



**The Barra**  
*Weekly Newsletter of St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook*  
**17th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A**  
**29th & 30th July 2023**

**1 Kings 3:5, 7-12; Ps 118; Romans 8:28-30; Matthew 13:44-52**

**FR JOE'S MUSINGS**

17<sup>th</sup> Sunday, Year A, 30<sup>th</sup> July 2023  
 Matthew 13:44-52

***Give up and Sell your burden to regain Christ's joy***

I can't remember exactly, but I've read this quote somewhere: "Better foolish and honest than clever and false." It appears that the author of the quote had a bad opinion about cleverness since he related it to falsity.

In this Sunday's gospel, Matthew's view on cleverness is positive as he regarded it as one way of funding the Kingdom of God.

The parable of the "treasure in the field" tells of a person who was quite clever, perhaps even sophisticated. He finds a treasure but does not tell the rightful owner about it. Rather, he acquires the property at market price. He conceals the crucial fact that he also acquires the treasure with the property.

It is the same sophistication in money matters that Jesus often describes, and which must have fascinated him in some way as a model of worldly prudence (see Mt 25: the parable of the steward who creatively multiplies the returns for the owner). Is Jesus simply interested in unrestrained enrichment here? Was Jesus a capitalist, one could ask further?

According to Matthew, Jesus does not evaluate this, but only says that this kind of understanding should now be transferred to the really important area - the gaining of eternal life with God. This kind of sophistication is something that Jesus formally admires because it testifies to imagination and commitment of the buyer.

Yet, the parable also points to the buyer's irrational action. He literally sells everything he has. He practices the gold digger mentality: He mounts up his tents to win only one thing. The difference to the gold diggers, however, is that he knows where the treasure is to be found.

Here we are not put off by an uncertain future. No, this man has already discovered the treasure. And, critically for Matthew's gospel is the additional information: "full of joy" the man went! We can't even imagine it. The fact that one sells everything for joy only exists in the context of divine love. The bible mentions that a man leaves father and mother for of a woman whom he wants to live with. For early Christianity, the joyful act of liberation always includes the farewell to property and family.

In the second parable of the pearl, Matthew replaces joy with beauty. Just as the pearl diver finds the pearl beautiful, so the Christian should find his/her faith beautiful and joyful.

Aren't we treasure hunters too? Because of life's many difficulties and doubts, some may have given up the faith. Some may have given up or lost it.

*Please continue reading on the page 3*

**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 McMahan

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**

**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

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

The Parish wishes Jacqui Visser a happy birthday. She has just turned 93 years young and still comes to Mass as often as she can.

May God's blessings be with you always.



***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><b>Sunday</b> 30th July 2023 <i>17th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A</i></p>	<p><b>7.30am Mass</b> <b>9.30am Mass</b></p>
<p><b>Monday</b> 31st July <i>St Ignatius of Loyola</i></p>	<p><b>No Mass. Office is closed</b></p>
<p><b>Tuesday</b> 1st August <i>St Alphonsus Liguori</i></p>	<p><b>9.15am Mass</b> 10.00am Timeout Tuesday P/C 6.00pm Cantabile Choir Practice 7.30pm Safeguarding Module 1 - P/C</p>
<p><b>Wednesday</b> 2nd August</p>	<p><b>9.15am Mass followed by Rosary</b> 9.30am Playgroup P/C 7.00pm Bridge Club P/C</p>
<p><b>Thursday</b> 3rd August <i>St Dominic</i></p>	<p><b>9.15am Mass</b> 1.15pm Bridge Club P/C</p>
<p><b>Friday</b> 4th August <i>St John Vianney</i></p>	<p><b>9.15am Mass</b> 1.00pm Bowlers P/C</p>
<p><b>Saturday</b> 5th August</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> 6th August <i>THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD Year A</i></p>	<p><b>7.30am Mass</b> <b>9.30am Mass</b> <b>6.00pm Youth Mass</b> Live Streaming Link <a href="https://youtube.com/live/emry3IKkLtE?feature=share">https://youtube.com/live/emry3IKkLtE?feature=share</a> 7.00pm Senior Youth Group P/C</p>

Apply to be a Member at our Diocesan Synod

If you are someone with a commitment to discern prayerfully with others what God wants for the whole diocese, then you might be called to be a member at our first Diocesan Synod! Details of the selection criteria and requirements are available on our website now [parracatholic.org/synod2023](http://parracatholic.org/synod2023). Applications are welcome now until 31 July. Further enquiries can be sent via email [synod2023@parracatholic.org](mailto:synod2023@parracatholic.org)

Follow our World Youth Day pilgrimage from home!

170 young people from Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains have officially taken off to World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal for an experience of a lifetime. Our pilgrimage will travel through some of the most beautiful and sacred parts of Europe and you are invited to follow along from home. We will be posting videos, photos and articles throughout the trip, so you can see and hear what our pilgrims are experiencing. Sign up today by visiting [catholicoutlook.info/WYD23News](http://catholicoutlook.info/WYD23News)



or by scanning the QR code.

Soul Food Podcast – Mission Enhancement Team

Do you find life & faith inspiration by listening to the experiences of others?

The Mission Enhancement Team's *Soul Food Podcast* features life & faith stories of people from our diocesan family. Listen now for FREE via our website or on Spotify:

<https://pfparra.org.au/soulfood/>

SAFEGUARDING MODULE 1

For all Parish Volunteers who need to complete their Safeguarding Module 1 for the 1st time and/or for all who had completed it two years ago, they will need to redo it again. The parish is having face to face Safeguarding Module 1 session in the parish hall on Tuesday the 1st of August at 7.30pm.

**YOUTH NIGHT**  
ST. FINBAR'S PARISH, GLENBROOK

EVERY 1ST & 3RD SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH @ 6PM  
MASS: 6PM SUPPER: 7PM  
THE LOUNGE YOUTH GROUP: 7.30-8.30PM

**THIS SPACE FOR RENT. ENQUIRE AT PARISH OFFICE**

UNIVERSAL SISTERHOOD PODCAST PRESENTS

**ARISE**

Talitha Koum Little Girl I say Arise

**WOMEN'S RETREAT**

Saturday 16th September, 2023  
St Finbar's Catholic Church Glenbrook  
8:30am - 8:30 pm.  
Holy Mass, Guest Speakers, Confession, Prayer, Praise & Worship.  
Eucharistic Healing Adoration.  
\$100 ticket all meals included.  
TRY BOOKING <https://www.trybooking.com/eyqztdia?idmg=10784042eac-10784048>

UNIVERSAL SISTERHOOD

**Fr Joe's Musings—Continued from page 1**

Why not selling or even GIVING UP this burden and doubts to regain the joy and beauty of life that we find in Christ?

Perhaps, let us recall Paul's struggle and his search for the Kingdom. In Philippians 3:7-8 he wrote, 'Whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ.'

In the parable the man sells everything he has so that he can have the kingdom. In Philippians 3:8, Paul suffers the loss of all things that he may gain Christ.

The point of selling everything in this parable is simply to show where your heart is. "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21). And if your heart is to have the kingdom above all things, then Luke 12:32 comes true for you: "It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

*Fr Joe*

***A Glimpse of the Sublime***

A Concert of delightful music featuring –  
Stephanie Zammit (Soprano) And Michael Taylor (Organ)  
And the heritage-listed Hele organ at  
**St. Finbar's Catholic Church**  
Levy Street, Glenbrook  
**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2023 at 2pm**  
Donation \$15 and \$10 concession



**ST VINCENT'S DE PAUL WINTER APPEAL**

Today we will be conducting our annual Winter Appeal. Conference members will speak at all Masses this weekend seeking your financial support for the work of the Society in our Parish.



- ✦ If you are able to make a contribution to the Vinnies Winter Appeal please place your donation in the buckets that a conference member will be holding near the exit doors after Mass or you could place a donation in the Poor Box located at the Warden's Table.
- ✦ Thank you for your attention to our appeal and to all parishioners for your ongoing support for the work of the St Vincent de Paul Society in our community.
- ✦ May God bless you for your compassion and support.

**ST FINBAR'S PARISH TRIVIA NIGHT**

*Come and join us for a night full of fun, games and a great time*  
**Date: Saturday the 19th of August in the Parish hall 7pm**  
**Cost: \$5**  
*Please add your name to the lists on the Warden's table.*

**COMING EVENTS**

- Fr Joe goes on his annual leave on 16th August. We wish him a relaxed and safe journey. During his absence weekend Masses will be as normal, but there will only be weekday Masses on Wednesdays and Fridays.
- Confirmation preparation commences at 5:30pm on Thursday 16th August. This preparation is compulsory for the children who will be receiving this sacrament.
- The next Men's Breakfast will be held on Saturday 20th August at 7:30am

**Bateman Battersby**  
LAWYERS

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

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Property Law</li> <li>• Business Law</li> <li>• Wills &amp; Estates</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family Law</li> <li>• Negligence Law</li> <li>• Court Appearances</li> </ul>
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**Phone: 02 47315899**  
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**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:**

Bernard Wilson, Anni Grundschoettel, Danuta Ryan, Frances Roberts, Leslie Cullen, Jeffrey Plim, Marian Wiecek, Brian Martland, Daisy Watterson, John Guerin, Gweneth Pinson, Carmel Harris, John Costello, Robert Murphy, Freda Weston and Robyn Connors.

**LITURGICAL ROSTER FOR 5TH & 6TH AUGUST 2023**

Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	Fr Joe	Carl Moll	Gerard Egan
Senior Server	Emily Dowling	Carl Moll	Joseph Sukkar
Junior Servers	Alex & Luc Nilsson		Xavier Rajnoch & Patrick Sukkar
Warden	Vince Dobson	Volunteer Please	Gary Clune
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		Anne Hobbs Group
IT Operators	Robyn Flynn/Phil Eltakchi	Joseph Wilson	Pat Watson
Gifts	Noreen Taylor & Janice Smith	Maria Heinzl & Stanis Drobiszewski	Volunteers Please
Communion	Vince Dobson & Brian Robertson	Brian Grech	Garry Pursehouse
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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