



The Barra

Weekly Newsletter of St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook
2nd Sunday of Lent - Year B
27th & 28th February 2021

Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18; Ps 115; Romans 8:31-34; Mark 9:2-10

FR JOE'S MUSINGS

And he said quite openly (plainly)...

If we want to add gravity to a point we want to underscore, we often say: "Honestly, I tell you that it is so!" We all know that speaking in truth will not always be appreciated. This is more so in a time when "alternative facts" are being taken for truths; or truths are quickly labelled as "fake news".

In the Gospel of Mark that we read this Sunday, Jesus also speaks quite frankly to his disciples. He declared openly that He "must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again." Like us, Peter cannot accept this truth and quickly dismissed it as "fake news" since Jesus' statement of truth does not concur with his personal view of truths. In Peter's opinion, God who is almighty and powerful cannot suffer. Sufferings and Power are mutually exclusive.

Peter's belief reflects the traditional Greek philosophy that advocates for the IMPASSIBILITY of God. Accordingly, God cannot suffer since He is unchanging. Hence, divine impassibility is based on God's immutability. Yet, the Bible presents God as vulnerable since He is full of love. Since God is love, He is also compassionate. In Jeremiah 14:17 we read also that Yahweh speaks of shedding "tears night and day." Gordon McConville writes that verses 17-18 "represent again the pain of the Lord through the mouth, and the experience, of Jeremiah. The Lord is not indifferent to the grief of the people, even though he himself brings it upon them as judgment. His mourning corresponds to Judah's." Other biblical passages go as far as to say that God repents.

Why? Because God's repentance is the beginning of salvation for humanity! God's repentance is not an emotion of his Being but a *change of treatment towards mankind from a human point of view*. We should remember what Paul taught almost two thousand years ago, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (Rom 8:28)

In his Son Jesus, God suffers for us because we have become impassibly indifferent to the cry of the poor. Our hearts are hardened at the injustice and sufferings of others around us. God is hurt because we hurt others through our actions and words. He agonizes because of our selfishness that often spreads untruths and fake news or alternative facts.

The Greek word for speaking PLAINLY is PARRHESIA which the ancient Greeks used only in the context of friendship. Plutarch wrote once: "Frankness of speech, by common report and belief, is the language of friendship especially (as an animal has its peculiar cry), and on the other hand, that lack of frankness is unfriendly and ignoble." (Plutarch, *How to Tell a Flatterer from a Friend*, 51).

Only in the circle of friends can one speak openly without fear: "I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father." (John 15:13-15).

Lent is a time for us to renew our friendship with Jesus who calls us to speak and to act *openly* for the benefit of others (and not to deceive others). Jesus gave everything to his friends—his knowledge of God and his own life. Jesus is our model for friendship—because he loved without limits—and he makes it possible for us to live a life of friendship—because we have been transformed by everything he shared with us.

PARISH INFORMATION

Parish Priest: Fr Joseph Lam OSA

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Secretary: Juliana Khnouf

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Admin: Peter McMahon

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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

SUNDAY BAPTISMS:

The Parish joyfully announces the Baptism of Riley John Rossetto and Willow Betty Pereira who are going to be Baptised this Sunday and warmly welcomes them into our Faith Community.



THE YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH

Please note that the Piety Stall has a new selection of items to celebrate the year of St. Joseph like prayer books, Statues ...etc. Come in and check all the beautiful things the Piety Stall has on offer or contact Noreen on 47398882 if you have any questions.

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

COLUMBARIUM UPDATE

Your committee is working behind the scenes to finalise all Columbarium matters. Sandstone has been selected and ordered for the capping on each Columbarium block. A test plaque is on its way so we can make sure the plaques will fit and seal off properly. The camera and lighting are being selected and the final details sorted out. Many thanks to all who have already purchased one or more niches. Niches are still available - contact Juliana in the parish office. While we recognise the hard work of the committee to get these matters finalised, we should also be very thankful to the many parishioners who have fought over ten or more years to get the whole Columbarium concept up and running. Thank you for your tenacious efforts over that long period of time.

ST FINBARS MENS BREAKFAST

Date - Saturday 6th March 2021, Time - 7:30 am – 9:00 am, Venue - Parish hall

The parish is holding another Men's breakfast as an opportunity for parishioners and the community to meet and get to know one another.

This invitation is open to all male parishioners and any of their sons, grandsons, neighbours and friends.

For catering purposes we will need to confirm numbers by this Sunday 28th Feb 2021.

Please add your name to the list on the Wardens' table. Any questions please contact the organisers, Carl Moll 0417 471 137 or John De Mattia 4739 6775

St. Vincent de Paul would like to extend a special thanks to Dawn Willis for her beautiful Recital last Saturday in support of St. Vincent. Dawn raised \$350. Well done Dawn.

THE REST OF THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS ARE:

Colleen Fuller, Pam West, Jeannine Ashbee, Juliana Khnouf, John de Mattia and Patrick Doherty.

SUNDAY'S HOSPITALITY. Will be back, starting next weekend. More helpers are needed for the once-a-month roster. If you can help please contact Lina Wiecek on 0414323265.

TIMEOUT TUESDAY. Will now be on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month, commencing TUESDAY 2nd MARCH. More details can be found on the notice board in the Narthex..

Paul and Yvonne Etherington, would like to say a big thank you to the parishioners of St. Finbar's for all the support and prayers you have given us over the last 50 years. They have now moved to Edinglassie due to ongoing care needs.

EASTER ROSTERS—2021

It is this time of the year again when we are looking for volunteers to help with Easter Liturgy. We will need Readers, Volunteers for Washing of the Feet, Senior Servers, Sacristans, Junior Servers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. If you are able to help, please add your name to the list on the Warden's table.

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.

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.*

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PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday 28th February <i>2nd Sunday of Lent Year B</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass 10.45am Baptisms
Monday 1st March	No Morning Mass 5.00pm SVDP Meeting M/R 7.30pm Sacramental Information Evening P/C
Tuesday 2nd March	9.00am Mass 10.00am Timeout Tuesday 7.30pm Baptism Preparation Meeting M/R 7.30pm Netball Meeting
Wednesday 3rd March	9.00am Mass + Rosary 9.30am Playgroup P/C
Thursday 4th March	9.00am Mass 2.00pm Lenten Group M/R 7.30pm Blue Mountains Folk Dance P/C
Friday 5th March	9.00am Mass 10.30am First Friday Visits 1.00pm Bowlers 5.30pm Cantabile Choir Practice 7.30pm World Day of Prayers
Saturday 6th March	8.00am Men's Breakfast 9.00am Mass 11.30am Te Deum Choir Practice 4.45pm Confession 5.30pm Vigil Mass
Sunday 7th March <i>3rd Sunday of Lent Year B</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass 2.00pm St. Andrew's Uniting Church Visit 6.00pm Youth Mass 7.00pm "The Lounge" Senior Youth Group P/C

DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA NOTICES

Positions Vacant:

• Natural Family Planning Educator (Casual) – Diocese of Parramatta – **Applications close 1 March 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

Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal

Help CatholicCare chaplains bring comfort, faith and hope to the sick and isolated. Your compassionate gifts and prayers will help CatholicCare chaplains provide spiritual, sacramental and emotional support in the footsteps of the Good Samaritan. Please give generously to the Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal via yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal. Thank you for accompanying them on their journey.



POPE FRANCIS MESSAGE FOR LENT.

Do you want to fast this Lent?

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your heart with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

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PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

Bishop Bede Heather (first Bishop of Parramatta), 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:

Michael Yabsley, William Cummins, Brett Hopson, Eunice Shaw, Grace Buckley, Margaret Feld, Gloria Miles, James Hurley, Mary Mulvey, Lewis Konza, Ellen Butcher & Rosena Baker.

ROSTER FOR 6TH & 7TH MARCH 2021

Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	Peter McMahon	Carl Moll	Gerard Egan
Senior Server	Peter McMahon	Carl Moll	Joseph Sukkar
Junior Server			Abigail Stanford & Emily Dowling
Warden	Vince Dobson & Allan Jones	Volunteer Please	Steve Newton
1 st Reading	Beth Culliver	John De Mattia	Pearse Cremin
2 nd Reading	Eileen Jones	John Killeen	Amanda Moore
Intercession	Maureen Tulk	Margaret Dickson	Steve Newton
IT Operators	Robyn Flynn	Elizabeth Konza	Pat Watson
Cashiers	Bernadette Shalala & Erika McNay		
Children's Liturgy	Elizabeth		
Piety Stall	Carmel Higgins		
Church Care	Catherine Marceau, Jane Lennon, Christyna Lloyd & Beth Killeen		
Garden Club	Tony Doyle, Neil Evans & Helen Keogh		

PROJECT COMPASSION STORY FOR THIS SUNDAY

Margret is a teacher at a vocational school for deaf students in the Solomon Islands that suffered long-term water shortages and damage from Tropical Cyclone Harold. With Caritas Australia's support, Margret's school installed water tanks, repaired cyclone damage and implemented Covid-19 prevention measures, and is now planning to boost food security.



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