



The BARRA

Weekly Newsletter of St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook
19th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A
12th & 13th August 2023

1 Kings 19:9, 11-13; Ps 84; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:22-33

FR JOE'S MUSINGS

Celebrating the Gift of Family chosen by God as His "Household" – Sunday Family Mass

The New Testament describes the church as the "household of God" (1 Timothy 3:15). The Church needs natural families, because they can show the church how to be a family; but natural families also need the church—no family can or should be spiritually self-sufficient. For this reason, the Church affirms natural families, but also encourages them to see themselves as part of the wider household of God, ready to embrace those members of the Church who come alone.

It appears that Jesus downplays the concept of family by establishing the spiritual family of God. Jesus invited everyone to be born again into the family of God (John 1:12-13). This involves pledging allegiance to Jesus, even at the expense of our biological relationships (Luke 14:26). Jesus predicted that his gospel would divide families, as some members choose to join God's spiritual family and others do not (Matthew 10:34-37). God's family also offered a new place and purpose for the unmarried and the childless, since its growth no longer depended on biological reproduction, but on the spread of the gospel (Matthew 19:11-12).

But it is important to recognise that Jesus and the early Church also upheld the value and necessity of the biological family. Jesus may have asked, "Who is my mother?" early on in his ministry (Matthew 12:48-50). But his final act was to ensure that his mother, Mary, would be provided for after his death (John 19:26-27). Jesus may have drawn a stark contrast between his earthly family and his "family" of committed disciples. But eventually, the two would significantly overlap: his mother and brothers became core members of the early Church. It is interesting that Jesus' band of disciples included two sets of brothers and probably some members of Jesus' own extended family too.

We like to think of ourselves as autonomous individuals who choose to come to church. But really all of us are shaped, pulled and bound by a network of family ties we did not choose. When we come to church with members of our family, those bonds come with us. What the Church needs most is not to loosen family bonds for the sake of creating a new spiritual family, but to encourage families to open themselves up to gospel priorities.

Our family relationships aren't just a model for others, but a school for us: "Our experience of familial love is meant to "school" us in the sacrificial love that binds us to one another in the family of God. The bonds of biology train us to extend love beyond biology." (N. Pearcey, *Love Thy Body*)

Similarly, Paul saw family life as a training and proving ground for ministry. He asks, "If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?" (1 Timothy 3:5)

Please continue reading on page 3

PARISH INFORMATION

Parish Priest: Fr Joseph Lam

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9.30am – 3.00pm

Tuesday to Friday

(Closed on Mondays)

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

**Jude Lennon Kennedy Mantle
and Olive Coco Pirozzi**

this Sunday, and warmly welcomes them into our Faith

Community here at St Finbar's.



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 13th August <i>19th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A</i></p>	<p>7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass—Family Mass 10.45am Baptisms</p>
<p>Monday 14th August <i>St Maximilian Mary Kolbe</i></p>	<p>No Mass. Office is closed 8.30am CCD Training Course P/C</p>
<p>Tuesday 15th August <i>The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i></p>	<p>9.15am Assumption Mass 10.00am Timeout Tuesday P/C 5.30pm Cantabile Choir Practice 7.00pm Assumption Mass</p>
<p>Wednesday 16th August</p>	<p>9.15am Mass followed by Rosary 9.30am Playgroup P/C 7.00pm Bridge Club P/C</p>
<p>Thursday 17th August</p>	<p>9.15am Liturgy of the Word with Communion 1.15pm Bridge Club P/C 5.30pm Confirmation Preparation Session P/C</p>
<p>Friday 18th August</p>	<p>9.15am Mass 1.00pm Bowlers</p>
<p>Saturday 19th August</p>	<p>No Morning Mass 11.30am Te Deum's Choir Practice No Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass—Fr Huang 7.00pm Parish Trivia Night P/C</p>
<p>Sunday 20th August <i>20th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A</i></p>	<p>7.30am Mass—Fr Dave Austin O.S.A. 9.30am Mass—Fr Chris Dixon 1.15pm Bridge Club P/C 6.00pm Youth Mass—Fr Andrew Rooney 7.00pm Senior Youth Group P/C</p>



Nominations open for Papal, Civil and Diocesan Awards

From today until Thursday 7 September 2023, you can nominate an outstanding individual who has contributed to the Catholic Church and society for a Papal Honours Award, Civil Award or Diocesan Award. Please visit parracatholic.org/awards. The Awards Ceremony will be held in November. More details to come.

Nine-Week Novena for the Diocesan Synod

All are invited to pray a Nine-Week Novena for the Diocesan Synod. The Novena will begin the week of Sunday 13 August and conclude the week of Sunday 8 October in the lead-up to the Synod Assembly: Friday 13 to Sunday 15 October. You are invited to pray once a week as a parish community, with your family, ministry groups or during personal prayer. More information: <https://parracatholic.org/synod2023/>

Kairos Prison Ministry for Women

This support group is for women who have family members serving a prison sentence. Live-in weekends are held twice a year at Mt Schoenstatt, Mulgoa. This is a safe space where women can meet and share with others their challenges. The next weekend will be held November 10 – 12, 2023.

Mandatory Safeguarding Face-to-Face Training Opportunities

Mandatory Modules 2 & 3 will be on Tuesday the 22nd and 29th of August starting at 7.30pm at St Finbar's Parish Glenbrook.

For further information please contact Maria Kervin at: maria.kervin@parracatholic.org

Diocesan Food Drives

Many vulnerable people in our community rely on the 'food banks' run by Jesuit Refugee Services and the House of Welcome, which operate thanks to donations from community food drives. All parishes and schools are encouraged to run a food drive for those seeking safety in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains. Find out more information about how you can help at parracatholic.org/fooddrive or emailing james.atanasious@parracatholic.org

FaithLIFE – 3 Night Short Course on Synodal Spirituality: Beginning 22 August

Pope Francis has invited the Church to be more 'synodal'. But what does that mean as an expression of Christian spirituality? Sign up for the FaithLIFE 3-night short course on synodal spirituality with Sr Patty Andrew, brought to you by the Mission Enhancement Team (MET). 6:30PM to 8:30PM on three Tuesday: 22 Aug + 29 Aug + 5 Sep.

Downstairs @ Bishop Bede Heather Centre: 1-5 Marion Street, Blacktown NSW 2148. RSVP via <https://pfparra.org.au/faithlife/>

Fr Joe's Musings—Continued from page 1

Every Christian of every age, whether married or single, needs to belong to a wider family of faith where spiritual brothers and sisters, uncles and aunts, and mothers and fathers, can share support, love, wisdom and accountability in true Christian community.

It is for the above reason that I would like to invite you to our first Family Mass this Sunday 13th August 2023 at 9.30 am. During this Mass, Noah Young also will receive his first communion. Following the Mass, two children, Olive and Jude, will be receive into the family of God through baptism. There will be BBQ, morning tea and games after the Mass.

A reminder: This Tuesday, 15th August is the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a **Holy Day of Obligation**. Hence, there will be two Masses: 9.15am and 7pm.

Fr Joe



ST FINBARS MEN'S BREAKFAST

Date - Saturday 26th August 2023

Time - 7:30 am – 9:00 am

Venue - Parish hall



The parish is holding another Men's Breakfast as an opportunity for parishioners to meet and get to know one another. This invitation is open to all male parishioners and any of their sons, grandsons, neighbours and friends. For catering purposes we will need to confirm numbers by Sunday 20th August 2023. Please add your name to the list on the warden's table.

Any questions please contact the organisers, Carl Moll 0417 471 137 or John De Mattia 4739 6775

GIRLS NIGHT!

Theme: Authentically you, authentically catholic

Friday 25th August, 7pm @ the church hall.

Come along for chats, food, activities, prayer and guest speaker- Jess Doherty!

This is a night aimed for young women year 7 and up.

RSVP to Claire - 0432599570 clairebrownmusic@gmail.com

Save the date—Sunday the 24th of September at 9.30am Mass- St Finbar's Feast Day Mass and Celebration afterwards.

We are moving forward and trying being environmentally conscious.

We ask that each family brings their own

supply of plates, cups cutlery, wine, chairs or picnic rug on the day.

We will be serving spit lamb, baked potatoes, salad and bread rolls. Hope you will be able to attend.

BRIEF WORKING BEE SATURDAY 12TH AUGUST

TIME: 9am – 10am

We need 6 - 8 people

SMALL TRUCK TO BE FILLED WITH GARDEN CUTTINGS!

The gardeners have had a merry time pruning and tidying BUT NOW we need the large pile of cuttings and weeds to be placed on a truck so it can be taken as green waste to the tip. It is not heavy work but it needs a few people to get it done. Please let the Parish Office know or just turn up on the day! We will have a tea/coffee/snack available. Thank you.



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L A W Y E R S

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:

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:

Marcello Brecey, Alban O'Loughlin, Thomas Byrne, Thomas Walsh, Bernardina Bruinsma, James Rowe, John Gersbach, Leslie Slater, Annia Audet and Coyle Winifred.

LITURGICAL ROSTER FOR 19TH & 20TH AUGUST 2023

Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	Vince Dobson	Peter McMahan	Stuart Sheary
Senior Server	Vince Dobson	Peter McMahan	Martin Rogers
Junior Servers	Volunteers Please		Zoe Wilson, Dominic Sheary & Tim Kensey
Warden	Lorraine Brown	Volunteer Please	Frank Fitzpatrick
1 st Reading	Maire Griffin	John Killeen	Peter or Trish Hurley
2nd Reading	Gideon Goosen	Margaret Dickson	Gary Clune
Intercession	Margaret Moore	John De Mattia	Justin Dowling
Music	Cantabile		Naomi's Group
IT Operators	Thais Turner	Elizabeth Konza	Susan Dowling
Gifts	Allan & Eileen Jones	Kay Whitty	The Wilson Family
Communion	Bernie Fisher	Helen Keogh	Irene Aligno
Children's Liturgy	Christyna		
Piety Stall	Lee Jackson		
Church Care	Volunteers Please		
Hospitality	Trish & Peter Hurley, Irene and Bert Aligno		
Lawn Mowing	Lukas Rajnoch, Andrew Howard and Stuart Sheary		

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