



# The Barra

Weekly Newsletter of St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook  
3rd Sunday of Lent—Year A  
11th & 12th March 2023

**Exodus 17:3-7; Ps 94; Romans 5:1-2, 5-8; John 4:5-42**

## FR JOE'S MUSINGS

Dear Friends of St Finbars,  
This Sunday's Gospel about the Samaritan woman is exceptionally rich. Every time we read it we are passionately moved by that intense conversation between Jesus and the Samaritan woman. The late Pope Benedict XVI, recalling the great teaching of Saint Augustine, with regard to Christ's request to the woman, "give me something to drink", said: "Yes, God thirsts for our faith and our love. As a good and merciful father, he wants our total, possible good, and this good is he himself."

The living water flows only from the divine source. The Samaritan woman went to a well which was deep, but limited, whereas unlimited was her thirst for happiness and love. The woman, the late Pope Benedict XVI tells us, "represents the existential dissatisfaction of one who does not find what he seeks". How many wells, deep but empty, how many wells of stagnant water we have met on our way! We carry within us immense desires and easily deceive ourselves that we can meet them.

On our path of conversion, what a great grace it is to find the Lord Jesus waiting patiently for us beside our senseless wells. When, like the Samaritan woman, we are tired of the things of this world, of almost empty wells, then the Divine Master is especially close to us. He asks us to give him something to drink, he asks us to trust Him to satiate our heart, and if we trust in Him we discover the joy of finding the true well, the source of crystal clear water.

Last Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March, Peter McMahon, our Parish admin officer, has completed his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. We wish him God's abundant blessing and pray that he finds in the divine well the happiness for life. Thank you, Peter, for your faith filled and generous commitment to our parish life and your contribution to our Parish administration.

Last Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March we welcomed more than 150 parishioners and friends from the Baptist and Uniting churches for the first of the three Soup and Bread Sundays. We raised 1150 AUD for the support of our local charity Blue Mountains Refugee Advocacy represented by Roger Grealy and Riaz Ghiasi. I am particularly proud of our parishioners who prepared chef-like and very yummy soups. A big thank you goes also to our newly created Parish Events Team and many helpers who generously offer their hands for a great cause.



*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

*Father Joe and St Finbar's Parish Community would like to wish Peter McMahon a very Happy 80th Birthday. May God bless him with good health.*



## SUNDAY'S BAPTISMS:

The Parish joyfully announces the Baptism of **Bailey William Smith and Houston David Smith** 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 March <i>3rd Sunday of Lent Year A</i></p>	<p><b>7.30am Mass</b> <b>9.30am Mass</b> <b>10.45am Baptisms</b></p>
<p><b>Monday</b> 13th March</p>	<p><b>No Mass. Office is closed</b></p>
<p><b>Tuesday</b> 14th of March</p>	<p><b>9.15am Mass</b> 5.30pm Cantabile Choir Practice <b>7.30pm Safeguarding Module 2 P/C</b></p>
<p><b>Wednesday</b> 15th March</p>	<p><b>9.15am Mass followed by Rosary</b> 9.30am Playgroup P/C 3.30pm Lenten Group M/R 7.00pm Bridge Club P/C</p>
<p><b>Thursday</b> 16th March</p>	<p><b>9.15am Healing Mass followed by morning tea</b> 1.00pm SRE Meeting M/R 1.00pm Bridge Club P/C 7.00pm Lenten Group M/R</p>
<p><b>Friday</b> 17th March <i>St Patrick</i></p>	<p><b>9.15am Mass</b> 1.00pm Bowlers P/C <b>7.30pm Stations of the Cross &amp; Confessions</b></p>
<p><b>Saturday</b> 18th March</p>	<p><b>9.15am Mass</b> 11.30am Te Deum's Choir Practice 4.30pm Confessions <b>5.30pm Vigil Mass</b></p>
<p><b>Sunday</b> 19th March <i>4th Sunday of Lent Year A</i></p>	<p><b>7.30am Mass</b> <b>9.30am Mass</b> 11.30pm Ecumenical Soup Sunday at Baptist Church 1.00pm Bridge Club P/C <b>6.00pm Youth Mass</b> Live Streaming Mass <a href="https://youtube.com/live/m4285D08nRw?feature=share">https://youtube.com/live/m4285D08nRw?feature=share</a> 7.00pm Senior Youth Group P/C</p>

On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March, Parish musicians were invited to a workshop “Singing is Praying Twice”. Alison Ryan from the diocesan MET led the workshop. It was a great opportunity to reflect and to learn how and which music to choose for good liturgical music. Thank you Alison for your presence and your assistance.

It is also my pleasure to announce the appointment of Mrs Kylie Mills to the Blue Mountains Deanery Pastoral Council (BMDPC). According to the Diocese Statutes, each parish is to nominate two parishioners for the Deanery Pastoral Council. Elizabeth Rowe is already serving as a member of BMDPC. Congratulations to Kylie and Elizabeth.

A note of importance not only for our parish, but for the entire Diocese of Parramatta: On 5<sup>th</sup> March Bishop Vincent has formally convoked the Diocesan Synod for 2023-2024. The first assembly will be held from Thursday 12 to Sunday 15 October 2023 and the final assembly will be held near the middle of next year 2024. Bishop Vincent asked that we pray for the success of the Diocesan Synod.

*Canon Law 460* describes the Diocesan Synod as an "assembly" (coetus) of selected priests and other members of Christ's faithful of a particular Church which, for the good of the whole diocesan community, assists the diocesan Bishop. The purpose of the diocesan Synod is to assist the bishop in the exercise of the office proper to him, namely, that of governing the Christian community.

*Fr Joe*

**EASTER ROSTERS –2023**

Volunteers are needed to help with all the Easter Liturgies. We will need Readers, Senior Servers, Sacristans, Junior Servers, Thurifier, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and volunteers for Washing of the Feet. If you are qualified and able to help, please add your name to the list on the table in the Narthex. Thank you for all your help and support.

Dear Friends,

As a community we need to do our best to provide a safe environment for all. Perhaps, you may ask why you need to do the Safeguarding training. It is valid question.

Safeguarding begins with the awareness of our words and actions. This training will help us to do so.

Besides, it is also good to know how to detect inappropriate behaviors so we can protect our children and vulnerable in our community.

This training is beneficial for us and for others as well.

Can I invite you to attend the safeguarding training if you have not done so? The next training session is on Tuesday the 14th of March at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall.

God bless

*Fr. Joe*



# ST. FINBAR'S PARISH NEWS

## PASSOVER MEAL

You are invited to celebrate a Passover Meal at St Finbar's Parish Hall, 52 Levy Street Glenbrook



**TUESDAY 4TH OF APRIL AT 7PM**

Cost: \$20pp and \$65 per family

RSVP: [secretary@stfinbars.org.au](mailto:secretary@stfinbars.org.au)

Limited seats are available and pre-booking is essential

## MUSIC OF J. S. BACH & SPECIAL READINGS FOR GOOD FRIDAY

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2023, 7.30pm—St Finbar's Catholic Church  
46 Levy Street, Glenbrook**

Passion-tide and the music of J.S. Bach are inseparably linked.

It is almost impossible to pass through the Lenten season without having some contact with the great Baroque master's settings of the Passions according to St John and St Matthew. Some of this profound music will again be part of this year's Good Friday meditation in St Finbar's Catholic Church, Glenbrook on the evening of Good Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> April, at 7.30pm.

Offering choral and organ music of J.S. Bach together with special readings and meditations, this annual service will feature several of the wonderful chorale settings from the Passions, two choruses from the cantata, "Christ lay in Death's dark Bonds", as well as the sublime closing chorus from the St John Passion.

In the tradition of the Bach settings, the congregation will also participate, singing some of the great Passion hymns – "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" and "O Sacred Head".

The Blue Mountains Chorale will be directed by Robert Ampt, who will also perform several Bach organ works.

Amy Johansen will accompany the choir on the organ. With great music and a powerful devotional atmosphere, this well-attended service will again be one of the very special offerings during this year's Lenten season and all are welcome.

There will be a request for a suggested donation: \$15, \$10 concession. Inquiries: 0421 105 017



## CONCERT FOR BUSH SCHOOL CAMBODIA AT ST FINBAR'S

The concert will be held in the Parish Hall on **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March**, commencing 7.00pm, following Vigil Mass. It is an evening of lively musical entertainment featuring talented local artists. The cost is \$30 per person, \$50 for family, with some concessions available. A generous supper will be provided at interval. It will be the 7<sup>th</sup> concert at St Finbar's and will support the school in the coming year. It promises to be an enjoyable night for all. For tickets, call Doug on 0403 303 943, or at door. See also the flyer in the Narthex.

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**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:**

Arno Toirkens (Jackie Visser's Brother), Paul Walker, Esme Kramhoft, Christopher Auckett, Matthew Tuckleman, George Hauswirth, Mary Nelson, Barry Wylie, Peter & Anna Friel (Maire Griffin relatives) and John Mullane.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK PARISHIONERS, RELATIVES & FRIENDS:**

Maria Cummins, Pat Bell, Jeanette Russell (Margaret Rivas' Friend), Chris Paine, Margaret Stevens, Lyn Beltran, Lyn Downes, Margaret Christensen, Mark Bates, Colleen & Michael Nolan, 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), Joan and Hubert Periera & Maureen Brown (Marcia Periera's Sister, Brother & Niece).

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

Lewis Konza, Vicky Noble, Catherine Smith, Robert Bunda, Anthony Clyne, John Everett, Tadeusz Opiel, Ruben Stanford, Dorothea Egan, May Hurry, Michael Cloran, John Burrett, Elmer (Bill) Taylor, Catherine McColl, Gavin Paine and Lance Baker.

**LITURGICAL ROSTER FOR 18TH & 19TH MARCH 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			Zoe Wilson, Dominic Sheary & Tim Kensey
Warden	Lorraine Brown	Volunteer Please	Frank Fitzpatrick
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Maire Griffin	Kevin Lloyd	Peter or Trish Hurley
2nd Reading	Gideon Goosen	Margaret Dickson	Annisia Nilsson
Intercession	Margaret Moore	John Isaksen	Frank Fitzpatrick
Music	Cantabile		Volunteers please
IT Operators	Robyn Flynn	Elizabeth Konza	Patrick Watson
Gifts	Thea & Brian Robertson	Kay Whitty	The Wilson Family
Communion	Bernie Fisher	Jean Di Nucci	Annisia Nilsson
Cashiers	Robyn Flynn, Ann & Ray Keating		
Children's Liturgy	Elizabeth		
Piety Stall	Lee Jackson		
Church Care	Youth Group		
Hospitality	Trish & Peter Hurley, Irene & Bert Aligno		
Lawn Mowing	Kevin Debeck, Rob Lennon & John Killeen		

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