



The Barra
Weekly Newsletter of St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook
26th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A
30th September & 1st October 2023

Ezekiel 18:25-28; Ps 24; Philippians 2:1-11; Matthew 21:28-32

FR JOE'S MUSINGS

Mt 21:28-32: Think once again

A bus driver and a priest die on the same day and stand in front of the gates of heaven. The bus driver is immediately let into the joys of heaven. The priest has to wait outside. Wait. Wait. He's slowly getting nervous. He rings loudly again until a voice comes on the intercom. "What's going on?" complains the priest. "I've worked and preached so much in God's vineyard and now I have to wait here for so long. I never saw the bus driver in the church. And he comes in straight away." Finally, the answer comes: "When you worked, preached, everyone slept; but when the bus driver drove, everyone prayed."

Jokes thrive primarily on clichés. For example: Pastors are pious and are immediately the first to go to heaven. And the joke breaks down the seemingly self-evident cliché. And that makes you laugh - and think. And so jokes are similar to the parables that Jesus tells. Parables - short stories that make you think and also smile.

Jesus said: But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he went to the first and said, My son, go and work in the vineyard today. But he answered and said, I will not. But afterward he regretted it and went. And the father went to the other son and said the same thing. But he answered and said, Yes, Lord! and did not go.

Which of the two did the Father's will? They said: The first.
 (Mt 21, 28-31)

When I first listen to it, I think to myself: this story is pretty thin and lacking in humour.

But: With parables it's like jokes, you have to know the images and clichés in order to understand the punch line and be able to smile.

"Going into the vineyard" is an analogy that describes our relationship with God. Whoever goes into the vineyard, God cares about him and her.

Jesus' indirect question seems pretty cheeky: How is it for you personally? Have you gone to the vineyard yet? Do you care about your religion, your faith, do you care about God?

The parable points the finger at no one. It simply tells matter-of-factly that a son obediently says yes and doesn't go to his father's vineyard. And that another son, less well-behaved, says no. No, father, I won't do that. I don't go to the vineyard. No, I have nothing to do with religion or with God. And not with the church either.

A nay-sayer. If the vineyard is called "church," more and more people today say no. And sometimes with good reasons. No, I don't belong to the church. No longer.

Please continue reading on page 3



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: 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

Daylight saving starts this Sunday morning, please remember to put your clocks forward one hour.

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 1st October <i>26th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass
Monday 2nd October <i>The Holy Guardian Angels</i>	No Mass. Office is closed 5.00pm SVDP Meeting M/R 6.30pm Finnie's Choir Practice
Tuesday 3rd October	9.15am Mass 5.30pm Cantabile Choir Practice 7.30pm Voice referendum kitchen table conversation M/R
Wednesday 4th October <i>St Francis of Assisi</i>	9.15am Mass followed by Rosary 7.00pm Bridge Club P/C 6.30pm Blessing of animals at Elizabeth Lookout
Thursday 5th October	9.15am Mass 1.15pm Bridge Club P/C
Friday 6th October	9.15am Mass 1.00pm Bowlers
Saturday 7th October <i>Our Lady of the Rosary</i>	9.15am Mass 4.30pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass
Sunday 8th October <i>27th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass—Feast of St Francis Assisi Outdoor Mass 9.30am Bridge Club P/C

NEW PARISH KITCHEN IS NOW COMPLETE

Many thanks to all who helped with their time and donations to complete the new kitchen. A special thanks to the Clyne family for their generous donation, to Lina Wiecek for donating the tiles, for Peter Barsha from Jaffa Tiling who tiled the kitchen for free, for Patrick Watson who organised the electrician and new lights for Paul Geftakis for painting the ceiling and closing the gaps and for all who helped organise and plan the new kitchen. May God bless them all.



ST. FINBAR'S PARISH NEWS

JUNIOR SERVER TRAINING

There will be a training session for anyone who has made their First Holy Communion and who would like to become a Junior Server at St Finbar's.

It will be held in the church on Thursday 19th October at 3:30pm and will last for about 45 minutes.

If you would like to be involved please let the parish office know, or give your name to Michelle Wilson.

This will be the final training session for 2023.

ALL SAINTS CHILDREN'S PARTY - Tuesday 31st October 2023

Come and join us to celebrate the life of our Saints who are in Heaven and still inspire us today. There will be fun activities, games, treats and time to meet other families.

When: Tuesday 31st
October 2023
Time: 5:00pm - 7:00pm
Where: St Finbar's
Catholic Church
Hall



Cost: \$5/ person (capped \$30/family)

How to get your tickets:

Step 1: Book your ticket online (it will say \$0 at checkout) <https://www.ticketleap.events/tickets/stfinbarsglenbrookplaygroup/all-saints-party-1546963134>

Step 2: Then transfer your payment to Lucie Twyford
BSB 032-323 Acct 174044

LIMITED SPOTS ONLY!

Any questions, please contact Lucie Twyford on 0424 793 359.

We look forward to seeing you for this celebration in your favorite Saint costumes!



The St Finbar's Glenbrook Playgroup

ALL SOULS MASS

Mass this year will be celebrated on Thursday the 2nd of November at 7pm.

The celebration of the Eucharist will be offered for only the faithful who departed during this past year. Also invited to participate in the liturgy are parishioners who have lost a close relative during the past year and whose funeral was conducted outside the Parish. A candle ceremony will be part of the celebration so if you would like your loved one remembered by lighting a candle (which your family member will place on the sanctuary during the Mass), please email the parish office on: secretary@stfinbars.org.au.

A small photo of your loved one could also be placed on the sanctuary before the commencement of Mass.

Please note that the parish is not taking any names after the 28th of October.

FR JOE'S MUSINGS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

A very important little sentence tells the story of the son who first says no: "After that, later he regretted it." So, there is a later, an earlier and a today. The son says no today. Later - hours, days, maybe years, decades later - he regrets it. Later he thinks again.

The two brothers do not differ simply by doing or not doing. There is something different, something deeper, that one son has over the other. It's remorse. The introspection. The thinking. Think about your own life in the light of the eternal, in the light of God and then be ready for change.

And that's what the other son, who said yes, still has ahead of him: this deepened, painful reflection on his own life is an invitation to reflection.

I hear Jesus' parable as an invitation to reflection. To go into the depths of my own life. Into the hidden, also: into the un-lived. "The hidden and forbidden zone of the sacred," is what the theologian Manfred Josuttis calls the vineyard, the thing with God. It is hidden, even forbidden, and highly intimate: honest reflection on my own life in the light of the eternal.

Fr Joe

PARISH PASTORAL CARE TEAM are offering a morning of information and reflection on the Rite of Communion of the Sick following 9.15am Mass on Saturday the 21st of October. There will be a session on the Rite of Communion who take Eucharist to those parishioners who are unable to attend Mass.

Often those we visit do not have internet connection and are unable to participate in our parish through our online Masses.

This will be an opportunity to learn more about the ministry and its Rite, as well as to reflect and discern if this a calling for you.

Following the session, which will take about 45 minutes we will have morning tea and be open for discussion and any questions and queries.

Those leading the morning will be Margaret Richards, Kathleen Tierney, Bernadette Shalala, Maire Griffin, Sue McGrath, Vince and Carmel Dobson.

There will be an opportunity to share experiences with this valuable Ministry.

COME JOIN US FOR A VOICE REFERENDUM KITCHEN TABLE CONVERSATION: TUESDAY OCTOBER 3RD AT 7.30PM IN THE MEETING ROOM.

We will be holding an opportunity for prayer, discussion and information sharing around the Voice to parliament that we will all need to vote on, on October 14. There are different opinions on this question and all positions will be respected. We will use the Kitchen Table discussion format promoted by Catholic Mission and other Catholic agencies and this will be an opportunity to hear from the voices of Catholic leaders and agencies on this important moral question for our time. Please come and join us in the meeting room for a cuppa and a chat, and perhaps we may all learn something new.

Melissa McDonald/PPC member for Mission: Ecology & Social Justice

NO MORE GENERAL PRINTING

Please note that the parish has recently changed printer/photocopier companies for a better overall financial deal. However our new contract involves us paying for every individual sheet of paper printed.

The parish has therefore decided that it can no longer do any general printing for parishioners. Parish groups are asked to be mindful of the costs if they need to have any approved documents printed.

Bateman Battersby

L A W Y E R S

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

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Property Law • Business Law • Wills & Estates | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Law • Negligence Law • Court Appearances |
|---|---|

Phone: 02 47315899

www.batemanbattersby.com.au

Enquiries@batemanbattersby.com.au

BEAUTIFUL
SIMPLE
FAREWELLS

4735 6900 gracefunerals.com.au

GRACE FUNERALS

Formerly Lady of Grace Funerals

PENRITH | BLUE MOUNTAINS | WESTERN SYDNEY



**Turner
Freeman**

Lawyers Est. 1992

Turner Freeman Lawyers have been providing members of the community with outstanding legal services since 1952 in the following areas:
Personal injury claims | Wills & estate planning | Property law | Deceased estates & will disputes



Suite 4, 311 High Street Penrith NSW 2750

4729 5200

www.turnerfreeman.com.au

Gerard.Morson@turnerfreeman.com.au

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

Lyn Beltran, Joanne Macrae, Colin Haywood, Helen Hunt, Mary O'Sullivan, Shirley Cameron and Joe Grange.

PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK PARISHIONERS, RELATIVES & FRIENDS:

David Haynes (Yvonne Scanlan's Dad), Mark Cheeseman, Gwen Cullinan, Pat Bell, Chris Paine, Jacqui Visser, Margaret Stevens, Lyn Downes, Margaret Christensen, Mark Bates, Terry Stevens, Sophie Hollies, Colleen & Michael Nolan, 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:

Joyce Richards, Donald King, Barry Ward, Vincent Flynn, Kevin Lawrence, Olive Power, Bernard Graham, Eugenia Bojec, Margaret Oxford, Stanislaus Lynch, Norman Bell, Phil Fehon, John McGregor, John Pain, Michelle Kerzinger, Ingrid Frank, Patrick Fitzgerald, Frederick Pay, Harry Harris and Betty Smith.

LITURGICAL ROSTER FOR 7TH & 8TH OCTOBER 2023

Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	Anaru Veitch	Peter McMahon	Garry Pursehouse
Senior Server	Anaru Veitch	Peter McMahon	Garry Pursehouse
Junior Servers	Quentin Lynch & Matilda Howard		Leia Agahari & Volunteer Please
Warden	Allan Jones	Volunteer Please	Patricia Murnane
1 st Reading	Eileen Jones	Carl Moll	Dan or Tim Kensey
2nd Reading	Maureen Tulk	Elizabeth Konza	Kristina Rajnoch
Intercession	Dawn Willis	John Isaksen	Yvonne Scanlan
Music	Cormac's Group		Finnie's Group
IT Operators	Anne Hobbs	Kylie Mills	Pat Watson & Phil Eltakchi
Gifts	Thea & Brian Robertson	Volunteers Please	Dorothea Walsh
Communion	Thea Robertson	Gwen Cullinan	Colin Stead
Children's Liturgy	School Holidays		
Piety Stall	Beth Culliver		
Church Care	Veronica Clune, Fran Isaksen, Lynne Atkinson & Gabrielle Lynch		
Hospitality	Anne King, Lynne Atkinson, Daren & Liz Dukes		



Ballimino's
CAFE & PIZZERIA
EST. 2019

BREAKFAST | LUNCH | DINNER
OPEN 7 DAYS - 9AM TILL LATE - FULLY LICENSED

SHOP 2/5 ROSS STREET, GLENBROOK NSW 2773 | (02) 4739 6582



We value cost and care as much as you do

BLUE MOUNTAINS FUNERALS

KATOOMBA | SPRINGWOOD | EMU PLAINS
4751 6166 | bluemountainsfunerals.com.au