

The Barra

Weekly Newsletter of St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time- Year B
4th & 5th September 2021

Isaiah 35:4-7; Psalm 145; St. James 2:1-5; Mark 7:31-37

FR JOE'S MUSINGS

Over the last few weeks things on the pandemic front have not given us much comfort. have they? Case numbers seem to have been on a continuous increase, but at least the numbers getting vaccinated have also been markedly increasing. Christ calls on all Christians to love their neighbour, and at this time, one of the greatest ways we can show that love is by getting vaccinated as soon as possible, thereby possibly saving our neighbour from getting COVID-19.

Today is Father's Day and is a day of rejoicing. We give thanks firstly that our heavenly Father loves us all unconditionally and has promised to be there with us always, even to the end of time (Matt. 28:20). We also give thanks for all the fathers, grandfathers and fathers-in-law who have had such a positive influence on us and on our behaviour, possibly over a great number of years, and we pray for their continued love and good health.

We also pray for our own Father Joe, our Parish priest, who has amply demonstrated his love and care for all parishioners by his prayers for us and for the great lengths he has gone to in keeping us all involved and functioning as a community during the lockdown.

On this day we are also asked to remember all the blessings we have been given by the many now retired priests of our Diocese, quite a few who have helped out in our own parish over the years. These priests have given a lifetime of service to the Church, and now they have retired and are being looked after by the Clergy Support Foundation of our Diocese. We are called upon to help them financially in their retirement by contributing to the Bishop's Father's Day Appeal for Retired and Sick Clergy. You are asked to give at least \$25 to this very worthy cause by donating online using the QR code attached, or by mailing your donation to

Clergy Support Foundation
P.O. Box 1505,
Baulkham Hills
NSW 1755



Prepared by Peter McMahon

Congratulations to Father Michael Gitau. He has just been appointed the Parish Priest for Our Lady of the Way Parish Emu Plains for the next 6 years.



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/fYihV2WGk3A>

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.

ZOOM ISSUES:

It has been noted that a few people have had trouble with the zoom links not working recently. Sometimes the problem occurs if there has been an update to Zoom since you last used it on your device. When you copy the Link and paste it into your web browser you may be prompted to upgrade zoom. You should always do this as the link will normally only work on the latest version of Zoom.

SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY AND CHILD PROTECTION WEEK 2021

Safeguarding Sunday, previously known as Child Protection Sunday, will be held on 12 September this year. Safeguarding Sunday concludes the 2021 National Child Protection Week (5 to 11 September).

National Child Protection Week (5-11 September) – Highlights

National Child Protection Week 2021 is themed “Every child in every community needs a fair go”. It is aimed at raising awareness of the ‘big picture’ community supports that are needed for children to thrive. Parishes, as an important local social connection, play a part in this too.

There are free community seminars members of your parish may wish to attend. [Find topics and how to register here](#). There are also social media assets you may wish to share on your social media channels to raise awareness of the week.


Safeguarding Sunday – 12 September

Previously known as Child Protection Sunday, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference approved the change of name late last year to better reflect the Church’s policies and protocols to protect and support children and adults at risk.

The day seeks to acknowledge the immense damage caused by the sexual abuse of children, including by priests, religious and lay people within Catholic contexts. It makes a commitment to practices and protocols that create and maintain safe environments for all people, especially children and other people who are at risk. It invites people to pray for those harmed by abuse directly and indirectly.

A series of resources have been developed and can be found on the Bishops Conference website:

<https://www.catholic.org.au/safeguardingsunday>.

 Aid to the Church in Need **AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED AUSTRALIA: Education of Catechists – ACN** supports the formation and training of catechists so that where there are no priests or sisters, catechists are trained and sent forth to nurture the Christian community. With the help of our benefactors, ACN supported the formation of 18,389 catechists and lay leaders in 2020. Can you help provide support and formation to catechists to help spread the Faith? Visit www.aidtochurch.org/catechists.

Happy News From Our Playgroup Families,

Michelle Wilson has had her baby boy!

Summer and Amaya (our playgroup pal's), and Oliver and Zoe are the proud siblings of baby Harry Joseph Wilson. He was born on Thursday at Nepean. Both Mum and Harry are well. See picture attached of this little cutie. Congratulations Michelle and Joe!

Also, Jeni who recently joined our playgroup with William this year also welcomed baby Elizabeth Judith Goddard, She was born just before lockdown on 18/06/2021. William has welcomed his little sister to their family with great joy, even though his extended family has not been able to cuddle her yet!! She's ten weeks old already.

Hope this happy news brightens your weekend and week ahead.

Gabrielle Lynch

St. Finbar's Playgroup Coordinator



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PARISH CALENDAR

DIocese OF PARRAMATTA NOTICES

Sunday 5th September <i>23rd Sunday in Ord</i> <i>Time Year B</i>	6.00pm Youth Mass https://zoom.us/j/98662221014? pwd=NXN4ZUVtbXVlUzZNdOV2RHZkdjhGQTO9 Meeting ID: 986 6222 1014 Passcode: 199380
Monday 6th September	No Mass. Office is closed
Tuesday 7th September	10.30am Cuppa with the Parishioners https://zoom.us/j/93187871989? pwd=bHFIDTVnci9WQWZDeG5aejlxblRHZz09 Meeting ID: 931 8787 1989 Passcode: 333311 12.30pm Mass https://zoom.us/j/92951776001? pwd=a2cxUfVKZFhJcEJUREhSOGIRVGpodz09 Meeting ID: 929 5177 6001 Passcode: 330902
Wednesday 8th September <i>The Nativity of the</i> <i>Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	7.30pm Prayer Group prepared by Baptismal team https://zoom.us/j/95742250015? pwd=a3c4YwQ4YzduSQxsam4rWGFhMzZpZz09 Meeting ID: 957 4225 0015 Passcode: 013002
Thursday 9th September	12.30pm Mass https://zoom.us/j/97405517672? pwd=aEVHSUZ3UGF3aVVO6EVsaVY4OEUxUT09 Meeting ID: 974 0551 7672 Passcode: 597900 7.30pm Talk "Who owns the earth?" Father Joe and Cecilia Zammit https://zoom.us/j/98570394249? pwd=cmZlZXN4S1Bjdmhxc1hqMlJlUmlJSUT09 Meeting ID: 985 7039 4249 Passcode: 949675
Friday 10th September	7.30pm Mass https://zoom.us/j/92619301076? pwd=cTVWQzU3T3djVXpSWW95aGRRS0h0Zz09 Meeting ID: 926 1930 1076 Passcode: 549524
Saturday 11th September	5.30pm Live Streaming Mass https://youtu.be/93l_UwCCuus
Sunday 12th September <i>24th Sunday in Ord</i> <i>Time Year B</i>	No Mass

CARING FOR THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF OUR RETIRED PRIESTS

The Bishop's Father's Day Appeal, traditionally held on Father's Day, raises much needed funds for the Clergy Support Foundation to continue its work supporting retired clergy and those in ill health. Due to the current lockdown, the Appeal will be held via mail and online. Your thoughtful donation will mean so much to those who have put the care of others before themselves. Please give generously via the Father's Day Appeal at parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal or call (02) 8838 3482.

CATHOLIC OUTLOOK BOOK GIVEAWAY

To celebrate Father's Day 2021, and with thanks to Coventry Press, *Catholic Outlook* is giving away three copies of "Matters of Life and Faith" by Paul Mitchell – a beautiful book about faith and fatherhood. Entries are now open until

Thursday 9 September.

Enter today via catholicoutlook.org and fill out the form under 'Book Giveaway'.

parracatholic.org/seasonofcreation

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.

SIGN THE PETITION TO WELCOME 20,000 REFUGEES FLEEING AFGHANISTAN

In a sign of unity, major Australian church denominations and Christian organisations have come together to urge the Prime Minister to provide a special intake of an additional 20,000 refugees fleeing Afghanistan and support the ongoing wellbeing of all Afghan refugees and their families. For more information and to sign the petition go to www.unitedforafghanistan.com/?partner=dioceseparramatta

FAN THE FLAME – TOWARDS PLENARY ASSEMBLY ONE OCTOBER 2021

"This people honours me only with lip-service, while their hearts are far from me."

Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23

Unless we train ministers capable of warming people's hearts, of walking with them in the night, of dialoguing with their hopes and disappointments, of mending their brokenness, what hope can we have for our present and future journey? (Pope Francis, Meeting with the Bishops of Brazil, Rio de Janeiro, 28 July 2013)

www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/fanthe flame/

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.

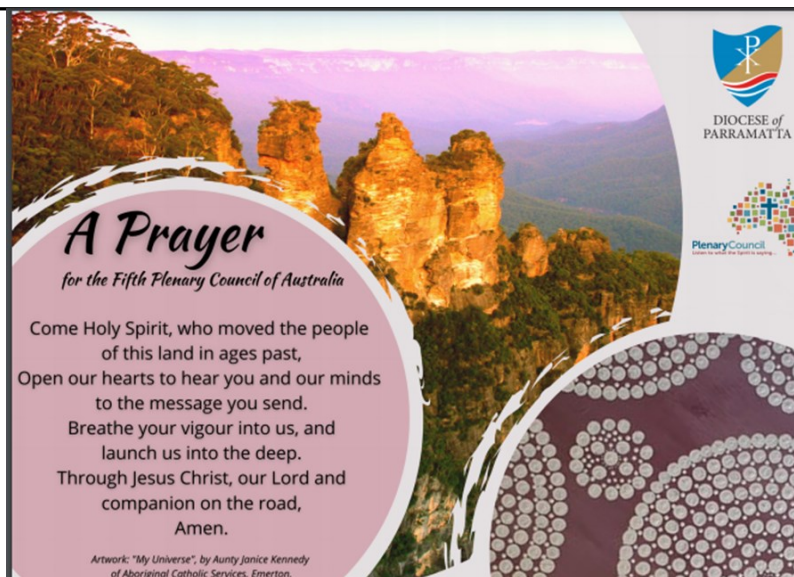
PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK PARISHIONERS, RELATIVES & FRIENDS:

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:

Gweneth Scott, June Jones, Harold Brown, Dorothy Parslow, Arthur Auckett, Hugh Smith, George Frampton, Norah Trathen, Dorothy Luland, Bendina (Dinny) Van de Weyer, Bernadette Greig, Barbara Fisher, Charlotte Mansour and Raymond (Frank) McSweeney.

ROSTERS SUSPENDED UNTIL AFTER THE LOCKDOWN



A Prayer
for the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia

Come Holy Spirit, who moved the people
of this land in ages past,
Open our hearts to hear you and our minds
to the message you send.
Breathe your vigour into us, and
launch us into the deep.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord and
companion on the road,
Amen.

Artwork: "My Universe", by Auntie Janice Kennedy
of Aboriginal Catholic Services, Emerton.

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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



St Finbar's Online Trivia Night

Join us online for a FUN Trivia Night using ZOOM.

When: Friday 24th September, 2021

Time: 7pm

How: Via ZOOM

How will it work

Create a virtual team of up to 8 people. This could be your own family or with friends. (You don't have to physically be together, we will connect you over the internet). We will use the breakout room function in ZOOM, so at the end of each round you will be put into a separate room with those in your group to discuss your answers before working out as a group which answers to use.

If you don't have a team, no problems we will assign you to one.

What do you need to do

Email the parish office (secretary@stfinbars.org.au) with the names and email addresses of the members of your team. If you don't have your own team and would like to be added to a team, just mention that in the email.

We will send more information closer to the date, including how to download ZOOM, if you don't currently have it. *Please note*, we are limited to 100 connections in ZOOM.

We are looking forward to having a FUN night of challenging our minds, as well as continuing to remain connected as a parish and community.

A new book in support of our Retired Priests



"I cause my spirit to enter you, and you shall live" (Ezekiel 37:5)

Biblical-Theological Essays on the Pandemic

By

Joseph Lam

Price: 9.99 AUD (excl. postage)

Our priests have cared for our faith community's spiritual nourishment and wellbeing all their lives, asking little for themselves. When their time comes to retire, many are without family to support them and assist with their everyday essentials for retirement.

You can support our priests through the purchase of Fr Joseph Lam's new book "I will cause my spirit to enter you and you shall live" (Ezekiel 37:5). Biblical-Theological Essays on the Pandemic."

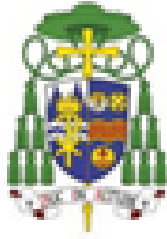
Proceeds will go to the Retired Priests Foundation of the Diocese of Parramatta.

Fr Joseph Lam is the parish priest of St. Finbar in Glenbrook. For over 15 years, he has lectured on theology in Germany, Italy, Belgium, Africa and in the US. He has authored six monographs and over 60 peer reviewed articles in German, English, Italian and Spanish.

About the book: Fr Peter G. Williams, Vicar General and Lecturer at the Catholic Institute of Sydney writes in his Forward

As Fr Joseph Lam remarks: "A crisis is not always bad." As Christians we believe that the God we worship is dynamic – not static, and thus the theologian will always be challenged by the changing circumstances of our world, and like Kushner, to constructively engage with difficult questions which are likely to surface in the minds of believers in a time of crisis, such as the pandemic which currently afflicts our world. How do we locate and relate to God at a time when our church buildings are shuttered, is this a result of the God's anger, does our current predicament have any relationship to questions around climate change and other environment and economic concerns, and in Australia where almost every jurisdiction has made provision for voluntary assisted dying, what is the value of human life and the process of dying itself in a society fixated on the denial of mortality? Fr Joseph systematically addresses these questions as all good theologians do by having recourse to the Sacred Scripture and by referencing the Church Fathers and more contemporary theological voices. I commend these essays to the reader and thank him for his ongoing contributions to the "queen of the sciences."

For book order: St Finbar Catholic Parish, 52 Levy Street, PO Box 123, Glenbrook 2773
(email: joseph.lam@parracatholic.org)



Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv DO STL
Bishop of Parramatta
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☎ 02 8838 3400 📠 02 9630 4813
✉ bishop@parracatholic.org
🌐 parracatholic.org

Pastoral letter to the faithful of the Diocese of Parramatta on our response to the situation in Afghanistan

Dear brothers and sisters,

Many of you will be shocked, as I am, by how quickly and easily the Taliban has seized control of Afghanistan. The daily scenes from Kabul airport that we have seen over the past weeks have been heartbreaking. How much more shocked and scared must the Afghan population be, as well as their relatives and friends who are now living here in Australia.

I ask you all to keep the Afghan people in your prayers, especially now as international forces have withdrawn from the country. Please include those in our community who have come from Afghanistan. The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference's Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace has published a resource for communal prayer in your households: [Prayer of Solidarity for the People of Afghanistan](#).

Many Afghans are still trying to flee from the Taliban. Especially ethnic and religious minorities, including Christians, and those who worked together with the Australian and international military forces are at risk of targeted persecution. Women fear losing their human rights. The Australian Federal Government has so far committed to allocating 3,000 places within the existing refugee program for people fleeing Afghanistan.

Archbishop Mark Coleridge of Brisbane, the President of our Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, recently [wrote to the Prime Minister](#). Based on estimates from key humanitarian organisations and pledges from other countries, Archbishop Coleridge proposed that the Federal Government should make at least another 17,000 places available.

This proposal is being supported by many humanitarian and community organisations, including Catholic organisations, and by a broad ecumenical alliance of Christian churches in Australia.

I invite and encourage you all to add your voice to this important call. Under the theme "Christians United for Afghanistan" you can do this by signing the call at unitedforafghanistan.com/?partner=dioceseparramatta.

I have already added my signature on behalf of the Diocese of Parramatta. Parishes can sign within the category "Church". Catholic schools, agencies and our Diocesan councils are invited to sign as an "Organisation", and every faithful can sign as an "Individual".

Beyond a special intake of refugees from Afghanistan and Afghan refugee camps in neighbouring countries, “Christians United for Afghanistan” calls on the Federal Government to “Welcome. Protect. Reunite. Support.”

This includes granting permanent protection to all people from Afghanistan who are already in Australia on temporary protection visas or are currently awaiting application outcomes. It also includes enabling these refugees to bring their families from Afghanistan to Australia and reunite in safety, as well as additional emergency and long-term support for humanitarian aid through reputable organisations working in the region.

Our partners at Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Australia and the Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum (CAPSA) are supporting this ecumenical initiative and will help to engage the Catholic community across Australia.

As Christians, we believe that God bestows an indestructible dignity on every human being. However, we know that humans can erode this dignity. That is what I fear the Taliban are doing when they persecute those who do not share their beliefs and oppress the women and minorities they live alongside.

So, when it is within our national power to protect dignity, we are prompted by our faith to speak out. As Pope Francis said in 2017 when speaking of people seeking asylum: “Defending their inalienable rights, ensuring their fundamental freedoms and respecting their dignity are duties from which no one can be exempted.”

It is our collective duty as a society to foster and uphold the unity of the family, and in the context of Afghanistan this includes enabling access to family reunion for refugees and members of the diaspora.

Australia has a long tradition of generously resettling refugees and displaced persons who flee their home countries due to war, conflict and violence. We need to honour this legacy by showing the Afghan people fleeing oppression and violence our compassion and solidarity. I believe that this is the true identity of the country I have made my home.

I was a refugee once and fled by boat in the wake of the end of a protracted war in which Australia had been involved. I hope to see the same level of bipartisan support for Afghan refugees now as there was for Vietnamese refugees then. While the Government has a critical role to play in supporting Afghans in Australia and in their homeland, faith-based and community groups declaring they are ready to help people relocating to Australia is a big piece of the puzzle.

If you have friends, colleagues or neighbours with an Afghan background, please be there for them in this traumatic time. I ask you to open your hearts to newly arriving refugees, and to support our Catholic agencies in providing support to them as well as humanitarian aid in the region.

Also include the members of our Australian Defence Force in your prayers who served in Afghanistan in the past 20 years.

Thank you for your prayer and solidarity with our Afghan sisters and brothers in this difficult time.

In Christ,

Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv Bishop of Parramatta

Given at Parramatta on 1 September 2021