



# The Barra

Weekly Newsletter of St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook  
5th Sunday of Lent—Year A  
25th & 26th March 2023

**Ezekiel 37:12-14; Ps 129; Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-45**

## FR JOE'S MUSINGS

### Lazarus and the Good Shepherd Appeal

This Sunday's Gospel of John narrates the story of Lazarus whose name in Hebrew means "God has helped". The miraculous story of Lazarus being brought back to life by Jesus is known from the Gospel According to John (11:1-45). Lazarus of Bethany was the brother of Martha and Mary and lived at Bethany, near Jerusalem. The account notes that Jesus loved Lazarus and his sisters and that when Lazarus died of illness, Jesus wept and was "greatly disturbed." Although Lazarus had been entombed for four days by the time Jesus arrived at Bethany, he was raised by Jesus from the dead and emerged from the tomb wearing his burial cloths. This miracle, witnessed by many Jews who had come to grieve with the family, inspired many to believe in Jesus as the Christ. Lazarus was also present when his sister Mary anointed the feet of Jesus with expensive perfume (John 12:1-3).

Lazarus is also the name given by the Gospel According to Luke (16:19-31) to the beggar in the parable of the rich man and Lazarus.

The story of Lazarus gives witness to the real power of the Good Shepherd. Beyond healing, he gives life to the dead. This is the essence of Christ's priestly ministry, although few scholars contended that Jesus never called himself priest in the New Testament. However, recent biblical scholarship confirms (e.g. Raymond Brown, Albert de Vaux etc.) that Jesus' sacrificial death was clear evidence of his priestly ministry. I have just published a *lengthy* academic article in an internationally respected journal demonstrating the priesthood that Jesus exercised especially during the act of the washing of the feet. It is also true that Jesus' priesthood was quite different to the Old Testament priesthood. Instead of withdrawing from the people as the Levitical priests had done to safeguard their holiness, Jesus surrounded himself with sinners, the poor, the cripples etc. To them, Jesus was sent to bring the Good News.

Vatican II emphasises the *One Priesthood of Jesus Christ* shared by the baptised and the ordained. Of course, it does not mean that baptised and ordained do the same things. There are two different mandates complementing each other. As one people of God, priests and laity are to cooperate in the missionary task of Evangelization. Yet Pope Francis appeals also to priests as good shepherds to be close to the people.

Pope Francis said to the priests: "By losing the smell of the sheep, by distancing yourself from them, you can be a theorist, a good theologian, a good philosopher, a very good curial official who does all the things, but you will have lost the ability to smell the sheep". The Pope then reiterated what he calls the principle of the four "proximities" of priests: closeness with God through prayer, closeness with the bishop, closeness with other priests, and closeness to the people of God: "If there is no closeness to the people of God, you are not a good priest."

*Please continue reading on page 3*

## BISHOP VINCENT

Will visit us this Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March, and celebrate the Vigil Mass at 5.30pm.



It is part of his annual pastoral visitation. So, let us warmly welcome him to our parish which somehow is also Bishop Vincent's parish since he is the chief shepherd of our diocese. Please, join Bishop Vincent and the parish community for the Vigil at 5.30pm.

*Fr Joe*

## 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

## SATURDAY'S AND SUNDAY'S BAPTISMS:

The Parish joyfully announces the Baptism of *Anahi & Lewis Fox*, who are going to be Baptised on Saturday the 25th of March and *Theodore Henry & Adelaide Mae Richards* who are going to be Baptised after Mass this Sunday the 26th of March and warmly welcomes them all into our Faith Community.

### 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> 26th March</p> <p><i>5th Sunday of Lent Year A</i></p>	<p><b>7.30am Mass</b> <b>9.30am Mass</b> 10.30am Music Ministry Meeting M/R 10.45am Baptisms</p>
<p><b>Monday</b> 27th March</p>	<p><b>No Mass. Office is closed</b> 5.00pm SVDP Meeting M/R</p>
<p><b>Tuesday</b> 28th of March</p>	<p><b>9.15am Mass</b> 5.30pm Cantabile Choir Practice 7.30pm April's Baptisms Preparation meeting M/R <b>7.30pm Lenten Biblical Studies: The Crucifixion, Death and Resurrection in the Gospel of Matthew</b></p>
<p><b>Wednesday</b> 29th 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> 30th March</p>	<p><b>9.15am Mass</b> 1.30pm Bridge Club P/C 7.00pm Lenten Group M/R</p>
<p><b>Friday</b> 31st March</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> 1st April</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> 2nd April</p> <p><i>PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD Year A</i></p>	<p><b>7.30am Mass</b> <b>9.30am Mass</b> 11.30am Ecumenical Soup Sunday at the Uniting Church 3.00pm Children's Choir <b>6.00pm Youth Mass</b> Live Streaming Link <a href="https://youtube.com/live/t40mjuBwzZc?feature=share">https://youtube.com/live/t40mjuBwzZc?feature=share</a> 7.00pm Senior Youth Group P/C</p>

**Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal for our Holy Spirit Seminarians**

Our Holy Spirit Seminary in Harris Park is preparing men who have been called by God to be good shepherds to serve His people. Will you support our seminarians to humbly serve our faith community? Please give generously to the Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal at [yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal](http://yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal) or scan this QR code.



**Thank you for accompanying our seminarians on their spiritual journey to become priests.**

**CYP Good Friday Night Walk: 7 April**  
Young people are invited to join Catholic Youth Parramatta and Bishop Vincent for the annual 21km Good Friday Night Walk from Blacktown to the Cathedral. For more information and to register visit <https://parracatholic.org/goodfridaywalk/>

**Positions Vacant: Policy Coordinator**  
The Diocese of Parramatta is recruiting for a part-time Policy Coordinator to work within the Chancery. If you have experience in policy writing and tertiary qualifications in Law, HR or compliance, we encourage you to apply. For a confidential chat, call Marie Iemma on 0499 874 420 or email your CV and cover letter to [parracatholicjobs@parracatholic.org](mailto:parracatholicjobs@parracatholic.org)

**MET FaithLIFE Scripture Course: Starting 2 May**  
Want to learn more about different ways to pray? Sign up for the FaithLIFE 3-night short course on "Prayer" with Br Barry Donaghue, brought to you by the Mission Enhancement Team (MET). 6:30PM to 8:30PM on three Tuesdays: 2 + 9 + 16 May. Downstairs at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, 1-5 Marion Street, Blacktown. RSVP via <https://pfparra.org.au/faithlife/>

**Catholic Parish Our Lady of Nativity, Lawson.**  
Forgiveness in the Sacred Scriptures presented by Dr Laurie Woods. Come along to Sunday Lunch and the Sacred Scriptures on the 2nd April from 12-2pm. Enquiries Maureen Ryan [maureenpr8@gmail.com](mailto:maureenpr8@gmail.com) 0403 931 782.

**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](mailto:pccc@penrithcitychoir.com.au)

## FR JOE'S MUSINGS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"The priesthood is a sacred service to God", the Pope explained, "the service of which the Eucharist is the highest degree; it is a service to the community".

This weekend, Bishop Vincent asks us to assist him in his responsibility as Chief Shepherd so that he can help equip the 11 men called by God to humbly serve His people. As our Diocese grows, we need to prepare more seminarians for the priesthood. Bishop Vincent invites us to support them through our prayers, by encouraging young men at home and in our parish or community to discern the call to the priesthood, and by our financial support – without which, our Seminary would not function.

Have a great week. *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.

## 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.

## CANTICLE OF CANTICLES – 1 Thessalonians Biblical Studies by Dr Gideon Goosen

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

**Registration necessary**, by FRIDAY 31<sup>st</sup> March: *St Finbar's Office:* [secretary@stfinbars.org.au](mailto:secretary@stfinbars.org.au) or 4742 6958 or *St Andrews Office* 4739 6295 [standrews@glenbrook.unitingchurch.org.au](mailto:standrews@glenbrook.unitingchurch.org.au)



## 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



## 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.*

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**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:**

Maria Cummins, Mary Okalebo (Susan Dowling’s Mother), Raymond Conliffe (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), 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:**

Patrick Mungovan, Colin Gott, Gareth Hogan, Jean Blencowe, Rosemond Coughlan, Cecil Luczak, Harold Gapps, Monica Barron and Sybil Mason.

**LITURGICAL ROSTER FOR 1ST & 2ND APRIL 2023**

Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	Ahyiesha D’Souza	Carl Moll	Gerard Egan
Senior Server	Ahyiesha D’Souza	Carl Moll	Joseph Sukkar
Junior Servers	Alex & Luc Nilsson		Xavier Rajnoch & Patrick Sukkar
Warden	Vince Dobson	Volunteer Please	Justin Dowling
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Philomena Watkins	Michelle Wilson	Jessica Doherty
2nd Reading	Katy Ferris	John Killeen	Steve Baird
Intercession	Elizabeth Rowe	Kevin Flynn	Martin Rogers
Music	Naomi’s Group		Jenny Long & Anne Hobbs
IT Operators	Eleanor Thompson	Joseph Wilson	Patrick Watson
Gifts	Noreen Taylor & Janice Smith	Maria Heinzl & Stanis Drobiszewski	Volunteers Please
Communion	Vince Dobson	Ian Dickson	Wendy Brown
Cashiers	Bernadette Shalala & Erika McNay		
Children’s Liturgy	Melissa		
Piety Stall	Carmel Higgins		
Church Care	Volunteers Please		
Hospitality	Lina Wiecek, Vicky Ang, Tamar Apkarian & Karen Sukkar		

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