



The Barra

Weekly Newsletter of St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook
1st Sunday of Advent— Year A
26th & 27th November 2022

Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 121; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:37-44

FR JOE'S MUSINGS

Thank you for your commitment and love

This weekend is the first Advent of the new liturgical year, and the readings are traditionally taken from the book of Isaiah and Matthew. The prophet Isaiah is often regarded as the sentinel of God announcing not only the divine judgement, but also the mercy that God has for his people. Isaiah describes a day when God's promises to Judah — so often obscured by defeat, judgment, and historical circumstances — will be fully realized in history. It will be a day when glory outshines shadow, when joy extinguishes sorrow, when peace silences violence, when rebellion cedes to obedience — when faith becomes sight. Like the promises of God to Isaiah, the precious promises of Christ's second coming — that truth will defeat falsehood (Revelations 19:11-21), that the dead will rise (Revelations 20:1-6), that the devil and his forces will be destroyed (Revelations 20:7-10), and that death itself will die (Revelations 20:14-15) — are hidden behind the tragedies of history.

Hence the Advent season is an invitation to us to keep a watchful eye and to await with an open heart for the Saviour to be born in our midst. On the first Advent we also honour all our parish volunteers, our wardens, cleaners, gardeners and lawn mowers, hospitality team, pastoral team, baptismal team, sacramental team, altar servers, readers and ministers of the Holy Communion, musicians, liturgy, finance and pastoral committees, play group, netballers, school community, youth team, counters, piety store, men's breakfast team, bowlers, Tuesday Timeout, IT and live streaming team, St. Vincent de Paul society, parish finance and pastoral committees, sacristans and many others who worked in the background. I know that many have given the parish a hand without belonging to a specific ministry. As Pope Francis said, 'The volunteer is always outgoing, heart open, hand outstretched, legs ready to go.' On behalf of our fellow parishioners, thank you all for your service and commitment to St Finbars. I know that you do it not for the sake of rewards and praise. So often, the vitality of a parish depends on its volunteers. While we are blessed with many volunteers, we always need volunteers. The more that participate, the less it is a burden.

This weekend we also welcome Fr Andrew who will celebrate the Thanksgiving Mass for his ordination in August. We pray for him that he learns to imitate the Good Shepherd who gives up his life for the sheep.

Unfortunately, Bishop David Walker is unable to lead St Finbar's Lenten retreat on 10th December due to a clash of schedule as he had accepted a retreat for the seminarians till 10th December in Kincumber.

I think that this retreat is important for us to prepare for the Advent. For this reason, I would like to lead it as I am not able to find a retreat leader on short notice.

Please continue reading on page 3



**PREPARE
YOUR HEARTS**

**JESUS
IS COMING**

PARISH INFORMATION

Parish Priest: Fr Joseph Lam

E-mail: joseph.lam@parracatholic.org

Secretary: Juliana Khnouf

E-mail: secretary@stfinbars.org.au

Admin: Peter McMahon

E-mail: admin@stfinbars.org.au

PPC:

E-mail: stfinbarsppc@gmail.com

Office Hours: 9.30am – 3.00pm

Tuesday to Friday

(Closed on Mondays)

Office Phone: (02) 47426958

Emergency Number: 0493 451 990

Address:

52 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

CHRISTMAS ROSTER

Parishioners are invited to nominate themselves if qualified for the Liturgical Roles at one of our four 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.

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.


WE ACKNOWLEDGE

the Traditional custodians of this land on which we worship at St Finbar's - The Darug and Gundungurra People. We pay respect to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

<p>Sunday 27th November</p> <p><i>1st Sunday of Advent Year A</i></p>	<p>7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass of Thanksgiving for Father Andrew Rooney followed by morning tea.</p> <p>Live Streaming Link https://youtu.be/WDrvaQenA8A</p> <p>10.30am Connect Advent Group P/C 3.00pm Academy Singers Concert</p>
<p>Monday 28th November</p>	<p>No Mass. Office is closed</p>
<p>Tuesday 29th November</p>	<p>9.15am Mass</p> <p>5.30pm Cantabile Choir Practice 7.30pm December Baptisms Preparation Meeting M/R</p>
<p>Wednesday 30th November</p> <p><i>St Andrew</i></p>	<p>9.15am Mass followed by Rosary</p> <p>9.30am Playgroup P/C 3.00pm Advent Group M/R 7.00pm Bridge Club P/C</p>
<p>Thursday 1st December</p>	<p>9.15am Mass</p> <p>1.30pm Bridge Club P/C 7.30pm Blue Mountains Folk Dance P/C</p>
<p>Friday 2nd December</p>	<p>9.15am Mass</p> <p>1.00pm Bowlers 7.30pm Advent Eucharistic Adoration</p>
<p>Saturday 3rd December</p> <p><i>St Francis Xavier</i></p>	<p>8.00am Advent Group M/R 9.15am Mass</p> <p>11.30am Te Deum's Choir Practice 4.30pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass</p>
<p>Sunday 4th December</p> <p><i>2nd Sunday of Advent Year A</i></p>	<p>7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass</p> <p>10.30am Connect Advent Group P/C 6.00pm Youth Mass</p> <p>Live Streaming Link https://youtu.be/210i3KS9eck</p> <p>7.00pm "The Lounge" Senior Youth Group</p>

Bishop's Christmas Appeal for Catholic Care's Assistance with Care and Housing Service

No one should be homeless or without support. Your Christmas gift today will enable Catholic Care to give homeless people practical and emotional support, and a safe place to call home. Please stretch out your hand to the poor and give generously via the Bishop's Christmas Appeal envelopes, at yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal or scan this QR code.



Thank you for your prayers, heart-felt compassion, and help to end homelessness.

"QUO VADIS?" PILGRIMAGE TO ISRAEL AND ROME: 5 – 23 SEPTEMBER 2023

At the request of many of his previous pilgrims, Fr Wim Hoekstra is leading a pilgrimage to Israel and Rome next year. Our pilgrimage will be following in the footsteps of St Peter. Details can be found at www.olivetreetravel.com.au under Upcoming Tours, via the QR code or please contact Fr Wim on 0409908361 or email wim.hoekstra@parracatholic.org

Who is Jesus? Would you like to be part of a facilitated small group early next year in Emu Plains to share your reflections and ask your questions on Matthew's Gospel? Day and evening groups are offered. We will have an authoritative Commentary at hand to guide us.

More information to come. Inquiries welcome: Jim Potts 0421 125 722

SAVE THE DATE

Diocesan World Day of the Sick Mass: 11 February 2023

A Mass for the World Day of the Sick, including the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, will be held on Saturday 11 February 2023 at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown. All are welcome, including those who may be sick, and those who care for the sick and dying and health care professionals. More information to come

Deanery Pastoral Council Initiative

CatholicCare in Springwood support vulnerable families in our local area through the provision of counselling support, housing assistance and supply of necessary personal and household items. CatholicCare have asked us to appeal to parishes in the Deanery to provide some of these essential items in the lead-up to Christmas. They have provided suggestions for needed items: ***Fruit cake, Lollies, Biscuits, Poppers, Savoury items such as crackers/crisps, Tinned fruit, Muesli Bars, Cereal, Personal care/toiletries-shampoo/conditioner, body wash, deodorant, moisturiser.***

Over the following two weekends there will be collection boxes in the narthex of the church. Please consider donating some of these items if you are able.

FR JOE'S MUSINGS—CONTINUE FROM PAGE 1

We will have a shorter version, starting with the morning Mass at 9.15am and ending with lunch at 1.30pm. During this time, you will have the opportunity to go to confession as well. If you are interested, please let Juliana know by Friday 2nd December for catering purposes.

As this Christmas Day falls on a Sunday and because of the Sunday's obligation, there will be the Sunday Mass schedule as well. Hence, there will be Masses at 7.30am and 9.30am. I am aware that under normal circumstances there is only one Mass at 8.30am. I would have loved to celebrate only one Mass on Christmas Day, given the tight and busy schedule I have during Advent and Christmas Eve. This is an exception as Christmas falls on a Sunday!

During the Advent season, we will have Eucharistic Adoration every Friday from 7.30pm to 8.30pm during which confessions will also be available.

Fr Joe

SVDP CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2022

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. A list of suggested hamper items is available from the warden's table.

Please ensure that all food items have an expiry date well past New Year.

Christmas Gift Tree

The Christmas Gift tree will be put up during the week commencing 20 November and if parishioners wish to support this activity then please take a blue or pink tag from the tree or wardens table, purchase a gift for a child as suggested on the tag and return the Christmas wrapped gift with the tag securely attached to the outside.

All hampers items and gifts will need to be left at the church no later than Thursday 15 December 2022.

Volunteers

We will need helpers at 9.00am on Saturday 17 December to assist with the delivery of the hampers. If you are able to assist us with this task send an 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 2023. 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 on the weekend 10/11 December 2022.***

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

2023 EPIPHANY PILGRIMAGE + FIESTA

Once again, the parishes of the Blue Mountains Deanery will host the Epiphany Pilgrimage from 2 – 8 January 2023. You can be part of the celebrations and help welcome the pilgrims to our beautiful mountains by:

- ✦ Participating in the full pilgrimage or otherwise joining for one or more days of bushwalking
- ✦ Praying and celebrating with them at the Blue Mountains parishes along the way
- ✦ Assisting with the festive meal when they visit us at St Finbars on Mon, Jan 2 2023
- ✦ Writing prayer intentions for the pilgrims to pray on your behalf (see prayer box at the church entrance)

Children are welcome to join the fun: Day 1 (Mon, Jan 2) is a family-friendly pilgrimage walk finishing with a jumping castle and fiesta here at Finnies!

To register for the pilgrimage and for more information, visit www.epiphanypilgrimage.org

To assist with the meal and fiesta at Finnies, contact Lucie: 0424 793 359

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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:

Barry Wylie, Emma Griffin, Louis Donato (Maire Griffin relatives), John Mullane, Ken Townsend, Pam Clyne, Stephen Critchley, Eileen Farrell and Janet Noonan.

PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK PARISHIONERS, RELATIVES & FRIENDS:

Pat Bell, Jeanette Russell (Margaret Rivas' Friend), Joan Pace & Dorothy Collins (Janice Smith's Cousins), Chris Paine, Margaret Stevens, Lyn Beltran, Margaret Christensen, Mark Bates, Colleen Nolan, Lyn Downes, Terry Stevens, Jacqui Visser, Joanne Macrae, Sophie Hollies, Maddison Farrugia, Catherine Kirk (Cameron), Harrison Aggar (Margaret & Ian Dickson's Grandson), Diosdado Roque (Geraldine Agahari's Father), Rhondda Masters (Janice Smith's Sister) and Joan Periera (Marcia Periera's Sister).

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:

Frank Culliver, Simon Culliver, Stephen Hutchins, Glenna Van Den Steen, Shirley Noyes, Ronald Aussel, Harold Mitchell, David Miles, Frank Kroehnert, Lawrence Dunne, Thomas O'Malley, Julia Rudnicki and Ronald Lowe.

LITURGICAL ROSTER FOR 3RD & 4TH DECEMBER 2022

Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	Peter McMahon	Carl Moll	Gerard Egan
Senior Server	Peter McMahon	Carl Moll	Joseph Sukkar
Junior Servers	Alex & Luc Nilsson		Xavier Rajnoch & Patrick Sukkar
Warden	Vince Dobson	Volunteer Please	Justin Dowling
1 st Reading	Philomena Watkins	Michelle Wilson	Jessica Doherty
2nd Reading	Katy Ferris	John Killeen	Steve Baird
Intercession	Elizabeth Rowe	Kevin Flynn	Martin Rogers
Music	Naomi's Group		Jenny Long & Anne Hobbs
IT Operators	Eleanor Thompson	Joseph Wilson	Pat Watson
Gifts	Noreen Taylor & Janice Smith	Maria Heinzl & Stanis Drobiszewski	Volunteers Please
Communion	John Verhoeven	Ian Dickson	Wendy Brown
Cashiers	Joe Grange		
Children's Liturgy	Christyna		
Piety Stall	Carmel Higgins		
Church Care	Jeannine Ashbee, Deb Youngman, Leesa & Wayne Gillard		
Hospitality	Lina Wiecek, Vicky Ang, Karen Sukkar and Tamar Alzened		

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