



# The Barra

Weekly Newsletter of St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook  
**3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A**  
21st & 22nd January 2023

**Isaiah 8:23-9:3; Psalm 26; 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17; Matthew 4:12-23**

## FR JOE'S MUSINGS

### What has the Year of the CAT to do with Aboriginal Sunday?

To us Westerners, Chinese New Year is often seen as the same everywhere, in any Asian country with Lunar Calendar, and to be honest it is not completely wrong! The general atmosphere is similar no matter if you celebrate it in China, Korea, Taiwan, Singapore or Vietnam. While there are a lot of commonalities, there is a difference. On the first day, Vietnamese usually visit their parents on the husband's side; on the second day they visit their parents on the wife's side; and lastly, they spend their third day of Tet visiting their teachers. Instead of the Chinese Year of the Rabbit, Vietnam is celebrating the Year of the CAT on 22/1. For this occasion, I was able to acquire a traditional Vietnamese Hoa Mai New Year (called also **Tet** in Vietnamese), now in our church. Here is the explanation of its meaning: The Yellow Hoa Mai blossom is considered the quintessential symbol of spring. In southern Vietnam, Hoa Mai are some of the first plants to flower. As a result, they are seen as the embodiment of Tet.

But that's only half the story. Each part of Hoa Mai also carries meaning. The individual petals, for instance, stand for one of five blessings: longevity, wealth, peace, health and love of virtues. And the colour yellow represents happiness, prosperity and good luck. The *red* (colour of luck) envelopes are filled with money - and symbolize good wishes and luck for the new year ahead. Red firecrackers are to be set off in order to scare away evil spirits and to signal the start of a safe and prosperous new year.

So, I wish you all a good, healthy and prosperous New Year!

The Vietnamese New Year also coincides with Aboriginal Sunday. On January 26, 1938, Aboriginal leaders including William Cooper invited Australian churches to set aside the Sunday to act in solidarity with Aboriginal peoples and the injustices being experienced. In the Catholic church however, the official Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islanders Sunday is scheduled every year on the first Sunday of July, followed by NAIDOC which celebrates the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Lately, I have read a magnificent book "People of the River. Lost worlds of early Australia" (published in 2020) by Prof. Grace Karskens who uncovers the everyday lives of ordinary people

## 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

## PARISH FINANCES

The Parish Finance Committee met during the week to review the parish financial situation and to advise Fr Joe on the temporal needs of the parish.

You will be very pleased to learn that the parish will reach the state of being debt free within the next few months. You are to be congratulated on keeping up your regular financial contributions, as this is what has enabled the parish to be in a position to fully pay off the debt.

There is always some less welcome news, and it is that we have been advised our insurance premiums will likely rise by about 30% this year. Your Committee will do all it can to minimise this rise.

Peter McMahon (PFC Secretary)

### **WE WELCOME**

*all visitors to our church today and extend our greetings to you. If you wish to join St Finbar's Parish, please speak to one of our Wardens so we can give you our Parish Welcome Pack. 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.*

### **WE ACKNOWLEDGE**

# PARISH CALENDAR

<b>Sunday 22nd January</b> <i>3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A</i>	<b>7.30am Mass</b> <b>9.30am Mass</b>
<b>Monday 23rd January</b>	<b>No Mass. Office is closed</b>
<b>Tuesday 24th January</b> <i>St Francis de Sales</i>	<b>9.15am Mass</b>
<b>Wednesday 25th January</b> <i>The Conversion of St Paul</i>	<b>9.15am Mass followed by Rosary</b> 7pm Bridge
<b>Thursday 26th January</b> <i>Australia Day</i>	<b>9.15am Australia Day Mass</b>
<b>Friday 27th January</b>	<b>9.15am Mass</b> 1.00pm Bowlers
<b>Saturday 28th January</b> <i>St Thomas Aquinas</i>	<b>9.15am Mass</b> <b>4.30pm Confessions</b> <b>5.30pm Vigil Mass</b>
<b>Sunday 29th January</b> <i>4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A</i>	<b>7.30am Mass</b> <b>9.30am Mass</b> Live Streaming Link <a href="https://youtu.be/dltvwv4kgTE">https://youtu.be/dltvwv4kgTE</a>

# FR JOE'S MUSINGS CONTINUED

(continued from p1)  
 on *Dyarubbin*, the Hawkesbury-Nepean River, in the early colony, both Aboriginal and British. By reading *People of the River*, people will learn why this forgotten farming society was so pivotal to the early Sydney colony, and why it remains important and relevant today. Karskens finds a highly engaging way to bring Dyarubbin – the river and its Aboriginal and immigrant communities – alive. She draws on past scholarship and meticulous new research, merging environmental, archaeological, historical, linguistic and Aboriginal perspectives. This allows her to switch effectively between the large scale and personal stories, which mean we never lose sight of the people on the ground.

As you know the Prime Minister Anthony Albanese aims for a referendum that envisages a change of the *Constitution* to constitutionally establish an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander **Voice**. I am not a politician and, as a permanent resident in Australia (Germany does not allow DUAL citizenship), I am not permitted to act politically. As Australians, however, the referendum will have an impact on all of you since it is related to the Australian Constitution. Hence, may I invite you to engage in this process with a respectful, informed and discerning spirit for the benefit and prosperity of all Australians.  
 Fr Joe.

**CARDINAL PELL'S FUNERAL** The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney has announced a Pontifical Requiem Mass for Cardinal George Pell AC will be held at St Mary's Cathedral on Thursday 2 February at 11am. Cardinal Pell passed away on 10 January in Rome. He was 81. Cardinal Pell's successor as Archbishop of Sydney, Most Rev. Anthony Fisher OP will be the Principal Celebrant at the Requiem Mass, following which the Cardinal will be buried privately in the St Mary's Cathedral crypt. Cathedral Dean, Father Don Richardson said thousands of mourners are expected to attend the Mass. "Cardinal Pell left a remarkable legacy for the Catholic Church in Australia, and this will undoubtedly be one of the most significant funerals ever held at the Cathedral", he said.

"Cardinal Pell was also known and highly respected by many overseas due to his numerous roles in the Vatican over many decades. The Mass will be livestreamed on the St Mary's Cathedral YouTube Channel to allow overseas mourners to participate in the ceremony. Screens will be erected in the St Mary's Cathedral forecourt to accommodate the large numbers of mourners expected to attend and pay their respects to the deceased cardinal who served as Archbishop of Sydney from 2001-2014.

For mourners unable to attend the Funeral Mass on the 2nd February, there will be a Masses for the late Cardinal at St Mary's Cathedral on Wednesday 1 February at 1:10pm and 8pm. There will also be Evening Prayer on Wednesday 1 February at 5:30pm.

Cardinal Pell will lie in state at St Mary's Cathedral from 9:30am on Wednesday 1 February.

## HOLY SPIRIT PILGRIMAGE TO HOLY LAND AND/OR ITALY

**28th August - 19th September, 2023**

(Bookings close 20th March)

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:**

**FrEmmanuel-tv (SpiritualDirector):**

[fremmanueltv@gmail.com](mailto:fremmanueltv@gmail.com);

[holyspiritp@gmail.com](mailto:holyspiritp@gmail.com);

# ST. FINBAR'S PARISH NEWS

## COMING EVENTS AT ST FINBARS

While January has been a period of rest for all our active ministries and groups, many activities will recommence in the near future. The following are some of these activities:

- Special Australia Day Mass at 9:15am in our parish church
- Choirs will resume singing at Sunday Masses
- Playgroup and Adult Education programs both commence on 1st February
- Youth Group Mass and meeting on 5th February
- Timeout Tuesday and Safeguarding Training both start on 7th February
- Pastoral Care and Liturgy Committee both meet on 8th February
- Bill West presents Riddles of the Shroud on 21st February
- Ash Wednesday is on 22nd February

## LENTEN GROUPS

Lent is early this year and so is Ash Wednesday—it is on 22nd February.

The parish is organising some Lenten Groups to meet once a week during Lent, and needs to get an idea of numbers so sufficient books can be ordered. If you would like to be part of one of the groups please add your name to the list which will be in the Narthex of the Church next weekend 28/29 January.

## 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 number on the sheet in the Narthex

## Sr Nathalie Becquart Sydney Public Forum and Lecture: 3 February

Sr Nathalie Becquart XMCI, Vatican's Undersecretary for Synod of Bishops, is coming to Australia for a whirlwind tour in February 2023. Sr Nathalie will be in Sydney on Friday 3 February, presenting at a public forum at 4pm and a public lecture at 7pm, both held at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta.

Places are limited, so please register via <https://parracatholic.org/srnathalie/>.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:maria.kervin@parracatholic.org))

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**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:**

Jacqui Visser's Sister-in-law, 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, Catherine Kirk (Cameron), Harrison Maddison Farrugia, 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:**

Phillip Coburn, Patrick Egan, Lachlan Turnbull, Margaret Lane, Andrew Patterson, John Brown, Pat Psaila, Rosanna Oloughlin, Michael O'Connor and Michael McGirr.

**ALSO REMEMBER THOSE WHO HAVE NO ONE TO PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THEIR SOUL**

**ROSTER FOR 28TH & 29TH JANUARY 2023**

Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	Vince Dobson	Carl Moll	Lukas Rajnoch
Senior Server	Vince Dobson	Carl Moll	Lukas Rajnoch
Junior Server	Volunteers Please	Volunteers Please	Volunteers Please
Warden	Allan Jones	Volunteer Please	Patricia Murnane
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Eileen Jones	John Killeen	Pearse Cremin
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Philomena Watkins	Margaret Dickson	Cecelia Zammit
Intercession	Katy Ferris	Elizabeth Konza	Justin Dowling
I.T Operators	Henry Hanko	Patrick Watson	Robyn Flynn
Musician	<b>No music</b>	<b>during Mass</b>	<b>in January</b>
Presentation of the Gifts	<b>Parishioners are</b>	<b>invited to offer to</b>	<b>bring up the gifts.</b>
Minister of Communion	Thea Robertson	Margaret Dickson	Yvonne Scanlan
Cashier	Joe Grange		
Children's Liturgy	<b>Not available during January</b>		
Piety Stall at 9.30am Mass	<b>Not available during January</b>		
Church Care	Robyn Flynn, Jan de Bie, Jessica Doherty & Wendy Bohan		
Hospitality	Julie Fehon, Anne Hobbs, Martin & Lyndel Rogers		

**Ballimino's**  
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