



The Barra

Weekly Newsletter of St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook
5th Sunday of Lent - Year B
20th & 21st March 2021

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ps 50; Hebrews 5:7-9; John 12:20-33

FR JOE'S MUSINGS

If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.

Last Tuesday, some parishioners and I attended the vigil Funeral Mass for Fr. Mick O'Callaghan at Our Lady the Way in Emu Plains. Fr. Mick was parish priest there where he was very much loved and respected by priests and parishioners. At diocesan level, Fr. Mick was Dean of the Blue Mountains parishes and Episcopal Vicar for clergy, two roles that he filled with spiritual warmth. To borrow from Pope Francis' words, Fr. Mick was a pastor who smelled the sheep. Fr. Mick is known to our parish as he has celebrated many Masses for us here at St Finbars. After a short battle with cancer, Fr. Mick who through his baptism has died with Jesus Christ will be raised again to the glory that awaits him in the time to come.

The Gospel of this Sunday once again tells us that if a grain falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest. This means to live our lives not just for us, but for others. Pope em. Benedict XVI called it "pro-existence". As Jesus gave himself up for us, He ennobled us from being servants to be His friends since there is no better sign of friendship than to lay down one's life for his friends (John 15:15). This is the new glory that is granted to us. It is the "hour" in which we recognize what God has done for us through the gift of His Son. Since our glory is in Jesus Christ, we also understand that we do not totally depend on the passing rewards of this world. This recognition alone truly discourages us to think and act for ourselves alone. We humbly submit to Christ, knowing that our lives united with his can become "sources of eternal salvation" for our neighbours.

The suffering that troubles Jesus' heart is not the physical pain he will endure on the cross; rather it is the knowledge that some people will not accept God's love and friendship. He longs to set free the law that is written in all our hearts. Yet, Jesus knows this can only happen if "a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies", so he accepts the reason that he has come to his hour. His death has yielded much fruit for us because we have gained life eternal.

Lent is one extended hour in which the Son stands before us, offering life to anyone he chooses. If we have emptied ourselves through a faithful and disciplined fast, then we are ready to eat all that he sets before us.

Moving to another topic. As you may have already noticed, we are now beginning to install the three screens in the church. We hope to have them completed by next week. With the installation of the new screens, we also need to upgrade our IT equipment and audio system. Hence, we have purchased a new computer and are about to replace the old micros with a new set, including a new sound amplifier. I hope that will solve the acoustic problem in our church. If it is possible, we may need to modify the narthex area to accommodate the piety stall.

Have a great weekend

Fr. Joe

PARISH INFORMATION

Parish Priest: Fr Joseph Lam OSA

E-mail: joseph.lam@parracatholic.org

Phone: 0490 148 387 **(Emergency calls only for Sickness or Death).**

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: **New (02) 47426958**

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

*Just to let you know that the NBN has finally connected our office this week so the internet, emails and a new phone number **4742 6958** for the Parish are back in business.*

SUNDAY BAPTISMS:

The Parish joyfully announces the Baptism of Hugo Jackson Rattenbury & Milana Triestina

Trigas who are going to be Baptised this Sunday and warmly welcomes them 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.*

EASTER ROSTERS—2021. Father Joe is asking for your help to make the 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, it 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.

ST. FINBAR'S PARISH NEWS

Appointments to the *Deanery Pastoral Council* of the Blue Mountains:

It is with greatest pleasure that we announce the three new appointments of St Finbars to the Deanery Pastoral Council:

- 1) Beth Gibbeson, Member of DPC
- 2) Elizabeth Rowe, Member of DPC
- 3) Gerard Egan, Secretary and Member of the Deanery Pastoral Council (DPC)

We congratulate and pray to the Holy Spirit for our friends.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Thank you to all of the St Finbars Parish who helped make the 2021 World Day of Prayer such a great ecumenical success. Over 40 people attended and \$548 was raised for the victims of gender based violence in Vanuatu. The next Interchurch event will be the Easter Sunrise Service.

CATECHIST 10 YEARS AWARDS

Congratulations to Vince Dobson, Melissa McDonald, Allen Jones, Doug Frewer and George Grozicki for receiving 10 years awards for being a Parish Catechist. Thank you all for your great service. May God bless you all.

Fr. Joe

HOLY LAND COLLECTION - GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 2ND 2021

The annual collection for the support of the church in the Holy Land will take place on Good Friday, April 2nd. This collection promotes the missionary work of the Church in the Holy Land by providing welfare assistance to local Christians in areas such as health, education, employment and housing. Parishes, schools, orphanages and medical centres throughout the Holy Land also rely on assistance from this collection. It is also used to maintain over 70 churches and shrines associated with the life of Jesus. Last year, due to the global pandemic, it was an extremely difficult time for the Church and people of the Holy Land with very little income due to the lack of pilgrims and the closure of churches around the world. Despite this, Australian Catholics did manage to donate \$406,000 (compared to the \$1.3 million in 2019). This year, the Holy Land will continue to face an extreme shortfall in income due to the ongoing effects of the pandemic and so we are urging Catholics around the world to be as generous as possible. Please remember the Christians of the Holy Land on Good Friday and please keep them in your prayers. Thank you.

PLEASE RETURN

PROJECT COMPASSION BOXES ON PALM SUNDAY

SO THEY CAN FORM PART OF THE OFFERINGS ON HOLY THURSDAY EVENING.



Easter Sunrise Service Elizabeth Lookout Glenbrook

Date: Sunday, 4th April 2021



Time: 6am (sunrise is 6.09am)
Location: Elizabeth Lookout, Glenbrook. Gates open 5.30am – enter via vehicle track that branches off to the right on the Northern end of Barnet St (keep to the right on track).
Bring: Chair or rug. Morning tea. Easter egg hunt for kids.
Covid-19: *Please register in advance by emailing todd.stanford7@bigpond.com as there is limit on attendees. The event will be run in line with a COVID-19 Safety Plan.*
An initiative of The Glenbrook-Blaxland Inter-church Group.
This is an ecumenical, non-denominational service. All welcome.

We value cost and care as much as you do

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PARISH CALENDAR

DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA NOTICES

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
Monday 22nd March	<i>No Morning Mass</i>
Tuesday 23rd March	9.00am Mass 6.00pm Easter Vigil Choir Practice 7.30pm Lenten Biblical Studies P/C
Wednesday 24th March	9.00am Mass + Rosary 9.30am Playgroup P/C 7.00pm Bridge Club P/C 7.30pm 2nd Rite of Reconciliation—Emu Plains
Thursday 25th March <i>Annunciation of the Lord</i>	9.00am Mass 1.30pm Bridge Club P/C 2.00pm Lenten Group M/R 7.30pm Blue Mountains Folk Dance P/C
Friday 26th March	9.00am Mass 1.00pm Bowlers 5.30pm Cantabile Choir Practice 7.30pm Adoration
Saturday 27th March	9.00am Mass 11.30am Te Deum Choir Practice 4.45pm Confession 5.30pm Vigil Mass
Sunday 28 March <i>Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass 11.00am Baptisms

Positions Vacant:

- Diocese of Parramatta Receptionist – Bethany Centre, Parramatta
- Graphic Designer – Diocese of Parramatta
- Digital Content Creator – Diocese of Parramatta –

Applications close 28 March

More details at: parracatholic.org/employment

Pastoral Council Formation and Training

The Pastoral Planning Office is hosting monthly Zoom sessions offering tips, tricks and best practice in a variety of areas for a healthy and productive parish, deanery and diocesan pastoral councils. Sessions will be held on the 4th Wednesday of the month from 7.30pm to 9pm. If you are on a council or work closely with our councils, claim this date. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/serving-christs-mission> or contact Lisa for more information on 0448 652 720 or lisa.bright@parracatholic.org

Monthly Bereavement Support Gathering

CatholicCare Solo Parent Services run a Monthly Bereavement Support Gathering for anyone whose spouse or partner has died. If you feel alone in your grief and would like to be part of a group where you can share your experience of loss in a safe and supportive environment, you are welcome. Gatherings are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month from 10am -12pm. **Next Gathering:** Thursday 18th March. **Venue:** CatholicCare Parramatta **Cost:** \$5 Please call Rita Chater on 8843 2500 or email soloparentservices@ccss.org.au for more information or to register.

STEPPING BEYOND: SUPPORT FOR THOSE SEPARATED OR DIVORCED

"Stepping Beyond" Support Group, assists those navigating their way through separation or divorce. Guided by trained facilitators, you'll have the opportunity to explore the challenges faced during this time in a safe and supportive environment. These groups are held on the last Tuesday of each month via Zoom or at CatholicCare Parramatta.

Next Gathering: Tuesday 30th March **Venue:** Zoom or Parramatta Location **Time:** 7pm – 9pm. **Cost:** \$5.00. **Registration Essential:** Call Rita Ph. 8843 2500 or email: soloparentservices@ccss.org.au See Flyer on Parish Notice Board for more details.

Bateman Battersby

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PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

Father 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 and Kathleen Griffin.

PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK PARISHIONERS, RELATIVES & FRIENDS:

Marcia Pereira, Margaret Stevens, 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:

Clare Druhan, Thelma Sparks, Thomas Boylan, Julia Gunning, Paul Trevaskis, Ruby Luland, Lyndall McManus, Debra Saporito, Patrick Mungovan and Colin Gott.

ROSTER FOR 27TH & 28TH MARCH 2021

Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	Ahyiesha D'Souza	Peter McMahon	Stephen Brown
Senior Server	Ahyiesha D'Souza	Peter McMahon	Stephen Brown
Junior Server	Ethan Cameron		Keira Vermaak & Nicola De la Mare
Warden	Huia Kingi	Volunteer Please	Gary Clune
1 st Reading	Eileen Jones	Leanne Brown	Avril Llewellyn
2 nd Reading	Philomena Watkins	Geraldine Agahari	Michelle Wilson
Intercession	Katy Ferris	Elizabeth Konza	Yvonne Scanlan
IT Operators	Eleanor Thompson	Terry Keogh	Joanne Stubbs
Communion	Noreen Taylor	Terry Madden	Mila Svehla
Cashiers	Joe Grange		
Children's Liturgy	Michelle		
Piety Stall	Ann Marie King		
Hospitality	Kerry & Peter Herborn, Marie Nassif		
Church Care	Year 6		

PROJECT COMPASSION STORY FOR THIS SUNDAY

Halima is raising two children in a Bangladeshi refugee camp while caring for her mother, who has disability. A Caritas Australia-supported program helped her with shelter, cooking equipment and hygiene training. Halima now earns a small income as a trainer, helping to maintain the health and cleanliness of her community.



A message from *Aid to the Church in Need Australia*: Across the world tens of millions of Christian families are in exile following persecution because of their faith. Could you help stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters and help ease their heavy burdens? Visit www.aidtochurch.org/refugees

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YOUTH NIGHT
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EVERY 1ST & 3RD SUNDAY OF
EACH MONTH @ 6PM
MASS: 6PM SUPPER: 7PM
THE LOUNGE YOUTH GROUP: 7.30-8.30PM