



The Barra

Weekly Newsletter of St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook

Christmas 2022

24th & 25th December 2022

VIGIL MASS READINGS ARE: Isaiah 62:1-5; Ps 88; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Matthew 1:1-25

10PM MASS READINGS ARE: Isaiah 9:1-7; Ps 95; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS READINGS ARE: Isaiah 52:7-10; Ps 97; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18

FR JOE'S MUSINGS

Dear Friends,

In the spirit of Christmas, I would like to share with you the painting created by the exquisite Italian artist, Pietro di Giovanni d'Ambrosio, who lived in Siena between 1410 and 1449. He painted this monumental altarpiece depicting the Adoration of the Shepherds between Saint Augustine on the right and the Tuscan canonized knight Galgano Guidotti on the left. This painting was commissioned for the church of S. Agostino in Asciano, now in the Museo civico archeologico e d'arte sacra Palazzo Corboli, Asciano. Augustine considered preaching to be his essential calling as a pastor – a shepherd. The bishop of Hippo (354-430) was fully aware of the scriptural significance of pastors/shepherds driven by humility they serve as leaders, they lead to serve. Most eminently, Augustine time and again stresses that Christ as shepherd incarnated this humility. On the pulpit of the cathedral in Hippo (ancient North Africa), we hear that Christmas is the feast of divine humility. And, crucially, this is a redeeming and liberating humility. In his Christmas sermon 189 delivered in 410 AD, Augustine reassures us that Christ was born so that we might be born again. Augustine continues in the same sermon to plead for the rebirth of compassion in our hearts: 'He came into the day. He is the Lord Christ existing without a beginning eternally with His Father, yet He has a birthday. In the first place, if the Word had not had human generation, we would not have acquired divine regeneration; He was born so that we might be born again. Christ was born; let no one hesitate to be reborn. He was generated with no need of regeneration, for who has experienced the need of rebirth except the one whose birth was blameworthy? Let His compassion, then, be born in our hearts. His Mother carried Him in her womb; let us carry Him in our hearts. The Virgin was heavy with the incarnate Christ; may our hearts be heavily freighted with belief in Christ. The Virgin brought forth the Saviour; may our souls bring forth salvation; may we bring forth praise also. Let us not be sterile; let our souls be full of fruitfulness in the Lord.'

Jesus Christ is God's compassion made tangible and expressed in real terms. Compassion means "to suffer with." Compassion is experiencing what another experiences, feeling what another feels, walking a mile in their moccasins and living their life for a while. And this is what God did in Jesus Christ. God just doesn't only understand what we are going through; God doesn't only empathize with what we are going through; God actually experiences it, God feels it, because God actually went through it too. It is the story of a compassionate God who comes to us in the flesh because when God feels compassion, God has to act; just as when Jesus felt compassion, he was moved to act; just as we should be compassionate, and our compassion should compel us to act.

The love of God that dwells within us, if indeed it does dwell within us, must reflect the humility of God, expressed in a poverty of spirit that only truly loves when there is nothing to gain in return for that love. Yet that love that offers us nothing in return, is the love that guides, nurtures us, and ultimately leads us toward eternal life with Christ, who lives and reigns with God the Father and the Holy Spirit –one God forever and ever.

Let us pray that our current world, plagued by wars, viruses, other calamities and protective self-closure, may experience once again its rebirth and be filled with the compassionate love of God.

On behalf of our Parish staff, PPC and PFC, I would like to wish you ALL a truly blessed 2023, a year in which we can again enjoy the blessings of authentically encountering each other.



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.

PARISH CALENDAR

PARISH INFORMATION

Sunday 25th December <i>The Nativity of the Lord</i>	7.30am Christmas Day Mass 9.30am Christmas Day Mass Live Streaming Link https://youtu.be/Agfuy2MQXqY
Monday 26th December <i>St Stephen</i>	No Mass. Office is closed
Tuesday 27th December <i>St John</i>	9.15am Mass. Office is closed
Wednesday 28th December <i>The Holy Innocents</i>	9.15am Mass followed by Rosary. Office is closed
Thursday 29th December	9.15am Mass. Office is closed
Friday 30th December <i>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</i>	9.15am Mass. Office is closed
Saturday 31st December	9.15am Mass 4.30pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass Live Streaming Mass Link https://youtu.be/2xhLGsuBXZU
Sunday 1st January <i>Mary, The Holy Mother of God</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass
Monday 2nd January <i>Sts Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen</i>	No Mass. Office is closed Epiphany Pilgrimage Fun Day P/C
Tuesday 3rd January	9.15am Mass
Wednesday 4th January	9.15am Mass
Thursday 5th January	9.15am Mass
Friday 6th January	9.15am Mass
Saturday 7th January	9.15am Mass 4.30pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass Live Streaming Link https://youtu.be/HsUMIGq4JYY
Sunday 8th January <i>The Epiphany of the Lord</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass

Parish Priest: Fr Joseph Lam
E-mail: joseph.lam@parracatholic.org

Secretary: Juliana Khnouf
E-mail: secretary@stfinbars.org.au

Admin: Peter McMahon
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Office Hours: 10am – 1.00pm
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

ETIPHANY 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

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

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. Please contact Janette Ankers, President, on 0438 672 040 or email secretarysfnc@gmail.com

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.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL.



110th Anniversary



Timeout Tuesday Christmas Lunch



All Hollows party



Passover Dinner



Father Andrew's visit



Formal Dinner Party



2022 RCIA Candidates



Patrick Watson's Papal Blessing



2022 Advent Retreat



Men's Breakfast



Volunteers Christmas Dinner



Hall decorating for Christmas Party

New Seat Covers: a special thank you to Lina Wiecek, Joseph Khnouf and Kathleen Elliott from Gem-Ell Sewing for their generous donations.



Bowlers Christmas Lunch

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:

Violet Clements, Kathleen Macbeth, Colleen Pedersen, Joy Serne, Allen Klein, Lucy Barrett, Alice Quinn, John Simon, Colin Sell, Arthur Adamson, Richard Cranbrook, Phil O'Danaghoe, Kathleen Thomas, Harriet Walsh, Patrick Walsh, Dorothy Palise, Robyn Kopp, Alfred Groves, Valma Adamson, Joan Kelly, Donald Cramer, Robert Clark, Helen Morgan and Jonathan Murray.

LITURGICAL ROSTER FOR 31ST DECEMBER & 1ST JANUARY 2023

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 and Luc Nilsson		Xavier Rajnoch & Patrick Sukkar
Warden	Vince Dobson	Volunteer Please	Justin Dowling
1 st Reading	Beth Culliver	John De Mattia	Pearse Cremin
2 nd Reading	Eileen Jones	John Killeen	Amanda Moore
Intercession	Greg Rowe	Kevin Flynn	Justin Dowling
IT Operators	Eleanor Thompson	Joseph Wilson	Patrick Watson
Gifts	Noreen Taylor & Janice Smith	Maria Heinzl & Stanis Drobiszewski	Volunteers Please
Communion	Volunteer Please	John Killeen	Mila Svehla
Cashiers	Joe Grange		
Piety Stall	Closed		
Church Care	Veronica Clune, Fran Isaksen, Lynne Atkinson, Elizabeth Brazier & Gabrielle Lynch		
Hospitality	Lina Wiecek, Vicky Ang & Karen Sukkar		

LITURGICAL ROSTER FOR 7TH & 8TH JANUARY 2023

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	Richard Cutler
2 nd Reading	Dawn Willis	Geraldine Agahari	Carmel Higgins
Intercession	Volunteers Please	Elizabeth Konza	Joanne Stubbs
IT Operators	Anne Hobbs	Kylie Mills	Joanne Stubbs
Gifts	Thea & Brian Robertson	Volunteers Please	Dorothea Walsh
Communion	Brian Robertson	Kath Tierney	Gerard Egan
Cashiers	Bernadette Shalala & Erika McNay		
Piety Stall	Closed		
Hospitality	Anne King, Daren & Liz Dukes, Lynne Atkinson.		