

# The Barra

Weekly Newsletter of St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook  
**The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary- Year B**  
**14th & 15th August 2021**

1 Chronicles 15:3-4, 15-16; 16:1-2; Psalm 131; 1 Corinthians 15:54-57; Luke 11:27-28

## FR JOE'S MUSINGS

### Solemnity of The Assumption

This Sunday the Church celebrates the solemnity of Mary's assumption. Our Catholic church has a rich Marian tradition. The assumption has its doctrinal basis in the conception of Mary. According to this doctrine, known as the Immaculate Conception, God's supernatural life dwelt in Mary from the very beginning of her existence. Because of the immaculate conception, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* affirms that Mary did not suffer from original sin but was conceived full of grace.

Now, there are voices who argued against this doctrine by saying that the Bible does not know anything about Mary's conception, let alone that she was immaculate. Although there are no explicit proof texts in Scripture for Mary's assumption, some biblical themes may at least shed life light on this doctrine. For example, the notion of being taken up into heaven has some precedent in Scripture. Enoch was taken into heaven without seeing death (see Hebrews 11:5), and Elijah was whisked into heaven by the chariots of fire at the end of his life (see 2 Kings 2:11). If God could assume these righteous men of the Old Testament, it is certainly possible that Jesus could assume his own mother as well.

Even more, since the Bible presents Mary as the first Christian disciple, it is fitting that she would be the first to receive the blessings of following Christ. In the New Testament, Mary is presented as the first to hear God's word and accept it at the annunciation (see Luke 1:38, 45). She responds to God's word promptly by going in haste to help Elizabeth. She also describes herself as a servant of the Lord (see Luke 1:38, 48).

Mary remains faithful to her son, following him even to the cross (see John 19:25-27), where she experiences the fulfilment of Simeon's prophecy at the Presentation: "A sword will pierce through your own soul also" (Luke 2:35).

She perseveres in faith throughout her life. She gathers with the apostles for prayer even after her son's ascension (see Acts 1:14). Thus, the New Testament presents a clear portrait of Mary as the first and preeminent disciple of Christ, who hears the word of God and keeps it in her heart.

Since one of the blessings promised to all faithful disciples is victory over death, it is fitting that Mary, who is the first and model disciple of Christ, would be the first to receive this blessing. Catholics thus believe that the privilege of resurrection promised to all faithful Christians was given first to Mary and in a totally unique way.

While the rest of us hope to have our bodies raised to glory at the end of time, Mary experienced the resurrection and glorification of her body at the moment her earthly life ended. Thus, her assumption—which flows from her unique participation in Christ's victory as the mother of the Saviour and as the first and most faithful of Christ's followers—anticipates to some degree our own share in the fullness of that victory if we persevere as followers of Christ.

Mary's assumption provides us with a broader perspective of our current life with the pandemic. Like Mary, we will be victorious because of our faith in Jesus Christ who has brought down everything that is not life. Like Mary, God always carries us in his heart! If we persevere and remain faithful, we won't lose against Delta whatever variant it will mutate into. Let us ask Mary, the mother of Jesus and our mother to intercede for us at this challenging time.

**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: By Appointment

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/ZF0jiRw7A-M>

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, and place The Body of Christ in a position of honour in your home.

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

# ST. FINBAR'S PARISH NEWS

## WEEKDAY ZOOM MASSES

This last week we tested the waters by having a couple of zoom Masses at 9:15am. However these were not well attended, probably due to so many parents and grandparents doing home schooling of their children/grandchildren.

This coming week we will try a different approach. Mass via zoom will be on Tuesday and Thursday at 12:30pm in the hope that families can take a break from home schooling for 30 minutes. We will retain the Friday evening zoom Mass at 7:30pm. If you have any other suggestions for Mass times, please let Fr Joe know.

## SUPPORT DONATIONS For PRIESTS - FIRST COLLECTION

Please note that there was an error in the account reference in last weekend's bulletin.

For EFT to the First Collection - supporting the priests

|              |                 |
|--------------|-----------------|
| BSB          | 067 950         |
| Account No   | 000004265       |
| Account Name | Diocesan Clergy |
| Reference    | 6011 your name  |

## HOW TO ACCESS PARISH EVENTS ON YOUR COMPUTER

With the COVID lockdown still in force, Fr Joe has gone to great lengths to keep the parish community connected by having many activities made available online so you can be involved remotely using your computer, your iPad your tablet, or your smartphone (it is better to use your computer as you will be better able to see all participants).

The most important activity is Sunday Mass, but there are also several weekday Masses, prayer sessions and other activities that are open to all parishioners to become engaged with, and the details are in the weekly calendar in each Barra. Fr Joe is always keen to hear suggestions for any activity you would like to see running in the parish.

Sometimes, the technology is a bit daunting, and so Fr Joe has tried to simplify it for you by limiting all activities to just two platforms:

- ✦ Sunday Mass will be on YouTube
- ✦ All other activities will be on Zoom

For the Sunday Masses all you need to do is to copy and paste the link from the front page of each week's Barra into your computer browser (Google or Safari or other similar browser) and hit return and the Mass graphic should appear. Make sure your volume is not muted so you can hear Mass. (We have occasional problems with Mass, and these are due to the vagaries of our Wi-Fi connection in the church).

For all the other Zoom activities you can copy and paste the relevant link into your browser and it will open Zoom on your computer. The first time you do this you will need to click on "download and run Zoom". If you already have Zoom, it may say your edition of Zoom is outdated and will offer to update it for you. Please say Yes to this prompt and let your computer update Zoom, otherwise the links will not work. Once Zoom is set up, each link will then open the appropriate session for you after you click the "Open Zoom Meetings" button. (You may need to enter the code if prompted). Please allow your computer to access the activity by both camera and audio so you can see and hear. Please mute your microphone at all times except when you want to speak.

Alternatively, you may download the Zoom app on your phone or tablet and enter the relevant meeting ID and code.

We hope these few words help you get easy access. If you are still struggling, please ring the parish office and we will try to help you.

We value cost and care as much as you do



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# PARISH CALENDAR

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Sunday</b><br><b>15th August</b><br><i>The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> | <b>6.00pm Youth Mass</b><br><a href="https://zoom.us/j/92854513680?pwd=bGRLSGxDSzIYVFNKU1JtNGowQTZOQT09">https://zoom.us/j/92854513680?pwd=bGRLSGxDSzIYVFNKU1JtNGowQTZOQT09</a><br>Meeting ID: 928 5451 3680<br>Passcode: 850110  |
| <b>Monday</b><br><b>16th August</b>   | <b>Office is closed</b>   |
| <b>Tuesday</b><br><b>17th August</b>  | <b>10.30am: A Cuppa with Parish / Parishioners</b><br><a href="https://zoom.us/j/94546475540?pwd=Y0tjV1c0WHM3QVdNcjh2cjQvRjZpZz09">https://zoom.us/j/94546475540?pwd=Y0tjV1c0WHM3QVdNcjh2cjQvRjZpZz09</a><br>Meeting ID: 945 4647 5540<br>Passcode: 640793<br><b>12.30pm Mass</b><br><a href="https://zoom.us/j/92902282696?pwd=eHh5QXhlaTNNeUZnRzZlZNUo5cW1lQT09">https://zoom.us/j/92902282696?pwd=eHh5QXhlaTNNeUZnRzZlZNUo5cW1lQT09</a><br>Meeting ID: 929 0228 2696<br>Passcode: 757827 |
| <b>Wednesday</b><br><b>18th August</b>  | <b>7.30am: Night prayers</b><br><a href="https://zoom.us/j/94730458278?pwd=LzU5dm0zS3hBQTBvZ3V4aHJFNnBtQT09">https://zoom.us/j/94730458278?pwd=LzU5dm0zS3hBQTBvZ3V4aHJFNnBtQT09</a> Meeting ID: 947 3045 8278<br>Passcode: 025305   |
| <b>Thursday</b><br><b>19th August</b>   | <b>12.30pm Mass</b><br><a href="https://zoom.us/j/92654737871?pwd=ZFVObERvN0xTSURFekNLNW1nRUUyQT09">https://zoom.us/j/92654737871?pwd=ZFVObERvN0xTSURFekNLNW1nRUUyQT09</a> Meeting ID: 926 5473 7871<br>Passcode: 480562<br><b>7.30pm: Biblical Studies</b><br><a href="https://zoom.us/j/99413837151?pwd=RjdSS3pUTzlpNUhNZjhQQ2x3NEhQUT09">https://zoom.us/j/99413837151?pwd=RjdSS3pUTzlpNUhNZjhQQ2x3NEhQUT09</a> Meeting ID: 994 1383 7151<br>Passcode: 235809                            |
| <b>Friday</b><br><b>20th August</b><br><i>St. Bernard</i>                               | <b>7.30pm Evening Mass</b><br><a href="https://zoom.us/j/96992550740?pwd=NUpBOGMyRitPMzJNUGRaZHRhU2x6dz09">https://zoom.us/j/96992550740?pwd=NUpBOGMyRitPMzJNUGRaZHRhU2x6dz09</a> Meeting ID: 969 9255 0740<br>Passcode: 898468   |
| <b>Saturday</b><br><b>21st August</b><br><i>St. Pius</i>                                | <b>5.30pm Live Streaming of the Vigil Mass</b><br><a href="https://youtu.be/mC00GqN-be8">https://youtu.be/mC00GqN-be8</a>   |
| <b>Sunday</b><br><b>22nd August</b><br><i>21st Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B</i>       | <b>No Mass</b>  |

# DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA NOTICES

## Join us on 'Home Ground'

While in lockdown, you're invited to 'HOME Ground'. Online every weeknight until 20 August, join us for chat, music, prayer, hot topics and most of all – fun and connection. See the free line-up at [parracatholic.org/homeground](http://parracatholic.org/homeground). The Diocese of Parramatta's Mission Enhancement Team look forward to seeing you on HOME Ground soon.

## 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)

## Social Justice COVID-19 Food and Toiletries Drive

Jesuit Refugee Service and House of Welcome are dealing with a 400% increase in emergency assistance calls and are needing to feed over 1,000 people facing destitution each week. You can help by running a food and toiletry drive or donating these goods yourself. Find more information at [parracatholic.org/diocesanfooddrive](http://parracatholic.org/diocesanfooddrive).

## Life, Marriage and Family Office Marriage Preparation Courses

Dates for the Diocesan Life, Marriage and Family Office's in-person marriage preparation weekend courses in 2021 are now available, with the SmartLoving Engaged Online course another option to prepare for your marriage. For more information, or to book your course, visit [www.parracatholic.org/pmp](http://www.parracatholic.org/pmp) or call (02) 8838 3460.

## Pastoral Formation Reflective Ministry Program: Begins 24 August

The Reflective Ministry Program is an online self-paced leadership development program to renew or encourage people in ministry. Produced by the Pastoral Formation team, the program covers biblical spirituality, ministry skilling and pastoral theology. Kick off for the program is 24 August 2021. Express your interest today via <https://tinyurl.com/RMIFM>

## Pastoral Council Formation and Training Session: 25 August

The next Parish, Deanery and Diocesan pastoral council formation and training session will be held on Wednesday 25 August from 7.30pm to 9pm via Zoom. This session will be on 'Listening to the hopes, needs, ideas and concerns of Parishioners' and presented by Sr Ailsa Mackinnon RSM, Chancellor for Ministries in the Diocese of Parramatta. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/erb692mm>. For any further information, please contact Tanya Quinn on [tanya.quinn@parracatholic.org](mailto:tanya.quinn@parracatholic.org) or call (02) 8838 3441.



### PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

Rev. Max Barrett (CSSR) (Jim Barrett's Brother), Marian Dickinson, 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:

Chris Paine, Colleen McHardy, Margaret Stevens, Lyn Beltran, Christine McGillion, Ryder Lopez, Margaret Christensen, Joan Paine, Mark Bates, Lyn Downes, Reg Moore, Ellen Moffitt, Terry Stevens, Jacqui Visser, Joanne Macrae, Sophie Hollies, Catherine Kirk (Cameron), Maddison Farrugia, Colleen Nolan, Pam Clyne and Harrison Aggar (Margaret & Ian Dickson's Grandson).

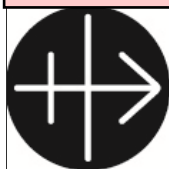
### PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:

John Gersbach, Leslie Slater, Annia Audet, Winifred Coyle, John Cloran, Betty Grange, Edward Keough, Laurence Rowe and Handley Sweeney.

## **ROSTERS SUSPENDED UNTIL AFTER THE LOCKDOWN**

### THANKS FROM COLLEEN MCHARDY

*I am so very grateful for all the lovely cards and well wishes from our beautiful St Finbar's community.*  
**Love Colleen McHardy**



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### **St Michael's Primary School, Baulkham Hills 50th Anniversary, Postponed**

**Due to the current COVID restrictions, the anniversary celebrations planned for the 12<sup>th</sup> September, have been postponed indefinitely.**

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## **YOUTH NIGHT**

ST. FINBAR'S PARISH, GLENBROOK



**EVERY 1ST & 3RD SUNDAY OF  
EACH MONTH @ 6PM**

MASS: 6PM

SUPPER: 7PM

THE LOUNGE YOUTH GROUP: 7.30-8.30PM