



The Barra

Weekly Newsletter of St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook
3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C
22nd & 23rd January 2022

Nehemiah 8:2-6, 8-10; Psalm 18; 1 Corinthians 12:12-30; Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

FR JOE'S MUSINGS

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor."

Last week, I finally was able to take a week off. As you know already, all holidays are always too short. While on holidays, I also had to chance to rework some of my research papers that I hope to publish in academic journals. It was a prayerful and academically fruitful week. I feel well prepared for 2022.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Fr. Chris Dixon and Fr Paul Marshall, as well as Peter McMahon, Juliana and Deacon Andrew for their efforts and continuous ministries during my absence.

This Sunday's Gospel is about the Good News and the glad tidings for all of us. Quoting the Prophet Isaiah, Jesus identifies himself as the one sent by God, first and foremost, to "bring glad tidings to the poor." We know that Jesus, also in Luke's gospel, places the poor first on his list of those blessed by God (Lk 6:20). The poor, those who know that they are in need, that they cannot save themselves, are in the best position to receive the good news that Jesus brings--that he himself is. All of us--married, single, priests, deacons, religious--are called to "bring glad tidings to the poor" by recognizing that we, too, are poor, and that Jesus has made us rich.

Reflecting on the poverty in the West, St Teresa of Calcutta once said: 'The spiritual poverty of the Western World is much greater than the physical poverty of our people. You, in the West, have millions of people who suffer such terrible loneliness and emptiness. They feel unloved and unwanted. These people are not hungry in the physical sense, but they are in another way. They know they need something more than money, yet they don't know what it is. What they are missing, really, is a living relationship with God.'

Under a thin veil of material happiness, we know that we live in a world that is increasingly isolated, lonely, and empty. What would it take to alleviate that spiritual poverty within ourselves and within those around us? The answer to that question will tell us what the glad tidings are we are called to proclaim.

Jesus offers us God's friendship as the solution because we are all starving for authentic friendship, for authentic humanity, for understanding who they are in relation to others. The discovery of authentic friendship, and thus, an authentic sense of what it means to be human, is transformative and opens them up to hearing about an even greater friendship, about the One with whom we were created to be in relation in the first place, Jesus Christ.

The evolving situation of the pandemic, perhaps, is the opportunity for us to proclaim and to demonstrate that friendship.

At this moment, my prayers are with our parishioners who are affected by pandemic, those who are sick, who are in isolation, who are emotionally distressed, and those who have lost their employments. I pray that the pandemic does not make us inhuman!

Let us keep each other in our prayers. With God's friendship and grace, we may be able to climb over the wall of separation and exclusion. In such a challenging time, let us pray that the Church does not give into it; rather that the Church continues to proclaim glad tidings to all.

Have a great weekend

Fr Joe

**Sunday
23rd
January**

7.30am Mass

*3rd Sunday in
Ordinary Time
Year C*

9.30am Mass

**Monday
24th January**
*St. Francis de
Sales*

Office is closed

7.00pm Plenary Meeting P/C

**Tuesday
25th January**
*The
Conversion of
St. Paul*

9.15am No Mass

10.30am Reg Moore Funeral Mass

6.00pm Cantabile Choir Practice

7.30pm February Baptism Meeting M/R

**Wednesday
26th January**
Australia Day

9.15am Mass followed by Rosary

7.00pm Bridge Club P/C

**Thursday
27th January**

9.15am Mass

1.30pm Bridge Club P/C

**Friday
28th January**
*St Thomas
Aquinas*

9.15am Mass

1.00pm Bowlers

**Saturday
29th January**

9.15am Mass

11.30am Te Deum Choir Practice

4.45pm Confessions

5.30pm Vigil Mass

Live Streaming Mass Link

https://youtu.be/Q5f_3IEsNTs

**Sunday
30th January**

7.30am Mass

*4th Sunday in
Ordinary Time
Year C*

9.30am Mass

Marie Quealy long time member of St. Finbar Parish, died on 13.1.2022, Marie was a resident of the Nursing Home, Bodington Catholic Care, Wentworth Falls. Fr John McSweeney, will celebrate a liturgy outside of Mass on Friday 28.1 2022 at St Canices Katoomba at 10am.

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

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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

TIMEOUT TUESDAY will resume 1st February 10am -1pm St Finbar's Parish Centre. Hope the new year started well for you, having a pleasant and restful time, before moving into other commitments. For those who wish to join **TIMEOUT TUESDAY** - this group is exuberant and energising, nourishing your mind and body to relax and enjoy other companions, adult conversation and interactions. A social morning for everyone and a great morning tea provided. Flyer in the Narthex with more information.

ROSTER FOR 29TH & 30TH JANUARY 2022

Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	Vince Dobson	Carl Moll	Lukas Rajnoch
Senior Server	Vince Dobson	Carl Moll	Lukas Rajnoch
Junior Server	Volunteers Please	Volunteers please	Volunteers please
Warden	Volunteers Please	Volunteer Please	Patricia Murnane
1 st Reading	Eileen Jones	John Killeen	Volunteer Please
2 nd Reading	Philomena Watkins	Margaret Dickson	Cecilia Zammit
Intercession	Katy Ferris	Elizabeth Konza	Justin Dowling
I.T Operator	Thais Turner	Elizabeth Konza	Pat Watson
Musician	No Music	During Mass	In January
Presentation of the Gifts	Parishioners are invited	To offer to bring	Up the gifts
Minister of Communion	Mary O'Sullivan	Margaret Dickson	Volunteer Please
Children's Liturgy	School Holidays		
Cashier	Joe Grange		
Hospitality	Please note that there will not be any Sunday Hospitality until further notice.		
Church Care	Ian Dickson, Heather Lee, Noreen Taylor & Wendy Bohan		
Piety Stall at 9.30am Mass	Not available during January		

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

Reg Moore, Don Crameri, Ray Cremin (Pearse Cremin's Brother), John Okalebo (Susan Dowling's father), Frances Lynch (Daniel Lynch Grandmother), 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) and Colleen McHardy.

PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK PARISHIONERS, RELATIVES & FRIENDS:

Sybil Mason, Chris Paine, Margaret Stevens, Lyn Beltran, Margaret Christensen, Joan Paine, Mark Bates, Lyn Downes, 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:

Elsie Frontain (Jeannine Ashbee's Mum in Canada), Lachlan Turnbull, Margaret Lane, Andrew Patterson, John Brown, Pat Psaila, Rosanna OLoughlin, Michael O'Connor and Dr Michael McGirr.

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 .