



The Barra

Weekly Newsletter of St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook
2nd Sunday of Advent Year C
4th & 5th December 2021

Baruch 5:1-9; Psalm 125; Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11; Luke 3:1-6

FR JOE'S MUSINGS

Second Sunday of Advent – Peace

The second candle of Advent represents the peace that Jesus' birth will bring into our world. We need peace because conflict is still a reality in the present day. We only need to look to Eastern Europe, Asia and the Middle East. The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated and deepened this crisis. In response to the coronavirus pandemic, the UN Secretary-General António Guterres had appealed for an immediate global ceasefire, saying in March 2020: "Our world faces a common enemy: COVID-19. The virus does not care about nationality or ethnicity, faction or faith. It attacks all, relentlessly. Meanwhile armed conflict rages on around the world."

COVID-19 has also divided our nation. According to the *Australian Institute of Criminology* which surveyed 15,000 women from February to May, two thirds of women who experienced physical or sexual violence by a current or former cohabiting partner since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic said the violence had started or escalated in the three months prior to the survey. In other parts of the world the measures to contain the spread of COVID have led to an increase of human trafficking and sex slavery. To address their financial difficulties, parents often had no other choice than to sell their own children in exchange for "a cow or pig to ensure they have a livelihood."

Violence is the external manifestation of the person's inner conflict due to the COVID lockdowns and restrictions. Relationships have been unsettled. The second Sunday is a stark reminder of the urgent need for peace in our hearts and minds. Jesus brought about peace in the most unexpected ways when he arrived. The Jews, particularly the zealots, wanted a rebellion. They wanted their Saviour to overturn the oppressive rule of the Romans and bring about peace in a violent way. But Jesus had something else in mind. First he gives us inner peace. Because of his work on the cross, we have a chance to receive salvation and be indwelt by the Holy Spirit. This grants us an inner peace (John 14:27). Not only do we have the peace that comes from our assurance of salvation, but we also have the peace of mind knowing God will heal this broken world and will come again. Second, we have peace with others. We put aside our differences (Galatians 3:28), especially with other believers, because we belong to the same family. We have the same purpose: to let others know about the peace of Christ. The Hebrew word for peace: Shalom, goes far beyond not fighting with others or peace as we know it. Shalom is, in essence, how things are meant to be: a slice of heaven. The peace of God allows us to look at others through heaven's eyes and help guide the world to see God's here and not-yet here kingdom. Peace from God, biblical peace, allows us to trust in God's promises (Proverbs 3:5) through restful tranquil faith, despite the dark scary world around us.

Instead of conflicts and wars with others and ourselves, Pope Francis calls us to foster a "culture of care by advancing on the path of fraternity, justice and peace between individuals, communities, peoples and nations ... a common, supportive and inclusive commitment to protecting and promoting the dignity and good of all, a willingness to show care and compassion, to work for reconciliation and healing, and to advance mutual respect and acceptance."

Let us pray for this peace: Father, this second week of Advent, keep us in perfect peace as our mind is stayed on the truth of your powerful love. Thank you for your mighty, sovereign hand. Help us to trust fully in you and rest in the peace that you offer. It's in the precious name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

Fr Joe

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: 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

SRE TEACHERS

Congratulations to Peter Stapleton for completing 25years and Beth Culliver for completing 15 years as SRE teachers at the Public Schools. Thank you both for your great ministry.

SUNDAY RITE OF WELCOME

The Parish joyfully welcomes Wyatt Ferguson and Oliver Sheehan into our Faith Community.

They will be Baptised at our Parish next weekend. May God bless them both.



5.30PM VIGIL MASS LIVE STREAMING LINK

<https://youtu.be/eMqyEscsQw8>

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

ST. FINBAR'S PARISH NEWS

Sunday 5th December <i>2nd Sunday of Advent Year C</i>	7.30am Mass 8.30pm Parish Plenary Session 9.30am Mass 10.30pm Parish Plenary Session 10.45am Avril Llewellyn Thank you Farewell P/C 6.00pm Youth Mass 7.00pm "The Lounge" Youth Group P/C
Monday 6th December	No Mass. Office is closed 5.00pm SVDP Meeting M/R
Tuesday 7th December <i>St Ambrose</i>	9.15am Mass 10.00am Timeout Tuesday P/C 7.30pm SFNC Executive Meeting M/R
Wednesday 8th December <i>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	9.15am Mass followed by Rosary 9.30am Playgroup P/C 7.00pm Bridge Club P/C
Thursday 9th December	9.15am Mass 1.30pm Bridge Club P/C
Friday 10th December	9.15am Mass 1.00pm Bowlers P/C 5.30pm Cantabile Choir Practice 7.30pm Adoration
Saturday 11th December	9.15am Mass 11.30am Te Deum's Choir Practice 4.30pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass Live Streaming Mass Link https://youtu.be/JK030urWTgc 6.30pm Parish Volunteers Christmas Party
Sunday 12th December <i>3rd Sunday of Advent Year C</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass & 1st Holy Communion 10.45am Baptisms 1.30pm Bridge Club P/C

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/>.

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 we look forward to your support in the future.

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.

CHRISTMAS ROSTER.

Parishioners are invited to nominate themselves if qualified for the Liturgical Roles at one of our three Christmas Masses. There is a blank roster on the notice board in the Narthex near the Warden's table. Please write your name against any one ministry vacancy that you can fill. Thank you for all your help and support.

2022 LITURGICAL ROSTERS

I am organising the new Liturgical rosters for 2022. Can you please let me know if you will not be able to continue with your ministry next year.

Also, the parish is in need for more readers, IT Operators and Cashiers. Can you please email secretary@stfinbars.org.au if you are able to help.

Thank you for all your help and support.

Juliana Khnouf

CHRISTMAS CARDS:

Religious Christmas Cards are available for sale from the Piety Stall or the Parish Office. A Pack of 8 cards for \$5. If you would like to buy some please contact the Parish Office on 47426958.

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

2022 RELIGIOUS CALENDARS

Franciscan & Columban calendars now on sale at the Wardens' table at \$6 Franciscan and \$10 Columban. Proceeds got to St Vincent de Paul Society.

FUN SINGERS will return to Nursing Homes on Monday 20th December after a ten months lockout due to Covid-19. Anyone wishing to join us is welcome. You will need to be fully Vaccinated. You don't need any real talent - just a desire to bring joy to the residents in Nursing Homes. You will receive a lot of joy in return. Enquires Marie Hurley 0414392389

THANK YOU

Many thanks to Julie-Ann & Jim McLoughlin for all their leadership in coordinating the Sacramental program. Julie-Ann and Jim have done the "hard work" over many years and have helped many children and parents to deepen their sacramental understanding. Both have decided to step down from their ministry after many years of assisting parishioners. May God bless them and their family. We also would like thank Liz Christie for her help with the sacramental program this year.



2021 CHRISTMAS MASSES TIMETABLE

2nd Rite of Reconciliation—Combined with Our Lady of the Way Emu Plains,
Thursday 16th December at 7.30pm
Christmas Eve Masses Friday 24th December at 7pm and 10pm
Christmas Day Mass Saturday 25th December at 8.30
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph Saturday Vigil Mass at 5.30pm
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph Sunday Mass at 8.30am.
Thanksgiving Mass for the End of the 2021, Friday 31st December at 5pm
Wishing you all and your families a blessed and safe Christmas.



PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE (PFC)

The PFC met last week to monitor the parish finances and to advise Fr Joe on related matters. Items of interest include the following:

- The Diocesan quota for our parish for the current financial year has been set at a little over \$18,000. We are asked to raise this money from the various appeals that will be held during the year to assist the Diocese to fund CatholicCare Social Services, the Ephpheta Centre, the Holy Spirit Seminary and other similar works.
- The parish is investigating the possible use of the original church building for use as a women's refuge, as part of the parish outreach to the community.
- Our grant application for a hall kitchen upgrade was unsuccessful. Fr Joe has submitted another grant application to install ceiling fans in the hall and to upgrade other items.
- The parish finances are in a good state at the moment and all those who continue to generously contribute are sincerely thanked. Our continued use of envelopes for the second collection is costly, and parishioners who are able, are encouraged to donate electronically. Information on how to do this can be obtained from the parish office.
- The Parish needs two more PFC members. If you are interested please speak to Fr Joe.

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 new-born child. Please give generously via the Bishop's Christmas Appeal giving envelopes or online at yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal

Bateman Battersby

L A W Y E R S

We invite members of the Parish to take advantage of our legal services specialising in :

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
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PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

Marie Watson (Patrick Watson's Sister), Gary Shackleton, Michael McMahon (Peter's brother), Colleen McHardy, Deacon Owen Rogers (Martin Rogers' Father), Roger Hunt (Julie-Ann McLoughlin's Father), Dirkje Vleeskens and Valarie Goodridge (Jim Tierney's sister).

PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK PARISHIONERS, RELATIVES & FRIENDS:

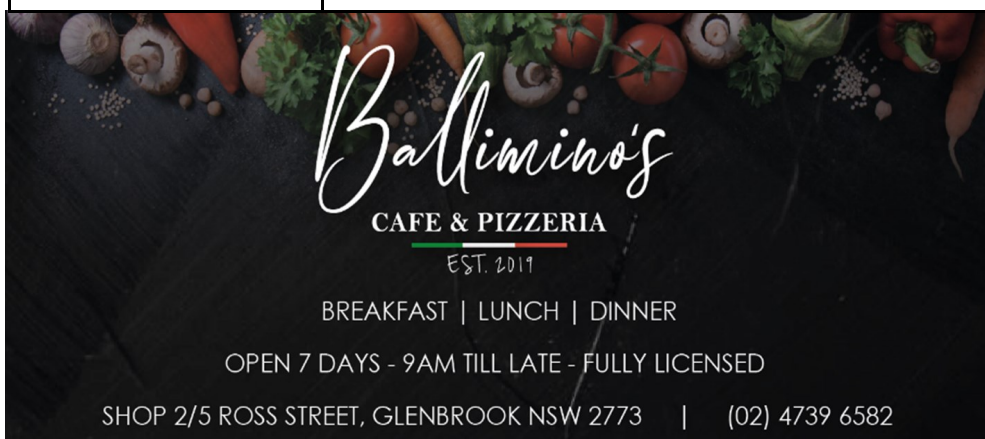
Sybil Mason, Chris Paine, Margaret Stevens, Lyn Beltran, Christine McGillion, Ryder Lopez, Margaret Christensen, Joan Paine, Mark Bates, Lyn Downes, Reg Moore, Ellen Moffitt, Terry Stevens, Jacqui Visser, Joanne Macrae, Sophie Hollies, Catherine Kirk (Cameron), Maddison Farrugia, Colleen Nolan, Pam Clyne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

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:

Carolyn Van Dyke, Phillip Moloney, Marjorie Clarke, Stephen Riddle, Stanley Lucas, Leo Hayes, John Debeck, Terence Hunt, Theresa Hemsley, Cornelus Van Der-Loo, Mary Bohan, Felice Macri, Dennis Gary, Patrice O'Neill, Fredericke Vinzenz, Doreen Egan, Maria Toirkens, Thomas Hitchens and Monica Piggott.

LITURGICAL ROSTER FOR 11TH & 12TH DECEMBER 2021

Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	Anaru Veitch	Peter McMahon	Deb Lawrence
Senior Server	Anaru Veitch	Peter McMahon	Garry Purchasehouse
Junior Server	Volunteers Please	Volunteers Please	Volunteers Please
Warden	Volunteer Please	Volunteer Please	Patricia Murnane
1 st Reading	Volunteer Please	Volunteer Please	Irene Aligno
2 nd Reading	Eileen Jones	Elizabeth Konza	Kristina Rajnoch
Intercession	Dawn Willis	John Isaksen	Yvonne Scanlan
IT Operators	Thais Turner	Robyn Flynn	Joanne Stubbs
Gifts	Allan & Eileen Jones	Volunteers Please	Dorothea Walsh
Communion	Thea Robertson	Jim Tierney	Yvonne Scanlan
Cashiers	Bernadette Shalala & Erika McNay		
Children's Liturgy	Elizabeth		
Piety Stall	Beth Culliver		
Church Care	Veronica Clune, Fran Isaksen, Lynne Atkinson, Elizabeth Brazier & St Finbar's Playgroup		
Hospitality	Please note that there will not be any Sunday Hospitality until further notice.		



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