

The Barra

Weekly Newsletter of St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook
24th Sunday in Ordinary Time- Year B
11th & 12th September 2021

Isaiah 50:5-9; Psalm 114; St. James 2:14-18; Mark 8:27-35

FR JOE'S MUSINGS

The Works of Faith

When I was living in the Augustinian community in Coorparoo where I was PP, we used to have dinner together after the community evening prayer, called Vespers. As you can imagine, a meal can also provide a good opportunity for a discussion on theology. At one stage, one Augustinian raised the question about the faith and good works. In his opinion, faith is not necessary for good works since there are many non-believers who are better human beings and do great works of charity, much better than many believers and Catholics.

I do not disagree with him on the point that there are good people who are not Christian. Indeed, this in accord with what Vatican II called people of goodwill. Yet I also argued against the separation between faith and good works. Any person who does good works does so because the person believes in the goodness of his or her doing.

This Sunday's gospel reminds us that faith in Jesus Christ necessitates works of charity. Hence, faith is the interior condition for good works. The works of faith is the expression of salvation that Christ has achieved for us. Imagine that Jesus would have had faith only but would not have died on the cross. Would faith alone be enough for salvation? So the works are the manifestations of the person's faith.

Jesus taught that a person's true nature will be evident in his or her conduct:

The good man or woman out of his or her good treasure brings forth what is good; and the evil man or woman out of his or her evil treasure brings forth what is evil. And I say to you, that for every careless word that a person shall speak, he or she shall render account for it in the day of judgment. For by your words, you shall be justified, and by your words you shall be condemned.

Important for Christians is the notion that selfishness is the opposite to faith. While we acknowledge that there are Christians whose faith has not matured into good works yet (Paul said their faith is dead!), we are not bereft of good works. According to Saint Augustine, it would be a **sinful** behaviour if we do not make best use of the good works God's grace has given us. On the works of righteousness, Augustine wrote:

It follows, as I see it, that in whatever kind of degree we may define righteousness in this life, there is in this life no person entirely without sin: there is need for every person to give that it may be given to him or her, to forgive that it may be forgiven him or her, and in respect of any righteousness he or she possesses not to presume that it has come of his or her own making, but to accept it as the grace of God who justifies; yet none the less to hunger and thirst for the gift of righteousness from Him who is the living bread and with whom is the well of life—who so works justification in his saints that labour in the trial of this life.

Therefore let us allow ourselves to be touched by reconciliation, which God has given us in Christ, by God's "foolish" love for us; nothing and no one can ever separate us from his love (cf. Rom 8: 39). We live in this certainty. It is this certainty that gives us the strength to live concretely the faith that works in love.

The Pandemic will serve as a good opportunity for us to demonstrate our good faith in Jesus Christ, and how our faith can mature in the care for others.

Fr. Joseph Lam, PhD STD



Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. Mark 8:34

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: **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/93l_UwCCuus

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.*

MOUNTAINS DEANERY PASTORAL COUNCIL NEWS

1. Because of the restrictions imposed by COVID-19 we have decided to postpone our September 19th *Gathering of Talents*. Having said that, we were buoyed by the interest we received via the surveys returned after the concept was launched in late June.

From replies received people were interested in all the proposed workshops particularly regarding initiatives for Outreach/Pastoral Care. Be assured we will try to transform your interest into action when some normality returns to our church and community. At the moment we are looking at early next year to run the program.

We celebrated Social Justice Sunday on 29th of August. The Australian Bishops' Social Justice Statement, [**Cry of the Poor, Cry of the Earth**](#) invites us to join in responding to Pope Francis' invitation to take a seven-year journey towards total ecological sustainability guided by seven Laudato Si' Goals. The Statement provides theological foundations to ground and inspire our efforts to care for creation while responding to the needs of the disadvantaged and excluded.

The Mountains Deanery vision is for a network of animators across the Deanery to bring this document to life in the Mountains.

2. Given that our Diocese now has a "Peace, Justice & Ecology" team, and that a number of Mountains' parishioners self-nominated for either the Social Justice or Laudate Si workshops at the *Gathering of Talents*, it seems that the Spirit is calling us to put the theory into practice.

Building Safe Parishes Together

#4 Update from the Community Engagement and Education Officer on: Safeguarding Sunday

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has designated the second Sunday in September each year as Safeguarding Sunday. This Sunday falls at the end of Child Protection Week.

Today is an opportunity to remind ourselves of the Diocese of Parramatta's Commitment to Safeguarding:

We are committed to being a community of Safeguarding

We will have zero tolerance to abuse of any form

We are committed to ensuring children and vulnerable adults under our care are safe, protected and enabled to flourish.

And I am excited to confirm that parishes around the diocese are demonstrating this commitment in volumes! Our September dates for zoom sessions are close to full. The October sessions are filling fast. Many others are inquiring about and registering for the online Modules. Others are looking forward to restrictions easing and the opportunity for face-to-face training within their parish. In recent weeks I have had wonderful conversations with priests, parish managers and parish volunteers who are all so committed to their parish ministry and to this training. I am grateful and energized by each one of these conversations.

There is still space in the afternoon sessions on 12th, 19th and 26th October at 2pm.

We have now also opened up some evening dates via zoom that might be of interest to the parishioners.

These new dates for the Mandatory Safeguarding Training are:

Module 1 – Tuesday 12th October at 7.00pm

Module 2 – Tuesday 26th October at 7.00pm

Module 3 – Tuesday 9th November at 7.00pm

In gratitude for the work, you do in your parish I would like to offer this prayer for you on this Safeguarding Sunday.

Let's pray for our parish communities as they seek to follow the example of Christ and the teachings of his Church: that we will be strengthened in our commitment to ensure that policies and procedures are implemented to protect children, young people and the vulnerable in our society.

Maria Kervin

Community Engagement and Education Officer

Office for Safeguarding Diocese of Parramatta

We value cost and care as much as you do



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PARISH CALENDAR

DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA NOTICES

Sunday 12th September <i>24th Sunday in Ord Time Year B</i>	No Mass
Monday 13th September <i>St. John Chrysostom</i>	No Mass. Office is closed
Tuesday 14th September <i>The Exaltation of the Holy Cross</i>	10.30am Cuppa with the Parishioners https://zoom.us/j/97162027848? pwd=SEJHYXBil3pvcVRKM0lnWmRmckdXZz09 Meeting ID: 971 6202 7848 Passcode: 014924 12.30pm Mass https://zoom.us/j/93238306450? pwd=ZUFITjAxZ0ZPUzVMcEpTeklrzFPdz09 Meeting ID: 932 3830 6450 Passcode: 197508
Wednesday 15th September <i>Our Lady of Sorrows</i>	7.30pm Prayer Group https://zoom.us/j/99173980621? pwd=UXI6d090UmZKSFRNLTJmNmZLMnZQdz09 Meeting ID: 991 7398 0621 Passcode: 833298
Thursday 16th September <i>Sts Cornelius and Cyprian</i>	12.30pm Mass https://zoom.us/j/94507591656? pwd=Y0hidkJKSnZ4WDA3QUkwUEXhTmhRdz09 Meeting ID: 945 0759 1656 Passcode: 650144 7.30pm "Restless is my heart" - St Augustine: Saint and Sinner https://zoom.us/j/94133931682? pwd=UOE0cndqRDRWWGZ0Z0F3MURjMlpNUT09 Meeting ID: 941 3393 1682 Passcode: 855568
Friday 17th September	7.00pm Rosary & Mass https://zoom.us/j/96438666359? pwd=YUhuZHppVzJFUuNxcWIXd2kzY3lrQT09 Meeting ID: 964 3866 6359 Passcode: 561007
Saturday 18th September	5.30pm Live Streaming Mass https://youtu.be/HDD18gHOaCk
Sunday 19th September <i>25th Sunday in Ord 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 is being 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.

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.

VOLUNTEER IN AUSTRALIA AND OVERSEAS - THE CAGLIERO PROJECT, SALESIANS OF DON BOSCO

We are seeking long term (6-12 month) volunteers for January 2022 to work with young people in our Salesian communities in Australia. When it is possible and safe to do so, we will recommence sending volunteers to work with disadvantaged young people in Salesian communities in Samoa, Cambodia, Timor Leste & the Solomon Islands. Applications close October 30th. Send us an inquiry - www.cagliero.org.au

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/

CARITAS AUSTRALIA RESPONDS TO HUMANITARIAN CRISES IN AFGHANISTAN AND LEBANON

In Afghanistan, people have been forced from their homes, with half of the population in urgent need of food, water, shelter and protection. In Lebanon, the country is running out of power, water, fuel, medicine and food. Please donate to Caritas Australia or respond to crises like these by visiting caritas.org.au/lebanon or www.caritas.org.au/afghanistan or call 1800 024 413 toll-free to provide much needed support.

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.

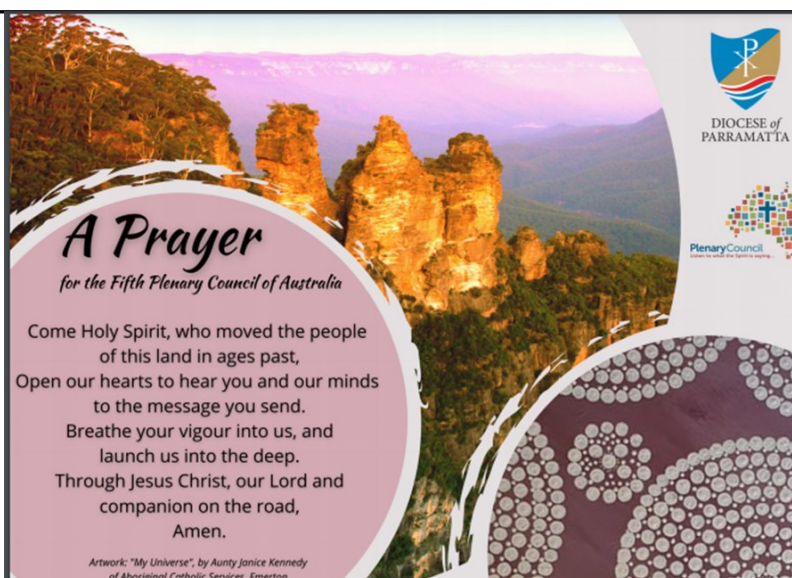
PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK PARISHIONERS, RELATIVES & FRIENDS:

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:

Barbara Short, Alexandra Jankowski, Cecilia Mitchell, Stefanie Webber, Edward Parslow, Agnes Auckett, John Gillian, Margaret O'Hare, Paul Moore, Margaret Hunt, Marie Lutton, Patricia Flynn, Fred Clinton and William Waters.

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