

The Barra

Weekly Newsletter of St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook
2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
14th & 15th January 2023

Isaiah 49:3, 5-6; Psalm 39; 1 Corinthians 1:1-3; John 1:29-34

FR JOE'S MUSINGS

The Legacy of Pope Benedict (1927-2023):

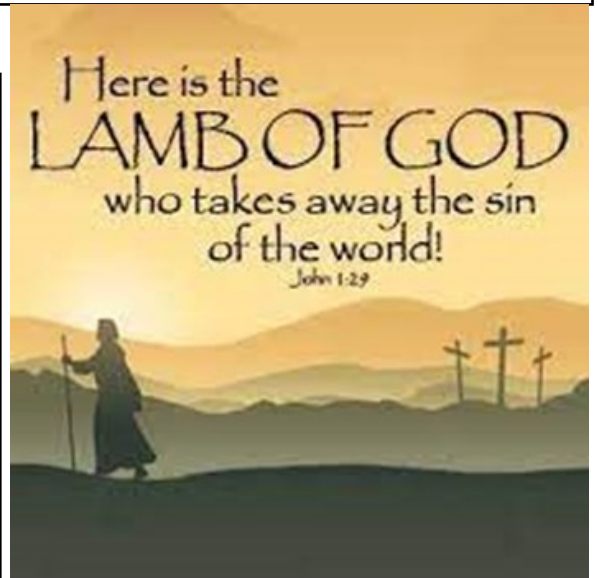
The unexpected way Pope Benedict helped me learn to pray with all creation. By Damian Costello

Before Pope Francis, Pope Benedict was called "the Green Pope."

This may be mostly due to how he moved the needle forward in recognizing environmental issues as part of the church's moral teaching, but for me, Benedict's greenest legacy has liturgical roots. During Benedict's tenure, the Vatican declared pollution among the "social sins" of the world and in 2008 installed 2,700 solar panels on the roof of the Paul VI auditorium. The late pope's World Day of Peace address on January 1, 2010, could have been written on a placard at a climate emergency rally: "If You Want to Cultivate Peace, Protect Creation."

This image of Benedict as an advocate for ecological justice may be difficult for some of us to wrap our heads around, given many of his "traditional" concerns, such as the integrity of the liturgy. Yet Benedict's concern for the liturgy and his concern for the earth flowed from the same source: God's creative work and our response to it. How creation works and how God acts through it is a crucial lens for how we worship, something Benedict emphasized repeatedly in The Spirit of the Liturgy. The idea that how we worship should match how we treat the earth drove his environmental work. Benedict's most straightforward point is that liturgies traditionally face to the east — often referred to as *ad orientem* (though this term is today most commonly heard in the context of the Latin Mass/Novus Ordo debate: whether the priest should face the tabernacle/crucifix or the people, versus populum). Facing toward the east during liturgy is a nature-based shift that the early church made in its Jewish inheritance. Along with the Temple in Jerusalem, the synagogue was the most important source for the traditional church building. The synagogue faced the direction of Jerusalem, so the congregation could pray facing the Temple. Christianity maintained a directional orientation but changed the focus to the rising sun, which symbolized the resurrection and is sometimes thought to be the direction from where Christ will return. "Praying toward the east means going to meet the coming Christ" and "goes back to the earliest times and was always regarded as an essential characteristic of Christian liturgy (and indeed of private prayer)," Benedict said. "The cosmic symbol of the rising sun expresses the universality of God above all particular places and yet maintains the concreteness of divine revelation. Our praying is thus inserted into the procession of the nations to God" and affects entry into "the New Heaven and the New Earth," he continued.

Please continue reading on 2nd page



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

WE 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 15th January <i>2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A</i></p>	<p>7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass 1.30pm Bridge Club P/C</p>
<p>Monday 16th January</p>	<p>No Mass. Office is closed 10.00am Mary Nelson Funeral Mass</p>
<p>Tuesday 17th January <i>St Anthony</i></p>	<p>9.15am Mass 7.30pm Parish Finance Meeting M/R</p>
<p>Wednesday 18th January</p>	<p>9.15am Mass following by Rosary 7.00pm Bridge Club P/C</p>
<p>Thursday 19th January</p>	<p>9.15am Mass 1.00pm Bridge Club P/C</p>
<p>Friday 20th January</p>	<p>9.15am Mass 1.00pm Bowlers</p>
<p>Saturday 21st January <i>St Agnes</i></p>	<p>9.15am Mass 4.30pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass Live Streaming Link https://youtu.be/7vl6JiDzd-Y</p>
<p>Sunday 22nd January <i>3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A</i></p>	<p>7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass</p>

HOLY SPIRIT PILGRIMAGE TO HOLY LAND AND/OR ITALY (28th August - 19th September, 2023):

Caesarea Maritime, Haifa; Mt Carmel; Nazareth Village; Basilica of Annunciation; Masada, Mount of Beatitudes, Tabgha, Mensa Christi, Capernaum, Sea Of Galilee, River Jordan(Yardenit); Cana of Galilee, Local Winery, Mt Tabor, Mt of Temptation, Caesarea Philppi; Mt Olives, Pater Noster, Chapel of Ascension, Garden of Gethsemane, Blessed Virgin Mary's Tomb, Mount Zion, Bethany & Bethphage; Old City, Wailing Wall, Pool of Bethesda, Antonia Fortress, Via Dolorosa, Mount Calvary, Cenacle, St Peter in Gallicantu; Basilica of Nativity, Shepherds' Field, Ein Karem; Turin, Milan, Verona, Padua, Venice, Florence, Assisi, Loretto, Lanciano, Manoppelo, Rome.

CONTACT-US-ASAP for details:

FrEmmanueltv

(SpiritualDirector): fremmanueltv@gmail.com; holySPIritp@gmail.com; 0417999553, 0893413079; Coordinators: Dax: 0420643949; and Didith: 0473246029.

Continued from page 1

As a student of Indigenous traditions, I've seen how many ceremonies and cultural practices are structured around praying east. In the Navajo context, doors of hogans (traditional dwellings) face east to receive rays of the rising sun. Morning prayers must be said facing them.

Servant of God Nicholas Black Elk explains in *The Sacred Pipe* why this is also true in a Lakota context, saying, "The sweat lodge is always constructed with its door to the east, for it is from this direction that the light of wisdom comes."

Jesuit Fr. Tony Lusvardi, who teaches sacramental theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, taught on the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota 2011-14 and spends his summers working at St. Isaac Jogues, the Lakota parish in Rapid City, South Dakota, said he has "noticed certain resonances between Lakota spirituality and a more traditional form of worship." He recounted one of his favourite moments on Rosebud: "I was substitute teaching for a third-grade class; when I began with a prayer, the third graders asked me, 'Can we pray facing east?' I thought, 'You're the most adorable little Ratzingerians I've ever met!'"

We could just as easily say Benedict is adorably Lakotan. Indigenous ceremony and ceremonial space are cosmic in scope. "We are really making the universe in a likeness," Black Elk wrote in *The Sacred Pipe*, describing the Sun Dance arbor, which is also open to the east.

Benedict highlights the commonality between the cosmic scope of Indigenous traditions — what he calls "nature religions" — and Christian liturgy. The entire universe is the setting for and a participant in God's covenant, which the liturgy enacts. In this he favourably draws on the work of the late Jesuit Fr. Pierre Teilhard de Chardin and affirms that "the goal of worship and the goal of creation as a whole are one and the same — divinization, a world of freedom and love," of "God all in all (1 Corinthians 15:28)." Often details and rubrics seem to lose the forest for the trees. But being around Indigenous ceremony helped me to grow into Benedict's holism, what he hoped to recover in our fractured context and what Black Elk said in describing the ritual minutiae of the Sun Dance: "There is a significance for everything." Done rightly, liturgy says we are not the only agents that matter in a deistic clock but part of a spiritually alive universe. For Benedict, facing the east will help recover "praying with all of creation," a theme echoed in Black Elk's Thanksgiving prayer: "The nations of living things the world over — and we the two-legged, along with the children and smaller ones with them — come to you today to express thanks."

Second part of three articles, which will continue in the next weekend bulletin.

New Rosters:

Have been sent out this week. We are still in need for more volunteers, if you can help in any way please contact the parish office on 47426958 or email secretary@stfinbars.org.au. Thank you



Congratulations - Fr Jolly Chacko

The mild mannered and soft-spoken parish priest will be celebrating the 25th year anniversary of his ordination on 22nd January.

The son of a farmer and a teacher and one of seven children, he entered the La Salette seminary in India at the age of 23 and was ordained on the 22nd of January 1998 at Silang, Cavite, Philippines.

To commemorate this special event, we will be having a small celebration on Sunday, 22nd January at St John 23rd church after the 10:30am Mass.

FREE PREMIER'S GALA CONCERT

Aware Super Theatre, ICC Sydney, Darling Harbour

February 2, 2023 at 2.45pm

We have 18 tickets for this show.

If you wish to attend please write your name & phone No. on the sheet in the Narthex

LAWN MOWING CLUB—VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The parish is in urgent need for Lawn Mowing volunteers to help with Group 1. You will be rostered on every 6 weeks. If you can help please contact the parish office on 47426958.

Thank you for all your help and support.

New Year's Dash: Face-to-Face Safeguarding Training Opportunities to Kick Off the New Year!

Have you had a chance to complete your Safeguarding Training yet?

April 2023 will mark the first two years of our Mandatory Safeguarding Training Program. This year over 700 people across the Diocese have completed their training in face-to-face sessions. For those who are yet to complete their initial Mandatory Safeguarding Modules, we are offering a 'New Year's Dash' Package of Training Opportunities in readiness for ministry in 2023. **The 1st session will be on Tuesday the 7th of February starting at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall.** You can register for these by emailing: secretary@stfinbars.org.au. Thank you all for your support and commitment to making Parishes safe for children and adults at risk. I have had a wonderful year meeting many of you from parishes around the Diocese.

Maria Kervin (Community Engagement and Education Officer,
maria.kervin@parracatholic.org)

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

Phone: 02 47315899

www.batemanbattersby.com.au

Enquiries@batemanbattersby.com.au

BEAUTIFUL
SIMPLE
FAREWELLS

4735 6900 gracefunerals.com.au

GRACE FUNERALS

Formerly Lady of Grace Funerals

PENRITH | BLUE MOUNTAINS | WESTERN SYDNEY



Turner Freeman

Lawyers Est. 1952

Turner Freeman Lawyers have been providing members of the community with outstanding legal services since 1952 in the following areas:

- Personal injury claims |
- Wills & estate planning | Property law |
- Deceased estates & will disputes

Suite 4, 311 High Street Penrith NSW 2750

4729 5200

www.turnerfreeman.com.au

Gerard.Morson@turnerfreeman.com.au



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

Pope Benedict 16th, Cardinal George Pell, Matthew Tuckleman, George Hauswirth, Leigh Cuneen & Steve Donoghue (Patrick Watson's friends), Mary Nelson, Barry Wylie, Peter Friel, 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 & Michael 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:

Maureen Ingram, Catherine Hagen, John Castor, Daniel O'Keefe, Marie Boyle, James Barrett, Thelma Johnstone, Giuseppe Nardi, Angela McGregor, Kathleen McFadden, Bruce Oxford, Philip Mason and John Castor.

ROSTER FOR 21ST & 22ND JANUARY 2023

Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	Ahyiesha D'Souza	Peter McMahon	Stephen Brown
Senior Server	Ahyiesha D'Souza	Peter McMahon	Stephen Brown
Junior Server	Harrison Bohan		Benjamin Grus & Abigail Stanford
Warden	Huia Kingi	Volunteer Please	Gary Clune
1 st Reading	Eileen Jones	Kevin Lloyd	Cecelia Zammit
2 nd Reading	Philomena Watkins	Andrew Teece	Michelle Wilson
Intercession	Katy Ferris	Carl Moll	Yvonne Scanlan
I.T Operators	Eleanor Thompson	Robyn Flynn	Kylie Mills
Musician	No Music	During Mass	In January
Presentation of the Gifts	Steve & Heather Lee	Rivas Family	The Young Family
Minister of Communion	Lorraine Brown	Brian Grech	Todd Stanford
Cashier	Robyn Flynn		
Children's Liturgy	School Holidays		
Piety Stall at 9.30am Mass	Not available during January		
Church Care	Volunteers Please		
Hospitality	Kerry & Peter Herborn, Marie Nassif		

Ballimino's
CAFE & PIZZERIA
EST. 2019

BREAKFAST | LUNCH | DINNER
OPEN 7 DAYS - 9AM TILL LATE - FULLY LICENSED

SHOP 2/5 ROSS STREET, GLENBROOK NSW 2773 | (02) 4739 6582

We value cost and care as much as you do

BLUE MOUNTAINS FUNERALS

KATOOMBA | SPRINGWOOD | EMU PLAINS
4751 6166 | bluemountainsfunerals.com.au