



The Barra
Weekly Newsletter of St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook
21st Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A
26th & 27th August 2023

Isaiah 22:19-23; Ps 137; Romans 11:33-36; Matthew 16:13-20

FR JOE'S MUSINGS

In Matthew's Gospel today, Jesus asks the disciples "who do people say the Son of Man is"? and the disciples reported the many different responses that they had heard. The same question is still relevant today, and if we were to ask any cross section of the population this question, I am sure we would get many and varied responses.

I think most people would agree that there is enough evidence in the Bible to prove that Jesus did actually exist on earth about 2000 years ago, but who is he? He is both human and divine. He is a carpenter. He is a man who worked hard and got tired just like you and me. He probably got frustrated with some of the things other people did or said. But he is also the Son of God. He healed the sick. He raised people from the dead. Try to empathise with the human Jesus and get to know what he was like as a man. This will help you start to realise that many of his human and divine qualities are related, and that he is at the same time human and divine.

Or you can jump right in like Peter did and shout out to the whole world "Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God", but maybe we are not quite as bold as Peter yet. Our life is a journey, and one of our goals should be to get to know more about Jesus, to trust him to guide our actions in life, to love him and to realise that he loves each one of us much more than we can ever love him.

As we get to know Jesus more and more, we also need to spread the Good News to the multitudes in our society today who seem not to care about faith or religion. They seem to think that material goods are their goal in this world. But if they stopped to think I am sure they would realise there has to be more to life. There is some sort of longing inside us all for something more, something deeper. Where does this longing come from?

St Augustine probably said it best when he said "Our hearts are restless until they rest in You, O Lord". Maybe the longing inside us is God calling to us to get to know him better and to love him more. Pray to Him this week and try to get to know him better

Most of you know that Fr Joe is now on his well-earned holiday. He landed in Frankfurt and is currently spending time in Germany with his family and carrying out some University commitments in that country before moving on to Norway. Let us remember him in our prayers and pray that he has a safe and joyful holiday.

Peter McMahon (on behalf of Fr Joe).

WELCOME

This weekend the parish welcomes **Father John Boyle** for the 5.30pm Vigil Mass, **Father Dave Austin** for the 7.30am Mass, **Father Chris Dixon** for the 9.30am Mass. We extend our sincere thanks and appreciation for their help.

PARISH INFORMATION

Parish Priest: Fr Joseph Lam

E-mail: joseph.lam@parracatholic.org

Secretary: Juliana Khnouf

E-mail: secretary@stfinbars.org.au

Admin: Peter McMahon

E-mail: admin@stfinbars.org.au

PPC:

E-mail: stfinbarsppc@gmail.com

Office Hours: 9.30am – 3.00pm

Tuesday to Friday
(Closed on Mondays)

Office Phone: **(02) 47426958**

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: By appointment during Father Joe's holiday

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

**Theodore Jeffrey Bristow and
Rome Michael Kennedy**

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.

PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday 27th August <i>21st Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A</i>	7.30am Mass—Fr Dave Austin O.S.A. 9.30am Mass—Fr Chris Dixon 10.45am Baptisms—Fr Chris Dixon 2.00pm A Glimpse of the Sublime Concert, Michael Taylor and Stephanie Zammit
Monday 28th August <i>St Augustine</i>	No Mass. Office is closed 8.30am CCD Training Course P/C
Tuesday 29th August <i>The passion of St John the Baptist</i>	No Morning Mass 5.30pm Cantabile Choir Practice 6.30pm Safeguarding Module 1 P/C 7.30pm Safeguarding Module 3 P/C
Wednesday 30th August	9.15am Mass followed by Rosary 9.30am Playgroup P/C 7.00pm Bridge Club P/C
Thursday 31st August	9.15am Liturgy of the Word with Communion 1.15pm Bridge Club P/C 5.00pm Confirmation Preparation Session P/C
Friday 1st September	No Morning Mass 1.00pm Bowlers
Saturday 2nd September	No Morning Mass 10.30am Private Baptism Clipsham Family 11.30am Te Deum's Choir Practice No Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass—Fr John Frauenfelder
Sunday 3rd September <i>22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A</i>	7.30am Mass—Fr Percival Severe O.S.A. 9.30am Mass—Fr Percival Severe O.S.A. 6.00pm Youth Mass—Fr Percival Severe O.S.A. 7.00pm Senior Youth Group P/C



NOREEN TAYLOR

Noreen Taylor had a fall in her house last week and was taken to Katoomba hospital. The doctors don't know what happened to her yet, but she is much better and she is improving day by day. Please keep Noreen and her family in your thoughts and prayers. P.S. for those who don't know Noreen, she is the lady who runs the church Piety Store and bakes the beautiful scones.

DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA NOTICES

Bishop's Father's Day Appeal: Caring for those who have cared for us

Our priests never stop giving their lives in service to our community. They dedicate themselves to carrying out God's ministry for as long as they are able. This Father's Day, let us show our thanks and appreciation for our priests' lifelong gifts of faithful service. Your compassionate donation will help our Clergy Support Foundation to care for our priests, and provide them with personalised health and wellbeing support. **A third collection will be on all next Sunday's Masses.** Please give generously to the Bishop's Father's Day Appeal at parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal or scan this QR code. Thank you for your generosity and support.



Nine-Week Novena for the Diocesan Synod

All are invited to pray a Nine-Week Novena for the Diocesan Synod. The Novena began the week of Sunday 13 August and concludes 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. **Booklets are available on the Warden's table this weekend.** More information: <https://parracatholic.org/synod2023/>

MET Worship Selecting Music for Mass Workshop: 7 September

Looking for further training on selecting music for Mass? Wanting some tips on encouraging a congregation to sing? Eric Grella, Music Formation Facilitator, Diocese of Parramatta will be running a Music Workshop on Thursday 7 September at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown from 7pm-9pm! Musicians, Liturgy Planners and Clergy are invited to attend. RSVP by 5 September on 0460 037 795 or mary.gale@parracatholic.org

PARISH TRIVIA NIGHT

The parish Trivia last Saturday was a great success with more than 180 parishioners attending.

Father Joe said that "It was so good to see our parishioners come together and have a fun filled night,. He has prayed so much for it. We are a community that enjoys each other's presence and that we have achieved a sense of belonging that parishioners have asked for at our local plenary". A special thanks to Martin, Lyndal, Mark and for all helpers who helped with setting up and running of the night.

Congratulations to the winning team Te Deum's Choir group for winning two years in a row.



ST FINBAR'S FINEST FEAST DINNER, DANCE & FUN

Saturday 7th October 2023 At: St Finbar's Parish Hall - BYO Alcoholic Beverages

Attire: Your Sunday Best

Tickets: \$30 Per Person including a glass of bubbly on arrival

RSVP: 2nd of October - Strictly 90 people only.

Please email the parish office on secretary@stfinbars.org.au if you would like to attend



LISTEN, LEARN, LOVE

This Sunday marks Social Justice Sunday for 2023. Social Justice Sunday has been celebrated in the Catholic Church in Australia since 1940. Each year, the Australian Bishops join together to prepare a social justice statement to inspire reflection and action on a critical issue. This year the statement focusses on First Nations peoples and it is titled: *Listen, Learn, Love: A new engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples*. This statement is important reading for all Catholics in advance on the upcoming referendum of the question of a First Nations Voice to Parliament. The statement and related resources can be read here:

[Social Justice Statement 2023-24 - Office For Justice, Ecology and Peace \(catholic.org.au\)](https://www.catholic.org.au/social-justice-statement-2023-24-office-for-justice-ecology-and-peace)

SEASON OF CREATION CAMPING TRIP 2023

Set aside your busy lifestyle for a few days to join with friends, family and other members of the Christian community to celebrate the Season of Creation. Enjoy a relaxed camping experience with optional activities to engage in fun, creative and prayerful ways with our Creator and creation.

When: Friday, September 29 – Monday, October 2, 2023

* *The SOC program will kick off Friday evening and finish with Sunday Mass. You are welcome to come early on Friday to set up and hang out, and stay on Sunday night for a relaxed and informal time together.*

Where: Wooglemai Catholic Bush Retreat Centre, Oakdale

Cost: Individual campers: \$30; Camping couples: \$55; Family camping groups: \$75

For more information and to register visit: www.seasonofcreationcamping.org

PENRITH CITY CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Invites boys and girls aged 7 – 13 years to join our third project for 2023, singing at St Finbar's 'MUSIC AND READINGS FOR CHRISTMAS'.

The project includes one workshop in Term 3 (September 10) and two in Term 4 leading to the public performance on Sunday 10 December.

No auditions. Just bring your love of singing.

For an Information Pack & Application Form contact: PCCC Administrator, Becky Padgett 0417 433 903 or email pccc@penrithcitychoir.com.au

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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:

Jan Maunders, 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, Lyn Beltran, Margaret Stevens, 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:

Les McDermott, Willy Boere, Andrew Wiecek, Ellen Fall, Maria Pay, Richard Nagle, Hermanus Voorn, James Griffin, Shiela Anderson, Walter Quealy, Noel Gibson, Mary McKenzie, Michael Price, Valma Jones, Eileen Trevaskis and Anna Instance.

LITURGICAL ROSTER FOR 2ND & 3RD SEPTEMBER 2023

Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	Juliana Khnouf	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 st Reading	Beth Culliver	John De Mattia	Volunteer Please
2nd Reading	Eileen Jones	John Killeen	Amanda Moore
Intercession	Greg Rowe	Kevin Flynn	Justin Dowling
Music	Naomi's Group		Anne Hobbs' Group
IT Operators	Phil Eltakchi & Robyn Flynn	Joseph Wilson	Pat Watson
Gifts	Noreen Taylor & Thea Robertson	Maria Heinzl & Stanis Drobiszewski	Volunteers Please
Communion	Elizabeth Rowe & Juliana Khnouf	Colleen Fuller	Wendy Brown
Children's Liturgy	Danielle		
Piety Stall	Carmel Higgins		
Church Care	Volunteers Please		
Hospitality	Tamar Apkarian & Karen Sukkar		
Lawn Mowing	Tony Doyle, Darren Dukes & Paul Geftakis		



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