



The Barra

Weekly Newsletter of St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook
1st Sunday of Advent Year C
27th & 28th November 2021

Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 24; 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2; Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

FR JOE'S MUSINGS

Advent not just a time of waiting...

This weekend is the beginning of Advent which liturgically is time of awaiting for the birth of Jesus. Do you actually know why Advent is associated with the colour purple? In ancient times it was the colour of royalty because purple dye was costly and rare. So the liturgical colour of Advent is a symbol of looking forward to welcoming the coming of a King. Moreover, the Advent wreath and candles during Advent are a longstanding Catholic tradition that was originally adopted by Christians in the Middle Ages as part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas. The wreath and candles are full of symbolism tied to the Christmas season. The wreath itself, which is made of various evergreens, signifies continuous life. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life we find in Christ.

Hence Advent is not a passive waiting only. It is time of preparing the way for Christ's coming as well. In the Baby Jesus, God gave to us His best gift that He has: His Son for the salvation of the world. In return, we are called to bring joy to people's lives through our gifts. In these Advent days it echoes the challenge of John the Baptist to "prepare the way of the Lord" so all may see God's love.

Our faith and good deeds are pathways inviting Christ to enter into our lives. Hence, we are calling on you to assist the needy. You can donate food items to the *House of St Francis in Granville* which cares for the needy, especially the refugees. For further details, please refer to the parish bulletin. Thank you Trish and Kieran for the organisation of the Food Drive.

Commencing from this weekend, our Bishop Vincent also asks us to help him in caring for women and children who are homeless in our neighbourhood. Perhaps, this a good way to welcome Mary and the Baby Jesus by giving women and children a safe home and welcoming future.

Advent is also time to prepare ourselves spiritually. Hence, I would like to invite to attend our parish Advent retreat on December 4th, from 10am to 3pm. The retreat will be led by our two wonderful parishioners Cecilia Zammit and Melissa McDonald, both members of the Diocesan directorate of Christian doctrine. As per NSW Health COVID rules, only fully vaccinated can attend this retreat, unfortunately and regrettably.

On another important matter: Ken Schneiders, Avril Llewellyn and Matthew Philips will leave us in the new year to move to Nelson Bay, Bathurst and Toowoomba. Lyn Smith has already moved to Buckland in Springwood. On behalf of our parish, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to them for years of dedication and commitment to St Finbars. May God bless them in their new settings. I am sure that we will see them again.

Terry Keogh (chair of liturgy committee), Pat Watson (member of liturgy committee), Julie-Ann and Jim McLoughlin (sacramental coordinators), Judy Burrett (chair of concert committee) and Vince Dobson (chair of Pastoral Council, who will remain as member of the PPC) have either resigned or have stepped down from their ministries. I thank them all for their wonderful assistance and contribution to our parish life. We are blessed to have them and are grateful for their gifts and faith and examples.

Lastly, we express our condolences to Peter McMahon whose brother has died last week, aged 64. May our prayers give him and his family comfort during this difficult 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

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Admin:

Peter McMahon

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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: Saturday 4.30 – 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

SUNDAY BAPTISMS:

The Parish joyfully announces the Baptism of Addison Nicole Scott, Elizabeth Goddard and Emersyn Case who are going to be Baptised after Mass this Sunday, and warmly welcomes them into our Faith Community.



5.30PM VIGIL MASS LIVE STREAMING LINK

<https://youtu.be/2dfctbaqefl>

Congratulations to all the children who received Holy Communion for the first time this week. We pray that the Body and Blood of Christ may graciously nourish them and help them grow more like Jesus each day of their lives.

Father Joe

WELCOME all visitors to our church today. We extend our greetings to you. If you wish to join St Finbar's Parish, please make yourself known to one of our Wardens so we can give you our Parish Welcome Pack.

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

PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday 28th November <i>1st Sunday of Advent Year C</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass 10.45am Baptisms
Monday 29th November	No Mass. Office is closed
Tuesday 30th November <i>St Andrew</i>	9.15am Mass 10.30am Pastoral Care Meeting M/R 5.30pm 1st Holy Communion Group 4 7.30pm December Baptism Preparation Meeting M/R
Wednesday 1st December	9.15am Mass followed by Rosary 9.30am Playgroup P/C 11.00am Gary Shackleton Funeral Mass 7.00pm Bridge Club P/C
Thursday 2nd December	9.15am Mass 1.30pm Bridge Club P/C
Friday 3rd December <i>St Francis Xavier</i>	9.15am Mass 10.30am First Friday Visits 1.00pm Bowlers P/C 5.30pm Cantabile Choir Practice 7.30pm Adoration
Saturday 4th December	9.15am Mass 10.00am Parish Advent Retreat P/C 11.30am Te Deum's Choir Practice 4.30pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass Live Streaming Mass Link https://youtu.be/eMqyEscsQw8 6.30pm Parish Plenary Session P/C
Sunday 5th December <i>2nd Sunday of Advent Year C</i>	7.30am Mass 8.30am Parish Plenary Session P/C 9.30am Mass 10.30am Parish Plenary Session P/C 10.45am Avril Llewellyn Thank you Farewell P/C 6.00pm Youth Mass 7.00pm "The Lounge" Youth Group P/C

ST. FINBAR'S PARISH NEWS

ORGAN & CONCERT COMMITTEE

Due to government restrictions on numbers as well as choral singing, the Annual Music and Readings for Christmas is not being held this year. We are very disappointed that we are not able to present this wonderful event.

We have some great plans for concerts in 2022 in the church including the Bach Music and Readings for Good Friday.

Thank you for your understanding and look forward to your support in the future.

AVRIL LLEWELLYN THANK YOU AND FAREWELL MORNING TEA SUNDAY 5TH OF DECEMBER AFTER THE 9.30AM MASS

Please join us as we say thank you and farewell to Avril Llewellyn and Ken Schneiders for all their help and support as they are moving from the Parish.

CANCELLATION OF PILGRIMAGE ON THE FOOTPATH OF ST PAUL GREECE AND MALTA IN 2022

Due to the rise of COVID cases in Europe and particularly in Greece, we need to cancel our planned pilgrimage to Greece and Malta in September 2022, unfortunately.

We hope to be able to organise it for 2023.



Aid to the
Church in Need

**A message from Aid to the
Church in Need Australia:**

ACN AUSTRALIA

ACN is running an Advent

appeal to help Christian refugees who are suffering due to persecution, conflict and violence. This year share the hope of Christmas with Christian refugees and help ease their burdens. To read stories and watch videos of how ACN is helping our suffering brothers and sisters and to make a donation please visit www.aidtochurch.org/adventappeal.

BLUE MOUNTAINS EPIPHANY PILGRIMAGE + FIESTA 2022.


Celebrate the joy of the Christmas Season with the two-day Blue Mountains Epiphany Pilgrimage and Fiesta! Choose from a classic pilgrimage experience or family adventure pilgrimage on Sunday, Jan 2 then delight in the afternoon and evening festivities including the Feast of the Epiphany Mass, a festive meal, jumping castle, games and movie night for the kids as well as praise, worship and Adoration for youth and adults. Stay overnight at St Finbars, Glenbrook in the hall or camp on site, then continue the celebrations on Monday, Jan 3 with a morning pilgrimage and Mass in the bush.

For more information and to register visit www.epiphanypilgrimage.org.

To follow the journey see <https://www.facebook.com/epiphanypilgrimage/>.

**FOOD DRIVE FOR REFUGEES THROUGH THE
ST FRANCIS HOUSE OF WELCOME, GRANVILLE**
Sunday 20th November to Saturday 11th December 2021 (3 weeks)

Can you help please?

FOOD REQUIRED à		Essential Personal Items Required à
 <p>Vegetable Oil 750ml Basmati rice 1kg packets Plain flour 1kg Raw Sugar 1kg</p>	<p>Long life (UHT) milk 1L size Canned Tomatoes Chick Peas Lentils Canned fruit Tinned tuna in oil or springwater Instant noodles – Chicken or vegetable Black Tea Cooking Spices Jams & Honey Breakfast cereal Biscuits (savoury and sweet) <i>(Please no baked beans, soup, beetroot, or tinned spaghetti!)</i></p>	<p>Nappies (larger sizes/walker/junior) Toothpaste and Toothbrushes Shampoos Toilet paper Deodorant Razors Hygiene: Laundry Detergent Powder Chux wipes Disinfectant Handwash Dishwashing Liquid</p>

The House of Welcome exists to welcome, shelter, and empower people seeking asylum, and refugees regardless of their age, gender, sexuality, nationality or religion. It provides client-centred holistic supports that nurture hope, advocate for justice and promote self-reliance, whilst acknowledging the dignity and the rights of each individual person. This Food Bank provides household necessities for people seeking asylum who have limited or no income.

Donations can be left at:

St Finbar's Church, Levy Street Glenbrook at the office or inside the church door in the collection box *or* directly to Patricia and Kieran Murnane, 19 Hare Street, Glenbrook ph:47394688 – front verandah.
All donations will be delivered by the Murnanes to the House of Welcome at Granville after 13th December.
Thank you for your kindness.

DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA NOTICES

Bishop's Christmas Appeal

No mother or child should be homeless and without support at Christmas. CatholicCare's Houses to Homes provides hope for vulnerable women and children facing abuse and hardship. Your kind donation today will help change the lives of homeless young women, who like Mary, seek a safe haven to raise their newborn child. Please give generously via the Bishop's Christmas Appeal giving envelopes or online at yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal

Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses 2022

The Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will begin early next year in February. This is formation for anyone interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar. If you are interested or would like more information please contact the Office for Worship on (02) 8838 3456 or anne.stanton@parracatholic.org or visit our website to download an enrolment form at <https://officeforworship.org.au/>

Glenbrook Parish Advent Reflection Day: 4 December 2021

You are invited to join the parish of St Finbar's, Glenbrook, for their Advent Retreat on Saturday 4 December from 10am to 3pm, followed by Vigil Mass at 5.30pm. The Retreat will reflect on the birth of Jesus, but also on being in touch with God through reflection on creation. Morning tea and lunch will be provided. The retreat will be \$5 per person. For catering purposes, please RSVP by 29 November to secretary@stfinbars.org.au.

<p align="center">Bateman Battersby LAWYERS</p> <p align="center"><i>We invite members of the Parish to take advantage of our legal services specialising in :</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Property Law • Business Law • Wills & Estates • Family Law • Negligence Law • Court Appearances <p align="center">Phone: 02 47315899 www.batemanbattersby.com.au Enquiries@batemanbattersby.com.au</p>	<p align="center">BEAUTIFUL SIMPLE FAREWELLS</p>  <p align="center">GRACE FUNERALS <small>Formerly Lady of Grace Funerals</small> PENRITH BLUE MOUNTAINS WESTERN SYDNEY</p> <p align="center">15 years FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED PERSONALISED AND DIGNIFIED</p>	<p align="center">Turner Freeman Lawyers Est. 1952</p> <p>Turner Freeman Lawyers have been providing members of the community with outstanding legal services since 1952 in the following areas: Personal injury claims Wills & estate planning Property law Deceased estates & will disputes</p> <p align="center">Suite 4, 311 High Street Penrith NSW 2750</p> <p align="center">4729 5200 www.turnerfreeman.com.au Gerard.Morson@turnerfreeman.com.au</p>
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PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

Gary Shackleton, Michael McMahon (Peter's brother), Colleen McHardy, Deacon Owen Rogers (Martin Rogers' Father), Roger Hunt (Julie-Ann McLoughlin's Father), Dirkje Vleeskens, Valarie Goodridge (Jim Tierney's sister), Rev. Max Barrett (CSSR) (Jim Barrett's Brother) and Marian Dickinson.

PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK PARISHIONERS, RELATIVES & FRIENDS:

Sybil Mason, Chris Paine, 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:

Stephen Hutchins, Glenna Van den Steen, Shirley Noyes, Ronald Aussel, Harold Mitchell, David Miles, Frank Kroehnert, Lawrence Dunne, Thomas O'Malley, Julia Rudnicki, Ronald Lowe, Winifred Nolan and Paul Gibbeson.

LITURGICAL ROSTER FOR 4TH & 5TH DECEMBER 2021

Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	Marie Hurley	Carl Moll	Gerard Egan
Senior Server	Peter McMahon	Carl Moll	Volunteer Please
Junior Server	Volunteers Please	Volunteers Please	Volunteers Please
Warden	Vince Dobson & Allan Jones	Volunteer Please	Steve Newton
1 st Reading	Philomena Watkins	Michelle Wilson	Jessica Doherty
2 nd Reading	Katy Ferris	John Killeen	Steve Baird
Intercession	Ken Schneiders	Kevin Flynn	Martin Rogers
IT Operators	Eleanor Thompson	Elizabeth Konza	Pat Watson
Gifts	Noreen Taylor & Janice Smith	Volunteers Please	The Wilson Family
Communion	John Verhoeven	Ian Dickson	Wendy Brown
Cashiers	Joe Grange		
Children's Liturgy	Pia		
Piety Stall	Carmel Higgins		
Church Care			
Hospitality	Please note that there will not be any Sunday Hospitality until further notice.		
Garden Club	Tony Doyle, Helen Keogh & Kevin Goener		



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We value cost and care as much as you do

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