



The Barra

Weekly Newsletter of St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

27th & 28th March 2021

Mk 11:1-10; Is 50:4-7; Ps 21; Phil 2:6-11; Mark 14:1-15:47

FR JOE'S MUSINGS

Triumph through Death?

On Palm Sunday, the Church recalls the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. However, Jesus approached the Holy City not just as a Jewish pilgrim. Also, he entered Jerusalem as the **triumphator**. Yet, his triumph is achieved not through power, but through his obedient death on the cross. It sounds very strange, doesn't it? To us, death is the ultimate defeat! Of course, it is if there is nothing beyond death. Hence, death is an unwelcome event that needs to be avoided at any cost. Nobody wishes to endure pain. Often people argue that one should have the freedom to end life. In one of my many writings on dying and death, I argued that death is the end of everything, including the end of freedom [see Joseph Lam Cong Quy, 'Euthanasia-the right to die well and beautifully?: A theological plea', in *The Australasian Catholic Record* (2017)]. If the fear of pain or if the dying is confronted with terminal illness, then the argument of freedom of death is ambiguous since whatever choice the dying will make, the dying cannot avoid death. This means that our freedom is **conditioned** by death which is inescapable for us. Whatever is conditioned is never fully free! Whether we call it euphemistically "a beautiful death" or "dying with dignity", the beauty or dignity is already shattered by the experience of suffering. And suffering is never beautiful, nor is there any dignity to be found in suffering. Rather, this kind of freedom is perceived from the perspective of individuals, and less from a social-relational perspective. When facing the end of his life, Steve Jobs, co-founder of Apple, said: "No one wants to die. Even people who want to go to heaven don't want to die to get there. And yet, death is the destination we all share. No one has ever escaped it, and that is how it should be, because death is very likely the single best invention of life. It's life's change agent. It clears out the old to make way for the new."

As far as I know, Steve Jobs did not believe in Christ, even he held the view that there exists a somewhat higher consciousness. It is no surprise to me because Jobs is familiar with artificial intelligence or a higher cosmic energy. How could he believe otherwise since he is the maker of many digital and smart devices?

Like any person, Jesus suffered, died, and was buried. More, the Scripture tells us that he died through torture and death on the cross. He also experienced loneliness and abandonment. For the wise of this world, Jesus' death just manifests God's foolishness and powerlessness. For Paul, it is quite the contrary since he argued: "For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.'" (1 Cor 1:18-19) For sure, for those who have no hope, death means the destruction of everything, including the wisdom that attempts to justify the choice of death.

For us Christians: What then is death? Our belief says that death leads to transformation! The process of transformation is not just a process peaking in the resurrection. The love and grace from God are freely given and we must also "make of ourselves a free gift to others," Pope emeritus Benedict XVI said. "In this way we know God as we are known by Him, ... and we pass from death to life like Jesus Christ, who defeated death with His resurrection thanks to the heavenly Father's glorious power of love."

Hence, Christians see in death a transformation that the wise of this world cannot grasp, unless the wisdom of the Crucified Christ penetrates the hearts and minds. The freedom that God gives is not the **negative** freedom (a freedom forced on individuals because of the inescapability of death), but a **positive** freedom, a freedom that does not deny the gravity of suffering and death, but yet chooses to live for others because suffering and death are understood as opportunities of transformation.

Please continue reading on the next column

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

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

FR JOE'S MUSINGS

The Letter to the Galatians 5:17-18 calls it a life according to the Spirit: "*So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.*"

FR Joe

PLEASE RETURN

**PROJECT COMPASSION BOXES
ON PALM SUNDAY
SO THEY CAN FORM PART OF
THE OFFERINGS ON HOLY
THURSDAY EVENING.**

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 IN ACTION MODE

The Columbarium is up and running with Fr Joe expected to perform the first Interment Rite during April. The sandstone capping will probably be delivered on Monday and it's installation and the final paths, cameras, lights and landscaping will follow.

There is a test plaque in place, and this is the standard that the Columbarium Committee has set for all plaques. Please have a look at it. More than 40 niches have already been sold, with others being considered.

Please contact Juliana on the new parish phone number of 4742 6958 if you would like any information about acquiring a niche.

You might also let friends and relatives know as the Columbarium is available for all.

Father Joe would like to thank and acknowledge the hard work of both Patrick Watson and Brian Robertson for their help in the installation of the new TV screens in the church. May God bless them both.

CHURCH CARE

Extra helpers are needed to prepare the church for Easter. If you can spare 30mins or the odd hour then please contact Robyn Flynn on 4739 5499 to find out more details.

Also a big Thank You to the Youth Group, St Finbar's Year 6 class & Playgroup for their support to the Church Care Group. Heather Lee / Coordinator

St. Finbar's Netball Club - Players Wanted

We have room for players in the following teams (no experience is necessary):

Under 8s x 1. Training is Thursday 3.30pm - 4.30pm

12/13B x 2. Training is Thursday 7pm - 8pm

12/13C x 2. Training is Wednesday 4.30pm - 5.30pm

Inter C Swans.

Training is Wednesday from 6.30pm - 7.45pm

U/8 - can be turning 6, 7 or 8 in 2021

12/13 - can be turning 12 or 13 in 2021

Inter C - can be turning 14, 15 or 16 in 2021

All training and games are held at the Lapstone Courts (Blue Mountains Netball Association).

Please contact Janette Ankers on 0438672040

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.



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 28 March <i>Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass 11.00am Baptisms
Monday 29th March	<i>No Morning Mass</i> 5.00pm SVDP Meeting M/R
Tuesday 30th March	9.00am Mass 9.30am General Confession
Wednesday 31st March	9.00am Mass + Rosary 9.30–10.30am General Confession 9.30am Playgroup P/C
Thursday 1st April <i>Thursday of The Lord's Supper</i>	<i>No Morning Mass</i> 7.30pm The Lord's Supper 9.00pm Altar of Repose
Friday 2nd April <i>The Passion of the Lord Fast & Abstinence</i>	10.00am Stations of the Cross 3.00pm The Lord's Passion
Saturday 3rd April <i>Holy Saturday</i>	9.00am Morning Prayer 11.30am Te Deum's Choir Practice 7.00pm Easter Vigil Mass
Sunday 4th April <i>Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord</i>	Daylight Saving Ends today 7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass 2.00pm St. Andrews Uniting Church

Positions Vacant:

- 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

Young Adult Faith Formation: 11 April

Young Adult faith formation sessions continue on Sunday 11th April at The Hustle (4-6 Purdy Rd Minchinbury) at 7pm. Christian Stephens will speak and lead discussion on the topic of Jesus: Liar, Lunatic or Lord? We encourage all adults 18-35 to come along and enjoy some faith formation, food and fellowship! Call Mark on 0477004678 for more information. \$5 donation.

COVID-19 update

The NSW Government have eased the Covid-19 restrictions today to allow 100% capacity for Places of Worship and allowing the congregation to join in with the choir singing. Please remember that you still have to register your details using the QR code or the sheets provided near the entrance door before you enter the church.

Daylight Saving Ends on Sunday the 4th of April at 3am. We go back 1 hour.



Aid to the
Church in Need
ACN AUSTRALIA

A message from *Aid to the Church in Need Australia*: As we approach the Holy Season of Easter consider offering up a Mass for your loved ones and supporting priests in need. The Mass will be offered up for your intentions by priests in the poorest parts of the world who have no other means of support. You can also send them a Mass card. Visit www.aidtochurch.org/ways-to-give/mass-offerings

Bateman Battersby

L A W Y E R S

We invite members of the Parish to take advantage of our legal services specialising in :

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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:

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:

Jacki George Perkins, Gareth Hogan, Jean Blencowe, Rosemond Coughlan, Cecil Luczak, Harold Gapps, Monica Barron, Mary Dutfield and Marjory Plevvey.

ROSTER FOR 3RD & 4TH APRIL 2021

Liturgical Ministries	7.00pm Easter Vigil	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	Separate	Carl Moll	Gerard Egan
Senior Server	Roster	Carl Moll	Volunteer Please
Junior Server	For		Emily Dowling & Abigail Stanford
Warden	Vigil	Volunteer Please	Steve Newton
1 st Reading	Mass	Michelle Wilson	Jessica Doherty
2 nd Reading		John Killeen	Steve Baird
Intercession		Kevin Flynn	Martin Rogers
IT Operators	Robyn Flynn	Terry Keogh	Pat Watson
Communion		Ian Dickson	Wendy Brown
Cashiers	Bernadette Shalala & Erika McNay		
Children's Liturgy	School Holiday		
Piety Stall	No Stall		
Church Care	Robyn Flynn, Jan de Bie, Dawn Willis & Jessica Doherty		
Hospitality	Lina Wiecek, Vicky Ang, Tamar Alzened & Karen Sukkar		
Garden Club	Lukas Rajnoch, Andrew Howard, Stuart Sheary & Daniel Lynch		

PROJECT COMPASSION STORY FOR THIS SUNDAY

For over half a century, generations of Australians have participated in Project Compassion, supporting vulnerable communities before, during and after natural disasters, conflicts and crises—making it one of the nation's longest running charity campaigns.

