



The Barra

Weekly Newsletter of St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook
4th Sunday of Lent—Year A
18th & 19th March 2023

1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7,10-13; Ps 22; Ephesians 5:8-14 ; John 9:1-41

FR JOE'S MUSINGS

Can a blind beggar see and growth in truth?

This Sunday's Gospel of John once again demonstrates the difference that Jesus makes to the life of a person who was not just disadvantaged by his blindness, but also socially excluded by his poverty. While the Pharisees only talked *about* the blind man, Jesus entered into a conversation *with* him creating a close relationship. Moreover, Jesus not just healed but also touched. Voice and touch are extremely important for blind people. Touch is the first and foremost of our five senses. It is the presence, proximity and tenderness. Tenderness which is the opposite of hardness, does not mean possession of seduction, but the giving of life. Tenderness never hurts or destroys the weak or vulnerable, but reveals to them their value and beauty. It implies respect. Jesus touches this beggar with deep love and respect.

Do we want our eyes opened to the truth? So often we do not want to look at the truth of our world as is it, with injustices, violence and hatred, the oppression of the weak and minorities, the division between rich and poor.

Yet, if we delve deeper, we will find underneath our brokenness the beauty in our own hearts and in the heart of each person: our capacity to love, to give life and to take our place in the world – with others – to become a source of life and hope. If we saw more clearly, if our eyes of faith were opened, we would discover an immense hope coming from Jesus.

Lent gives us this time to see more clearly with the eyes of faith. It provides us with space for fasting and almsgiving. As the great Saint Augustine once said, "Fasting and almsgiving are the two wings of prayer which enable it to gain momentum and more easily reach even to God."

Perhaps you may decide to join this Sunday's Soup and Bread fasting and almsgiving action at our neighbouring Baptist church at 11.30am. A fortnight ago, at St Finbar's we raised 1200 AUD which will go to our local charity Blue Mountains Refugee Advocacy. Personally, I can share the pain of the refugees, as I myself was a son of refugee parents who had sought asylum in Germany because of the US-Vietnam war from 1969-1975. Then, life was not easy for my parents and older siblings. Sacrifices had to be made.

Another opportunity to enter the spirit of Lent is the Passover Meal on Tuesday April 4th. As with all the biblical festivals, Passover foreshadows the coming of Jesus. He is the One who made eternal atonement for our sins. You may recall John the Baptist, seeing Jesus coming toward him, crying out, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29). If you wish to participate, please register with Juliana (secretary@stfinbars.org.au) for catering purposes.

On behalf of the Cummins' family, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Juliana, Carl, Ryan D'Souza, Julie Fehon, Pat Watson, Jeannine Ashbee, Trish and Kieran Murnane, Joseph Khnouf, the Youth choir, The church care group and Darren Dukes for their generous help in organising the Funeral Mass for Maria Cummins.

May I ask that you also continue to pray for parishioners who are in hospitals or recovering at home. Pray also for the dying and those who have died (Mary Therese Okalebo, mother of Susan Dowling).

Have a wonderful 4th week of Lent...



PARISH INFORMATION

Parish Priest: Fr Joseph Lam

E-mail: joseph.lam@parracatholic.org

Secretary: Juliana Khnouf

E-mail: secretary@stfinbars.org.au

Admin: Peter McMahon

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

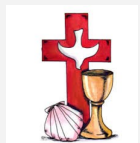
SUNDAY RITE OF WELCOME

The Parish joyfully welcomes

**Anahi & Lewis Fox,
Theodore Henry &
Adelaide Mae Richards**

into our Faith Community.

They are going to be
Baptised at our Parish next weekend.
May God bless them all.



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. 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

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Sunday 19th March <i>4th Sunday of Lent</i> <i>Year A</i></p> | <p>7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass 11.30am Economical Soup Sunday at Baptist Church 1.00pm Bridge Club P/C 6.00pm Youth Mass Live Streaming Mass https://youtube.com/live/m4285D08nRw?feature=share 7.00pm Senior Youth Group P/C</p> |
| <p>Monday 20th March <i>St Joseph, Spouse</i> <i>of the Blessed</i> <i>Virgin Mary</i></p> | <p>No Mass. Office is closed 5.00pm SVDP Meeting M/R</p> |
| <p>Tuesday 21st of March</p> | <p>9.15am Mass 10.00am Timeout Tuesday 5.30pm Cantabile Choir Practice 7.00pm Finance Committee Meeting M/R 7.30pm Netball Club Meeting P/C</p> |
| <p>Wednesday 22nd March</p> | <p>9.15am Mass followed by Rosary 9.30am Playgroup P/C 3.30pm Lenten Group M/R 7.00pm Bridge Club P/C 7.30pm Liturgy Committee Meeting M/R</p> |
| <p>Thursday 23rd March</p> | <p>9.15am Mass 1.30pm Bridge Club P/C 7.00pm Lenten Group M/R</p> |
| <p>Friday 24th March</p> | <p>9.15am Mass 1.00pm Bowlers 7.30pm Lent Adoration & Confessions</p> |
| <p>Saturday 25th March <i>The Annunciation</i> <i>of the Lord</i></p> | <p>9.15am Mass 10.30am Baptisms 11.30am Te Deum's Choir Practice 4.30pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass Live Streaming Link https://youtube.com/live/3J_GDeySI08?feature=share 7.00pm Variety Concert to support Bush School Cambodia P/C</p> |
| <p>Sunday 26th March <i>5th Sunday of Lent</i> <i>Year A</i></p> | <p>7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass 10.45am Baptisms</p> |

Congratulations to St Finbar's Youth Team on a solid performance! Winning the Diocese's Youth Sport Day last Sunday. Good to have the trophy in the mountains!!!



CANTICLE OF CANTICLES – Biblical Studies by Dr Gideon Goosen

When? Mondays 1, 8, 22, 29th MAY. (4 meetings) 7.30pm-9pm. **Where?** Meeting Room, St Finbar's, Glenbrook.

Cost: Free

Registration necessary, by FRIDAY 31st March: *St Finbar's Office:*

secretary@stfinbars.org.au or 4742 6958 or *St Andrews Office* 4739 6295
standrews@glenbrook.unitingchurch.org.au

CONCERT FOR BUSH SCHOOL CAMBODIA AT ST FINBAR'S

The concert will be held in the Parish Hall on **Saturday 25th 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 7th 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.

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.

PENRITH CITY CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Invites boys and girls aged 7 – 13 years to come to our second project for 2023 'Native American Chants' starting on April 2. Two workshops in Glenbrook will lead to a public performance on Sunday 21th May with the adult choir.

No auditions. Just bring your love of singing. For an Information Pack & Application Form contact: PCCC Administrator, Rebecca Padgett 0417 433 903 or email pccc@penrithcitychoir.com.au



Easter Sunrise Service

Elizabeth Lookout
Glenbrook



Date: Sunday, 9th April 2023
Time: 6am start (sunrise 6.15am)
Location: Elizabeth Lookout, Glenbrook. Gates open 5.30am – enter via vehicle track that branches off to the right on the Northern end of Barnet St (follow track and then keep to the right at the fork).
Bring: Chair or rug. Morning tea. Easter egg hunt for kids.

*An initiative of The Glenbrook-Blaxland Inter-church Group.
 This is an ecumenical, non-denominational service. All welcome.
 If it rains the service is cancelled as there is no suitable shelter at the lookout.*

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

**Friday 7th 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, 7th 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

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

Limited seats are available and pre-booking is essential

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PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

Maria Cummins, Mary Okalebo (Susan Dowling’s Mother), Raymond Conliffe’s (Cousin of Mike and Laurie Rivas), 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:

Cecily McHugh (Jacqui Visser’s Daughter), 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:

Scott Robertson, Carmel Koziol, David Burke, Clare Druhan, Thelma Sparks, Thomas Boylan, Julia Gunning, Paul Trevaskis, Ruby Luland, Lyndall McManus and Debra Saporito.

LITURGICAL ROSTER FOR 25TH & 26TH MARCH 2023

| Liturgical Ministries | 5.30pm | 7.30 am | 9.30 am |
|-------------------------|---|------------------|----------------------------------|
| Sacristan | Ahyiesha D’Souza | Peter McMahan | Stephen Brown |
| Senior Server | Ahyiesha D’Souza | Peter McMahan | Stephen Brown |
| Junior Servers | Harrison Bohan | | Benjamin Grus & Abigail Stanford |
| Warden | Huia Kingi | Volunteer Please | Gary Clune |
| 1 st Reading | Eileen Jones | Kevin Lloyd | Cecilia Zammit |
| 2nd Reading | Philomena Watkins | Andrew Teece | Michelle Wilson |
| Intercession | Katy Ferris | Carl Moll | Yvonne Scanlan |
| Music | Te Deum’s | N/A | Holy Light |
| IT Operators | Henry Hanko | Kylie Mills | Joanne Stubbs |
| Gifts | Steve & Heather Lee | Rivas Family | The Young Family |
| Communion | Noreen Taylor | Jessica Tuller | Mila Svehla |
| Cashiers | Joe Grange | | |
| Children’s Liturgy | Pia | | |
| Piety Stall | Ann Marie King | | |
| Church Care | Veronica Clune, Fran Isaksen, Lynne Atkinson, Elizabeth Brazier & Gabrielle Lynch | | |
| Hospitality | Marie Nassif, Kerry & Peter Herborn | | |

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