



The Barra

Weekly Newsletter of St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook
5th Sunday in Ordinary Time—Year A
4th & 5th February 2023

Isaiah 58:7-10; Ps 111; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5; Matthew 5:13-16

FR JOE'S MUSINGS

Sunday of the Word of God

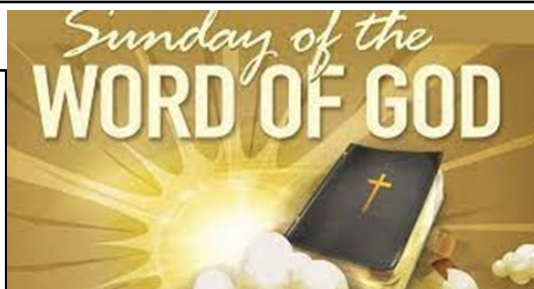
For many decades, the Catholic Church in Australia has taken part in National Bible Sunday organised on the third Sunday in July by the Bible Society Australia. It is good that this is an ecumenical event since all Christian Churches hold the Scriptures in common. It is always listed among the special commemorations in the official *Ordo*, but I suspect in recent times it has been largely ignored in many Catholic parishes.

Towards the end of 2019, Pope Francis instituted a Sunday of the Word of God. This was put down for the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time. He chose this date because it is close to when the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is celebrated in the northern hemisphere. This timing is quite impractical for Australia. The dates get mixed up with the final weeks of the summer holidays, the return to school and the celebration of Australia Day. This is why, many years ago, we moved the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity to the time between Ascension and Pentecost, which is generally in May. This raised the question of our date for the Sunday of the Word of God. It cannot easily be near to the Christian unity week because all the Sundays are taken up with Easter, Pentecost and the solemnities which follow. Should it coincide with National Bible Sunday in July? The Australian bishops have decided to keep it close to Pope Francis' Day, so it will be the first Sunday in February. This means we can avail ourselves of any resources which the Holy See may produce.

Pope Francis invites us never to take God's Word for granted, "but instead to let ourselves be nourished by it, in order to acknowledge and live fully our relationship with Him and with our brothers and sisters."

When was the last time that you opened the Bible?

I am reading the Bible every day, not because I am a priest; I am reading it for various reasons: 1) Knowledge of God gained through Scripture is not identical with grace, but 2 Peter 1:2 says it is a *means* of grace. If we want to be made peaceful and powerful through divine grace, Peter says it happens "in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord." That knowledge is found in one place: Scripture; 2) Jesus prayed, "sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth". (John 17:17) Sanctification is the process of becoming holy — that is becoming more like Christ and like God, who is perfectly holy. Hebrews 12:14 says, "Strive . . . for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord." We don't become perfect in this life, but we do become holy. God sanctifies his people. And Jesus prays to his Father, "Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth." It couldn't be more plain, or more important; 3) Scripture gives joy. You received the word in much affliction, but inspired with the joy of the Holy Spirit. (1 Thessalonians 1:6) Life without joy is unbearable. The Christian life is a life of many afflictions. But in them all God sustains joy, and he does it by the Scriptures.



PARISH INFORMATION

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

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

Admin: Peter McMahan
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 RITE OF WELCOME

The Parish joyfully welcomes **Audrey Therese Lennon and Eric Robert Sakey** into our Faith Community. They are going to be Baptised at our Parish next weekend.

May God bless them both.



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 5th February <i>5th Sunday in Ordinary</i> <i>Time Year A</i></p>	<p>7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass 6.00pm Youth Mass</p> <p>Live Streaming Link https://youtube.com/live/ATHj-2B2e3D?feature=share</p> <p>7.00pm Senior Youth Group P/C</p>
<p>Monday 6th February <i>St Paul Miki and Companions</i></p>	<p>No Mass. Office is closed</p> <p>5.00pm SVDP Meeting M/R 6.30pm Finnie's Choir Practice</p>
<p>Tuesday 7th February</p>	<p>9.15am Mass</p> <p>10.00am Timeout Tuesday P/C 5.30pm Cantabile Choir Practice 7.30pm Safeguarding Module I Session P/C</p>
<p>Wednesday 8th February</p>	<p>9.15am Mass followed by Rosary</p> <p>9.30am Playgroup P/C 10.30am Pastoral Care Meeting M/R 7.00pm Bridge Club P/C</p>
<p>Thursday 9th February</p>	<p>9.15am Mass</p> <p>1.30pm Bridge Club P/C</p>
<p>Friday 10th February <i>St Scholastica</i></p>	<p>9.15am Mass</p> <p>1.00pm Bowlers P/C</p>
<p>Saturday 11th February</p>	<p>9.15am Mass</p> <p>11.30am Te Deum's Choir Practice 4.30pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass</p>
<p>Sunday 12th February <i>6th Sunday in Ordinary</i> <i>Time Year A</i></p>	<p>7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass 10.45am Baptisms</p>

Positions Vacant:

- ✦ Parish Office Administration Assistant – St Thomas Aquinas Parish, Springwood.
- ✦ Policy Coordinator – Diocese of Parramatta – **Applications close 10pm Monday 20 February**
- ✦ People and Culture Adviser – Diocese of Parramatta – **Applications close 10pm Monday 20 February**

More details at: parracatholic.org/employment

Annual Legal Red Mass: 6 February

Members of the judiciary and legal community, public service officials, law students and their families are cordially invited to the annual Legal Red Mass on Monday 6 February 2023 at St Patrick's Cathedral from 7.30pm. The Red Mass is an opportunity to reaffirm a commitment to justice and faith for the new year. For catering purposes, please confirm your attendance by 3 February via enquiry@stpatscathedral.com.au or (02) 8839 8400.

Diocesan World Day of the Sick Mass: 11 February

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 hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org

MET Lenten Music Formation Session: 13 February

Musicians and liturgy planners are invited to attend an evening exploring music for Lent on Monday 13 February from 7pm to 8.30pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. The session will be presented by Eric Grella, Music Formation Facilitator, MET, and Assistant Music Director at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. To RSVP, please contact hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org

Peace, Justice & Ecology Sharing: 15 February

Peace, Justice and Ecology (PJE) Sharings are quarterly online gatherings for everyone who is interested in Social Justice, Care for Creation or Global Peace. You are invited to join the conversation, this time with a focus on Caritas Project Compassion 2023 on Wednesday 15 February from 6:30pm to 8pm. To receive a Zoom link, please RSVP via email: met@parracatholic.org

Memorial Mass of St Josephine Bakhita: 19 February

You are invited to the Memorial Mass of St Josephine Bakhita, Patron Saint of South Sudan and Sudan, and victims of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking on Sunday 19 February at 2pm at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown. We hope you will join us to commemorate the victims of modern slavery and human trafficking in Australia and worldwide and look forward to celebrating the legacy of St Josephine Bakhita with you.



ST. FINBAR'S PARISH NEWS

SACRAMENTS INFORMATION EVENING.

An Information Night for the parents of children who wish to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Eucharist in 2023 will be held at the Parish Hall on Monday the 6th of March at 7.30pm. Dates and requirements for participation in each of the Sacramental journeys will be discussed and distributed at this meeting. Children need not attend.

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 this weekend 4/5 February. This is your last opportunity to join.

WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK

Since 2010, the United Nations has declared 1-7 February as World Interfaith Harmony Week to promote harmony between all people regardless of their faith.

Mutual understanding and interreligious dialogue is necessary for a culture of peace.

You are invited to gather at Max Webber Library Function Centre in Blacktown on Tuesday, 7 February, 11.30am-1pm to share what harmony means for our different faith traditions - a Western Sydney Women's IntHERfaith Initiative. See flyer on the noticeboard.

CATHOLIC HEALTHCARE

Do you know anyone who wants to work in a caring industry? Catholic Healthcare has positions available at Bodington and in Home Care for the Mountains and Nepean region. We have a new to Industry program commencing soon.



- + No qualifications necessary.
- + Earn while you learn and gain a Certificate III in Individual Support.
- + Work in a supported and compassionate environment.
- + Minimum 15 hours per week required.
- + Own transport required

Call Michael 0403 130 799 and Jimita's 0478 956 587 for more information about the new to industry program or other jobs available.

Children's Guardian Act 2019 & the Child Safe Standards

From 1 February 2023, the Children's Guardian now has power in law to take action to ensure organisations comply with the Child Safe Standards. From: <https://ocg.nsw.gov.au/child-safe-scheme/implementing-child-safe-standards/our-approach-compliance-and-enforcement>

What can each one of us do to actively demonstrate how the 10 Child Safe Standards play a very important role in ensuring children in our Parish are cared for and safe in our community?

Our 6 points of Safeguarding Training demonstrates that each person in parish ministry is compliant in Standard 7. Our training also informs all those in parish life of their role and responsibility in ensuring each of the other Standards can be demonstrated as well.

Each Parish Ministry is very important to our faith and local community. Let us all show this by our collective commitment to this training. If you are still to finalise your Safeguarding Training, please take advantage of the upcoming face to face opportunities around the Diocese. Next week the 'New Year's Dash Training' begins at: Glenbrook, Rooty Hill, Springwood and Quakers Hill. Check with your Parish Office for dates and time. You are welcome to register for any of these training sessions by contacting: safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org. If you would like to complete the training independently on our online training platform you can start these modules at any time and complete them at your own pace. Sign up onto the platform by clicking on this link: <https://learning.safeguarding.org.au>. If you have any questions about the Safeguarding Training, please email Maria Kervin, Community Engagement and Education Officer at: maria.kervin@parracatholic.org.

Let's get this done and show our Parishes are committed to building safe communities!

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:

Christopher Auckett, Jacqui Visser's Sister-in-law, Matthew Tuckleman, George Hauswirth, Mary Nelson, Barry Wylie, Peter Friel, Emma Griffin, Louis Donato (Maire Griffin relatives) and John Mullane.

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, 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:

Richard Smith, Robert Sisson and Mark Devlin.

LITURGICAL ROSTER FOR 11TH & 12TH FEBRUARY 2023

Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	Anaru Veitch	Peter McMahon	Garry Pursehouse
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	Dan Kensey
2nd Reading	Eileen Jones	Elizabeth Konza	Kristina Rajnoch
Intercession	Dawn Willis	John Isakson	Yvonne Scanlan
Music	Sam & Bernadette Phillips	N/A	Finnie's Group
IT Operators	Anne Hobbs	Joseph Wilson	Joanne Stubbs
Gifts	Allen & Eileen Jones	Volunteers Please	Dorothea Walsh
Communion	Thea Robertson	Jim Tierney	Gerard Egan
Cashiers	Joe Grange		
Children's Liturgy	Carolyn		
Piety Stall	Beth Culliver		
Church Care	Jeannine Ashbee, Deb Youngman, Leesa & Wayne Gillard		
Hospitality	Anne King, Lynn Atkinson, Daren & Liz Dukes		

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