

# The Barra

Weekly Newsletter of St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook  
7th Sunday in Ordinary Time—Year A  
18th & 19th February 2023

**Levities 19:1-2, 17-18 ; Ps 102; 1 Corinthians 3:16-23; Matthew 5:38-48**

## FR JOE'S MUSINGS

### Be perfect as your Father in Heaven

The lawyer's son wanted to follow in his father's footsteps, so he went to law school. He graduated with honours, and then went home to join his father's firm. At the end of his first day at work he rushed into his father's office, and said, "Father, father, in one day I broke the accident case that you've working on for ten years!"

His father responded, "You idiot, we lived on the funding of that case for ten years!"

A recent article in the New York Times points out that a man is 2.7 times as likely as the general population to do the same job as his father did. But many top career consultants point out that while "following in your father's footsteps" is a common practice, it may not be the best way to make a career choice.

In this Sunday's gospel Matthew recommended to us that we should follow in the footsteps of our Father in heaven and be perfect as He is perfect.

However the readings of the sixth Sunday suggested that we should avoid PERFECTIONISM and instead be SUPERIOR to the Pharisees in our way of acting. Being superior to the Pharisees means exercising MERCY because it is the essential aspect of God's character.

God demonstrated his mercy by making us alive in Jesus Christ. Ephesians 2:4-5 says, "But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved." This is the ultimate demonstration of God's mercy. He loved us so much that he sent his Son to die for us, despite our sin and rebellion. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus says, "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy" (Matthew 5:7). Jesus goes on to say that we are to forgive others, just as God has forgiven us. When we are merciful to others, we are showing them the same mercy that God has shown us.

Mercy is therefore the power that sustains, protects, and creates space for life. In this context, Pope Francis does not call for PERFECTIONISM (which is a type of PELAGIANISM), but to HOLINESS. The path to holiness and sainthood, Pope Francis said, requires imitating Christ by loving our enemies and praying for those who wrong us even when it is difficult.

"It's true, God the Father is merciful! And you? Are you merciful, are you merciful with the people who have hurt you? Or who do not love you?"

"If He is merciful, if He is holy, if He is perfect, we must be merciful, holy and perfect like Him," he continued.

*Please continue reading on page 2*

## 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

## PROJECT COMPASSION BOXES

Will be available for collection this Sunday from the Narthex.

Please remember to take yours home today.



## SUNDAY RITE OF WELCOME

The Parish joyfully welcomes

*Jasper Edison Jones and*

*Miller Joshua Lyes* 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.*

# PARISH CALENDAR

<b>Sunday</b> <b>19th February</b> <i>7th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A</i>	<b>7.30am Mass</b> <b>9.30am Mass</b> <b>11.00am Parish AGM Meeting</b> 1.30pm Bridge Club P/C <b>6.00pm Youth Mass</b> <b>Live Streaming Link</b> <a href="https://youtube.com/live/uSRwh9YYDpE?feature=share">https://youtube.com/live/uSRwh9YYDpE?feature=share</a> 7.00pm Senior Youth Group P/C
<b>Monday</b> <b>20th February</b>	<b>No Mass. Office is closed</b> 5.00pm SVDP Meeting M/R
<b>Tuesday</b> <b>21st February</b>	<b>No Morning Mass</b> 10.00am Timeout Tuesday P/C 5.30pm Cantabile Choir Practice 7.30pm Presentation: Bill West - Riddles of the shroud: Questions science can't answer P/C 7.30pm Netball Club Meeting M/R
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>22nd February</b> <i>Ash Wednesday (Fast &amp; Abstinence)</i>	<b>9.15am Ash Wednesday Mass followed by Rosary</b> 9.30am Playgroup P/C 7.00pm Bridge Club P/C <b>7.00pm Ash Wednesday Mass</b>
<b>Thursday</b> <b>23rd February</b>	<b>9.15am Mass</b> 1.30pm Bridge Club P/C 3.30pm Lenten Group P/C—Mila Svehla' s group 7.00pm Lenten Group M/R—Louise Debeck' s Group
<b>Friday</b> <b>24th February</b>	<b>9.15am Mass</b> 1.00pm Bowlers <b>7.00pm Lent Adoration &amp; Confessions</b>
<b>Saturday</b> <b>25th February</b>	<b>9.15am Mass</b> 11.30am Te Deum's Choir Practice 4.30pm Confessions <b>5.30pm Vigil Mass</b>
<b>Sunday</b> <b>26 February</b> <i>1st Sunday of Lent Year A</i>	<b>7.30am Mass</b> <b>9.30am Mass &amp; Welcome back BBQ</b> <b>10.45am Baptisms</b> 3.00pm Children's Choir P/C

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

On another issue, can I recommend to you the following Parish events:

- 1) The **Parish AGM** on Sunday the 19th of February after the 9.30 am Mass
- 2) **The presentation on the SHROUD** by Bill West on Tuesday 21st of February at 7.30pm ;
- 3) The **Welcome Back Party** with games and BBQ for all parishioners on Sunday 26th of February after 9.30am Mass;
- 4) The **Ecumenical Sharing of Sunday's Soup and Bread** to support our local Blue Mountains Refugee Advocacy on Sunday 5th March at 11.30am at St Finbar's, on 19th March at 11.30am at the Baptist church and 2nd April at 11.30am at the Uniting church. For our Soup Sunday on Sunday 5th March, we need your help: It would be great if you could provide home cooked delicious soups. St Finbar's has a great reputation for wonderful hospitality. Please contact the parish office for organisation.
- 5) **Musicians are invited to a Music Workshop** on "Choosing the RIGHT music for Worship" on Saturday 4th March from 10.30am – 12.30pm. Alison Ryan for the diocesan MET will conduct the workshop.
- 6) **Passover Meal** on Tuesday the 4th of April starting at 7pm, RSVP at the parish office.

### JUSTICE NEWS

**Sydney Alliance: NSW Election Assembly with NSW Treasurer Matt Kean & ALP Shadow Treasurer Daniel Mookhey (28 February)** Join Bishop Vincent Long and people from across the Diocese of Parramatta to participate in a **NSW Election Assembly** with NSW Treasurer Matt Kean (LIB), Shadow Treasurer Daniel Mookhey (ALP) and representatives of the cross-bench.

• **Tuesday 28 February 6:15pm – 8:15pm**

• **Venue: Morley Centre, 2 Darcy Rd, Westmead . Please register**

**here: [www.bit.ly/nswelectionassembly](http://www.bit.ly/nswelectionassembly)**

The assembly will focus on social justice issues like housing, climate, cost of living and support for temporary migrants. In the lead-up to the NSW State Election (25 March), this is a great opportunity to promote a fair, just and sustainable agenda in the spirit of Catholic Social Teaching.

**Diocesan Social Justice & Ecological Formation Day Saturday 1 April 2023.**

The Diocesan Peace, Justice and Ecology team is planning a formation day for parish social justice groups. St Finbars does not have a defined group at the moment but we'd like to hear from parishioners who might be interested in participating in the day and in sharing their thoughts on how the parish can further answer God's call to work for justice for all in our society. Please call or email Juliana if interested to attend.

**NATSICC eCourse: Cross Cultural Competency training from a Catholic perspective**

Parishioners are encouraged to develop their awareness and understanding of our rich First nations culture and history with an online training program developed for Catholic Church volunteers, staff, clergy and religious. With a referendum on Aboriginal Voice to parliament scheduled for later this year, it is a great time to complete these new training modules and the parish will reimburse the \$20 registration cost for parishioners. To learn more and register visit [natsicc.org.au](http://natsicc.org.au)

## AID TO EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS:

In the spirit of brotherly love, we in St Finbar's Parish have an opportunity to assist the desperate earthquake victims in Turkey and Syria.  
If every family could donate AUD10 this weekend, the parish will undertake to forward this money to the appropriate aid agency so that it directly benefits the victims.  
You will find a donation jar on the Wardens' table, and all donations are welcome.

## NEW CHURCH CARE COORDINATOR

The Parish would like to welcome Valeska Madrid to the new role of Church Care Coordinator. Father Joe and the parish staff would like to thank Heather Lee for taking on the role for so many years.  
If you like to join the church care team please email the parish office to add your name.

## 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.

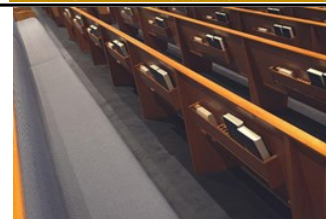
Thank you.



Fr Joe

*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.*



Dear Parishioners,

The members of St Vincent de Paul in Gunnedah would like to sincerely thank the parishioners of your parish for the amazing amount of goodies you collected and which were transported to us via Vince Dobson. Thank you to all involved.

After having years of drought, 2022 saw too much rain and consequently floods in our area. You have been very generous in your support of our conference to help the people in need.

Yours sincerely,

*Jacinta Stanley (Secretary)  
St Vincent de Paul Society  
NSW/ACT good works*



## 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.

## Bateman Battersby

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[Gerard.Morson@turnerfreeman.com.au](mailto:Gerard.Morson@turnerfreeman.com.au)



**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:**

Esme Kramhoft, Christopher Auckett, Matthew Tuckleman, George Hauswirth, Mary Nelson, Barry Wylie, Peter Friel 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:**

Alice McGoldrick, Sarah Frazer, Ian Graham, Terry Goves, Robin Miles, Robert Dominish, Gregory McGee, William Pohlmann, Wendy Harley, Simon Egan, Virginia Windred, Mel Nethery, Sarah Watson, Irene Wiecek and Vincent Basile.

**LITURGICAL ROSTER FOR 25TH & 26TH FEBRUARY 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 Servers	Harrison Bohan		Benjamin Grus & Abigail Stanford
Warden	Huia Kingi	Volunteer Please	Gary Clune
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Beth Culliver	Kevin Lloyd	Patricia Murnane
2nd Reading	Maureen Tulk	Andrew Teece	Irene Aligno
Intercession	Volunteer Please	Kevin Flynn	Carmel Higgins
Music	Te Deum's	N/A	Holy Light
IT Operators	Eleanor Thompson	Kylie Mills	Robyn Flynn
Gifts	Margaret Moore & Jan de Bie	Ann & Ray Keating	The Young Family
Communion	Noreen Taylor	Brian Grech	Elizabeth Rowe
Cashiers	Joe Grange		
Children's Liturgy	Michelle		
Piety Stall	Ann Marie King		
Church Care	Veronica Clune, Fran Isaksen, Lynne Atkinson, Elizabeth Brazier, Gabrielle Lynch & Floor wash team		
Hospitality	Kerry & Peter Herborn, Marie Nassif		

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