

The Barra

Weekly Newsletter of St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook
3rd Sunday of Advent– Year A
10th & 11th December 2022

Isaiah 35:1-6, 10; Psalm 145; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

FR JOE'S MUSINGS

Rejoice

In this Sunday's gospel of Matthew, John's disciples asked Jesus a very important question: "Are You the One who is to come?" We, too, have many questions.

From time to time, we may find ourselves alone, even isolated, perhaps cooped up at home or hospitalized. When we are alone and isolated for long periods, so many thoughts and emotions crowd in upon our minds and hearts. Questions come into our minds, questions we normally block out when we are otherwise occupied or distracted. And after we've been alone for a while, don't we look for reassurance when someone we love and trust comes to visit? We want to know how our loved ones are doing and all the latest news. And if there's something we are worried about – well, we want to know about that too.

Perhaps this common experience helps us understand the surprising question which the imprisoned John the Baptist asked of Jesus: "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" That question is surprising because, only a short time before, John the Baptist, the forerunner of the Messiah, had recognized Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah. Now he asks, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect another?" Crouched in his dark prison cell, isolated and alone with his thoughts, John the Baptist perhaps began to wonder about Jesus. Was Jesus the sort of Messiah that the people of Israel had been waiting for? Was Jesus really the Saviour who would deliver his people from oppression?

As the Feast of Christmas draws near, we are not locked in a prison cell as was John the Baptist – (though we should remember some of our brothers and sisters are in fact incarcerated). Yet, even if we are free from physical restraints, we sometimes find ourselves in prisons of doubt or guilt or isolation. It doesn't take a prison cell or a hospital room to experience those feelings which weigh especially heavy on us amid the tinselly holiday season. In times of doubt or guilt or isolation, we, not unlike John, may begin to wonder whether God loves us, whether he forgives our sins, whether Jesus is our Messiah. More than a few people facing those same questions have abandoned their faith only to find themselves facing greater doubts, greater guilt, greater isolation.

For if, God forbid, we were to abandon the Faith, we would abandon the One who came into the world to bring us the Good News we have longed for our whole life long . . . the Good News that God's truth and love is stronger than all our doubts, guilt, and isolation combined. Jesus has come to free us from those interior prisons that hinder us from God and neighbour and giving ourselves in service to others.

This third Sunday is called "*Gaudete Sunday*" – a Sunday of rejoicing, a Sunday in which we can find and resolve to keep alive in our hearts and homes the true joy of the Gospel which Jesus came to bring. We can find that joy by entering deeply into the Holy Eucharist;

Please continue reading 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 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

SUNDAY'S BAPTISMS:

The Parish joyfully announces the Baptism of Liliana Mary Karatovic and warmly welcomes her into our Faith Community. She will be Baptised after Mass this Sunday.



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.

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.

Sunday 11th December <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i> <i>Year A</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass 10.30am Young Families Advent Group M/R 10.45am Baptisms 1.30pm Bridge Club Christmas Party P/C 3.00pm Children Choir Practice - Church
Monday 12th December	No Mass. Office is closed
Tuesday 13th December <i>St Lucy</i>	No Morning Mass 5.30pm Cantabile Choir Practice
Wednesday 14th December <i>St John of the Cross</i>	9.15am Mass followed by Rosary 9.30am Playgroup P/C 10.30am Pastoral Care Meeting M/R 3.30pm Advent Group M/R 7.00pm Bridge Club P/C
Thursday 15th December	9.15am End Of Year School Mass 1.30pm Bridge Club P/C 6.00pm Year 6 Dinner P/C
Friday 16th December	9.15am Mass 1.00pm Bowlers Christmas Party P/C 7.30pm Adoration & Reconciliation
Saturday 17th December	9.15am Mass 11.30am Te Deum's Choir Practice 3.00pm Convalidation marriage Mass and Baptism 4.30pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass Live Streaming Mass link https://youtu.be/UTGywxHa7M
Sunday 18th December <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i> <i>Year A</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass

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.

WHO IS JESUS? Australian Scripture Scholar Michael Fallon (Missionary of the Sacred Heart priest) has produced a beautiful Commentary on Matthew's Gospel. This will assist our personal preparation for our local facilitated small group conversations early next year. (Previous weekend's Parish bulletin/ Facebook - OLOW Emu Plains - has more information).
More information next week. Inquiries welcome:
Jim Potts 0421 125 722

Share joy this Christmas with a gift that can change a life

If you would like to give the gift of hope this Christmas, why not buy a Global Gift? Global Gifts are Caritas Australia's charitable Christmas cards. The funds raised from these cards go towards supporting vulnerable communities around the globe, including right here in Australia. Whether you purchase your Global Gift for a family member, friend or colleague, each gift reflects real items that will help assist the world's most vulnerable people in their fight against poverty and injustice. ***Gifts of Education. Gifts of Health. Gifts of Empowerment.*** The beauty of these Global Gifts is that they bring joy to their recipient and provide someone in need the chance to build a better future. This Christmas, please consider buying a gift that changes lives. Visit www.globalgifts.org.au or call 1800 024 413 toll free to browse our range of Global Gifts cards today.

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

Thank You for Helping Catholic Care to End Homelessness. Bishop Vincent, Parramatta Catholic Foundation and Catholic Care thank you for generously supporting our Assistance with Care and Housing service. Because of your compassion and prayers, Catholic Care can give more homeless people practical support and a safe place to call home. Thank you! If you haven't had a chance to donate, please visit yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal or scan this QR code.



PIETY STALL. Has new Christmas Gifts, Nativity Sets and Christmas Cards. Please check it out after Mass today.

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

FR JOE'S MUSINGS—CONTINUE FROM PAGE 1

We can find it by having our sins forgiven in the Sacrament of Penance and in turn by forgiving those who, in any way, have harmed or offended us; we can find that joy by looking beyond our own worries and needs and instead reaching out to others, especially to those most in need, to those who cannot repay our kindness 'measure for measure.'

We pray that we will encounter the Lord more deeply in this holy season to celebrate his birth with a joy that endures and even grows stronger amid the challenges and setbacks of our daily life. May God bless you and keep you always in his love!

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 booked this year.

Christmas Eve Masses **Saturday 24th December at 7pm (Readings for Vigil).** *Children are encouraged to come dressed up as angels or shepherds.*

Christmas Night Mass **Saturday 24th December starting at 9.30pm with Christmas Carols and then Mass at 10pm (Readings for Night).**

Christmas Day Masses **Sunday 25th December at 7.30am and 9.30am (Readings for the Day).**

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.

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 has been put up. 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.

ST FINBAR'S NETBALL CLUB

Registrations will open on 1 January for the 2023 Winter Season for all players from Under 8's to Seniors. The season will start on Saturday 29 April and run through to Grand Final day on 16 September.

Our fees are:

Junior: \$200

Senior (18+): \$225

All Abilities: \$175

2023 will be the 55th season that SFNC have competed in the Blue Mountains Netball Association's Winter Competition. We are proud to have been an important part of Parish life for so long and hope that you will join our Club and bring your friends.

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
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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:

Fredericke Vinzenz, Doreen Egan, Maria Toirkens, Thomas Hitchens, Monica Piggott, 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, Joseph Lopez and Venita Bronlow.

LITURGICAL ROSTER FOR 17TH & 18TH DECEMBER 2022

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 Servers			Zoe Wilson, Dominic Sheary & Tim Kensey
Warden	Lorraine Brown	Volunteer Please	Frank Fitzpatrick
1 st Reading	Maire Griffin	John Killeen	Peter or Trish Hurley
2nd Reading	Gideon Goosen	Margaret Dickson	Gary Clune
Intercession	Margaret Moore	John De Mattia	Frank Fitzpatrick
Music	Cantabile		N/A
IT Operators	Henry Hanko	Elizabeth Konza	Thais Turner
Gifts	Allan & Eileen Jones	Kay Whitty	The Wilson Family
Communion	Gwen Cullinan	Helen Keogh	Carmel Higgins
Cashiers	Joe Grange		
Children's Liturgy	Melissa		
Piety Stall	Lee Jackson		
Church Care	Robyn Flynn, Jan de Bie, Jessica Doherty, Wendy Bohan & Floor Washing Team		
Hospitality	Trish & Peter Hurley, Irene & Bert Aligno		



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