

The Barra

Weekly Newsletter of St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook
3rd Sunday of Advent Year C
11th & 12th December 2021

Zephaniah 3:14-18; Isa 12; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:10-18

FR JOE'S MUSINGS

Gaudete Sunday

As we enter the third week of Advent, the change of colour from violet to rose-coloured vestments signals a change of spirit as well: The **Gaudete** Sunday therefore, makes a break about midway through a season which is otherwise of a penitential character, and signifies the nearness of the Lord's coming. The readings also reflect this joyful spirit. Zechariah spoke about how God rejoices and showers his people with gladness because He is near (second reading). Hence *Gaudete* Sunday is further marked by a new *Invitatory*, the Church no longer inviting the faithful to adore merely "The Lord who is to come", but calling upon them to worship and hail with joy "The Lord who is now nigh and close at hand".

Looking at the hustle and bustle of our daily life, it appears that this joy may be far from our current concern. Rather, our worries are the gifts we need to purchase for our family and friends. What stresses us is the fact that our family and friends have expectations which we try to fulfill: wishes for certain gifts, wrappings, food, or decorations. Then, there are holidays we need to plan for. An average family will spend an average of 1,232 AUD for Christmas. Nearly a quarter of Australian households will go into debt to fund their spending. We are afraid to disappoint our family and friends.

This Sunday is an invitation to us to rejoice and be glad because God is about to give us the best gift He can ever afford: The gift of His Son. The real message of Christmas is not the gifts that we give to each other. Rather it is a reminder of the gift that God has given to each of us. It is the only gift that truly keeps on giving. God's gift came to us in the humblest of wrappings. His gift tells us something about the giver. When you want to give someone a gift, you start thinking about it ahead of time. Hopefully you try to find what that person wants or needs.

When God decided to give us the gift of eternal life, it wasn't something that He just thought of on the fly. Long before there was a town called Bethlehem, a garden called Eden, and a planet called Earth, a decision was made in eternity that God would send forth His Son, born of a woman, made under the law, to redeem those that are under the law.

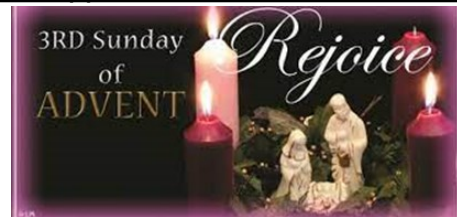
Let us rejoice in this greatest gift ever made to humanity. Before you go shopping, just gift yourselves with some precious time of prayers and silence reflecting on God's gift to you and your family. We have daily Masses and rosary prayers. Every Friday at 7.30pm, there is a Eucharistic adoration. So visit the church first and then go to Westfield – would this not be something that you would consider this week?

Fr Joe

THANK YOU

I would like to sincerely thank all those parishioners who expressed condolences to me over the recent death of my brother, Michael. Such concern for the welfare of our fellow parishioners makes me proud to be a member of the St Finbar's community. God's blessings to you all.

Peter McMahon



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

SUNDAY BAPTISMS:

The Parish joyfully announces the Baptism of Wyatt Ferguson and Oliver Sheehan and warmly welcomes them into our Faith Community. They are going to be Baptised after Mass this Sunday.



5.30PM VIGIL MASS LIVE STREAMING LINK

<https://youtu.be/JK030urWTgc>

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 12th December <i>3rd Sunday of Advent Year C</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass 10.45am Baptisms 1.30pm Bridge Club P/C
Monday 13th December <i>St Lucy</i>	No Mass. Office is closed 9.15am End of the year Graduation Mass 5.00pm Year 6 Graduation Dinner P/C
Tuesday 14th December <i>St John of the Cross</i>	9.15am Mass 10.00am Pastoral Care Meeting M/R
Wednesday 15th December	9.15am Mass followed by Rosary 9.30am Playgroup P/C 6.00pm Christmas Choir Rehearsal 7.00pm Bridge Club P/C
Thursday 16th December	10.00am Healing Mass followed by morning tea 1.30pm Bridge Club P/C 7.30pm 2nd Rite of Reconciliation
Friday 17th December	9.15am Mass 1.00pm Bowlers P/C 5.30pm Cantabile Choir Practice 7.30pm Adoration
Saturday 18th 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/UAA4JBeJSe8
Sunday 19th December <i>4th Sunday of Advent Year C</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass

CHRISTMAS ROSTER.

Parishioners are invited to nominate themselves 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 are qualified to fill. Thank you for all your help and support.

RETREAT

About 20 parishioners participated in our parish retreat last Saturday as part of their spiritual preparation for the feast of Christmas. Melissa McDonald and Cecelia Zammit put a lot of thought and effort into preparing the retreat materials which touched on such diverse topics as the care of our environment, gratitude, and the natural beauty that can be found in our own local environment. Our organic needs were also well taken care of by Vicki Ang and Lina Wiecek who provided morning tea and a wonderful meal at lunchtime. The parish sincerely thanks all who attended and all who played a part in directing and producing the event. It is hoped that another retreat will be a feature of the 2022 program in our parish.

OFFICE CLOSURE BETWEEN CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

Please note that the Parish Office will be closed from Friday the 24th of December to Monday the 3rd of January. There **will be no daily Masses except for Friday the 1st of January** as we celebrate **Mary, the Holy Mother of God solemnity.**



Father Joe will be away starting the 5th to the 14th of January so there will be no daily Masses, but there will be Communion Services. Weekend Masses will be held at their regular times. Wishing you a blessed and safe Christmas and all the best for the New Year.

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/>.

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.

2022 RELIGIOUS CALENDARS

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

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 25th December Vigil Mass at 5.30pm

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph Sunday 26th December 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.



2022 LITURGICAL ROSTERS

The parish is in urgent need for more Wardens, IT operators, readers specially for the Vigil and 7.30am Masses 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



Carols in the Park (by candlelight)

8pm, Friday 17 December 2021

Glenbrook Park (Opposite St Andrews Uniting Church)

Lucasville Road end

All Welcome - bring the family and a rug

The Blue Mountains Concert Band from 7.45pm

Supported by St. Andrew's Glenbrook Uniting Church

& the Glenbrook-Blaxland Inter-church Group

**** Please adhere to social distancing ****

Cancelled if raining (refer St. Andrew's Facebook page for notices)



SVDP CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2021

Christmas Hampers

This year we will be following the format where families, groups or individuals make up and donate a full hamper or contribute items to be included in a hamper.

Please ensure that all food items are within the expiry date

Christmas Gift Tree

All tags have been taken but if parishioners still wish to support this activity then please purchase a gift for a child wrap and write a tag with age and boy/girl and return the wrapped gift with the tag securely attached to the outside.

All hampers and gifts will need to be left at the church no later than Thursday 16 December 2020.

Volunteers

We will need helpers at 9.00am on Saturday 18 December to assist with the delivery of the hampers. If you are able to assist us with this task send a SMS message to 0413 549 518 and include your name and contact details.

Poor Box Donations

All donations to the Poor Box till the end of January will count towards our Christmas Appeal. Any and all donations will be greatly appreciated and will support our work over the Christmas period and into 2022. If you want to make a larger donation and require a receipt for taxation purposes please contact Vince Dobson personally or through the Parish Office.

We will be holding a leaving collection after each Mass this weekend.

Thank you, fellow parishioners, for your generosity in helping a family put food on the table this Christmas.



Bateman Battersby

L A W Y E R S

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

- Property Law
- Business Law
- Wills & Estates
- Family Law
- Negligence Law
- Court Appearances

Phone: 02 47315899

www.batemanbattersby.com.au

Enquiries@batemanbattersby.com.au

BEAUTIFUL
SIMPLE
FAREWELLS

4735 6900 gracefunerals.com.au

GRACE FUNERALS

Formerly Lady of Grace Funerals

PENRITH | BLUE MOUNTAINS | WESTERN SYDNEY



Turner Freeman

Lawyers Est. 1952

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

Suite 4, 311 High Street Penrith NSW 2750

4729 5200

www.turnerfreeman.com.au

Gerard.Morson@turnerfreeman.com.au



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

Stanko Barach (Chris Barach's Father), Marie Watson (Patrick Watson's Sister), Gary Shackleton, Michael McMahon (Peter's brother), Colleen McHardy, Deacon Owen Rogers (Martin Rogers' Father) and Roger Hunt (Julie-Ann McLoughlin's Father).

PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK PARISHIONERS, RELATIVES & FRIENDS:

Sybil Mason, Chris Paine, Margaret Stevens, Lyn Beltran, 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:

Francis Culliver, Tamara Shervashidze, Paul Edelbrock, Elma O'Shea, Henry Brockway, Malcolm King, Coral Darr, Denis O'Sullivan, Ann Lowe, Stephen Schaefer, Mark Broomhead, James Gapps, Marjorie Doyle, Margaret Gibson and Vanita Bronlow.

LITURGICAL ROSTER FOR 18TH & 19TH DECEMBER 2021

Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	Vince Dobson	Carl Moll	Stuart Sheary
Senior Server	Vince Dobson	Carl Moll	Martin Rogers
Junior Server	Volunteers Please	Volunteers Please	Volunteers Please
Warden	Lorraine Brown	Volunteer Please	Frank Fitzpatrick
1 st Reading	Maire Griffin	John Killeen	Peter or Trish Hurley
2 nd Reading	Gideon Goosen	Margaret Dickson	Gary Clune
Intercession	Margaret Moore	John De Mattia	Frank Fitzpatrick
IT Operators	Henry Hanko	Joseph Wilson	Pat Watson
Gifts	Thea & Brian Robertson	Kay Whitty	Volunteers please
Communion	Gwen Cullinan	Helen Keogh	Carmel Higgins
Cashiers	Joe Grange		
Children's Liturgy	School Holiday		
Piety Stall	Lee Jackson		
Church Care			
Hospitality	Please note that there will not be any Sunday Hospitality until further notice.		
Garden Club	Kevin Debeck, Rob Lennon, Michael Lloyd & John Killeen		



Ballimino's
CAFE & PIZZERIA
EST. 2019
BREAKFAST | LUNCH | DINNER
OPEN 7 DAYS - 9AM TILL LATE - FULLY LICENSED
SHOP 2/5 ROSS STREET, GLENBROOK NSW 2773 | (02) 4739 6582



We value cost and care as much as you do

BLUE MOUNTAINS FUNERALS

KATOOMBA | SPRINGWOOD | EMU PLAINS
4751 6166 | bluemountainsfunerals.com.au