

The Barra
Weekly Newsletter of St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook
27th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A
7th & 8th October 2023

Isaiah 5:1-7; Ps 79; Philippians 4:6-9; Matthew 21:33-43

FR JOE'S MUSINGS

The Peace of God is greater than we can understand.

In the year 62 (amidst the new political persecution of Christians by the Roman Emperor Nero) Paul wrote a letter to the Christian community in Phillipe. At that time, Paul was in prison in Rome. Apprehensive that his execution was close at hand, yet hoping somehow to visit the Philippians again, Paul explains that he was imprisoned for preaching the gospel of Christ. Though he welcomes death for Jesus' sake, he is equally concerned to continue his apostolate. Paul exhorts his readers to remain steadfast in their faith and to imitate the humility of Christ, who "emptied himself" and "became obedient unto death, even death on a cross" (2:7-8). To encourage the Philippians, he points to the **Peace of God** through the sacrificial death of Christ. He then continues to write: "Fill your minds with everything that is **true**, everything that is **noble**, everything that is **good** and **pure**, everything that we **love** and **honour**, and everything that can be thought **virtuous** or worthy of praise."

Despite the circumstance from which it was written, joy is all over the letter to the Philippians. In case of quarrels and disagreements, Paul recommends this cure: 'Rejoice in the Lord always.' People who are very happy, especially those who are very happy in the Lord, are not apt either to give offense or to take offense. Joy in the Lord is the cure for all discord. Again, Paul's joy wasn't based in a sunny optimism or positive mental attitude as much as it was the confidence that God was in control. It really was a joy in the Lord.

"Let your gentleness be known": Paul used an interesting ancient Greek word (*epieikeia*) that is translated as gentleness here. Other translations of the Bible translate *epieikeia* as *patience*, *softness*, *the patient mind*, *modesty*, *forbearance*, *the forbearing spirit*, or *magnanimity*. This word describes the **heart of a person** who trusts in the Lord who is the prince of peace and unity. It describes a person who is really free to let go of His anxieties and all the things that cause him stress, because he knows that the Lord will take up his cause.

Paul's letter serves me as a guide for **religious leadership**. As a Parish Priest (hence a *religious* leader of a local Catholic community), I am leading the Parish on the way of God and that of the Peace that God has gifted each of us with. The preaching of the Gospel is my focus and sole responsibility. I absolutely have **no competence on political issues**. My hope and prayers are that we all vote in the coming referendum according to our conscience. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* defines: Conscience is a judgment of reason whereby the human person recognizes the moral quality of a concrete act that he / she is going to perform, is in the process of performing, or has already completed.

In all he / she says and does, the person is obliged to follow faithfully what he / she knows to be just and right. It is by the judgment of his / her conscience that the person perceives and recognizes the prescriptions of the divine law.

Please continue reading on page 3

Therefore I tell you
that the kingdom of
God will be taken
away from you and
given to a people who
will produce its fruit.

Matthew 21:43

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



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 8th October <i>27th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass
Monday 9th October	No Mass. Office is closed
Tuesday 10th October	9.15am Mass 5.30pm Cantabile Choir Practice
Wednesday 11th October	9.15am Mass followed by Rosary 9.30am Playgroup P/C 10.30am Pastoral Care Meeting M/R 7.00pm Liturgy Committee Meeting M/R 7.00pm Bridge Club P/C
Thursday 12th October	9.15am Mass 1.15pm Bridge Club P/C
Friday 13th October	9.15am Mass 1.00pm Bowlers 4.30pm Concert Committee Meeting M/R
Saturday 14th October	9.15am Mass 4.30pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass
Sunday 15th October <i>28th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass 1.15pm Bridge P/C 6.00pm Youth Mass 7.00pm Senior Youth Group P/C

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 for those 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.

ST. FINBAR'S PARISH NEWS

Congratulations to Claire Brown and Pat Watson

On behalf of St Finbars, I would like to thank and to congratulate Claire and Pat who are recipients of the Diocesan Awards 2023. Claire was selected for *The Diocesan Citation of Merit for Youth*, while Pat was chosen for *The Diocesan Medal of Honour*.

The **Diocesan Citation of Merit for Youth** seeks to encourage and recognise Catholic youth who have shown outstanding contribution and service to the Diocese of Parramatta, to a recipient's parish, and/or their community.

The **Diocesan Medal of Honour** seeks to encourage and recognise outstanding contribution and service by members of the Parramatta Diocesan Community in work on behalf of the Church and society. It is awarded for outstanding service to the Diocese of Parramatta, to a recipient's parish, and/or their community.

You would agree with me that Claire and Pat are worthy and well-deserved recipients of the AWARDS.

The ceremony of conferral will be held at Patrick's Cathedral in Parramatta on 1st of November in the evening.

SPARE TIMBER WOOD FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NATIVITY STABLE

This Advent leading to Christmas, I want to build a nativity stable in front of the presbytery for all to enjoy and to reflect on Christmas. A friend of mine who has built the famous nativity scene at various churches in Sydney has offered his assistance. He would carve the holy family from wood and build the nativity stable for free.

[This nativity scene was built last year by him at St Brendan's in Bankstown]



We will need to provide the materials only. If you have or know parishioners or friends who have spare timber/wood that you no longer need and that can be used for the construction of a stable frame structure, could you please let the parish office know? We would like to start the building in the third week of November before the Advent Season.

PENRITH CITY CHOIR CONCERT

Fauré Requiem'

3pm Sunday, 22 October 2023

St Finbar's Church Glenbrook

An afternoon of French sacred music featuring works by Fauré and Saint-Saëns.

Conductor: Rowen Fox

Organist: Titus Grenier

Soloist: Belinda Montgomery, David Cervi

Admission: \$28 adults: \$22

concession: \$10 school aged children.

Enquiries: 0400 516 630



FR JOE'S MUSINGS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Imitating Christ and Paul, I have vowed to make *EPIEIKEIA* the affair of my heart, constantly praying for the peace and unity of all of us.

Last weekend 90 children and young families participated in St Finbar's annual Season of Creation Camping at Wooglemai Environmental Centre in Oakdale from 29/9 – 2/10. The days were filled with lots of adventures, fun, worship and faith. Thank you to Briony and Jesse Mowbray for their wonderful ministry and organisational talent.

By now, you may have heard that Lawson and Springwood parishes have been de facto separated and become independent. Fr Galbert Albino, who is also the Diocesan Director of Vocation, is the new Administrator of Lawson parish, while Fr Chris del Rosario, current Diocesan Master of Ceremonies, has been appointed as Administrator of Springwood parish. Fr Paul Slyney will return to Lawson as Parish Priest after his surgery and annual leave in December. We welcome Fr Galbert and Fr Chris to the Blue Mountains Deanery and wish Fr Paul God's blessing on his surgery and leave.

Fr Joe

CABARET DINNER & DANCE FOR BUSH SCHOOL CAMBODIA

Saturday 4th November 6.45 for 7.00 pm At St. Finbar's Hall Cost: \$50 per person, \$90 per couple

An evening of music, song and entertainment featuring some very talented local artists, together with a choice of gourmet dishes for mains and dessert. The option to dance, or just watch and enjoy. The dinner is to provide essential funds for the Bush School in the coming year. Please book early to secure a seat

Phone: Doug on 0403 303 943 or Email: bushschoolcambodia@gmail.com

See also: flyer in Narthex

THE ST FINBAR'S GLENBROOK CHILDREN'S ATRIUM NEEDS YOUR HELP!

The work has started to establish the new St Finbar's Glenbrook Children's Atrium, which will offer the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Program for children from ages 3 to 6 from February 2024 in our parish. But we need your help to set up a holy and sacred space for the children. Could you please get in touch with Lucie Twyford (0424 793 359) if you have any of the following to donate:

- Furniture and storage:
 - * preschooler working tables (approx. 50x50x50)
 - * low wooden shelves (approx. L= any ; W= 26 to 30cm; H= 90 to 120cm)
 - * a wooden shoe shelf
 - * adult wooden chairs
 - * storage: baskets / containers/ boxes for figures/ objects
 - * little trays
 - * Liturgical items:
 - * a medium-sized leather bound Bible and a stand
 - * statues of: the Good Shepherd, the Holy Family, Mary
 - * Advent Wreath + Advent candles: 3 purple candles + 1 pink candle
 - * little white tea candles and holders
- Glassware/ silverware/ porcelain:
 - * a wooden spoon + 1/3 cup and teaspoon measurers
 - * small vases various shapes and colors
 - * various size porcelain cups/ bowls/ pouring jugs single or in pairs
 - * silverware milk jug, sugar bowl, perforated cheese shaker
 - * glassware: small carafe, pitcher, glasses, bowls, glass cruets with lid
- Cleaning items:
 - * child size broom and dustpan
 - * hand towels and washers
 - * Sponges
- Several indoor plants large and small (non toxic)

Thank you in advance for your help.

Isabelle Cox & Lucie Twyford - St Finbar's Glenbrook Children's Atrium Lead Catechists

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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:

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK PARISHIONERS, RELATIVES & FRIENDS:

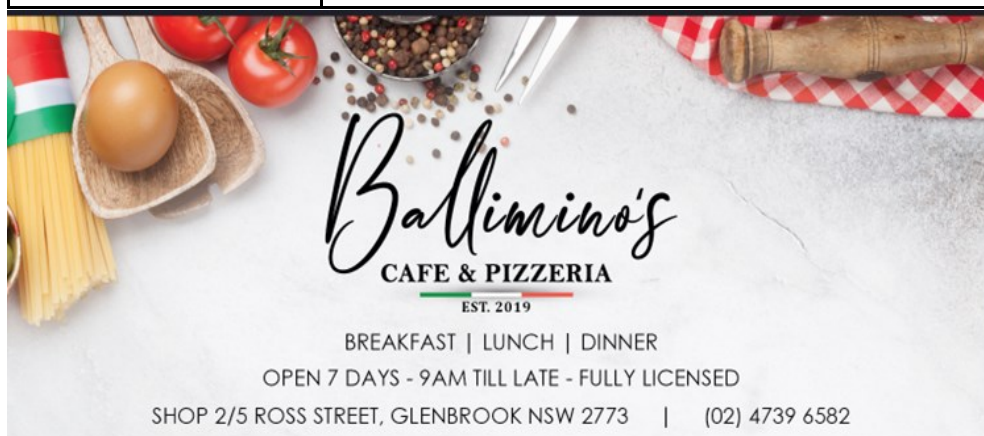
David Haynes (Yvonne Scanlan's Dad), Mark Cheeseman, Gwen Cullinan, Pat Bell, Chris Paine, Jacqui Visser, Margaret Stevens, Lyn Downes, Margaret Christensen, Mark Bates, Terry Stevens, Sophie Hollies, Colleen & Michael Nolan, Maddison Farrugia, Harrison Aggar (Margaret & Ian Dickson's Grandson), Diosdado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

Olive Dickinson, Jeffrey Hunt, Imelda Critchley, Francis O'Hare, Maria Obbens, Kenneth Glover, Dirkje Vleeskens, John Webber, Michael Harris, Julie Grech, Verlie Gapps, Clifford McHardy, Terrence Judge, Robert Agnew, Ronald Groves, Peter Smith, Daniel McGrath, Kevin Taylor, Nellie Stanborough and Christine Frewer.

LITURGICAL ROSTER FOR 14TH & 15TH OCTOBER 2023

Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	Vince Dobson	Carl Moll	Stuart Sheary
Senior Server	Vince Dobson	Carl Moll	Martin Rogers
Junior Servers	Volunteers Please		Zoe Wilson, Dominic Sheary & Tim Kensey
Warden	Lorraine Brown	Volunteer Please	Frank Fitzpatrick
1st Reading	Maire Griffin	John Killeen	Peter or Trish Hurley
2nd Reading	Gideon Goosen	Volunteer please	Gary Clune
Intercession	Margaret Moore	John De Mattia	Frank Fitzpatrick
Music	Cantabile		Naomi's Group
IT Operators	Robyn Flynn & Phil Eltakchi	Elizabeth Konza	Patrick Watson
Gifts	Allan & Eileen Jones	Kay Whitty	The Wilson Family
Communion	Bernie Fisher + Volunteer Please	Jessica Tiller + Volunteer Please	Annissa Nilsson + Volunteer Please
Children's Liturgy	Christyna		
Piety Stall	Lee Jackson		
Church Care	Volunteers Please		
Hospitality	Trish & Peter Hurley, Irene & Bert Aligno		
Lawn Mowing	Tony Doyle, Darren Dukes & Paul Geftakis		



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