



The Barra
Weekly Newsletter of St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook
15th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A
15th & 16th July 2023

Isaiah 55:10-11; Ps 64; Romans 8:18-23; Matthew 13:1-23

FR JOE'S MUSINGS

Did you get it?

"Even many homilies — I say it with respect but with pain — are abstract, and instead of awakening the soul, they put it to sleep. When the faithful start looking at their watches (and say), 'When is this going to end?', they put the soul to sleep," the Pope said January 24 during his Sunday Angelus address.

This Sunday's gospel depicts Jesus as a preacher who used parables to teach his disciples. His parables were short, ranging from a single verse (Matt. 13:33) to a couple of dozen (Luke 15:11-32). They all used everyday examples and were relatable stories to those who heard them, and they had a truth that Jesus was attempting to get across to those he was teaching. On the surface, the parable was just an interesting story, one that was easily understood by the listeners and based on things within their own experience. But the parable also had a deeper meaning, illustrating a spiritual truth. In Jesus' use of parables, this truth mostly dealt with the kingdom of heaven but it was a truth that was easy to miss.

How to sow?

The parable of the "Sower" is also recorded in Mark 4:3-8 and Luke 8:5-8. In this parable the Sower sows the same type of seeds, but as he scatters his seeds, they fall on four different types of ground. There are four different results based upon the four different types of ground that the seeds fell on. The four different types of ground are: 1.) beside the road; 2.) the rocky places, where they did not have much soil; 3.) among the thorns; and 4.) the good soil.

In a predominantly agricultural society like Judea, Jesus's audience would have been familiar with all of these actions and outcomes. The most important teaching I would like to draw your attention to is verse 22. There, Jesus says that the thorns represent "the cares of this age and the deceitfulness of riches (which) choke the word, (so that) he becomes unfruitful."

This Sower knows all that, but sows his seeds widely anyway—just as God broadcasts mercy widely. This is a story of God's prodigality ("prodigal" has to do with lavish or wasteful expenditure). The seed that fell along the road produced nothing. The seed that fell on the rocky ground started to produce, but then stopped. The seed that fell among the thorns sprang up but was soon choked out. None of these three turned out to be of any value to the farmer. We need not despair if the results are not immediately apparent—or if some of our efforts produce no gain.

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PARISH INFORMATION

Parish Priest: Fr Joseph Lam

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Secretary: Juliana Khnouf

E-mail: secretary@stfinbars.org.au

Admin: Peter McMahon

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Office Hours: 9.30am – 3.00pm

Tuesday to Friday
 (Closed on Mondays)

Office Phone: (02) 47426958

Emergency Number: 0493 451 990

Parish QR Code:

Please use this QR Code to donate to St Finbar's Parish Glenbrook using your Credit Card, or to make any payments. Please select from the list.



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

OUR CHILDREN

Let us pray for our children who recently received their first Holy Communion.

We also pray for all our children who will be returning to school during the coming week, and for their teachers, that they may impart the Word of God to them.



WE 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>Sunday 16th July 2023</p> <p><i>15th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A</i></p>	<p>7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass</p> <p>1.15pm Bridge Club P/C</p> <p>6.00pm Youth Mass</p> <p>Live Streaming Link https://youtube.com/live/xAt86UIDKng?feature=share</p> <p>7.00pm Senior Youth Group P/C</p>
<p>Monday 17th July</p>	<p>No Mass. Office is closed</p>
<p>Tuesday 18th July</p>	<p>9.15am Mass</p> <p>10.00am Timeout Tuesday P/C</p> <p>6.00pm Cantabile Choir Practice</p> <p>7.00pm Finance Committee Meeting M/R</p>
<p>Wednesday 19th July</p>	<p>9.15am Mass followed by Rosary</p> <p>9.30am Playgroup P/C</p> <p>7.00pm Bridge Club P/C</p>
<p>Thursday 20th July</p>	<p>9.15am Healing Mass followed by morning tea</p> <p>1.15pm Bridge Club P/C</p> <p>7.30pm Come and taste the Good News with a Whiskey—Presbytery</p>
<p>Friday 21st July</p>	<p>9.15am Mass</p> <p>1.00pm Bowlers P/C</p>
<p>Saturday 22nd July</p> <p><i>St Mary Magdalene</i></p>	<p>9.15am Mass</p> <p>11.30am Te Deum's Choir Practice</p> <p>4.30pm Confessions</p> <p>5.30pm Vigil Mass</p> <p>Live Streaming Link https://youtube.com/live/mLGIbbIxt7U?feature=share</p>
<p>Sunday 23rd July 2023</p> <p><i>16th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A</i></p>	<p>7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass</p> <p>10.45am Baptisms</p>

Liturgical Ministry Formation Course
The Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in September. This is formation for anyone interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact the Office for Worship on 0460 037 795 or mary.gale@parracatholic.org or visit our website to download an enrolment form at <https://officeforworship.org.au/>

Your stories matter! Send your submissions to the first Diocesan Synod or apply to be a member.
Our Diocesan Synod is calling you to share stories and have conversations at your parish, with a friend, or with family, about how we can walk together to become the Church that Christ calls us to be. The success of the Synod relies on your participation. Your submissions will inform the development of the agenda for the Synod, from 12-15 October 2023, which will gather clergy, consecrated and laity to discuss important matters relating to the life and mission of the Church. Applications to be a member at the Synod are now open. Apply to be a member or make a submission before 31 July:
<https://parracatholic.org/synod2023/>

A SPECIAL ST FINBAR'S EVENT—Private Screening for St Finbar's parish
As you may know, our unique local cinema is struggling! It would be a pity if the cinema disappears! As a parish community we can make a difference. I am thinking to reserve the cinema for a private screening exclusively for St Finbar's parish, and to invite you to join and help our local business. I suggest the movie "**Oppenheimer**" which will be screened in Glenbrook from Thurs 20/7 – Sun 6/8.
The story is about the American scientist J. Robert Oppenheimer and his role in the development of the atomic bomb. Written and directed by Christopher Nolan, **Oppenheimer** is an IMAX®-shot epic thriller that thrusts audiences into the pulse-pounding paradox of the enigmatic man who must risk destroying the world in order to save it.
We need to purchase around 100 tickets (14.50 AUD each) for a private screening. It is suggested we aim for an afternoon session on Tues 1st or Wed 2nd August. Please let the parish office know by 21st July of your interest, and how many might attend, so I can reserve the cinema.
Many thanks. Fr. Joe.

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In verse 8, finally, it says that the harvest will be abundant once it has found a good soil: "Others fell on good soil, and yielded fruit: some one hundred times as much, some sixty, and some thirty." In his book, *The Parables of Jesus*, Joachim Jeremias claims that a first-century harvest would have been seven-fold to ten-fold. Thirty-fold would have been very bountiful, and a hundred-fold truly amazing. Jesus' words about the harvest then, seem designed to encourage disciples who work hard with few apparent results. The parable assures us that God is at work below the surface, causing growth that will manifest itself in due time.

So the church is prodigal too, proclaiming the Gospel among primitive tribes in far-away jungles and teenage gangs in urban ghettos. In some cases, the Sower is martyred. In some cases, the Sower spends a lifetime on the mission field without seeing substantial response. In some cases, the preacher toils for hours preparing a sermon for only ten or twelve people. Jesus assures us that we need not worry that our effort is in vain. Things are happening that we cannot see. Not only is the seed at work under the surface of the ground, but God is also at work. God will bring forth the harvest, and it will be abundant.

Fr Joe

PARISH UMBRELLAS

There has been more than \$900 donated by parishioners so far towards the purchase of umbrellas for use at our outdoor Masses and other functions. We have almost reached our target. If you would like to help us get there please add your donation either via the parish website, or by using the QR code in the narthex or dropping in in an envelope in one of the collections at Mass. The parish sincerely thanks all those who have donated so far. It is hoped to make the purchase within the next few weeks.

JULIANA and FAMILY

Juliana and her family are currently on their well deserved annual leave. Sadly, her husband Joseph's mum had passed two weeks earlier, before they could arrive in Jordan. So we extend our condolences and prayers to Joseph and his whole family. The Khnouf family are currently in Barcelona, having been in Jordan and to Paris and Toulouse. All being well, they will be back in Australia on 20/7.

COMING EVENTS

- ◆ The parish Finance Committee meets on Tuesday 18th July at 7pm
- ◆ Come and taste the Good News with a Whiskey is on Thursday 20th July at 7:30pm in the presbytery. All men are welcome to attend and contribute to the discussion
- ◆ The Gin/Tonic/Treasures night (planned for 27th July) has been cancelled.
- ◆ The "Ageing is just another word for living" session planned for 15th August has had to be delayed.
- ◆ Confirmation preparation begins on Thursday 17th August at 5:30pm

BECOME A CATECHIST! - Catechist training commencing in August at St Finbars, Glenbrook.

Sharing the gospel with students in our public schools is an important ministry at our parish. It is very rewarding spending time with young people sharing our faith. You'll be joining a supportive team and curriculum materials and ongoing training are provided. We'd love to see you there. To enquire/enrol speak to our Parish Catechist Coordinator, Beth Culliver, or email Maree at ccd.training@parracatholic.org with your details.

MOVIE NIGHT

The Youth Team is hosting a movie night on 22 July at 6.30pm in the hall.

Movie hint: Nun of your business (rated PG)

Entry is a gold coin donation, and snacks will be available for purchase.

For more information contact sfyglenbrook@gmail.com

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L A W Y E R S

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PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

Colin Haywood, Paul Wesley (Mike, Laurie and Margaret’s cousin), Helen Hunt, Kerry Harriden (Michael Harriden’s Brother), Mary O’Sullivan, Shirley Cameron, Joe Grange and Maria Cummins.

PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK PARISHIONERS, RELATIVES & FRIENDS:

Mark Cheeseman, Gwen Cullinan, Pat Bell, Chris Paine, Margaret Stevens, Lyn Beltran, Lyn Downes, Jacqui Visser, Margaret Christensen, Mark Bates, Colleen & Michael Nolan, Terry Stevens, Joanne Macrae, Sophie Hollies, 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:

Jean Cottier, Kevin Bohan, Waclaw Zajicek, Thomas Binns, Kevin O’Donnell, Peter Nash, Kathleen O’Connor, Rita Cloran, William Worthington, Thomas Brooks, Antonio Favaloro, Winnifred Jackson, Annie Gillian, Ivan Kucic, Mary Rivas and Roberto Di Nucci.

LITURGICAL ROSTER FOR 22ND & 23RD JULY 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		Holy Light
IT Operators	Henry Hanko	Kylie Mills	Joanne Stubbs
Gifts	Volunteers Please	Rivas Family	Young Family
Communion	Noreen Taylor	Brian Grech	Mila Svehla
Children’s Liturgy	Cate		
Piety Stall	Ann Marie King		
Church Care	Volunteers Please		
Hospitality	Kerry & Peter Herborn, Marie Nassif		
Lawn Mowing	Volunteers Please		

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