



The Barra

Weekly Newsletter of St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook
2nd Sunday of Advent— Year A
3rd & 4th December 2022

Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 71; Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12

FR JOE'S MUSINGS

Making a Highway ...

The First Reading of the Second Advent Sunday is taken from Isaiah who was an Old Testament prophet from 597 – 537 BC. Israel found itself in the Babylonian exile. Unsurprisingly, the prophet compared this exilic experience with the wasteland. Yet, he also has words of COMFORT quieting the mind and opening the heart of Israel amidst calamities. They can also be words for us in the midst of our pain and confusion.

The gift for the second week of Advent is that God speaks a reassuring word of comfort in the midst of our discontent and longing. In this quiet season—a season we tend to fill up with a lot of noise and frantic activity—make time daily to listen for the comforting words of God in your life. Probably the quickest way to begin hearing those words is to create a daily gratitude list. Set aside five minutes each morning or evening and take a few deep breaths. When you are settled, start jotting down whatever comes to your mind that you are grateful for. With a heart full of gratitude, everything else in our lives will change. We will begin to see, even in the demands of our Christmas preparations, the real purpose of those efforts—celebrating the Lord's arrival in our life and the lives of those we love.

Last Saturday, more than 95 parish volunteers gathered in the Parish Hall for a wonderful celebration. Some said that it was a wonderful surprise to see so many Parish volunteers. We are very grateful to our wonderful and committed parishioners who are generous with their time, especially in an age of time poverty. Unfortunately, a few volunteers couldn't make it to our celebration. We hope to see next time. Thank you to Juliana, Peter McMahan, Briony, Vince, Carl, Jeannine, Ros and Peter Seme for their help.

As we approach the end of the year, two of our PPC members, Vince and Patrick, will also conclude their PPC membership. Vince is the holder of the portfolio "Maintenance and Property" and Patrick heads the portfolio "Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue". May I invite you to discern whether you would like to be nominated for one of these two PPC vacancies. Details on the role and function and nomination process have been emailed to you via your nominated emails. You can also obtain written forms through the Parish office. On behalf of the PPC and St Finbars, I would like to thank Vince and Patrick. God bless you both. I am sure that they will continue to support St Finbars.

Just a reminder of the upcoming Advent Retreat on 10th December starting from 9.15am with the Mass and ending around 1.30pm with a light lunch. As Bishop David Walker is unavailable, Cecilia Zammit and I will lead the day. Here is the provisional schedule for the half day retreat. Please RSVP to Juliana (secretary@stfinbars.org.au)

Please continue ready on page 3

PARISH INFORMATION

Parish Priest: Fr Joseph Lam

E-mail: joseph.lam@parracatholic.org

Secretary: Juliana Khnouf

E-mail: secretary@stfinbars.org.au

Admin: Peter McMahan

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.

SUNDAY RITE OF WELCOME

The Parish joyfully welcomes Liliana Mary Karatovic into our Faith Community. She is going to be Baptised at our Parish next weekend. May God bless her.



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 4th December <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i> <i>Year A</i></p>	<p>7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass 10.30am Young families Advent Group P/C 6.00pm Youth Mass Live Streaming Link https://youtu.be/210i3KS9eck 7.00pm "The Lounge" Senior Youth Group</p>
<p>Monday 5th December</p>	<p>No Mass. Office is closed 5.00pm SVDP Meeting M/R 5.00pm School Christmas Concert—Church</p>
<p>Tuesday 6th December</p>	<p>9.15am Mass 5.30pm Cantabile Choir Practice</p>
<p>Wednesday 7th December <i>St Ambrase</i></p>	<p>9.15am Mass followed by Rosary 9.30am Playgroup P/C 3.30pm Advent Group M/R 7.00pm Finnie's Choir Practice 7.00pm Bridge Club P/C</p>
<p>Thursday 8th December <i>The Immaculate</i> <i>Conception of the</i> <i>Blessed Virgin Mary</i></p>	<p>9.15am Mass 1.30pm Bridge Club P/C 7.30pm Blue Mountains Folk Dance P/C</p>
<p>Friday 9th December</p>	<p>9.15am Mass 1.00pm Bowlers 7.30pm Advent Eucharistic Adoration & Confessions</p>
<p>Saturday 10th December</p>	<p>9.00am Advent Retreat 9.15am Mass 4.30pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass Live Streaming Link https://youtu.be/XyIMI4ZIIHE</p>
<p>Sunday 11th December <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i> <i>Year A</i></p>	<p>7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass 10.30am Young Family Advent Group P/C 10.45am Baptisms 3.00pm Children Choir Practice P/C</p>

Positions Vacant:

- + Parish Office Coordinator (part-time) – St Andrew the Apostle Parish, Marayong – **Applications close 10pm Sunday 4 December 2022**
- + Parish Bookkeeper (part-time) - Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Wentworthville – **Applications close 10pm Tuesday 6 December.**

More details at: parracatholic.org/employment

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. Envelopes will be on the church pews this weekend. Thank you for your generosity.

Patrician Brothers College Blacktown Enrolment Opportunities

Patrician Brothers College, Blacktown, has a small number of vacancies for Year 7 2023 and is accepting early applications for 2024. Contact the College Enrolment Department for more information on (02) 8811 0300, email patricianbros@parra.catholic.edu.au or <https://forms.gle/ANccWVNQBZjQ4pSD6>

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

2023 RELIGIOUS CALENDARS

Are now available at the Wardens table. Franciscan calendars are \$7 and Columban calendars are \$10. Proceeds for sale go to Glenbrook St Vincent de Paul Society.

Fr Joe's Musings—Continued from Page 1

9.15 am – Mass - 10 am – Morning tea - 10.30 am – Talk: *Jesus, the greatest gift of God* (Fr Joe)
 11.15 am – Personal reflection time and prayer (confessions available)
 11.45 am – Talk: *Celebrating and Sharing the Gifts of God in Advent* (Cecilia Zammit)
 12.15 pm – Prayers of Angelus
 12.30 pm - Eucharistic Adoration (confession available)
 1.30 pm – Lunch (soup and bread)
 Lastly, my moustache has raised 1,400 AUD for MOVEMBER campaign which is a great result for a wonderful cause. I only anticipated 300 AUD. Thank you all for your support raising awareness for Men's Health. Perhaps, next year I will wear PINK or WHITE for the whole month to campaign AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE!
 Have a great Second Advent Sunday

Fr. Joe

Congratulations to Gideon Goosen on his recent article "Promises and Pitfalls" published in *Faith, Freedom and Identity*, edited by J. B Elliot and B. T. Heasley, Bayswater, VIC: Coventry Press, 2022, pages 93-115. His article reflects on the efforts to renew, reform, revitalize, and, better, regenerate the church. This book is available in the parish library for loan.

2022 CHRISTMAS MASSES TIMETABLE

Extra Confessions will be available during the Advent Eucharist Adoration on Fridays at 7.30pm as there is no 2nd Rite of Reconciliation is booked this year.

Christmas Eve Masses Saturday 24th December at 7pm and 10pm

Christmas Day Masses Sunday 25th December at 7.30am and 9.30am.

Live Streaming link for 9.30am Christmas Day: <https://youtu.be/Agfuv2MQXqY>

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph Friday 30th December at 9.15am.

OFFICE CLOSURE BETWEEN CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

Please note that the Parish Office will be closed on Wednesday the 28th, Thursday the 29th & Friday the 30th of December 2022 and we will be back on Tuesday the 3rd of January. Daily Masses will be celebrated on Tuesday to Friday at 9.15am. Wishing you a blessed and safe Christmas and all the best for the New Year.

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.

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

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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:

Winifred Nolan, Paul Gibbeson, Carolyn Van Dyke, Phillip Moloney, Peter May, Marjorie Clarke, Stephen Riddle, Stanley Lucas, Leo Hayes, John Debeck, Terence Hunt, Theresa Hemsley, Mary Bohan, Cornelus Van Der-Loo, Felice Macri, Gary Dennis and Patrice O'Neill.

LITURGICAL ROSTER FOR 10TH & 11TH DECEMBER 2022

Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	Anaru Veitch	Peter McMahon	Deb Lawrence
Senior Server	Anaru Veitch	Peter McMahon	Garry Pursehouse
Junior Servers	Quentin Lynch & Matilda Howard		Emily Dowling & Leia Agahari
Warden	Allan Jones	Volunteer Please	Patricia Murnane
1 st Reading	Maureen Tulk	Carl Moll	Irene Aligno
2nd Reading	Eileen Jones	Elizabeth Konza	Kristina Rajnoch
Intercession	Dawn Willis	John Isaksen	Yvonne Scanlan
Music	Bernadette & Sam Phillips		Finnie's Group
IT Operators	Anne Hobbs	Kylie Mills	Joanne Stubbs
Gifts	Volunteers Please	Volunteer Please	Dorothea Walsh
Communion	Volunteer Please	Jim Tierney	Yvonne Scanlan
Cashiers	Bernadette Shalala & Erika McNay		
Children's Liturgy	Michelle		
Piety Stall	Beth Culliver		
Church Care	Volunteers Please		
Hospitality	Ann King, Lynne Atkinson, Liz & Daren Dukes		
Lawn Mowing	Kevin Debeck, Rob Lennon & John Killeen		

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