. Also, Gerard was elected its secretary at the first meeting of the year. We wish Gerard God's blessing as he takes up his task at the Deanery level.

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.

ST. FINBAR'S PARISH NEWS

KNOW YOUR PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Please be introduced to the first five of our Parish Councillors, next week I will include the rest of the group, so you can get to know them all. Thank you. Juliana Khnouf



Vince Dobson



Carl Moll



Jesse Mowbray



Jim McLoughlin



Martin Rogers

FR JOE ARTICLE IN CATHOLIC OUTLOOK



SACRAMENTS INFORMATION EVENING.

An Information Night for the parents of children who wish to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Eucharist in 2021 will be held at the Parish Hall on Monday the 1st of March at 7.30pm. Dates and requirements for participation in each of the Sacramental journeys will be discussed and distributed at this meeting. Children need not attend.

NEW VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED-CHURCH CARE GROUP

We are appealing to the Parish community for new volunteers to assist our group. Each group has between three to five members who meet to clean our church approximately every six to eight weeks.

The clean takes about 1½ hours. Our existing volunteers have been serving for many years and we are in dire need of some younger people.

If you are interested in joining or being an emergency person then please contact Heather Lee 0403 779922/ 4739 4906 or Juliana in the parish office. Thank you.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - FRIDAY 5TH MARCH AT ST FINBARS 7:30PM

The host country this year is Vanuatu and the theme is *Built on a Strong Foundation*. The service is held each year on the First Friday in March and is a global ecumenical movement of informed Christian prayer and prayerful action across over 170 countries.

All welcome – we would love for you to come along and meet people from local churches. The service will be held in line with St. Finbar's COVID Safety Plan.

For further information please contact Todd Stanford on 0422 072 373.

Organised by the Glenbrook Blaxland Inter church Group.

2021 Religious calendars are still available for sale on the Wardens' table.
They are for \$6 for Franciscan Calendars and \$10 for Columban Calendars.

We value cost and care as much as you do

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PARISH CALENDAR

DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA NOTICES

Sunday 21st February <i>1st Sunday of Lent</i> <i>Year B</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass 6.00pm Youth Mass 7.00pm "The Lounge" Senior Youth Group P/C
Monday 22nd February <i>The Chair of</i> <i>St. Peter</i>	No Morning Mass
Tuesday 23rd February	9.00am Mass 7.30pm Lenten Biblical Studies P/C
Wednesday 24th February	9.00am Mass 9.30am Playgroup P/C
Thursday 25th February	9.00am Mass 2.00pm Lenten Group M/R 7.30pm Blue Mountains Folk Dance P/C
Friday 26th February	9.00am Mass 1.00pm Bowlers 5.30pm Cantabile Choir Practice 7.30pm Adoration
Saturday 27th February	9.00am Mass 11.30am Te Deum Choir Practice 4.45pm Confession 5.30pm Vigil Mass
Sunday 28th February <i>2nd Sunday of Lent</i> <i>Year B</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass 11.00am Baptisms

Positions Vacant:

Social Justice Coordinator – Diocese of Parramatta –
Applications close 5pm 22 February 2021

More details at: parracatholic.org/employment
Institute for Mission 2021 formation programs – sign up today

Interested or already involved in your parish community initiatives? Looking to explore key themes of the Catholic tradition? Express your interest today in the Institute for Mission's Reflective Ministry and Themes of Faith programs for your life and faith enrichment. They are 100% free and begin in early March in an online format. For more information, contact Sr Grace on 9296 6369 or grace.roclawska@ifm.org.au or Donnie on 0432042140 or donnie.velasco@ifm.org.au

Join the bellringers of St Patrick's Cathedral

The Peal of Bells of St Patrick's Cathedral have been officially installed. Bell ringing commences 10.30am Sundays ahead of the Solemn Mass. If you would like to enquire about learning to ring the bells, please contact Fr Christopher Del Rosario on Christopher.Del-Rosario@parracatholic.org. For further information, please visit <https://stpatricks cathedral.com.au/bellsofstpatricks/>
Mt Schoenstatt Spirituality Centre is taking bookings for 2021

As a COVID-safe registered business, the Mt Schoenstatt Spirituality Centre, Mulgoa, is once again available for personal or small group bookings to discern and plan for what the future might look like. They have also begun taking bookings for 2021, with numbers set to increase as restrictions return to normal. For more information, please call (02) 4773 8338, email info@schoenstatt.org.au or visit www.schoenstatt.org.au



PROJECT COMPASSION PRAYER

God of all peoples and nations, as you accompany us on our Lenten journey, May our fasting strengthen our commitment to live in solidarity, our almsgiving be an act of justice, and our prayers anchor us in love and compassion. Through living simply and loving generously, may we care for our global family and our common home, as we *aspire not have more, but to be more.* We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Bateman Battersby

L A W Y E R S

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PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

Terrence Fitzpatrick (Frank Fitzpatrick's brother), Patricia Watson (Jim Pope's sister), Colin Darby (Stephen Darby's Father), Michelle Anthony, Kathleen Griffin, Terry Wesley (Mike Rivas' Cousin), Richard Mason and Mikaela Au.

PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK PARISHIONERS, RELATIVES & FRIENDS:

Lyn Beltran, Karen Single, Karen Bishop, Christine McGillion, Margaret Christensen, 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, Ellen Moffitt, Terry Stevens, Jacqui Visser, Joan Lohrey, Joanne Macrae, Catherine Kirk (Cameron), Maddison Farrugia, Sophie Hollies, Colleen Nolan, Pam Clyne and Harrison Aggar (Margaret & Ian Dickson's Grandson).

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:

Robert Dominish, Gregory McGee, William Pohlmann, Wendy Harley, Simon Egan, Virginia Windred, Mel Nethery, Sarah Watson, Irene Wiecek, Vincent Basile, John Venn, Zdenka Polak, Eva Lynch, William Wilson and Petrus Zwegers.

ROSTER FOR 27TH & 28TH FEBRUARY 2021

Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	Ahyiesha D'Souza	Peter McMahon	Stephan Brown
Senior Server	Ahyiesha D'Souza	Peter McMahon	Stephan 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	Eileen Jones	Margaret Dickson	Irene Aligno
Intercession	Allan Jones	Kevin Flynn	Carmel Higgins
IT Operators	Eleanor Thompson	Terry Keogh	Joanne Stubbs
Cashiers	Joe Grange		
Children's Liturgy	Danielle		
Piety Stall	Ann Marie King		

Lent Retreat – Saturday 27th February 9am to 2pm.

This annual ecumenical event organised by the Glenbrook Blaxland Inter church Group will be held again this year (Covid safely) at St. Andrew's Uniting Church 7 Green Street, Glenbrook.

Focus on *The Power of Listening in the spirituality of Mark's Gospel* led by Laurie Woods with reflection facilitated by Carolyn Craig Emilsen.

There is no cost however a donation of \$10 at the door would be welcomed if possible.

Register with Elaine Alinta 4739 0632 or standrews@glenbrook.unitingchurch.org.au



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