



# The Barra

Weekly Newsletter of St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook  
17th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B  
24th & 25th July 2021

2 Kings 4:42-44; Ps 144; Ephesians 4:1-6; John 6:1-15

## FR JOE'S MUSINGS

### A Party Amidst Suffering

If you attend the daily briefing by the NSW Premier, you probably won't only hear about the number of new COVID cases. You also will listen to the report of infringements issued by the NSW Police for breaches of restrictions. After, the NSW CMO will likely warn you not to host relatives, friends etc in your homes since these are places of recurring transmission of the virus. To have a party in your homes would be a grave offence against the restrictions. I wonder whether the Police would have issued an infringement notice to Jesus and his disciples because this Sunday's gospel tells the story that Jesus invited his disciples and the large crowd to an outdoor meal on a mountain side. The most disturbing fact for me was that Jesus was aware of his imminent death. Yet, he still catered for his followers amidst the fear of death!

He commanded his disciples to 'have the people recline. Now there was a great deal of grass in that place. So, the people reclined, about five thousand in number.' (John 6:10). It does not sound right, does it? How can people "recline" on an outdoor place in the wilderness (amidst the Pandemic)? If you think of "reclining", then would you not associate it with soft cushions and couches that will give comfort and relaxation at the table? But there is no table in the story of the feeding of the five thousand! Our current situation is: 13 million Australians are being currently locked out from family gatherings, our youth are out of work, the elderly are separated from their loved ones! Reclining is not an option!

However, Jesus spoke this word intentionally. What Jesus wanted his disciples to learn is that death is obviously part of the human existence. However, it should not lock us in because there is the joy of the resurrection, a new life beyond our imagination. Death can't lock us out from the blessing of God's life. Death is not a barrier that closes us from the living presence of God.

The Gospel of Sunday, hence, alludes to the "great deal of grass in that place". Don't you think here of the ever-green pasture, the garden of Eden where God has made us in his own image? This means that having a meal in the presence of Christ already points to the reality of a life unrestricted by any human rules and restrictions since rules and restrictions only protect us from illness and death. But only the Eucharist can give us REAL and TRUE LIFE! That's the difference!

While we recline at the table, Jesus climbed up the Cross. His Burden is our relaxation and peace amidst the Pandemic. You remember that we are called God's BELOVED!

The friendship between Jesus and his disciples is based on Jesus's ability to be a friend, not on the disciples' ability to be ideal friends.

As we plan for a return to public worship, we can expect to be confronted by many changes made necessary by the pandemic—continued social distancing, masks, no congregational singing. Though many are yearning to return to church, it may not seem to us like "church" at all. No doubt we will be frustrated and struggle with all of the changes.

As we enter this changed world and as we enter our changed church, bringing our fears and uncertainties with us, Jesus' words here should offer us comfort and encouragement. We abide in his love as he abides in the Father's love. The love he has for us is not for our benefit alone but is meant for the world. Even as we rebuild and deepen our relationships with each other, Christ's love calls us out into the world, and for us, that love calls us out into our neighborhood where we can see visibly how much that love is needed right now.

Fr. Joseph Lam, PhD STD

## 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: admin@stfinbars.org.au

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

## 5.30PM VIGIL MASS LIVE STREAMING LINK

<https://youtu.be/i8BsniRL2Ss>

Fr Joe will be available in the Sacristy between 4pm and 5pm on Saturday if you want to come and collect the Body of Christ to take home and receive during the live-streamed Mass. Please bring your own pyx if possible.

*Our Parish lies within the Traditional Country of the Darug people- The Aboriginal Custodians of our area.*

# ST. FINBAR'S PARISH NEWS

Please note that the scheduled Parish Annual Meeting has been postponed from the 1st of August to the 3rd of October 2021 at 10.30am.

**SRE LEARNING FOR HOME LESSONS:** For latest news on SRE please follow this link <https://www.cress.org.au/learning-from-home-sre-lessons/>

## PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Parish Finance Committee (PFC) held its regular meeting over Zoom on 20th July.

The Committee heard that the parish Audit was conducted successfully by independent persons on 13/14<sup>th</sup> July, with only a couple of minor issues to follow up.

The Committee agreed to accept the resignations of John Mullane and Andrew Teece from the PFC and thanks them both for their service to the parish over many years. Two new members will be sought at the Parish General Meeting, now likely to be held in October.

The Parish finances are in good shape, but the latest lockdown will stretch our reserves until we apply for (and hopefully receive) the Government Business Grant. Information on the parish finances will be presented to parishioners at the Parish General Meeting.

The parish will buy a Google Meeting license for the youth, investigate the acquiring of a professional coffee machine for use at all parish functions, have an architect check the proposed church modification to include a Piety Stall space, change one of the Quest tap'n'Go terminals to \$10 and proceed with the planned Trivia night, but at a later date that will allow for lots of parishioners to gather together in the hall.

## LIVE STREAMING MASS

Live Streaming Vigil Mass on Saturday evening during lockdown has been a huge success with over 300 views. Many thanks to Ryan D'Souza and Patrick Watson for making it possible for our Parish to attend Mass during lockdown.

The Diocese IT team have added a Live Streaming link on the Parish website to make it easier to access the link.

Many thanks also to Tricia Murnane for providing these beautiful snapshots from last weekend Vigil Mass.

Hopefully we will be able to be back at church as normal soon.

Take Care and Stay Safe.



## EUTHANASIA, DYING AND THE DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON

The Diocese of Parramatta is co-hosting a series of talks on euthanasia with the Diocese of Broken Bay, ahead of the expected introduction of a draft Bill in the NSW Parliament to legalise euthanasia in September.

Due to the expected timing of the introduction of the bill, we have organised the talks for the beginning of August. We ask that you help us promote these talks and help raise awareness of the issue amongst your parishioners over the next few weeks.

The free talks will be conducted via Zoom over three Monday nights starting 2 August at 7.30pm. There will be opportunities for questions following the talks.

Vicar General of the Diocese of Broken Bay, Fr David Ranson, will give the first talk on the theology of suffering and death on Monday, 2 August.

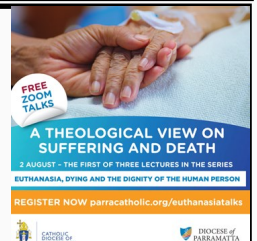
The following Monday, 9 August, speakers from the medical profession will explain palliative care, and common 'myths' around this type of care.

On Monday, 16 August Monica Doumit, Director Public Affairs and Engagement from the Archdiocese of Sydney will discuss "How to speak about euthanasia with friends and family".

Information and registration can be found at [parracatholic.org/euthanasiatalks](http://parracatholic.org/euthanasiatalks)

RSVPs for the first lecture are due 29 July.

For information about the talks please contact Emma Baker via [emma.baker@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:emma.baker@bbcatholic.org.au)



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<b>Sunday</b> <b>25th July</b> <i>17th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	<b>No Mass</b>
<b>Monday</b> <b>26th July</b> <i>Sts Joachim and Anne</i>	<b>No Morning Mass. Office is closed</b> <b>12 noon Angelus</b>
<b>Tuesday</b> <b>27th July</b>	A cuppa with parish staff and parishioners Tuesday, July 27 · 10:30 – 11:15am Google Meet joining info Video call link: <a href="https://meet.google.com/qyf-furu-wup">https://meet.google.com/qyf-furu-wup</a>
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>28th July</b>	<b>No Morning Mass</b> <b>12 noon Angelus</b> <b>7:30pm Night Prayer via Zoom</b> Google Meet joining info Video call link: <a href="https://meet.google.com/zth-rvxy-vas">https://meet.google.com/zth-rvxy-vas</a>
<b>Thursday</b> <b>29th July</b> <i>St. Martha</i>	<b>No Morning Mass</b> <b>12 noon Angelus</b> <b>7.30pm</b> Is God Angry? God and the Pandemic talk by Father Joe Google Meet joining info Video call link: <a href="https://meet.google.com/mfi-pmnp-qgp">https://meet.google.com/mfi-pmnp-qgp</a>
<b>Friday</b> <b>30th July</b>	<b>No Morning Mass</b> <b>12 noon Angelus</b> <b>7.30pm Mass</b> Google Meet joining info Video call link: <a href="https://meet.google.com/wjq-tgxi-sta">https://meet.google.com/wjq-tgxi-sta</a>
<b>Saturday</b> <b>31st July</b> <i>St. Ignatius of Loyola</i>	Depending if the Government extend the lockdown beyond the 30th of July the Parish will continue to Live Stream the Vigil Mass.
<b>Sunday</b> <b>1st August</b> <i>18th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	Youth mass 6:00 – 7:00pm Google Meet joining info Video call link: <a href="https://meet.google.com/ukd-iybe-brt">https://meet.google.com/ukd-iybe-brt</a>

**Parish Online Ministry during COVID**

There are an extraordinary number of initiatives taking place online across the Diocese in a number of parishes. These include games nights, trivia competitions, formation, scripture studies and wellbeing check-ins. If your community is willing to share these opportunities beyond your own Parish, the Mission Enhancement Team (MET Parramatta) would love to hear from you and help connect others who are struggling at this time.

Email [met@parracatholic.org](mailto:met@parracatholic.org)

**Office for Worship Liturgical Ministry Formation Course**

The Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will be running a second time in August. This is formation for anyone interested in serving in the Liturgical Ministries of Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion and Communion to the Sick and Dying. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact the Office for Worship on (02) 8838 3456

or [anne.alimangohan@parracatholic.org](mailto:anne.alimangohan@parracatholic.org) or download the enrolment form via

[officeforworship.org.au](http://officeforworship.org.au)

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**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:**

Anton Goosen (Gideon's brother), Roberto Di Nucci, Adam Carlyon (Theresa Luczak's Son in Law), John Dent, Joan Lohrey, Barbara Higginson (Ragan), Karen Bishop and Maria James.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK PARISHIONERS, RELATIVES & FRIENDS:**

Margaret Stevens, Lyn Beltran, 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, 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:**

Doris Ball, Peter Roebuck, Arthur Hibberd, Paul Treble, David McSorley, Anthony Visser, Peter Bryant, Bernard Wilson, Anni Grundschoettel and Danuta Ryan.

**PROVISIONAL ROSTER FOR 31ST JULY & 1ST AUGUST 2021**

Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	Marie Hurley	Carl Moll	Gerard Egan
Senior Server	Peter McMahon	Carl Moll	Joseph Sukkar
Junior Server	Volunteers Please		Volunteers Please
Warden	Vince Dobson & Allan Jones	Volunteer Please	Steve Newton
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Philomena Watkins	Michelle Wilson	Jessica Doherty
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Katy Ferris	John Killeen	Steve Baird
Intercession	Ken Schneiders	Kevin Flynn	Martin Rogers
Music Ministry	Naomi's Group		Jenny Long & Anne Hobbs
IT Operators	Eleanor Thompson	Elizabeth Konza	Pat Watson
Gifts	Noreen Taylor & Janice Smith	Maria Heinzl & Stanis Drobiszewski	Wilson Family
Communion	John Verhoeven	Kath Tierney	Garry Pursehouse
Cashiers	Joe Grange		
Children's Liturgy	Melissa		
Piety Stall	Carmel Higgins		
Church Care			
Hospitality	Lina Wiecek, Vicky Ang, Tamar Alzened & Karen Sukkar		
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