



# The Barra

Weekly Newsletter of St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook  
4th Sunday of Advent— Year A  
17th & 18th December 2022

**Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 23; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24**

## FR JOE'S MUSINGS

### GOD WITH US

Last Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> December 20 parishioners came together for a day of retreat on the topic "Jesus Christ, the best and greatest gift to us from God". In a time of scarcity and high prices, this statement is not immediately evident.

From his Incarnation to his Ascension, Jesus Christ puts the liberality and largesse of God on display. It is not just at the Cross, or even in the Resurrection, that Jesus represents the grace, the gift-giving-ness, of God to us. In every miracle, every parable—simply by being in the world at all—Jesus is proclaiming, "God is good, he loves giving, and I'm here, among other things, to prove it." Many parables in the Gospels present God as an irrepressible giver, even when the parable has other goals. Once there was a farmer who scattered seed so liberally that most of it didn't take root. Once there was a king who forgave a debt of 10,000 talents (millions of dollars today). It is hard to think of a parable in which the God-figure is not giving away far more than he should. There is an extravagance verging on wastefulness to Jesus' miracles as well. How many weddings need 150 gallons of fine wine? Why can't someone who miraculously multiplies bread and fish avoid over-catering by 12 baskets?

For all this, the Cross and Resurrection remain the most astonishing expression of God's generosity. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son" (John 3:16). He who did not spare his own Son . . . how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?"—is that Jesus himself, rather than anything else in creation, is the most costly and bountiful gift God could give. If we have been given Jesus, we will be given "all things" on his coattails.

So, the Christmas cards are right: Jesus is the greatest gift there is. Not as a means to an end, but as the end itself, the source of all joy, the ultimate demonstration of God's goodness and generosity. Receive, and give thanks.

According to a survey by the data research platform *Bazaarvoice*, 15% of the 6,000 people in North America, Europe and Australia who were questioned plan to spend more on Christmas presents this year than last year, with 38 percent planning to start their shopping early.

The *Pandemic* with its restrictions and lockdowns has taught us one important lesson: *Presence* is much more valuable than presents.

It is not enough to just say relationships are important; we must prove it by investing time in them. Words alone are worthless. "My children, our love should not be just words and talk; it must be true love, which shows itself in action." Relationships take time and effort, and the best way to spell love is "T-I-M-E."

This Christmas, perhaps, you may put it to the test. Try to spend more time with God, your family and friends. Perhaps also spend some time on yourself!

This is the reason why it says that in the *fullness of time*, God sent his Son to be born to our world and to live amongst us. God is with us.

## 2022 CHRISTMAS MASSES

Extra Confessions will be available during the Advent Eucharist Adoration on Fridays at 7.30pm.

- + Christmas Eve Mass **Saturday 24th December at 7pm (Readings for Vigil)**. *Children are encouraged to come dressed up as angles or shepherds.*
- + Christmas Night Mass **Saturday 24th December 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 Dec at 9.15am.

## PARISH INFORMATION

### **Parish Priest: Fr Joseph Lam**

E-mail: [joseph.lam@parracatholic.org](mailto:joseph.lam@parracatholic.org)

### **Secretary:** Juliana Khnouf

E-mail: [secretary@stfinbars.org.au](mailto:secretary@stfinbars.org.au)

### **Admin:** Peter McMahon

E-mail: [admin@stfinbars.org.au](mailto:admin@stfinbars.org.au)

### **PPC:**

E-mail: [stfinbarsppc@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.stfinbars.org.au)

### **Facebook:**

Glenbrook Catholic Church St Finbars

### **Parish School:** Principal

Mrs Robyn Clarke

Phone: 4724 3600

### **WE WELCOME**

*visitors to our church today. We extend greetings to you. If you wish to join St Finbar's Parish, make yourself known 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><b>Sunday</b> <b>18th December</b></p> <p><i>4th Sunday of Advent</i> <i>Year A</i></p>	<p><b>7.30am Mass</b> <b>9.30am Mass</b></p>	<p><b><u>Diocesan World Day of the Sick Mass: 11 February 2023</u></b> A Mass for the World Day of the Sick, including the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, will be held at 11am 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. RSVPs are required by 6 February 2022 to <a href="mailto:hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org">hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org</a></p>
<p><b>Monday</b> <b>19th December</b></p>	<p><b>No Mass. Office is closed</b></p> <p>5.00pm SVDP Meeting M/R</p>	<p><b><u>Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses 2023</u></b> The Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence next year in February. This is formation for anyone interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact the Office for Worship on 0460 037 795 or <a href="mailto:mary.gale@parracatholic.org">mary.gale@parracatholic.org</a> or visit our website to download an enrolment form at <a href="https://officeforworship.org.au/">https://officeforworship.org.au/</a></p>
<p><b>Tuesday</b> <b>20th December</b></p>	<p><b>9.15am Mass of 20 December</b></p> <p>5.30pm Cantabile Choir Practice</p>	<p><b><u>Soul Food Podcast – Pastoral Formation</u></b> <b><u>Do you find life &amp; faith inspiration by listening to the experiences of others?</u></b></p>
<p><b>Wednesday</b> <b>21st December</b></p>	<p><b>9.15am Mass of 21 December followed by the Rosary</b></p> <p>7.00pm Bridge Club P/C</p>	<p>Pastoral Formation's Soul Food Podcast features life &amp; faith stories of people from our diocesan family. Listen now for FREE via our website or on Spotify: <a href="https://pfparra.org.au/soulfood/">https://pfparra.org.au/soulfood/</a></p>
<p><b>Thursday</b> <b>22nd December</b></p>	<p><b>9.15am Mass of 22 December</b></p> <p>1.30pm Bridge Club P/C</p>	<p><b><u>Caritas Australia's Advent 2022 Resources</u></b> Journey through Advent with Caritas Australia's new Parish Resources, useful for small groups or individuals. Exploring seasonal themes of peace, hope, joy and love through a social justice lens, this resource offers Gospel readings, stories of people Caritas Australia serves, reflection questions, prayers, song suggestions and ideas for putting faith into action. Visit <a href="http://www.caritas.org.au/advent">www.caritas.org.au/advent</a> to download the resource.</p>
<p><b>Friday</b> <b>23rd December</b></p>	<p><b>9.15am Mass of 23 December</b></p>	<p><b><u>2022-23 Social Justice Statement "Respect: Confronting Violence and Abuse"</u></b> The Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Statement for 2022-23 "Respect: Confronting Violence and Abuse" invites us to engage with a complex and challenging social reality: domestic and family violence and abuse. The Australian Bishops call for all people to take part in the individual and social transformation needed so all people can live in safety. Download the statement at <a href="http://www.bit.ly/SJS22-23">www.bit.ly/SJS22-23</a></p>
<p><b>Saturday</b> <b>24th December</b></p>	<p><b>No Morning Mass</b></p> <p>11.30am Te Deum's Choir Practice</p> <p>4.30pm Confessions</p> <p><b>7.00pm Christmas Eve Mass</b></p> <p><b>10.00pm Christmas Night Mass</b></p>	<p><b><u>Catholic Earthcare Parishes Programs</u></b> Catholic Earthcare Australia now makes it easy for parishes to take up the Australian Bishops' invitation from the 2021-22 Social Justice Statement to join them in pursuing seven Laudato Si' Goals towards more sustainability. The Earthcare Parishes Program offers ideas and guidance. Find out more and register for an Earthcare Audit at <a href="http://catholicearthcare.org.au/earthcare-parishes">catholicearthcare.org.au/earthcare-parishes</a></p>
<p><b>Sunday</b> <b>25th December</b></p> <p><i>The Nativity of the Lord</i></p>	<p><b>7.30am Christmas Day Mass</b> <b>9.30am Christmas Day Mass</b></p> <p>Live Streaming Link <a href="https://youtu.be/Agfuy2MQXqY">https://youtu.be/Agfuy2MQXqY</a></p>	<p><b>2023 RELIGIOUS CALENDARS</b> Are now available at the Wardens table. Franciscan calendars are \$7 and Columban calendars are \$10. Proceeds go to the Glenbrook St Vincent de Paul Society.</p>

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**WHO IS JESUS IN ST MATTHEW'S GOSPEL?**

You are invited to an ENQUIRY SESSION at Emu Plains in JANUARY about fortnightly facilitated small groups starting in February, to explore this question. Please let me know what time of the day on TUESDAY 10 JANUARY is convenient for you. See Our Lady of the Way Facebook / Bulletins.

# ST. FINBAR'S PARISH NEWS

**St Finbars Fun Singers will be spreading Christmas joy to residents at a Springwood Nursing home on Monday morning 19th December and we welcome you to join us. You don't need any great talent just a desire to bring joy to those in care. It really is rewarding to see how much the residents enjoy and participate in the singing.**

**Enquires : Marie 0414392389**

## **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. **During January the office hours will be from 10am to 1pm, Tuesdays to Fridays.** Wishing you a blessed and safe Christmas and all the best for the New Year.

## **INVITATION FOR PPC MEMBERSHIP VACANCIES**

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is our most important Parish body. Together with the Parish Priest, it advises and provides pastoral direction for the Parish.

Currently, there are two PPC vacancies that need to be filled by February 2023.

We are seeking for PPC memberships those who are interested in the PPC portfolios of "Property and Maintenance" and "Ecumenism, Interreligious and Sacraments"

For details, please contact Fr Joe or Martin Rogers ([marin@weit.com.au](mailto:marin@weit.com.au))

## **CHRISTMAS APPEAL FOR CATHOLIC CARE**

*Thank You*

*CatholicCare and the Deanery Pastoral Council were humbled and amazed at the overwhelming response from St Finbar's parishioners to their call for assistance with supporting a local women's and children's cottage, Wimla. The Glenbrook parish opened their hearts to provide invaluable items for some of the most vulnerable people in our community. They will be received with deep thanks and gratitude.*

## **EPIPHANY PILGRIMAGE + FIESTA 2nd JANUARY**

Come and join us to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany on Monday, 2nd January 2023.

Don't miss out on a day of fun with Mass at Our Lady of the Way Emu Plains at 8.30am, followed by a pilgrimage walk to St Finbar's, Glenbrook. You can choose from a Family Pilgrimage with times of reflection for the children or a Classic Pilgrimage aimed at adults. From 2pm, enjoy the Finnies Fiesta: an afternoon of sports, crafts, a mega Jumping Castle, Adoration and children's prayer time (5.30pm), as well as a delicious Festive Meal (6.45pm). Please bring a plate to share.

To register and for more information visit: [www.epiphanypilgrimage.org](http://www.epiphanypilgrimage.org)

To assist with the meal please contact Lucie: [0424 793 359](tel:0424793359)

## **ST FINBAR'S NETBALL CLUB (SFNC)**

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**

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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:**

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

**LITURGICAL ROSTER FOR 24TH & 25TH DECEMBER 2022**

Liturgical Ministries	7.00pm	10.00pm	7.30am	9.30am
<b>Sacristan</b>	Ahyiesha D'Souza	Peter McMahon	Carl Moll	Garry Pursehouse
<b>Senior Server</b>	Vince Dobson	Peter McMahon	Carl Moll	Garry Pursehouse
<b>Thurifier</b>		Volunteers Please		
<b>Incense Bearer</b>		Volunteers Please		
<b>Junior Servers</b>	Zoe Wilson	Volunteers Please	Volunteers Please	Volunteers Please
<b>Warden</b>	Volunteers Please	Volunteers Please	Volunteers Please	Patricia & Kieran Murnane
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading</b>	Dawn Willis	Volunteers Please	Volunteers Please	Volunteers Please
<b>2nd Reading</b>	Cecilia Zammit	Volunteers Please	Volunteers Please	Volunteers Please
<b>Intercession</b>	Joanne Stubbs	Volunteers Please	Volunteers Please	Volunteers Please
<b>Music</b>	Youth Choir	Cantabile	Naomi's Group	Jenny Long & Anne Hobbs
<b>IT Operators</b>	Eleanor Thompson	Henry Hanko	Kylie Mills	Pat Watson
<b>Gifts</b>	Wilson Family	Volunteers Please	Volunteers Please	Volunteers Please
<b>Communion</b>	Gerard Egan	Bernie Fisher	Jim or Kath Tierney	
<b>Cashiers</b>	Robyn Flynn			
<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	School Holidays			
<b>Piety Stall</b>	Not Available			
<b>Church Care</b>	Volunteers Please			
<b>Hospitality</b>	Kerry & Peter Herborn, Marie Nassif			

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