



The Barra

Weekly Newsletter of St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook
3rd Sunday of the Resurrection of Our Lord
17th & 18th April 2021

Acts 3:13-15, 17-19; Ps 4; 1 St. John 2:1-5; Luke 24:35-48

FR JOE'S MUSINGS

Why are you troubled?

On the third Sunday of Easter, we continue to hear Gospel accounts of Jesus' appearances to his disciples following his Resurrection. Today's reading, taken from the Gospel of Luke, follows immediately after the report of Jesus' appearance to his disciples on the road to Emmaus. This is the event being recounted by the disciples in the opening verse of today's Gospel.

Consistently in the reports of Jesus' post-Resurrection appearances, Jesus greets his disciples with the words, "Peace be with you." This is a most appropriate greeting. The disciples have witnessed the death of someone they loved, and they now fear for their own lives as well. Peace is what they need more than anything else. Jesus often connects this greeting of peace with another gift—forgiveness. In today's Gospel, this connection is made in the final verses.

If we rely on numbers, it seems that the Church has nothing to worry about. In its latest Statistic Yearbook, the so-called *Annuario Pontificio*, the Vatican globally records a steady increase of eighteen percent in Catholic population compared to the previous year. Now, there are worldwide 1.34 billion Catholics which are around 18% of the world's population. At the end of 2019, 48.1% of the world's Catholics were living in the Americas, followed by Europe with 21.2%, Africa with 18.7%, about 11% in Asia (all figures for Asia exclude China) and 0.8 percent in Oceania.

We know that statistics do not tell the whole truth. While the Church is thriving in other parts of the world, the western Catholicism has been in steady decline since decades. Between 2011 and 2016, the number of Catholics has shrunk, and the proportion of Catholics in the population also has decreased. There are many causes and many more challenges that have contributed to this decline. The drop in number of Catholics naturally has resulted in a reduction of religious and priestly vocations as well. We also need to keep in mind that many people of goodwill, religious and priests, have left the Church. Now, only one sheep remains, while the other ninety-nine sheep have run away from the Church.

What we need in this time is to pray for an increase in vocations, both lay ministerial vocations and religious and priestly vocations. The Church is best served if all work together as one Body of Christ. A culture which clericalizes the laity or laicizes the clergy will bring only conflict. Peace can be achieved only when we all walk together in the love of God – a love that is ready to forgive – and in the love for each other. When we respect and accept each other's talents and giftedness, the Church of God will shine forth as a prophetic sign of peace in this world torn apart by dissension and friction. Not polarization and politics in the Church, but a willingness to serve and to labour in the vineyard of the Lord will bring peace. Let us pray that the Holy Spirit guides us in our discernment. May He teach us the true meaning of humility: Greatness in God's eyes is seen through **humble service**. The goal of godly leadership is serving with a **humble heart**. **Humility** is revealed in a leader when we are serving God and serving others. **Humility** is offering up our lives for others to see the love of **Christ**, for them, in us.

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

SUNDAY

BAPTISMS:

The Parish joyfully announces the Baptism of Darcy Vance Woods and Hudson Carter Wood 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.*

ST. FINBAR'S PARISH NEWS

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATION

"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into it. In its latest Statistic Yearbook, the Vatican globally records an increase of eighteen percent in Catholic population. Now, there are worldwide 1.34 billion Catholics. At the end of 2019, 48.1% of the world's Catholics were living in the Americas, followed by Europe with 21.2%, Africa with 18.7%, about 11% in Asia (all figures for Asia exclude China) and 0.8 percent in Oceania. Yet, the number of religious and priestly vocation continues to decline. Cardinal Marc Ouellet, the Prefect of the Vatican Congregation for Bishops, has identified many social and theological challenges that have contributed to the decrease in consecrated life religious and priestly vocation.

Bishop Vincent encourages all of us to pray for Vocations in our Diocese of Parramatta.

Where: St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, 46 Levy St, Glenbrook When: Friday 23rd April at 6:30pm.

After the Adoration and Benediction, supper will be served.

For catering purpose, please contact the parish office on 47426958 or email secretary@stfinbars.org.au

Jackie Visser would like to extend her sincere thanks to Father Joseph Lam, her family and St. Finbar's Parish community for love and support they offered on her sister Elise Doyle's Memorial Mass last Friday morning.

To each and everyone who contributed so much to make our Easter services so beautiful, meaningful and memorable. Thank you. Colleen McHardy.



The family of **Shirley Konza** would like to thank Fr Joe and the many parishioners who attended Shirley's funeral on March 13 and also for the many condolence wishes, prayers and support shown to the family. Mum had lived in Glenbrook since her marriage in 1951, raised 7 children with our Dad Lew, and dearly loved the community. You gave her a wonderful send off! With deep respect, Patricia Murnane & Elizabeth Konza on behalf of the family.

The Youth Group' movie evening was most enjoyable - THANK YOU.

Hopefully a small profit was made. **Kathleen Tierney.**

ST FINBAR'S LOCAL PLENARY

You are invited to join us to develop practical ways we can implement the chosen themes from our local plenary discussions.

Please fill in your details at the warden's table or contact the parish office.

We will notify you when the sessions will be held.

EASTER COLLECTIONS:

It was wonderful to see a great many parishioners at one or more of the Easter ceremonies, and to see the generous way you responded to the appeal for funds to help the upkeep of the Holy Places. A little over \$2,000 has been sent to the Holy Land Commissariat on your behalf. Thanks also for your caring response to the Project Compassion appeal. The count has not yet been completed, but well over \$1,000 will be forwarded to Caritas Australia from the Glenbrook parish.

AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST MORNING TEA

The Parish is hosting Australia's Biggest Morning tea in support of Breast Cancer on Friday the 7th of May 2021 at 10.30am in the Parish Hall. Please save the date and feel free to invite as many friends as possible. Cash donations only will be accepted.

If you are able to help on the day please contact the parish office on 47426958.

Thank you for your generosity to support such a great cause.



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PARISH CALENDAR

DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA NOTICES

| | |
|---|--|
| Sunday 18th April <i>3rd Sunday of Easter</i> | 7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass 10.45am Baptisms 1.30pm Bridge P/C 6.00pm Youth Mass 7.00pm "The Lounge" Senior Youth Group P/C |
| Monday 19th April | No Morning Mass office is closed |
| Tuesday 20th April | 9.00am Mass 10.00am Timeout Tuesday P/C |
| Wednesday 21st April | 9.00am Mass followed by Rosary 9.30am Playgroup P/C 7.00pm Bridge Club P/C |
| Thursday 22nd April | 9.00am Mass 1.30pm Bridge Club P/C 7.30pm Blue Mountains Folk Dance P/C |
| Friday 23rd April | 9.00am Mass 1.00pm Bowlers 5.30pm Cantabile Choir Practice 6.30pm Holy Hour for Vocation |
| Saturday 24th April | 9.00am Mass 11.30am Te Deum Choir Practice 4.45pm Confession 5.30pm Vigil Mass |
| Sunday 25th April <i>4th Sunday of Easter</i> | 7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass |

Positions Vacant:

- Young Christian Students Worker (full-time) – Parramatta Young Christian Workers – **Applications close Monday 30 April**

More details at: parracatholic.org/employment

Listening Circles.

As a reminder, you are being invited to experience **one session** of Listening Circles. Please know that Confidentiality is respected in line with legislation and reporting requirements of NSW. To know more about Listening Circles or have questions, please contact Vic & Liz O'Callaghan at liz@restorativepractices.org.au - 0417 176 278 or vic@restorativepractices.org.au – 0412 703 377. Together, may we continue to accompany our communities and the People of God to become the Community that Christ calls us to be. Bella Reyes, Chair, Diocesan Pastoral Council

ST FINBAR'S YOUTH GROUP - MOVIE DAY

" we would like to thank everyone who came and supported our fundraiser last Sunday. With your generous efforts we raised over \$400!

It was great to have the parish come together and we hope to have more events for the community in the future! - the St Finbar's youth group "



ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION.

Topic: **The Catholic Priesthood: It's New Testament Origins and Current Challenges:**
Tuesday 20th April, 7.30-9.00pm in Meeting Room, St Finbars. Gideon Goosen.

Bible Study. On Wednesdays for four weeks. Topic **Themes from John's Gospel.** Wednesday April 21 and 28 and May 5 and 12. Time: 7.30 pm -9.00pm. Venue: phone Gideon Goosen on 0425 351 334 for further information.

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PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

Helena Armstrong , Cary Dukes, 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:

Max Callaghan, Leonard Mott, Rein Bruinsma, Benjamin Lowe, Baby Gwen Fielden, Eleanor Morgan, Grace Walkley, Alan Bryan, Madge Boylan, Raymond Merchant, Kathleen Moore and Margaret Mead.

ROSTER FOR 24TH & 25TH APRIL 2021

| Liturgical Ministries | 5.30pm | 7.30 am | 9.30 am |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Sacristan | Anaru Veitch | Peter McMahon | Stephan Brown |
| Senior Server | Anaru Veitch | 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 |
| Communion | Vince Dobson | Ann Keating | Elizabeth Rowe |
| Cashiers | Joe Grange | | |
| Children's Liturgy | Colin | | |
| Piety Stall | Ann Marie King | | |
| Church Care | | | |
| Hospitality | Marie Nassif, Kerry & Peter Herborn | | |
| Garden Club | Tony Doyle, Neil Evans & Helen Keogh | | |

