



The Barra

Weekly Newsletter of St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook
21st Sunday in Ordinary Time- Year B
21st & 22nd August 2021

Joshua 24:1-2, 15-18; Psalm 33; Ephesians 5:21-32; John 6:60-69

FR JOE'S MUSINGS

Well, things on the pandemic front are still not looking very promising, are they? But that does not mean we give up. Just like the people in the first reading from Joshua who said "we have no intention of deserting the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of Egypt". So we need to do our part, stay home as much as possible, and pray that the Lord will bring us through these difficulties. There is a similar message for us in John's Gospel where Jesus said to the twelve "Do you want to go away too"?, and the answer came quickly: "Where shall we go – you have the message of eternal life, and we believe". We need to believe that God loves us all and is looking after us, and that he will lead us safely to the other side.

I am delighted that so many parishioners have taken on the challenge of having a go with the new technology that is allowing us all to stay in touch. We have the Sunday Mass on YouTube, and you can attend this Mass at any time on Saturday night or Sunday. We also have Mass at 12:30pm on Tuesday and Thursday, and at 7:30pm on Friday, all via Zoom and the link to each is in the Barra each week. We also have prayer sessions, Bible Studies and Sacramental preparation all happening via Zoom. You might need to start a diary to keep up with everything that is happening!

The parish is coping reasonably well financially so far, considering the drop in income as a result of our inability to have public Masses in the church. Some parishioners are giving electronically via their credit card on the parish website or directly via the parish bank account (you too can do this – just ask the parish staff if you need assistance). Still others are dropping in their envelope when they come to collect the Body of Christ prior to the Saturday evening Mass. We have made a decision to just pay the interest due on our loan (rather than principal plus interest) for the next few months to help us meet all our financial commitments. This means a monthly repayment of about \$370 instead of more than \$4,000. Thank you all for your generosity in funding the camera and other live streaming equipment, thus saving us having to dip into parish funds for this project.

If you would like to get an update on our current financial situation, Fr Joe has organised a ZOOM meeting on Wednesday 1st of September at 7.30pm.

Finally, I ask you all to remember that, even with the pandemic we are still very fortunate here in the Blue Mountains. Let us pray for those less fortunate than ourselves, especially for those in Afghanistan being suppressed by the Taliban, those in Greece and other countries besieged by wild fires or floods, and for the many victims of the earthquakes in Haiti.

Mary, Mother of God, please intercede with your Son for all those in need. Amen.

Peter McMahon on behalf of Father Joe

LORD,
TO WHOM
SHALL WE GO?
YOU HAVE THE
WORDS OF
ETERNAL LIFE.

JOHN 6:68

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 – 1.00pm

Tuesday to Friday

(Closed on Mondays)

Office Phone: **N e w (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/mCOOGqN-be8>

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

SAFEGUARDING – BUILDING SAFE PARISHES TOGETHER

#2 Update from the Office of Safeguarding's Community Engagement and Education Officer on:

Reasons why Safeguarding Training is important...

We are all driven by the call of the Gospel in our lives, in our work and in our parish ministry. We are called to 'love others just as God loves us'. This commandment to love challenges us to actively promote the rights and dignity of all people.

We also live in the contemporary world where we are faced with joys, challenges and, sometimes, confronting disappointments. Our Church also exists in such a world. The Diocese of Parramatta, led by Bishop Vincent, is steadfast in its commitment to 'ensure all children and vulnerable adults are safe, protected and enabled to flourish'. Bishop Vincent has also expressed his commitment to us – those involved in the life of a parish – that all volunteers and staff are trained, supported and skilled in their pastoral roles and ministry.

Safeguarding Training is the practical demonstration of our Diocese's support of us in our ministries. It is also an expression of our own care for others, as it offers each one of us support and skills to ensure that the dignity and safety of all those we meet in ministry, especially those of children and adults at risk, is held as a paramount principle within our parish community.

Maria Kervin

Community Engagement and Education Officer

Email: maria.kervin@parracatholic.org

INTRODUCTION OF PRIVATE MEMBER BILL ON EUTHANASIA TO THE NSW PARLIAMENT

Sydney MP Alex Greenwich's voluntary assisted dying bill will permit religious-run hospitals and aged care homes to refuse to offer it on their premises in a bid to soften the Catholic Church's staunch opposition to the laws. The Nationals, including leader John Barilaro, have signaled their support for assisted dying, however Premier Gladys Berejiklian has said she would not support it and has said there is no need for the issue to be raised again. In a statement, NSW Labor leader Chris Minns said: "I'm opposed to legislation that would enable voluntary assisted dying. I'd encourage MPs to engage with the various stakeholders in this debate. It will be a conscience vote for the parliamentary Labor Party."

This Bill will present a significant challenge to the Catholic ethos and the religious managed hospitals and aged care.

Archbishop Anthony Fisher said that the Catholic Church was the "oldest and largest health and aged care provider in the world", operating to uphold the dignity of the elderly, "never entertaining killing them or collaborating with their death".

Dr Michael Tan, who is a permanent Deacon of our Diocese Parramatta and a medical palliative specialist, will offer a reflection on 'Gospel-Centred Care of the Dying' via zoom on Monday 13th September at 7.30pm. To register please email Deacon Michael at Michael.Tan@parracatholic.org

Please inform yourselves on this very important matter as it may not only affect your loved ones, but also your future decision.

Fr Joe

We value cost and care as much as you do



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PARISH CALENDAR

DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA NOTICES

Sunday 22nd August <i>21st Sunday in Ord Time Year B</i>	No Mass
Monday 23rd August	No Mass. Office is closed
Tuesday 24th August <i>St. Bartholomew</i>	10.30am Cuppa with the Parishioners https://zoom.us/j/98148931148? pwd=MnUydjZUYlFocIYwZDRqUWVpNmYyQT09 Meeting ID: 981 4893 1148 Passcode: 807091 12.30pm Midday Mass https://zoom.us/j/92282106068? pwd=RHpBelFXdXpWMEZUY2VKMXhKMENLdz09 Meeting ID: 922 8210 6068 Passcode: 427784
Wednesday 25th August	7.30pm Night Prayer https://zoom.us/j/96074560865? pwd=VC9FVmRURmIsSTNzZHU4NldtZ21PUT09 Meeting ID: 960 7456 0865 Passcode: 107411
Thursday 26th August	12.30pm Midday Mass https://zoom.us/j/95356623808? pwd=RUN3VIRIV2VXTnNTRVg4UUNiR0IKQT09 Meeting ID: 953 5662 3808 Passcode: 455562 7.30pm Conversation about St. Peter and Faith in a challenging time https://zoom.us/j/99960654020? pwd=SDdWQkxJdXo5ZStLemlVS2E3OEIHZ09 Meeting ID: 999 6065 4020 Passcode: 828875
Friday 27th August <i>St. Monica</i>	4.00pm Confirmation Preparation Session https://zoom.us/j/94578909604? pwd=cEVRUWISbkhvSQxJV2JZRININ2RNQT09 Meeting ID: 945 7890 9604 Passcode: 341020 7.30pm Mass https://zoom.us/j/97098929281? pwd=VUFQbmxUOUdYMFRGVGxWN2t6VG5vZ09 Meeting ID: 970 9892 9281 Passcode: 408477
Saturday 28th August <i>St. Augustine</i>	5.30pm Live Streaming Mass https://youtu.be/NGLQU5EZ6nA
Sunday 29th August <i>22nd Sunday in Ord Time Year B</i>	No Mass

BISHOP'S FATHERS DAY APPEAL

Due to the COVID lockdown, the Clergy Support Foundation is postponing the Bishop's Father's Day Appeal in-Parish collection to a later date, when Churches will once again be open. Parramatta Catholic Foundation is assisting us with a mail and online appeal around the beginning of September. Your thoughtful gift to the Appeal will mean so much to our retired priests who have put the care of others before themselves. For more information on the Clergy Support Foundation's work or to make a kind donation today, please visit parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal. Thank you, Clergy Support Foundation Committee

DONATE TO CARITAS' EMERGENCY RESPONSE APPEAL FOR HAITI

Caritas Australia's thoughts and prayers are with the people of the Haiti who have been devastated by a 7.2 magnitude earthquake. Over 1,400 people have died, and thousands more left injured. There is immediate and urgent need for food, water, shelter, hygiene kits and first aid on the ground. Donate to Caritas Australia's Emergency Response Appeal by visiting www.caritas.org.au or by calling 1800 024 413 toll-free.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE FIRST COLLECTION WHILE IN LOCKDOWN

With the continued lockdown of our Church, you may wish to make an EFT contribution to support your Clergy, i.e. what you would normally place on the first collection. To do, please use the following details: **BSB 067950 Account No 00004265 Account Name Diocesan Clergy Reference 6011 (followed by) your name.** This will enable us to credit your donation to your parish. Thank you for your contributions – they are much appreciated.

VINNIES SUPPORT CENTRES ARE STILL AVAILABLE TO THOSE IN NEED

St Vincent de Paul Support Centres across Greater Sydney are still available and taking calls to arrange for food vouchers or other items to be provided to those in need. If you need assistance, call the Support Centres in Blacktown on (02) 8861 9777, Harris Park on (02) 8861 9757 or Penrith on (02) 8861 9770. To find out more about what support is available, visit <http://vinnies.org.au/covidsupportnsw>

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:

Margaret Smith, Angela Plevy, Yvonne Price, Elizabeth Sefton, Les McDermott, Willy Boere, Andrew Wiecek, Ellen Fall, Maria Pay and Richard Nagle.

ROSTERS SUSPENDED UNTIL AFTER THE LOCKDOWN



A message from *Aid to the Church in Need Australia*:
Emergency Aid for Haiti. *Aid to the Church in Need (ACN International)* has expressed its solidarity in prayer with Haiti and immediately approved an emergency aid package of half a million Euros (\$800,000 AUD) for the Haitian people. In response to this, ACN Australia has set up an emergency appeal to provide help for our brothers and sisters in Haiti who are going through a very hard time. To donate visit www.aidtochurch.org/

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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