



The Barra

Weekly Newsletter of St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook
4th Sunday of Advent Year C
18th & 19th December 2021

Micah 5:1-4; Psalm 79; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-44

FR JOE'S MUSINGS

A Ruler From The Periphery

I am not sure whether you still remember the eve on which Cardinal Mario Bergoglio from Buenos Aires was elected the successor of Pope Benedict XVI in 2003. Appearing from the balcony of St Peter's Basilica to traditionally greet the faithful, he said that the cardinals had chosen a man "from the end of the world to be the Pope...from the New World, from the southern hemisphere, from the far reaches of Latin America. An outsider had made it to the epicentre of the inside." What Pope Francis intended to convey to the faithful was the message that the Church ought to focus on those who live on the margin or the edge of the world, forgotten or suppressed by the society and the Church: "The Church is called to come out of herself and to go to the peripheries, not only geographically but also the existential peripheries: the mystery of sin, of pain, of injustice, of ignorance and indifference to religion, of intellectual currents and of all forms of misery."

Perhaps Pope Francis had the biblical story of the birth of Jesus in his mind when he spoke in favour of those from the end of the world. Bethlehem was the least among the clans of Judah. Not Jerusalem, but Bethlehem was the place of birth for Jesus, in a cloak clothed and in a manger amongst the animals destined to hard labour. He chose to live among sinners and in this "divine condescension he picks us up in our lowliness so that his mercy comes to be in our hearts and our soul be fruitful with God."

God wants that this divine joy is not to be confined to the epicentre or insiders, but that this divine joy be spread throughout the world, especially to the poor, destitute and downtrodden. St Augustine once said it so beautifully: "Thus by his very coming in the sort of way he is silently exhorting us, as effectively as if he shouted it aloud, to learn to be rich in the one who became poor for us; to accept freedom in the one who for our sake accepted the form of a slave; to take possession of the heavens in the one who for our sake sprang from the earth." Those who have put their faith in Lord will be abundantly blessed regardless of their socio-economic status in this world. At the visit of Mary who was pregnant with Jesus, Elizabeth greeted her relative with these words: "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

Our parish and school have a good track record of helping the poor. Together we have responded well to many good causes such as the *Vinnies*, the *Bishop's Appeal* or the *Food Appeal* for the House of Welcome in Granville, a Jesuit Refugee Service. The recipients of the donations are all living in the periphery. May I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to you for all good things you do in the name of Christ.

On another topic: NSW Health has informed us that a parishioner who attended the Sunday Mass at 9.30am on 12th December was infectious with COVID. Close contacts have been identified and safety measures have been applied. Can I ask you to monitor for symptoms and get tested if you are unsure? While the NSW Government has further eased the restrictions and has abolished the wearing of masks and the density limit, the recent case in our church may remind us that we still need to act cautiously to protect all of us from infection. As you know, there is a steady rise of COVID cases.

Perhaps, we can make a gift to ourselves and to fellow parishioners by still wearing masks during worship, perhaps till the festive season of Christmas is over? In doing so, we may enjoy the liturgical worship and the holidays without being forced to get tested and to isolate.

Lastly I take this occasion to wish you all a very blessed Christmas. May the joy of the divine birth compensate for all the hardships we have experienced during the last year. May the new year be a year full of hope and goodness and blessings for all of us.

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: **N e w (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

5.30PM VIGIL MASS LIVE STREAMING LINK

<https://youtu.be/UAA4JBeJSe8>

Joe Lopez

Joe passed away on Sunday morning after a severe heart attack. His funeral will be held on Tuesday the 21st of December at 10.30am at St. Thomas Aquinas Springwood. Mary Lopez would like all St. Finbar's parishioners to join her and her family in their farewell of a great husband and father. May he rest in peace.

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.

Sunday 19th December <i>4th Sunday of Advent Year C</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass
Monday 20th December	No Mass. Office is closed 5.00pm SVP Meeting M/R
Tuesday 21st December	9.15am Mass 10.30am Timeout Tuesday P/C
Wednesday 22nd December	9.15am Mass followed by Rosary 10.30am Funeral Service 6.00pm Christmas Choir Practice 7.00pm Bridge Club P/C
Thursday 23rd December	9.15am Mass 1.30pm Bridge Club P/C
Friday 24th December	No Morning Mass 7.00pm Christmas Eve Family Mass 9.30pm Christmas Carols 10.00pm Christmas Mass Live Streaming link for https://youtu.be/yi94UNdsQ-o
Saturday 25th December <i>The Nativity of the Lord</i>	8.30am Christmas Day Mass 4.30pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass
Sunday 26th December <i>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph</i>	8.30am Mass

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 Saturday the 1st of January at 9.15am* as we celebrate *Mary, the Holy Mother of God solemnity*. Father Joe will be away 5th to the 14th of January so there will be no daily Masses. Weekend Masses will be held at their regular times. Wishing you a blessed and safe Christmas and all the best for the New Year.



2021 CHRISTMAS MASSES TIMETABLE

Christmas Eve Masses Friday 24th December at **7pm, 9.30pm Carols and 10pm Mass**
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 (No Morning Mass)**
Wishing you all and your families a blessed and safe Christmas.

THANK YOU

Stan and Beryl, wish to say thank you, to "Timeout Tuesday" and "Pastoral Care", for the lovely package, delivered by Kathleen for Christmas. Such a very thoughtful pack and such a variety. God Bless all involved. Happy Christmas and may 2022 be kind to all.

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/>.

ST FINBARS NETBALL CLUB

SFNC will be taking registrations for the 2022 Winter season from 4 January for new and returning players. We are excited to be introducing a new look uniform and have INCLUSIVE OPTIONS AVAILABLE!

* Our fees are:

Junior (6 – 17): \$195

Senior (18+): \$220

PWD: \$165

All players who played for SFNC in 2020 or 2021 will receive a \$12 discount. All players who played for SFNC in 2020 and 2021 will receive a \$24 discount.

Check your inbox for your individual code in early January.

For more information call:

President: Janette Ankers – 0438 672 040 or

Registrar: Belinda Lorking – 0416 131 175

Find us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/StFinbarsnetballclub> or email us at secretarysfnc@gmail.com

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.

DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA NOTICES

Thank You for Supporting CatholicCare's Houses to Homes

Thank you for your kind-hearted generosity and support over the last few weeks for the Bishop's Christmas Appeal. Your donation will help CatholicCare's Houses to Homes to provide a loving sanctuary for young mothers in crisis. Thank you for your compassion and generosity. For anyone who hasn't had a chance to donate, please visit yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal



Give the gift of a brighter future to mothers like Maria this Christmas

For years Maria, a young mother living in northern Tanzania, struggled to earn an income and provide enough food to feed her family.

Unable to read, write or count, her opportunities to make a living were limited. Her farm often produced poor harvests due to water scarcity, and Maria was forced to travel long distances to collect water.

Thanks to the generosity of people like you, Maria was able to join the A+ program and participate in training about sustainable farming, literacy and numeracy, gender awareness, hygiene and sanitation.

With her new skills, Maria is now able to produce enough food to feed her family, earn a sustainable income, and has even become a leader in her community.

When you support a mother like Maria, it has the power to uplift her entire family. This Christmas, give a family like Maria's the gift of a brighter future.

Visit www.caritas.org.au/donate/christmas-appeal or call 1800 024 413 toll free to support vulnerable families doing it tough this year.



SYNOD OF BISHOPS 2021-2023 DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA RESPONSE

Pope Francis has asked all Catholics to participate in the Synod of Bishops by responding to his call for a 'Listening Church'. The first step for Australian Catholics is participation in a discernment process, whereby they consider their thoughts individually or in groups of family and friends. There are resources to help them do this at the website we have created for parishioners in the Diocese of Parramatta which can be found at the link bit.ly/synod2023.

Parishioners can then upload their responses onto a [portal operated by the ACBC](#). Responses will be accepted up until **27 February 2022**.

The Diocese of Parramatta has developed some tools to help Catholics in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains to participate, and we are asking for your support in rolling them out to your parishioners.

These include:

A website of information and resources which can be found at the link bit.ly/synod2023

Thank you for helping us all contribute to Pope Francis' vision of a Listening Church that welcomes all through the discernment of the People of God and the work of the Holy Spirit.



THE CHURCH CARE GROUP IS ASKING FOR ANY PARISHIONERS WHO WOULD BE HAPPY TO LEND A HAND FOR ABOUT AN HOUR TO PREPARE THE CHURCH FOR THE CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES TO CONTACT Catherine Marceau on 47392303 OR MEET AT ST FINBARS ON THURSDAY, 23RD AT 11.00AM THANK YOU. **Heather Lee**

Bateman Battersby LAWYERS

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

- | | |
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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.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

Joe Lopez, Anthony Crimston, Patricia Borland (Mary Lopez' sister), Shirley Williams, Stanko Barach (Chris Barach's Father), Marie Watson (Patrick Watson's Sister), Gary Shackleton, Michael McMahon (Peter's brother), Colleen McHardy and Deacon Owen Rogers (Martin Rogers' 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:

Phyllis Helm, Brian Jenkins, Monica Keating, Geoffrey Shalala, Angela Hector, Shirley Tregillgas, Madeleine Oxley, Alice Nolan and Richard Mason.

LITURGICAL ROSTER FOR 25TH & 26TH DECEMBER 2021

Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	8.30 am
Sacristan	Ahyiesha D'Souza	Stephen Brown
Senior Server	Ahyiesha D'Souza	Stephen Brown
Junior Server	Volunteers Please	Volunteers Please
Warden	Huia Kingi	Gary Clune
1 st Reading	Eileen Jones	Cecilia Zammit
2 nd Reading	Philomena Watkins	Michelle Wilson
Intercession	Katy Ferris	Yvonne Scanlan
IT Operators	Pat Watson	Eleanor Thompson
Gifts	Margaret Moore & Jan de Bie	The Young Family
Communion	Lorraine Brown	Mila Svehla
Cashiers	Office is closed	
Children's Liturgy	School Holiday	
Piety Stall	Closed	
Church Care	Catherine Marceau, Jane Lennon, Christyna Lloyd & Beth Killeen	
Hospitality	Please note that there will not be any Sunday Hospitality until further notice.	



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