



***The Barra***  
*Weekly Newsletter of St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook*  
**16th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A**  
**22nd & 23rd July 2023**

**Wisdom 12:13, 16-19; Ps 85; Romans 8:26-27; Matthew 13:24-30**

**FR JOE'S MUSINGS**

**'Do you want us to go and pull them up?'**

Through this Sunday's gospel, many are likely to interpret it as saying that the Sower is God. He sows with Jesus good seeds. Of course, the good seeds are the people—why do the seeds not sprout as expected.

What should we do? As an answer, Jesus implies that it were likely the enemies who, as an act of sabotage, had introduced the weeds (Greek, *Zizania = toxic darnel*) among the seeds. Then the irritated disciples (laborers) propose a simple but bad solution: Let us uproot them!

Today there may be many things in the world and in the Church that we don't like. What I find most disturbing is the divisive culture that appears to rule the political and Church's debate. I understand when people get emotional because emotion also manifests authentic passion for an individual cause. However, personal feelings should not blind us to the vision of the greater common good.

That is the reason why Jesus recommends that judgement belongs only to God. Our responsibility is to exercise patience and to "Let both grow together until the harvest" (v. 30a).

Unlike God, we cannot know people's hearts—or where their lives might take them—or their potential for redemption. God has not equipped us with the insight necessary to weed the garden.

As wonderful as it would be to have a "pure" world, a world without sinners, Jesus tells us that only in the harvest will purity be possible. Attempts to achieve it now will prove disastrous—will destroy the good with the bad. Reapers will accomplish the separation at harvest time—in God's scheme of things, soon enough.

This is a word that we need to hear as we struggle to do God's will in a world that refuses to listen—that resists every effort to bring it closer to God's kingdom. It is also a word that we need to hear as we encounter other Christians with a too-sharp tongue—or a too-controlling manner—or a too-shallow theology. In the end the church will be wonderful—fully redeemed—entirely saintly—but not just yet!

If we want a saintly church, perhaps the best place to start is by praying that God will grant us saintly patience with those whose discipleship is presently faulty. Perhaps it will help to remember that our discipleship is faulty too.

But we should not interpret this parable as prohibiting church discipline. In Matthew 18, Jesus gives a highly specific protocol for dealing with sin within the church (18:15-17).

We are not called to tolerate the intolerable. There are times when it is necessary to terminate a relationship decisively—particularly an abusive or violent relationship—but we must face the human condition realistically. We are sinners living among sinners. If we demand too much, condemn too quickly or break off relationships too easily, we doom ourselves to a lifetime of revolving-door relationships or perpetual loneliness. We who hope to receive grace must also be willing to extend it.

*Continued on p3*

**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)

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**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**

**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](http://www.stfinbars.org.au)

**Facebook:**

Glenbrook Catholic Church St Finbars

**Parish School:** Principal

Mrs Robyn Clarke

**Phone:**

\_4724 3600

**JULIANA**

You will be aware that Juliana and her family have been overseas for about five weeks.

It is with great joy that we welcome the Khnouf family back to our parish (and probably to cooler weather than they have been experiencing)!

Juliana is expected back at work in the parish office on Wednesday.

**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.*

## PARISH CALENDAR

<b>Sunday</b> <b>23rd July 2023</b>  <i>16th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A</i>	<b>7.30am Mass</b> <b>9.30am Mass</b> <b>10.45am Baptisms</b>
<b>Monday</b> <b>24th July</b>	<b>No Mass. Office is closed</b>  5.00pm SVDP Meeting M/R
<b>Tuesday</b> <b>25th July</b> <i>St James</i>	<b>9.15am Mass</b>  6.00pm Cantabile Choir Practice 7.30pm August's Baptism Preparation meeting M/R
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>26th July</b> <i>Sts Joachim and Anne</i>	<b>9.15am Mass followed by Rosary</b>  9.30am Playgroup P/C 7.00pm Bridge Club P/C
<b>Thursday</b> <b>27th July</b>	<b>9.15am Mass</b>  1.15pm Bridge Club P/C 7.30pm Netball Club Executive Meeting P/C
<b>Friday</b> <b>28th July</b>	<b>9.15am Mass</b>  1.00pm Bowlers P/C <b>7.30pm Adoration</b>
<b>Saturday</b> <b>29th July</b> <i>Sts Martha, Mary &amp; Lazarus</i>	<b>9.15am Mass</b>  11.30am Te Deum's Choir Practice 4.30pm Confessions <b>5.30pm Vigil Mass</b>
<b>Sunday</b> <b>30th July 2023</b>  <i>17th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A</i>	<b>7.30am Mass</b> <b>9.30am Mass</b>

## PARISH NOTICES

### KITCHEN PROGRESS

The final drawings for the refurbishment of the kitchen in the Parish centre have been approved and signed off. The appliances have been installed and the ceiling is being painted. It is expected that the kitchen will be completed by early September and ready for use.

### UMBRELLAS

The parish is very grateful for all the parishioners who donated funds for the purchase of umbrellas. We now have enough to complete the purchase, and this will be done during August. The umbrellas will provide shelter during the outdoor Masses Fr Joe plans to offer during the warmer weather. Because they are portable, they can be moved about for use at any outdoor parish activity

### 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](mailto:ccd.training@parracatholic.org) with your details.

### VERY GENEROUS DONATIONS

The parish has been fortunate to be the recipient of very generous donations of \$5,000 each from two individual parishioners whose anonymity we respect, and \$15,000 from the Clyne family. These donations, together with the careful management of our finances by the Parish Finance Committee have resulted in the parish currently being in a sound financial situation. May God bless you all for your contributions.

### PARISH FILM OUTING

This is your last chance to join with lots of other parishioners in a parish outing to see the movie Oppenheimer at Glenbrook Cinema on Wednesday 9th August at 7pm. If you are interested please let the parish know how many



**THIS SPACE  
AVAILABLE TO  
LEASE**

I am most grateful to two parishioners - whose anonymity I respect – for their very generous donations to the parish. Their donations will help the parish to sow the Good News and to assist the vulnerable in our community. Bishop Vincent has sent out an invitation to all parishioners who wish to be a member at the upcoming Diocesan Synod in October. As per the *Vatican Instructions on Diocesan Synods*, members are to ‘truly reflect the entire portion of the People of God which constitutes the diocese, taking account of the different regions of the diocese, of social conditions and professions, and of the part played in the apostolate by the members, whether individually or in association with others’ Canon 512:2. A Synod member will have a consultative vote at the Synod on a range of issues raised from the submissions received through the listening stage of our process. If you are interested in becoming a member, please visit our Diocesan website [www.parracatholic.org/synod2023](http://www.parracatholic.org/synod2023) for details.

Fr Joe

## YOUR GOOD WORKS

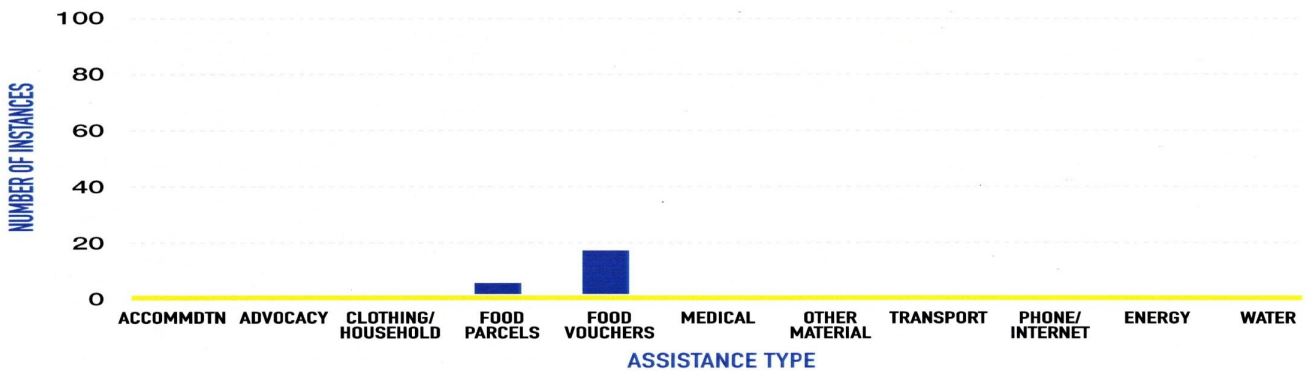
From 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022 members of **Glenbrook St Finbar's** assisted **18 people** and conducted **30 visits**.

### WHO YOU ASSISTED

- 83% of people assisted were female
- 17% of people assisted were male
- 0% of people assistance identified with another gender identity
- 78% indicated that they were under housing stress
- 22% identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- 11% said they had a disability
- 0% said the main language they speak is a language other than English
- Many of those you assisted had families and dependents who also benefitted from your support – this means you reached an additional 26 people.

### HOW YOU ASSISTED

THE MOST COMMON FORMS OF ASSISTANCE PROVIDED ARE AS FOLLOWS:



In total, Glenbrook St Finbar's spent \$6,713.30 in client support and raised \$3,369.95 to support these good works.

Please note: Information on assistance provided and funds raised comes from the Society's databases and is accurate to the best of our knowledge. At times, information in the databases may be incomplete, despite our best efforts.

### Bateman Battersby LAWYERS

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

- Property Law
- Business Law
- Wills & Estates
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- Negligence Law
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[www.turnerfreeman.com.au](http://www.turnerfreeman.com.au)

Gerard.Morson@turnerfreeman.com.au

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:**

Fr Carl Aston, 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:**

David Haynes (Yvonne Scanlan's Dad), 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:**

Janet Noonan, Mabel Barry, Ruby Howling, Doris Ball, Peter Roebuck, Arthur Hibberd, Paul Treble, Janet Tulk, David McSorley, Anthony Visser and Peter Bryant.

**LITURGICAL ROSTER FOR 29TH & 30TH JULY 2023**

Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	Ahyiesha D'Souza	Carl Moll	Lukas Rajnoch
Senior Server	Ahyiesha D'Souza	Carl Moll	Lukas Rajnoch
Junior Servers	Volunteers please		Volunteers please
Warden	Huia Kingi	Volunteer Please	Gary Clune
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Elizabeth Rowe	John Killeen	Annis Nilsson
2nd Reading	Greg Rowe	Margaret Dickson	Cecelia Zammit
Intercession	Dawn Willis	Elizabeth Konza	Justin Dowling
Music	Cormac's Group		
IT Operators	Thais Turner	Volunteer Please	Pat Watson
<b>Gifts</b>	<b>Parishioners are</b>	<b>invited to offer to</b>	<b>bring up the gifts</b>
Communion	Lorraine Brown	Margaret Dickson	Irene Aligno
Children's Liturgy	Michelle		
Piety Stall	Noreen Taylor		
Church Care	Jeannine Ashbee, Deb Gall, Leesa & Wayne Gillard		
Hospitality	Julie Fehon, Anne Hobbs, Martin & Lyndal Rogers		
Lawn Mowing	Kevin Debeck, Rob Lennon and John Killeen		

**Ballimino's**  
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