

# The Barra

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

The Ascension of the Lord

15th & 16th May 2021

Acts 1:1-11; Ps 46; Ephesians 1:17-23; Mark 16:15-20

## FR JOE'S MUSINGS

### Background on the Gospel Reading—Mark 16:15-20

Jesus is taken to heaven, and the disciples go forth to preach as Jesus commanded.

Today is our liturgical celebration of the Ascension of the Lord, when Jesus was taken to heaven on the fortieth day after Easter. In Cycle B, our Gospel is taken from the conclusion of the Gospel of Mark. Scholars have long noted some irregularities about the ending of Mark's Gospel. There is a natural break in the story line at verse 8, when Mark's report of the discovery of the empty tomb comes to an abrupt conclusion. This verse reports that the women were so frightened by what they had seen at the tomb that they told no one. This may be the original ending of Mark's Gospel, but it is also possible that the more complete ending has been lost.

Some manuscripts of Mark's Gospel, written between the fourth and ninth centuries, include what scholars have termed the Shorter Ending. This is often printed in our Bibles for reference. This ending indicates that the women told their story to Peter's companions. Scholars believe that this ending is not original to Mark. They theorize that this ending was added by copyists who sought to resolve the original abrupt ending at verse 8.

Other early manuscripts include a Longer Ending that scholars also believe was written by someone other than the Evangelist. Nonetheless, quotations from this Longer Ending are found in the writings of the early Church Fathers, and it was accepted at the Council of Trent as part of the canonical Gospel of Mark. Our Gospel for today's celebration of the Feast of the Ascension is taken from this Longer Ending.

There are similarities in the reports of Jesus' Ascension found in the Synoptic Gospels—Mark, Matthew, and Luke. In each case, Jesus assigns his disciples the task of proclaiming the gospel message to the entire world. There are also notable distinctions. In the Gospels of Mark and Matthew, the disciples are sent by Jesus to baptize and to preach. In Luke's Gospel, however, the commission to baptize is absent. Instead, Jesus directs the disciples to return to Jerusalem to await the fulfilment of his promise to send them the Holy Spirit. Curiously, only the Gospels of Mark and Luke actually report Jesus' ascension into heaven. Matthew's Gospel concludes with Jesus' promise to remain with his disciples forever. Only the Gospel of Mark notes that Jesus ascended to sit at the right hand of God. In noting this, Mark teaches that Jesus' ascension affirms the glory Jesus received from God after his death and Resurrection.

Even if this ending to Mark's Gospel was written by someone other than the Evangelist, in the commission that Jesus gives to his disciples, there are elements that are quite typical of Mark's Gospel. The signs that will accompany belief in Jesus are as vivid as the action performed by Jesus during his ministry. Those who believe in Jesus will be empowered to do what Jesus himself has done. During his ministry, Jesus sent his disciples to preach, to heal, and to drive out unclean spirits. Now they are sent again to do these things and more. From his place with God in heaven, Jesus helped his disciples, and he continues to help us as we try to live as his followers.

With Thanks to Loyola Press for the permission to reprint the reflection

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 RITE OF WELCOME

The Parish joyfully welcomes **Noah Matthew Morris & Callum Tait Whitelock** into our Faith

Community. They are going to be Baptised at our Parish next weekend. May God bless them both.



## SUNDAY BAPTISMS:

The Parish joyfully announces the Baptism of **Mia Grace Williams** who is going to be Baptised this Sunday, and warmly welcomes her into our Faith Community.



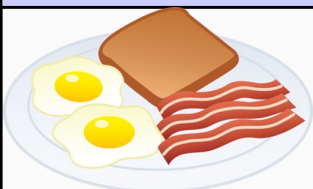
***WELCOME** all visitors to our church today. We extend our greetings to you. If you wish to join St Finbar's Parish, please make yourself known to one of our Wardens so we can give you our Parish Welcome Pack. Our Parish lies within the Traditional Country of the Darug people— The Aboriginal Custodians of our area.*

# ST. FINBAR'S PARISH NEWS

Father Joe is away from Thursday this week in Queensland attending an Ordination for one of his friends. We welcome Father Bob Anderson to our Parish. He is going say Mass while Father Joe is away.

## SAFEGUARDING COURSE WEDNESDAY, 23 JUNE

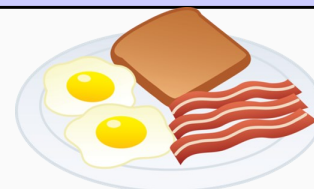
Safeguarding module 1 Face to Face Training for parish volunteers at 7.30 – 9.00 pm.  
All volunteers and ministers of the Blue Mountain Deanery are welcome to attend.  
Please contact Juliana Khnouf ([secretary@stfinbars.org.au](mailto:secretary@stfinbars.org.au)) for registration.



## EXCITING NEWS

### **ST FINBARS MEN'S BREAKFAST**

**Date - Saturday 29th May 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 Sunday 24th May 2021.

Please add your name to the list on the warden's table.

Any questions please contact the organisers,

Carl Moll 0417 471 137

or John De Mattia 4739 6775

## **AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST MORNING TEA**

A huge thank you to everybody who generously donated, baked tirelessly, and worked extremely hard to contribute to the success of our Biggest Morning Tea. A special thank you to the wonderful people who donated the raffle and lucky door prizes especially the beautiful candle wicker quilt. The morning would not have been such a success without you amazing individuals.

The Winner of the quilt was Kelly Thompson, second prize was won by Giezel Gomez, third prize was won by Sue McGrath. Through your generous support the Parish raised \$1735 for the Cancer Council.

God bless. **Ros and Juliana.**



## **INSTITUTE FOR MISSION: BREAKING OPEN THE WORD OF GOD - REVISITING PENTECOST'S READINGS**

The Institute for Mission invites you ONLINE to enjoy scripture presenter Dr Michele Connolly rsj as she revisits Pentecost's readings - 25 May at 7pm.

Register via [www.tinyurl.com/ifmrego](http://www.tinyurl.com/ifmrego)

Please feel free to speak to any of the IFM Team on (02) 9296 6369. If you require any further information or send us an email to [connect@ifm.org.au](mailto:connect@ifm.org.au).

## **WANTED: LOVING MARRIED COUPLES—BECOME A SPONSOR COUPLE**

SmartLoving is a Catholic marriage ministry and is calling for enthusiastic married couples to journey with an engaged couple as they prepare to be married in the Catholic Church. Find out more at this free information session: Wed, 19 May - 7.30pm AEST | [www.smartloving.org/webinars](http://www.smartloving.org/webinars)

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## PARISH CALENDAR

<b>Sunday 16th May</b> <i>The Ascension of the Lord</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass 11.00am Baptisms 1.30pm Bridge P/C 6.00pm Youth Mass 7.00pm "The Lounge" Senior Youth Group P/C
<b>Monday 17th May</b>	<i>No Morning Mass. Office is closed</i>
<b>Tuesday 18th May</b>	9.00am Mass 10.00am Timeout Tuesday P/C 7.30pm Finance Committee Meeting
<b>Wednesday 19th May</b>	9.00am Mass followed by Rosary 9.30am Playgroup P/C 7.00pm Bridge Club P/C
<b>Thursday 20th May</b>	10.00am Healing Mass followed by morning tea 1.30pm Bridge Club P/C 7.30pm Blue Mountains Folk Dance P/C
<b>Friday 21st May</b>	9.00am Mass 1.00pm Bowlers 5.30pm Cantabile Choir Practice
<b>Saturday 22nd May</b>	9.00am Mass 11.30am Te Deum Choir Practice 4.30pm Penance Preparation Meeting P/C 4.45pm Confession 5.30pm Vigil Mass
<b>Sunday 23rd May</b> <i>Pentecost Sunday</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass 11.00am Baptisms

## DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA NOTICES

### **Bishop Vincent's pastoral letter on the proposed Parental Rights Bill**

Bishop Vincent has released a pastoral letter to the pastors, parents and the faithful of the Diocese of Parramatta on the proposed Parental Rights Bill. The letter can be read here: <https://parracatholic.org/pastoral-letter-to-the-people-of-parramatta-on-the-parental-rights-bill/>

### **Diocese of Parramatta COVID-19 update**

Parishes across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains have COVID-Safety plans in place requiring social distancing, maximum attendance figures and other safety measures. It is currently highly recommended that masks be worn to Mass and other services. You are encouraged to check with your parish on what measures they have in place before attending. For more information, please visit the Diocesan website [www.parracatholic.org/covid19](http://www.parracatholic.org/covid19)

### **Glenbrook Parish Women's Retreat: 12 June**

St Finbar's Parish, Glenbrook, is hosting a women's retreat filled with peace, prayerfulness, adoration, Mass, Reconciliation, guest speakers and praise and worship. It will be held at the parish on Saturday 12th June from 8.30am to 8.30pm. Registration is \$60, and with places limited, register now at <https://forms.gle/KkBaTAvm1qkYYCzm8>. For enquiries, email [beloved2021info@gmail.com](mailto:beloved2021info@gmail.com)

### **Pastoral Council Formation and Training**

The Pastoral Planning Office are hosting monthly Zoom sessions offering best practice in a variety of areas for parish, deanery and diocesan pastoral councils to serve Christ's mission. Sessions will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month from 7.30pm to 9pm. To share and grow with other parish councils, please register at <https://tinyurl.com/serving-christs-mission> or contact Lisa for more information on 0448 652 720 or [lisa.bright@parracatholic.org](mailto:lisa.bright@parracatholic.org)

### **Please support our seminarians to answer God's call to the priesthood**

At our Holy Spirit Seminary, Harris Park, young men are training to become future priests for the Diocese of Parramatta. Your caring gift and prayers are needed to support our seminarians to prepare for a life of service to our community. Please give generously via the Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal giving envelopes or online at [yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal](http://yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal). Thank you for your kind accompaniment.

### Bateman Battersby

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[Gerard.Morson@turnerfreeman.com.au](mailto:Gerard.Morson@turnerfreeman.com.au)



**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:**

John Wesley (Mike & Margaret Rivas' Cousin), Judy Baird (Steve Baird's Mother), Peggy Sue Muni (Merrilee and John Verhoeven's sister), Tony McKale (Merrilee and John Verhoeven's relative), Helena Armstrong, Cary Dukes and Shirley Konza.

**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:**

Anita Dyson, Michael Moelroy, Paul Zoeller, Claire Fisher, Dennis Barron, Cyril Fitzjohn, Millicent Grant, Moira Holmes, Denis Smith, Michael Klein, Hilder Ahrenfeld, William Osborne, Irena Chambers, Vincent Noonan, Clare Konza and Betty McSweeney.

**ROSTER FOR 22ND & 23RD MAY 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 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Eileen Jones	Leanne Brown	Avril Llewellyn
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Philomena Watkins	Geraldine Agahari	Michelle Wilson
Intercession	Katy Ferris	Elizabeth Konza	Yvonne Scanlan
IT Operators	Robyn Flynn	Terry Keogh	Joanne Stubbs
Gifts	Steve & Heather Lee	Rivas Family	Volunteers Please
Communion	Lorraine Brown	Jean Di Nucci	Greg Rowe
Cashiers	Joe Grange		
Children's Liturgy	Carolyn		
Piety Stall	Ann Marie King		
Church Care			
Hospitality	Kerry & Peter Herborn, Marie Nassif		
Garden Club			

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**YOUTH NIGHT**

ST. FINBAR'S PARISH, GLENBROOK



EVERY 1<sup>ST</sup> & 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF  
EACH MONTH @ 6PM

MASS: 6PM SUPPER: 7PM  
THE LOUNGE YOUTH GROUP: 7.30-8.30PM