



**The Barra**  
*Weekly Newsletter of St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook*  
**29th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A**  
**21st & 22nd October 2023**

**Isaiah 45:1, 4-6; Ps 95; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5; Matthew 22:15-21**

**FR JOE'S MUSINGS**

Caesar or / and God?

This Sunday's story was well written. It simply presents Jesus with the decision between the emperor and the state on the one hand and God and religion on the other. And no matter which side he chooses, either the Roman rulers or the representatives of the religion will attack him.

In this incident of today's Gospel, with masterful perfection he avoids all the cliffs and obstacles with which his questioners tried to trap him. He slips through their fingers like an eel, but interestingly not by saying any empty phrases, but brilliantly by unerringly exposing the question as wrong and with disarming simplicity. Not the emperor or God, not the state and the people or faith and religion - Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's.

Being a Christian does not mean choosing between God and the world, even if this error is still widespread today; faith does not mean concentrating on the spiritual and mystical, and certainly not retreating into pious self-reflection. Jesus Christ makes it clear that my life in society and my religious convictions - my faith in God - must form a whole.

Being a Christian means taking seriously our responsibility for the world and our responsibility for other people, aware of our responsibility before God. And in the most diverse forms that our society and our lives allow today.

Responsibility for the world, however, means that Christians are to engage beyond politics because God is also above political ideologies. Rather, Christian responsibility for the world has its very origin in charity which in Greek is AGAPE-LOVE.

Agape is a form of love that is commonly referred to as 'neighbourly love', the love ethic, or sometimes 'universal love'. It rests on the idea that all people are our 'brothers and sisters' who deserve our care and respect. Agape is authentic and true love because it lacks self-interest, self-gratification, or self-preservation. It is motivated by the interest and welfare of all others. It is global and compassionate, rather than focused on a single individual or a few people.

As the late German Pope Benedict XVI warned us: We cannot live this sacrificial agape-love all on our own power. "We cannot always give, we must also receive," he writes (Deus Caritas Est, no. 7). Therefore, if we wish to love others, we must constantly return to that ultimate source for agape in our own lives: Jesus Christ. We will only be able to truly love others here on earth to the extent that we are drinking deeply from the love of God Himself.

Accordingly, AGAPE-LOVE purifies politics since it brings forth authentic justice of all: Justice is both the aim and the intrinsic criterion of all politics, which by its very nature has to do with ethics. The state must inevitably face the question of how justice can be achieved here and now.

*Please continue reading on page 3*

**PARISH INFORMATION**

**Parish Priest:** Fr Joseph Lam

E-mail: [joseph.lam@parracatholic.org](mailto:joseph.lam@parracatholic.org)

**Secretary:** Juliana Khnouf

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**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

**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

**SUNDAY'S BAPTISMS:**

The Parish joyfully announces the Baptism of **Sienna Mila Morris** this Sunday, and warmly welcomes her into our Faith Community here at St Finbar's.

**SVDP COMMISSIONING OF NEW MEMBER**

Dawn Willis, our latest new member, will be commissioned into the Glenbrook St Finbar's Conference during 9.30 Mass this Sunday 22 October. We thank Fr Joe for agreeing to allow the ceremony during Mass and blessing Dawn and other symbols. We are delighted that we can share this brief but significant ceremony with parishioners and as a mark of appreciation and thanks for your ongoing support conference members will provide a free sausage sizzle after Mass. **Please come along and enjoy our hospitality and meet all members of the conference who will be serving you.**

**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.*

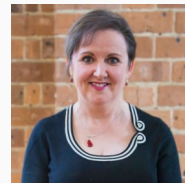
**WE ACKNOWLEDGE**

*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> 22nd October</p> <p><i>29th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A</i></p>	<p><b>7.30am Mass</b></p> <p><b>9.30am Mass followed by St Vincent's De Paul Parish BBQ</b></p> <p><b>10.45am Baptisms</b></p> <p>3.00pm Penrith City Choir Concert</p>
<p><b>Monday</b> 23rd October</p>	<p><b>No Mass. Office is closed</b></p>
<p><b>Tuesday</b> 24th October</p>	<p><b>9.15am Mass (Fr John Golding Tues-Fri)</b></p> <p>5.30pm Cantabile Choir Practice</p> <p>7.30pm Women in the Bible talk by Deborah Snoddy P/C</p>
<p><b>Wednesday</b> 25th October</p>	<p><b>9.15am Mass followed by Rosary</b></p> <p>9.30am Playgroup P/C</p> <p>7.00pm Bridge Club P/C</p>
<p><b>Thursday</b> 26th October</p>	<p><b>9.15am Mass</b></p> <p>1.15pm Bridge Club P/C</p> <p>7.00pm Concert Rehearsal</p> <p>7.30pm SFNC AGM Meeting P/C</p>
<p><b>Friday</b> 27th October</p>	<p><b>9.15am Mass</b></p> <p>1.00pm Bowlers P/C</p> <p>7.30pm Adoration</p>
<p><b>Saturday</b> 28th October</p> <p><i>Sts Simon and Jude</i></p>	<p><b>9.15am Mass</b></p> <p>10.00am PPC Planning meeting M/R</p> <p>10.00am Claire Brown's Students Concert P/C</p> <p>4.30pm Confessions</p> <p><b>5.30pm Vigil Mass</b></p>
<p><b>Sunday</b> 29th October</p> <p><i>30th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A</i></p>	<p><b>7.30am Mass</b></p> <p><b>9.30am Mass</b></p> <p>10.00am Atrium Working Bee P/C</p>

**ST FINBAR'S BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL LECTURE SERIES. "Women in the Bible" A Presentation by Dr Debra Snoddy.**

Lecturer in Biblical Studies at Catholic Institute of Sydney



The Bible is a book that has been found relevant and meaningful to generation after generation. No matter the ebbs and flows of the culture, the stories, poetry, and historical accounts found in the Bible have spoken to people of all backgrounds. Among many areas in which the Bible is revolutionary, it's high regard for women is one in which it is a document truly ahead of its time.

When: 24<sup>th</sup> October 2023, starting at 7.30pm

Where: St Finbar's Parish Hall

Cost: Donation

RSVP: secretary@stfinbars.org.au

**ST FINBAR'S NETBALL CLUB - 2023 SEASON WRAP UP**

We held our Presentation last weekend and would like to thank everyone for their support this season.

Congratulations to all 13 of our teams, our Umpires, Coaches, Managers and supporters. A special congratulations to our award recipients:

Club Person: Susan Toole

Maria Cummins Spirit of Netball: Frances Clarke

Club Player: Olivia De La Mare

Team Awards

Team Name	Team Player	Most Consistent	Most Improved
<b>10A Wagtails</b>	Eva Hetherington	Olivia Metuangaro	Keira Clifford
<b>12A Robins</b>	Lucy Gerlach	Hayleigh Garousse	Tilda Wood
<b>12C Rosellas</b>	Rose Farah	Chloe Leggatt	Lucy Hedges
<b>14B Lorikeets</b>	Hayley Van Der Meer	Jemima Guy	Clare Ruhl
<b>14C Emus</b>	Makenna O'Callaghan	Evie Walker	Ava Doherty

Our AGM will be held in the Parish Hall at 7.30pm on Thursday 26 October and all are welcome.

**CABARET DINNER & DANCE FOR BUSH SCHOOL CAMBODIA**

*Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:bushschoolcambodia@gmail.com)

See also: flyer in Narthex

*(This is a private event)*

**2024 Religious Calendars**

Next year's beautiful calendars are now available for purchase at the Wardens' table.

The cost is quite modest being \$8 for the Franciscan and \$10 for the Columban.

All proceeds go to the St Vincent de Paul Society.

# ST. FINBAR'S PARISH NEWS

## FR JOE'S MUSINGS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

But this presupposes an even more radical question: What is justice? The problem is one of practical reason; but if reason is to be exercised properly it must undergo constant purification, since it can never be completely free of the danger of a certain ethical blindness caused by the dazzling effect of power and special interests. At this point "politics and faith meet." Politics is the realm of reason, and faith can help liberate reason from its blind spots and enable it to be more fully itself.

Caritas (AGAPE-LOVE) is the way, the only way, of the Church. Benedict points to the history of monasticism and the saints—Anthony, Francis, Ignatius, Vincent de Paul, Teresa of Calcutta—who are "the true bearers of light within history, for they are men and women of faith, hope, and love." And, above all, he points to Mary, for whom "the Word of God becomes her word, and her word issues from the Word of God." That Word and that word is always and forever the word of caritas discovered in the truth that "God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him."

*Fr Joe*

## BLUE MOUNTAINS REFUGEES SUPPORT GROUP

The Youth Shoe Box Project has thrived over the past eight years thanks to the generosity and support of the Blue Mountains Community. The Blue Mountains Refugee Support Group and Disability Provider, Able@2 will team up with the community and lead the project again in 2023. We would love to have your help, so are inviting you to join us this year. The project was originally the 2015 brainchild of two high school students, Alana and Annabelle. Since then, we have distributed 2418 shoeboxes of Christmas boxes to children seeking refuge and asylum, in the Greater Sydney and Mountains area. Some even made it as far as Canberra in 2022. Each year we have seen what a huge difference the boxes can make to the lives of both giver and receiver. The project offers the opportunity to work collaboratively in order to spread kindness, connection and compassion for others. Any contribution will be welcome, whether it is a single item, a collection of things or a complete box. If possible, publicity through your newsletter would also be great. Our new digital flyer will outline further details, but we can also supply some printed flyers on request, if needed. Boxes range from 0-18 years and the contents should include:-

- Something to Wear
- Something for School
- Something to Love
- Something for Personal Hygiene
- Something to Play with
- Something Special

A message of welcome. Our deadline and packing / distribution day will be Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December. Other drop off points will be announced shortly, but 'Shoobox Central' before this date, will be Able 2's offices Unit 6, 7-9 Raymond Rd. Springwood, 2777. Alternatively, boxes can be dropped off on the morning of 6<sup>th</sup> December (only) at our packing venue -Springwood Uniting Church upper rooms, 4 Lewin Street, Springwood, 2777.

## ST FINBAR'S GLENBROOK CHILDREN'S ATRIUM WORKING BEE

Dear parishioners, the work to set up our new St Finbar's Glenbrook Children's Atrium is truly under way to open our doors and teach the catechist to the children term 1 next year. However, it's a tremendous amount of work to prepare the 80+ presentations (activities) that will be available to level 1 children. As a result, we will be hosting a working bee in the parish hall, **Sunday 29th October from 10am to 4pm**. If you have an hour or two, or more to come help us prepare materials for the children it would be wonderful. No skills required, there will be a variety of works to help us meet everyone's talents. Please let us know if you're able to join us to help organise the day.

**RSVP at Lucie Twyford: 0424 793 359**

*Thank you in advance for your help. God Bless,  
Isabelle Cox & Lucie Twyford - St Finbar's Glenbrook Children's Atrium Lead Catechists*

## ARTS for A GOOD CAUSE.

Hello friends! I am really pleased to announce that I will be holding another exhibition later in the month at Glenbrook Community Hall (located next to Glenbrook Cinema). Opening night is Friday 27th October from 6pm - 8.30pm. The exhibition will also be open on Saturday 28th October from 10am - 6pm. Original artworks, as well as prints, will be available for sale. Half of the proceeds from artworks sold will go to a project that is very dear to my heart and by coming along, you will be supporting a great cause! Stay tuned for more details. For now - save the date!

*Michael Harridan, artist and parishioner of St Finbar.*

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[Gerard.Morson@turnerfreeman.com.au](mailto:Gerard.Morson@turnerfreeman.com.au)





**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:**

Marie Kavacova (Mila Svehla's Cousin), Lyn Beltran, Joanne Macrae, Colin Haywood, Helen Hunt, Mary O'Sullivan, Shirley Cameron and Joe Grange.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK PARISHIONERS, RELATIVES & FRIENDS:**

Christopher Thomson, David Haynes (Yvonne Scanlan's Dad), Mark Cheeseman, Gwen Cullinan, Pat Bell, Chris Paine, Lyn Downes, Jacqui Visser, Margaret Stevens, 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:**

Thelma Taylor, Eileen Burrowes, Arthur Kachel, Kathleen Graham, Peter Brown, William Brownlow, May Graham, Carlyle Murray, Baby Peter Shatford, Lorna O'Neill, Edna Helm, Alice McGregor, Rubena Appleton, Michael Drinkwater, Anne Bell, Otilia Gyucha, John Guinney, Ann Walker, Rocco Galderisi, Archibald Johnson, Charles Breese, Allan McMillan, Irene (Betty) Baker and David Hancock.

**LITURGICAL ROSTER FOR 28TH & 29TH OCTOBER 2023**

Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	Anaru Veitch	Carl Moll	Lukas Rajnoch
Senior Server	Anaru Veitch	Carl Moll	Lukas Rajnoch
Junior Servers	Volunteers Please		Volunteers Please
Warden	Lorraine Brown	Volunteer Please	Frank Fitzpatrick
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Eileen Jones	Volunteer Please	Jessica Doherty
2nd Reading	Naomi Cheeseman	John De Mattia	Cecelia Zammit
Intercession	Katy Ferris	Elizabeth Konza	Justin Dowling
Music	Cormac's Group		Youth Group
IT Operators	Thais Turner	Robyn Flynn	Pat Watson & Phil Eltakchi
Gifts	Parishioners are invited	To offer to bring	Up the gifts
Communion	2 x Volunteers Please	John Killeen + Volunteer Please	Greg Rowe + Volunteer Please
Children's Liturgy	Carolyn		
Piety Stall	Jan Frampton		
Church Care	Volunteers Please		
Hospitality	Julie Fehon, Anne Hobbs, Martin & Lyndel Rogers.		
Lawn Mowing	Kevin Debeck, Rob Lennon & John Killeen		

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