



# The Barra

Weekly Newsletter of St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook  
6th Sunday in Ordinary Time—Year A  
11th & 12th February 2023

**Sirach 15:15-20; Ps 118; 1 Corinthians 2:6-10; Matthew 5:17-37**

## FR JOE'S MUSINGS

### *I am not coming to abolish, but to fulfill...*

When I was a student in the seminary, a fellow seminarian, who wasn't sure about a priestly life in celibacy, said to me that he hoped that one day the Pope would lift this obligation and allow priests to be married. It would make his choice easier, he sighed. Anyway, it does not seem that the priestly celibacy will be abandoned soon, even under the pontificate of Pope Francis.

This was the attitude of the a few in the community of Matthew. Some thought that Jesus was going to create a community free of obligation. Instead, Matthew puts emphasis on Jesus coming to complete and not to abolish the law. To hammer his point home, Matthew even went a step further by saying that the members of his community must surpass the Pharisees and Scribes in good works. If they say YES to Christ, then they can't just be a people "YES and NO" people, undecided in their commitment. Hence, the faith in Jesus Christ is a straightforward one because later on Matthew points to the nature of the Law of Christ: The heart of the Law was and is: "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind... and your neighbour as yourself" (Matthew 22:37-39).

Jesus wants listening hearts, courageous, generous, and discerning hearts like his. Are you ever called to be prophetic by rising above peer pressure and speaking the truth in your heart? End your prayer with the writer of the Psalms: "Make me know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation." (Psalm 25:4-5).

Our faith commitment must include the care of those who live in disadvantageous situations. In our country, we need to reach out to our First Nations sisters and brothers. The current situation in Alice Springs is a stark reminder that there are lots needing to be done. And we need to do so in Truth and Discernment, not just following politics. This is very important at a time when we are called to a referendum to give VOICE to our First Nations People. Perhaps, you might be interested in doing an online course called "NATSICC Cross Cultural Competency in a Catholic Context" organised by Catholic Religious Australia, the bulk organisation of all religious congregations in Australia.

Another problem in our community is the care for those who suffer domestic violence in various forms. I hope that the diocese will accept our offer of using our independent unit to provide for relief accommodation for those experiencing domestic violence.

Lastly, we also need to welcome those who are estranged from the Church and Faith that may not be their own making, but a result of the treatment they received from the Church communities. How can we listen to their concerns is the most important issue.

*Please continue reading on page 3*



Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy them, but to fulfill them

Matthew 5:17

## 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

## SUNDAY'S

### **BAPTISMS:**

The Parish joyfully announces the Baptism of **Audrey Therese Lennon and Eric Robert Sakey**

and warmly welcomes them into our Faith Community.

They will be Baptised after Mass this Sunday.



## 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><b>Sunday</b> 12th February</p> <p><i>6th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A</i></p>	<p><b>7.30am Mass</b></p> <p><b>9.30am Mass</b></p> <p><b>10.45am Baptisms</b></p>
<p><b>Monday</b> 13th February</p>	<p><b>No Mass. Office is closed</b></p>
<p><b>Tuesday</b> 14th February</p> <p><i>Sts Cyril &amp; Methodius</i></p>	<p><b>9.15am Mass</b></p> <p>5.30pm Cantabile Choir Practice</p> <p>7.00pm Parish Council Meeting M/R</p>
<p><b>Wednesday</b> 15th February</p>	<p><b>9.15am Mass followed by Rosary</b></p> <p>9.30am Playgroup P/C</p> <p>7.00pm Bridge Club P/C</p>
<p><b>Thursday</b> 16th February</p>	<p><b>9.15am Healing Mass followed by morning tea</b></p> <p>1.00pm SRE Meeting M/R</p> <p>1.30pm Bridge Club P/C</p> <p>7.30pm Liturgy Committee Meeting M/R</p>
<p><b>Friday</b> 17th February</p>	<p><b>9.15am Mass</b></p> <p>1.00pm Bowlers P/C</p>
<p><b>Saturday</b> 18th February</p>	<p><b>9.15am Mass</b></p> <p>11.30am Te Deum's Choir Practice</p> <p>4.30pm Confessions</p> <p><b>5.30pm Vigil Mass</b></p>
<p><b>Sunday</b> 19th February</p> <p><i>7th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A</i></p>	<p><b>7.30am Mass</b></p> <p><b>9.30am Mass</b></p> <p><b>11.00am Parish AGM Meeting</b></p> <p>1.30pm Bridge Club P/C</p> <p><b>6.00pm Youth Mass</b></p> <p>7.00pm Senior Youth Group P/C</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**
- Sacramental Coordinator – Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Kellyville – **Applications close Monday 20 February**

More details at: [parracatholic.org/employment](http://parracatholic.org/employment)  
**Ordination to the Presbyterate**

The Diocese of Parramatta wishes to congratulate Fr Adam Carlow, Fr Matthew Dimian and Fr Jack Elkazzi following their ordination to the priesthood on Thursday 2 February. Visit [catholicoutlook.org](http://catholicoutlook.org) in the coming week for an article and photographs from the ordination as well as a video introducing the new priests to the Diocese.

**Read up on Sr Nathalie Becquart's visit to Australia**

The Diocese of Parramatta has created a number of resources, including video, on the Australian visit of Sr Nathalie Becquart XMCJ, the most senior woman in the Vatican. Read about her public events across the country, including an interview with veteran journalist Geraldine Doogue, on the 'St Nathalie Becquart' hub on the *Catholic Outlook* website - [catholicoutlook.org](http://catholicoutlook.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](mailto:hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org)

**PENRITH CITY CHILDREN'S CHOIR**

Invites boys and girls aged 7 – 13 years to come to a **Singing Day** – the first of three projects for 2023. For a fun-filled afternoon of song join us on **Sunday 26 February** from 3-5pm at St Finbar's Church Hall. Contact the Administrator, Suzanne Armstrong by email [pccc@penrithcitychoir.com.au](mailto:pccc@penrithcitychoir.com.au) or phone 0450 091 367.

**DR. LAURIE WOODS**

You are invited to join Dr Laurie Woods, spiritual writer and Scripture scholar, for an interactive exploration of: Living the Spirituality of Matthew's Gospel in 2023. Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February, 9am-12.30pm at Our Lady of the Way Parish Hall, Emu Plains. RSVP 18 February to Jim Potts 0421 125 722

**PRAYERFUL REFLECTIVE BIBLE STUDY: MATTHEW'S GOSPEL WITHIN A COMMENTARY BY SCRIPTURE SCHOLAR, MICHAEL FALLON, MSC.**

ENQUIRY SESSION on TUESDAY 14 FEBRUARY (day & evening offered) Day and Evening GROUPS start the week beginning 27 FEBRUARY (does a day or an evening meeting suit you?) Enquiries Jim Potts 0421 125 722

**YOUTH NIGHT**  
ST. FINBAR'S PARISH, GLENBROOK



EVERY 1<sup>ST</sup> & 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH @ 6PM  
 MASS: 6PM SUPPER: 7PM  
 THE LOUNGE YOUTH GROUP: 7.30-8.30PM

## FR JOE'S MUSINGS—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

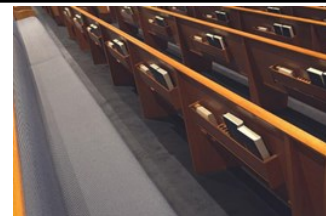
Within this context, it is important for us to make friends with our sisters and brothers of other Christian traditions. We are blessed to have such a great relationship with our Baptist and Uniting church friends.

Like last year, we will also have our Ecumenical Lenten Soup Sunday starting on 5<sup>th</sup> March after the Sunday's 9.30am Mass. I would welcome your generous contribution in the form of delicious soups. Let's make our parish once again a place of welcoming hospitality.

To another issue, may I invite you all to attend the upcoming Parish Annual General Meeting on Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup> of February after the 9.30am Mass. This meeting will provide you with updates on your parish finances, pastoral planning and priorities for 2023. It will be an opportunity for you to have your ideas be listened to.

*January is vacation time...February is welcome back party time.  
Our Church's pews were empty during January...and we really missed you!  
Let's have a party to welcome you back. So, join us on 26<sup>th</sup> February after the  
9.30am Sunday Mass for*

*BBQ, music, games, and LOTS OF FUN for old and young.*



## ECUMENICAL LENTEN SOUP SUNDAY

Our Ecumenical Lenten Soup Sunday has been a great success. It has created waves in our local area and beyond. It fosters our ecumenical ties and helps the disadvantaged in our community.

This year, the Ecumenical Lenten Soup Sunday kicks off on 5 March, here at St Finbar's, followed by our friends of the neighbouring Baptist church on 19/3 and will conclude on 2 April with our good friends at the Uniting church.

We would appreciate if you can support us and provide soups of various tastes. Please contact the parish office for further details. Your help on the day would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

*Fr Joe*

## 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

## PARISH QR CODE

The parish has now established its own QR code that can be used at any parish event where donations/moneys need to be paid, but the participant does not have cash..

Examples might be for the Men's Breakfast or the Sacramental Program.

So that I can keep track of what the donations are for, we need a simple protocol to be followed please:

- The parishioner running the event collects the QR folder from the parish office and enters the details of the event in the spreadsheet in the folder.
- The QR code is made available during the event for participants to donate/pay using their mobile phone camera
- The parishioner running the event is responsible for the safe return of both the QR code and the folder to the parish office.

Please let me know if you find the procedure needs to be modified.

*Peter McMahon*

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**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:**

Esme Kramhoft, 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), Joan and Hubert Periera (Marcia Periera's Sister & Brother).

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:**

Joan Whiting, Daphne Klein, Ben Gibson, John Nethery, Margaret Meere, Beth Fehon, Cedric McNamara and Louise Marquardt.

**LITURGICAL ROSTER FOR 18TH & 19TH FEBRUARY 2023**

Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	Vince Dobson	Carl Moll	Stuart Sheary
Senior Server	Vince Dobson	Carl Moll	Martin Rogers
Junior Servers	Volunteers Please		Zoe Wilson Dominic Sheary & Tim Kensey
Warden	Lorraine Brown	Volunteer Please	Frank Fitzpatrick
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Maire Griffin	John Killeen	Peter or Trish Hurley
2nd Reading	Gideon Goosen	Margaret Dickson	Gary Clune
Intercession	Margaret Moore	John De Mattia	Frank Fitzpatrick
Music	Cantabile	N/A	Volunteers Please
IT Operators	Henry Hanko	Elizabeth Konza	Thais Turner
Gifts	Thea & Brian Robertson	Kay Whitty	The Wilson Family
Communion	Pat Barrett	Helen Keogh	Irene Aligno
Cashiers	Robyn Flynn, Ann & Ray Keating		
Children's Liturgy	Christyna		
Piety Stall	Lee Jackson		
Church Care	Volunteers please		
Hospitality	Trish & Peter Hurley, Irene & Bert Aligno		
Lawn Mowing	Lukas Rajnoch, Andrew Howard, Stuart Sheary & Daniel Lynch		

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