



The Barra

Weekly Newsletter of St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook
4th Sunday of Lent - Year B
13th & 14th March 2021

2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23; Ps 136; Ephesians 2:4-10; John 3:14-21

FR JOE'S MUSINGS

Seeing in the Light

I may be among the few people who did not watch the interview given by Meghan and Harry. The interview intends to expose the truth and shed light on the dark time that both members of the Royal family experienced during the one year they had lived within the walls of the Buckingham Palace. To be sure, I have no dislike for the Duchess and Duke. I just do not believe that a televised, sponsored, and *commercialised* interview is the right approach to a very complicated matter. I can only pray that all will be sorted out in the interests of all involved.

God's words to Samuel are as true for us as they were in the selection of David as Israel's king: "Not as man sees does God see." God does not judge according to our appearance but according to our hearts. His gaze penetrates the depths of who we truly are, seeing everything there, even what our parents may not recognize.

In a sense all of us are "blind from birth" to the truth of our humanity. The gaze that comes to us in Christ allows us to discover what the Lord wants of us, permitting the works of God to be uniquely displayed in the actual conditions and circumstances of our lives.

The Pharisees who Jesus encounters refuse to welcome the light that brings us out of darkness. Their sin remains because of the narrowness of vision with which they look at the world. Their superficial gaze prevents them from seeing the hand of God at work in the life of each person brought before them. Their limited perception extends even to their understanding of the Sabbath.

The Pharisees threaten to expel from the synagogue the man born blind and anyone else who acknowledges that Jesus is the Christ. They remain in their sin because they are blind to the currency Jesus uses to carry out the work of the One who sent him. Jesus has come to purchase wholeness of life for those willing to accept all that God sees in them.

Just as the man who washes in the Pool of Siloam did not ask to be healed, many of us did not ask to be baptized. Through the loving and attentive care of Jesus' disciples, whether our parents or others, our condition was brought to the attention of Christ, and we were washed clean. Like David we were anointed, and from that day on "the Spirit of the Lord" rushed upon us. The Light that came into our lives that day exposed "the fruitless works of darkness" so that we could grow in "goodness and righteousness and truth." However, remaining in the light requires the willingness to trade our lives on the same currency with which Jesus purchased our salvation.

Fasting has nothing whatsoever to do with showing God what we can accomplish. Fasting is aimed at bringing us "to the temple with a heart that hungers for wholeness". It is meant to engender within us the plaintive cry for mercy that leads us to justification. Fasting is meant to reacquire us with our innate appreciation of what is ultimately lasting worth.

Condemning others is easy; seeing ourselves as we are is more difficult. God is not pleased with burnt offerings but with the offering of a contrite heart.

Fr Joe

PARISH INFORMATION

Parish Priest: Fr Joseph Lam OSA

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Phone: 0490 148 387

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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 Lola Basham and Carter Glenn Falls who are going to be Baptised this Sunday and warmly welcomes them into our Faith Community.



EASTER ROSTERS—2021

Father Joe is asking for your help to make this Easter Celebrations special and he needs your support. If you would like to place your name on the list to help with one of the Easter Week services, would be highly appreciated. The parish needs, Sacristans, Senior Servers, Junior Servers, readers, Ministers of Holy Communion and Wardens. Thank you all for your help and support.

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

REPORT ON THE FIRST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING FOR THIS YEAR.

On Tuesday 9th February 2021, the first meeting of the PPC in 2021 took place in the parish meeting room. It was the first occasion for Fr. Joe to meet and greet the members of the PPC since his appointment to St Finbars. After the prayers at the beginning of the meeting, Fr Joe gave his first report on the "State of the Parish". He considers himself as part of the Parish team and he sees himself in the role of a pilgrim and companion on the journey of faith. A parish is not the PP only, but is a space of spiritual encounter in which talents and gift are welcome and fostered.

Fr Joe confirmed that the "amalgamation" between Glenbrook and Emu Plains was off from the table. However, it does not exclude the possibility of collaboration in some areas of pastoral, such as joint confession during the seasons of Advent or Easter or the RCIA program.

The PPC and Fr Joe also discussed the responsibilities and membership of the PPC, such the organisation of parish retreats etc. Moreover, the PPC may also play a greater role within the network of various parish groups. The PPC welcomes the presence of the Uniting church. It is a great sign of ecumenism and the PPC and Fr Joe hope that a greater collaboration may emerge from this.

Nicky Young, the Youth representative on the PPC, reported that the youth mass was very well attended. Fr Joe invited the youth to take on more responsibilities, e.g in planning and organising of the liturgy and educational and spiritual formation. The youth group will get involved in the maintenance and care of the church building as well.

Robyn Clarke and Fr Joe are in discussion about a closer cooperation between the primary school and the parish. Students may play a greater role in the liturgy and outreach. Important is the understanding that we all are one parish community.

Next meeting: 13th April 2021, 7 pm

FIRST AND SECOND COLLECTIONS

The two collections we have each Sunday are for specific purposes as follows:

The FIRST collection is for the upkeep of the parish priest and to assist with the upkeep of the retired priests. It is the loose coin and notes put on the plate. It typically brings in only about \$400 per weekend which is usually not sufficient to fulfil its purpose and often needs to be supplemented by the Diocese.

The SECOND collection is for the liturgical, ministry and welfare needs of the parish, for the administration of the parish and for the maintenance and repairs to the parish buildings and equipment (e.g. insurance alone is about \$25,000 per year) This collection typically brings in only about \$2,600 per week (\$1290 in envelopes, \$670 in direct debits, \$440 in credit card deductions and about \$200 in loose notes and coin) and is often insufficient for our needs.

Because many people are not carrying cash with them, resulting in a severe drop in the amount of cash being put on the plates of both collections, the parish has purchased and installed two Tap'n'Go terminals as a way for people to donate electronically to the two collections. At the end of each month the Tap'n'Go income (at the moment only about \$70 per week) is divided 65% to the first collection and 35% to the second collection. Any queries can be directed to Peter in the parish office.

Charismatic Healing Mass. Mass will be followed by prayer for healing. Celebrant: Fr. Hugh Thomas CSsR, Sunday 21 MARCH, 2pm at **St Nicholas of Myra Church, Penrith** All welcome! Please register by texting 0410 475 734 and provide your Name and Phone Number for COVID.



ST FINBAR'S NETBALL CLUB IS LOOKING FOR ADDITIONAL PLAYERS FOR THE FOLLOWING TEAMS:

1 player for our Under 8's team - can be turning 6, 7 or 8 in 2021.

1 player for our Under 11's team

4 players for our Under 12/13 teams

3 players for our Inters teams - can be turning 14, 15 or 16 in 2021. No experience necessary. Please call Janette Ankers (Club President) on 0438 672 040 or 4739 4745 for more information.

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PARISH CALENDAR

DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA NOTICES

Sunday 14th March <i>3rd Sunday of Lent</i> <i>Year B</i>	7.30am Mass 8.30am Plenary Discussion Group P/C 9.30am Mass 10.30am Plenary Discussion Group P/C 10.45am Baptisms
Monday 15th March	No Morning Mass 5.00pm SVDP Meeting M/R
Tuesday 16th March	9.00am Mass 10.00am Timeout Tuesday P/C 1.30pm SRE Regional Mass followed by afternoon tea.
Wednesday 17th March <i>St. Patrick</i>	9.00am Mass + Rosary 9.30am Playgroup P/C 7.30pm Plenary Discussion P/C
Thursday 18th March	10.00am Healing Mass 2.00pm Lenten Group M/R 7.30pm Blue Mountains Folk Dance P/C
Friday 19th March <i>St. Joseph</i>	9.00am Mass 1.00pm Bowlers 5.30pm Cantabile Choir Practice
Saturday 20th March	9.00am Mass 11.30am Te Deum Choir Practice 4.45pm Confession 5.30pm Vigil Mass
Sunday 21st March <i>5th 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

Positions Vacant:

- St Patrick's Gift Shop Manager – St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta – **Applications close 14 March 2021**
- Diocese of Parramatta Senior Receptionist – Bethany Centre, Parramatta

More details at: parracatholic.org/employment

Fr Michael "Mick" O'Callaghan – Funeral

Arrangements

The **Mass of Christian Burial** for Fr Michael "Mick" O'Callaghan will take place at the Parish of Baulkham Hills (St Michael's Church) on Wednesday 17 March at 11am. Bishop Vincent will be the principal celebrant. A **Vigil Mass** for Fr Mick will also be held at Our Lady of the Way Parish, Emu Plains on Tuesday 16 March at 7.30pm. Please RSVP your attendance to the Parish Office via email on emuplains@parracatholic.org.

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.

Vale Bishop Bede Heather

The life of the first Bishop of the Diocese of Parramatta, Bishop Bede Heather, was celebrated in a Mass of Christian Burial at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta on Thursday 4 March. Bishop Bede was born on December 7, 1928 and ordained a priest on July 15, 1951. He retired as Bishop of Parramatta in 1997. Bishop Bede Heather died on 25 February 2021, aged 92. Read more at: shorturl.at/moCP2

Project Compassion 2021: "Be More"

Support Caritas Australia this Lenten season by taking home a Project Compassion box and/or a set of donation envelopes. Through your generosity, you are assisting some of the world's most vulnerable people build better futures for themselves, their families and their communities. You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, or by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.

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L A W Y E R S

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PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

Fr Michael "Mick" O'Callaghan, Shirley Konza, 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:

Brigitte Keily, John Everett, Tadeusz Opiel, Ruben Stanford, Dorothea Egan, May Hurry, Michael Cloran, John Burrett, Elmer (Bill) Taylor, Catherine McColl, Lance Baker, Scott Robertson, Carmel Koziol and David Burke.

ROSTER FOR 20TH & 21ST MARCH 2021

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 & Leia Agahari
Warden	Lorraine Brown	Volunteer Please	Frank Fitzpatrick
1 st Reading	Maire Griffin	Ann Keating	Peter or Trish Hurley
2 nd Reading	Gideon Goosen	Elizabeth Konza	Annis Nilsson
Intercession	Margaret Moore	John Isaksen	Frank Fitzpatrick
IT Operators	Henry Hanco	Joseph Wilson	Susan Dowling
Communion	Bernie Fisher	Jean Di Nucci	Annis Nilsson
Cashiers	Robyn Flynn, Ann & Ray Keating		
Children's Liturgy	Melissa		
Piety Stall	Lee Jackson		
Church Care	Jeannine Ashbee, Deb Youngman, Leesa & Wayne Gillard		
Garden Club	Kevin Debeck, Rob Lennon, Michael Lloyd & John Killeen		

PROJECT COMPASSION STORY FOR THIS SUNDAY

Arsad, an Indonesian farmer, had no toilet at home and was often sick due to the practice of open defecation. Through Caritas Australia's support, Arsad and his community improved hygiene and sanitation, and funded their own toilets.



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YOUTH NIGHT
ST. FINBAR'S PARISH, GLENBROOK
EVERY 1ST & 3RD SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH @ 6PM
MASS: 6PM SUPPER: 7PM
THE LOUNGE YOUTH GROUP: 7.30-8.30PM