



The Barra

Weekly Newsletter of St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook
3rd Sunday of Easter—Year A
22nd & 23rd April 2023

Acts 2:14, 22-33; Ps 15; 1 Peter 1:17-21 ; Luke 24:13-35

FR JOE'S MUSINGS

PARISH INFORMATION

Diocesan Synod?

In March 2023, Bishop Vincent announced and convoked a Diocesan Synod for October 2023. We may wonder what a Diocesan Synod is. "Synod" simply means "meeting." While meetings happen regularly in dioceses, a diocesan synod is a special kind of meeting called by the diocesan bishop that brings together a large group of people from varied backgrounds to discuss the pastoral ministry of a diocese. Its purpose is to propose standards to the diocesan bishop for setting the direction of the pastoral ministry in the diocese for years to come. From this, a further question may be raised: Why a Diocesan Synod? Did we not already have the Plenary Council which was preceded by local plenary discussions? According to the Canon Law, a diocesan bishop may call a Diocesan Synod if he feels there is a particular pastoral need or particular circumstances suggest to him that it is necessary to do so. For Bishop Vincent, the particular circumstances justifying the convocation of a Diocesan Synod are a) the Plenary Council; and b) the completion of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan called "Faith in our Future 2014-2018". Hence, the Diocesan Synod is a direct outcome of the Plenary Council decreeing that each diocese is to hold a diocesan synod. Moreover, the diocese also needs a new Diocesan Pastoral Plan for the future.

I have also noticed not only the symptom of "Plenary / Synod Fatigue". There were Synod Masses, Synod trainings, Synod consultations, more Synod consultations, and Synod reports. It ended up with a wealth of valuable information, but also in many cases, a lack of energy for anything else other than this Synod, sometimes even a lack of energy for the Synod itself. Furthermore, parishioners are also concerned about whether a diocesan synod can change the teaching of the Church.

I would like to clarify: A diocesan synod does not have the authority to address any issues related to Church doctrine. It is a consultative body that meets to discuss pastoral proposals (spiritual and catechetical formation, evangelization, etc.) to implement in a diocese so that the gospel can be proclaimed and lived by all the faithful of the diocese. **Hence, a Diocesan Synod is not a place for exercising "doctrinal democracy".** A diocesan synod does not have the power to make new laws or rules. Such authority remains with the diocesan bishop at the synod to formally establish any binding rules or laws in a diocese. The synod body only provides discussion and a consultative vote to the diocesan bishop for his consideration.

In this regard, Bishop Vincent is inviting us to "walk with him to discern further a framework by which we can revitalise our Church in the Diocese and discover together a path of renewal for all of us." So, in the case of our Diocese of Parramatta, a Diocesan Synod is exploring and identifying *pastoral-practical* issues that greatly matter for our Diocese. Hence, a Diocesan Synod is an important instrument of renewal.

Please continue reading on page 3

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Tuesday to Friday

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Office Phone: (02) 47426958

Emergency Number: 0493 451 990

Parish QR Code:

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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'S BAPTISMS:

The Parish joyfully announces the Baptism of *Ava Victoria Nematalla* who is going to be Baptised after Mass this Sunday the 26th of March and warmly welcomes her 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.

PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday 23rd April 2023 <i>3rd Sunday of Easter</i> <i>Year A</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass 10.45am Baptisms
Monday 24th April	No Mass. Office is closed
Tuesday 25th April ANZAC DAY	9.00 ANZAC Day Mass 6.00pm Cantabile Choir Practice
Wednesday 26th April <i>St Mark</i>	9.15am Mass followed by Rosary 9.30am Playgroup P/C 7.00pm Bridge Club P/C
Thursday 27th April	9.15am Mass 1.30pm Bridge Club P/C 5.00pm Reconciliation Preparation P/C 7.30pm Netball Club Meeting M/R
Friday 28th April <i>St Peter Chanel</i>	9.15am Mass 1.00pm Bowlers P/C 7.30pm Adoration
Saturday 29th April <i>St Catherine of Siena</i>	9.15am Mass 11.30am Te Deum's Choir Practice 4.30pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass
Sunday 30th April 2023 <i>4th Sunday of Easter</i> <i>Year A</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass



DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA NOTICES

REACH - Wellbeing program for people over the age of 18years – 4 May

Reach Recovery Program, designed by the Black Dog Institute. Thursday from 10am to 12pm, 4th May for 9 weeks at The Carrington Hotel, 15-47 Katoomba St, Katoomba NSW 2780 – Morning Tea provided - Presenter Virginia Field. RSVP: (02) 8843 2500 or email enquiries@ccss.org.au

Invitation to Register for CPR Training: 13 May and 5 June

You are invited to register for an accredited CPR Course being offered by Surf Life Saving NSW. This is being offered as FREE course to the Parishes of Parramatta Diocese as part of a project being offered by the University of Sydney, Westmead Applied Research Centre. The course runs for 2.5 hours and will be presented at two locations across the Diocese.

- ✦ St Thomas Aquinas Springwood on Saturday 13th May beginning at 10am, or
- ✦ Bishop Bede Heather Centre Blacktown on Monday 5th June at 4pm.

Please contact the Parish Office for information on how to register for the venue of your choice.

SVDP CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2022

We would like to acknowledge the generous donations and support from parishioners and the parents, teachers and students of St Finbar's School. We thank you all for your support.

If you provided items for the hampers or toys for the gift tree, bought a calendar, contributed a donation at a leaving collection or to the Poor Box or assisted the conference members sort, pack and deliver the hampers and toys then you made a very valuable contribution to the success of the Christmas Appeal. Thank you for accepting the challenge of putting your faith into action. Your support is much appreciated.

Your financial support included \$1,934 from donations, \$430 profit from the sale of calendars, 22 hampers at a nominal value of \$1,760 and donated toys at a nominal value of \$660.

A TOTAL OF \$4,784 THANK YOU ST FINBAR'S PARISH COMMUNITY.

Excess Hampers and toys, with the help of Fr Joe and his contacts in the Parramatta Diocese, were distributed to refugee families in the Blue Mountains area and to some single parent families in our Parish

If you would like to support the work of the St Vincent de Paul Society on a more regular basis then all donations to the poor box at the wardens' table in the narthex would be very helpful and greatly appreciated

Thank you again for loving your neighbours in need by showing them the same compassion and charitable support that God calls each of us to demonstrate in our daily lives.

May our God bless you all.

*The members of the SVDP
Glenbrook St Finbar's Conference*

Fr Joe's Musings continued from page 1

May I invite you to pray for the success of our Diocesan Synod: "O God, who always walks with us on the journey of life, we call upon you to lead us forth united. Bless and guide our Diocesan Synod. Keep us anchored in your love. Open our hearts as we listen and discern. Reveal to us the way we are called to go out into the deep. Give us the courage to pursue the mission with bold humility. May we experience renewal in our local Church today, and for generations to come."

Fr Joe

INVITATION TO INFORMATION NIGHT AT ST FINBARS ON SUBSTANCE USE IN THE BLUE MOUNTAIN AREA

As you may already know, drug addiction can have devastating effects on personal life. While the Blue Mountains Area enjoys many "protective factors" mitigating the consumption of illicit drugs, young people in our local communities are still exposed to the risks and dangers of substance use. Jim McLoughlin, parishioner and member of the Police Force Parramatta, will present a talk on "*Life is precious gift, don't waste it on drugs!*" on Tuesday the 2nd May 2023 at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall.

FAITH - FEED AT ST FINBARS



You are young (between 18 and 40), and you have lots of questions about faith and life. You are not sure about Christian identity and belonging? You would love to be among young adults who share the same journey. Have questions about life & faith? Join with others on the search at The FaithFeed live studio audience - hosted by Glenbrook in the Mountains Deanery – all are welcome! The FaithFeed will be on Sunday 7 May at the parish hall after the 6PM Mass. Doors open 7:00PM for a 7:30PM start. The night will feature faith stories + live music + activities + great conversation. Book now: <https://tinyurl.com/tffrego> Speaker for the evening is Steve Baird, CEO of International Justice Mission Australia which is part of the largest anti-slavery organisation in the world. You are the right person: Come and join us for an evening of good soul warming music, inspirational speakers, uplifting conversation about faith and life, and of course, good food as well.

TRIVIA NIGHT- Saturday 6 May 7pm

Who doesn't love a Trivia Night? Lucky door prizes, coin toss, head and tails, trivia, challenges, prizes for the winning tables and much, much more! SFNC will be holding a fundraising trivia night to raise money to continue to keep our fees affordable for all families.

When: Saturday 6 May

Time: Doors open at 6.30pm, questions start at 7pm

Cost: \$10 for SFNC members, \$15 for non-members

BYO: Drinks and Nibbles

Tables will be set up for 8 people. To book please add your name to the lists on the Notice Board closest to the Warden's table or email secretarysfnc@gmail.com or phone Janette Ankers on 0438 672 040. Keep an eye on our Facebook page (search St Finbars Glenbrook Netball Club) over the coming weeks for clues! 3 are already there.

TIMOR-LESTE AND BLACKHEATH CHOIRS TOGETHER

The Blue Mountains East Timor Sisters are hosting a special free concert featuring choirs from Timor-Leste and Blackheath next Wednesday 26th April at 6.30pm. The Blue Mountains East Timor Sisters work to build friendships between our two countries and invite anyone who would like to experience a unique meeting of cultures to come to Phillips Hall, 41 Gardiner Crescent, Winmalee. Bookings not necessary.

Bateman Battersby
LAWYERS

We invite members of the Parish to take advantage of our legal services specialising in :

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PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

Paul Egan (Gerard Egan’s Brother), Joe Grange, Jeanette Russell (Margaret Rivas’ Friend), Maria Cummins, Paul Walker, Esme Kramhoft, Christopher Auckett, Matthew Tuckleman, George Hauswirth, Mary Nelson, Barry Wylie and John Mullane.

PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK PARISHIONERS, RELATIVES & FRIENDS:

Gwen Cullinan, Cecily McHugh (Jacqui Visser’s Daughter), Pat Bell, 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:

Raymond Merchant, Kathleen Moore, Margaret Mead, Wayne Portelli, Shane Navin, Cheryl Kirton and James Gormly.

LITURGICAL ROSTER FOR 29TH & 30TH APRIL 2023

Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	Vince Dobson	Peter McMahon	Lukas Rajnoch
Senior Server	Vince Dobson	Peter McMahon	Lukas Rajnoch
Junior Servers	Volunteers Please		Volunteers Please
Warden	Lorraine Brown	Volunteer Please	Frank Fitzpatrick
1 st Reading	Eileen Jones	John Killeen	Yvonne Scanlan
2nd Reading	Katy Ferris	Michelle Wilson	Cecilia Zammit
Intercession	Volunteer Please	John De Mattia	Martin Rogers
Music	Men’s Group		Volunteers please
IT Operators	Henry Hanko	Kylie Mills	Robyn Flynn
Gifts	Parishioners are	Invited to offer to	Bring up the gifts
Communion	Brian Robertson	Kath Tierney	Yvonne Scanlan
Cashiers	Bernadette Shalala & Erika McNay		
Children’s Liturgy	Cate		
Piety Stall	Noreen Taylor		
Church Care	Volunteers please		
Hospitality	Julie Fehon, Anne Hobbs, Martin & Lyndel Rogers		

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