



The Barra
 Weekly Newsletter of St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook
 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A
 28th & 29th October 2023

Exodus 22:20-26; Ps 17; 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10; Matthew 22:34-40

FR JOE'S MUSINGS

How to Embrace the Richness of our Poverty in our Prayer

The natural focus of spiritual retreat is prayer. Yet, it is not easy to concentrate and to persevere in prayers. It frustrates me greatly because of my inability to stay in focus and to persevere in my prayers. I can't resist the distractions of mind and body.

Not only am I confused about the content of my prayers. Also, I fail to pray "wholeheartedly": My prayers seem not to have roots in my heart. This experience clearly manifests my "spiritual poverty / misery". Saint Paul describes this misery succinctly: "We do not know what we should ask for to pray as we ought." (Rom 8:26).

Are we to resign from praying? Are we ashamed of our weakness?

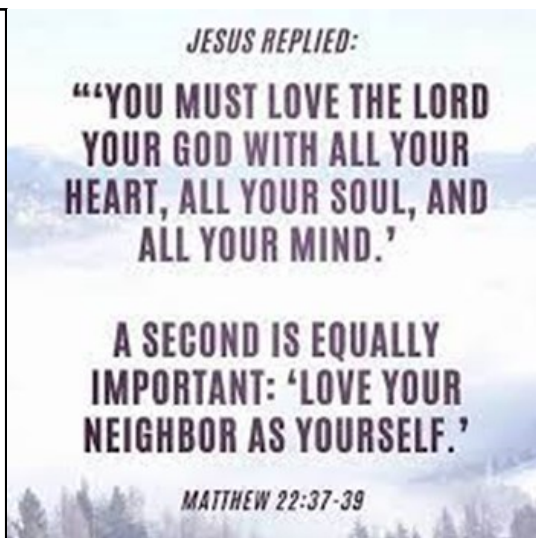
There is another mistake that we often make when we are challenged by our weakness. We implore God to make us strong in resisting all temptations and distractions as if we say to ourselves: "I could do it better if I have the strength". Here, we are praying for "our" strength, when in fact it is the power of God that liberates us. When tempted by the devil, Jesus did not ask to be strong. Rather, he only prayed to fulfill obediently the will of the Father. Jesus acknowledges his weakness and surrenders himself to the power of the Father. Whoever refuses to be weak refuses the power of God according to the words of St Paul: "Whenever I am weak, then I am strong...My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfectly in weakness." (2 Cor 10:7). This is not fostering sloth or slovenliness, but projecting a new realistic view of our poverty transfigured by the power of the resurrection. One day, when all our claims to achieve holiness on our own are exhausted and we ourselves are "exhausted", God will transform our weakness into his power.

Like many things in our life, we want to be in charge. With the spiritual life, however, things are different. When it comes to prayer, it is not me, but God who is in charge. When we have nothing to cling on to ourselves, it there that we encounter the power of the Holy Spirit.

God gives us the grace, and at the same time gives us his merciful love to contemplate our poverty in this light. Jesus alone can know us in our ultimate truth with all our duplicities and conditionings, but he is also the only one loving us to that extent, as he contemplates our darkness and poverty in the light of his glorious Cross that makes his mercy burst forth.

This is where we really need to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit to probe the depths of God as well as the depths of the person's heart transformed by the Holy Spirit: "The Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God...Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God." (1 Cor 2:10f).

Please continue reading on page 3



PARISH INFORMATION

Parish Priest: Fr Joseph Lam
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 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: Saturdays 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



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 29th October <i>30th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A</i></p>	<p>7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass 10.00am Atrium Working Bee P/C</p>
<p>Monday 30th October</p>	<p>No Mass. Office is closed 5.00pm SVDP Meeting M/R</p>
<p>Tuesday 31st October</p>	<p>9.15am Mass 5.00pm All Saints Children's Party P/C 5.30pm Cantabile Choir Practice 7.30pm November Baptism Preparation Meeting M/R</p>
<p>Wednesday 1st November <i>ALL SAINTS</i></p>	<p>9.15am All Saints Mass followed by Rosary 9.30am Playgroup P/C 7.00pm Bridge Club P/C</p>
<p>Thursday 2nd November <i>ALL SOULS DAY</i></p>	<p>9.15am All Souls Mass 1.15pm Bridge Club P/C 6.30pm Prayer ritual at the Columbarium 7.00pm All Souls Mass</p>
<p>Friday 3rd November</p>	<p>9.15am Mass 1.00pm Bowlers P/C</p>
<p>Saturday 4th November <i>St Charles Borromeo</i></p>	<p>9.15am Mass 4.30pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass 7.00pm Bush School Fundraising P/C</p>
<p>Sunday 5th November <i>31st Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A</i></p>	<p>7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass 2.00pm Academy Singers Concert 6.00pm Youth Mass 7.00pm Senior Youth Group P/C</p>

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.

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

The Book of Remembrance is on permanent display in the Sanctuary during the month of November. Parishioners can add the names of any family members or loved ones who have passed to eternal life. Please do not enter any names that are already in the book.

NOVEMBER.

Is the month we especially remember our departed brothers and sisters, parents and family members. Please pray for them and remember them in the Masses. Special Mass Envelopes are available on the Warden's table.

MUSIC IN THE CASTLE OF HEAVEN

Join Bach Akademie Australia orchestra and choir for their final spectacular concert of the year. 2023 brings us an opportunity to



celebrate one of the greatest events in musical history, J.S. Bach's appointment as Thomaskantor in Leipzig. As a result, a new era in music history began. For the next 27 years, the requirements of his appointment combined with his deep faith and desire to encourage faith in all others, inspired Bach to produce music of such staggering beauty, complexity and profundity that changed the course of music forever. To celebrate this momentous event, we have chosen 2 of his most celebrated Leipzig cantatas and his wonderful motet 'Lobet den Herrn'. How can the works of Bach ever be adequately summed up? We will leave it to our international patron Sir John Eliot Gardiner 'But it is Bach, making music in the Castle of Heaven, who gives us the voice of God – in human form. He is the one who blazes a trail, showing us how to overcome our imperfections through the perfections of his music: to make divine things human and human things divine.'

Saturday November 18, 7.30pm at St Finbar's Church, Glenbrook

BOOK NOW

<https://www.bachakademieaustralia.com.au/events>
Ph: 1300 785 377

ST COLUMBA'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE – ENROLLING NOW FOR 2024

St Columba's Catholic College, Springwood, is accepting enrolments for students commencing Year 7 in 2024.



If you are interested in enrolling your child, or if you would like to find out more about the opportunities available at the College, please visit the website www.stcolumbasspringwood.catholic.edu.au or contact the Enrolments Secretary on telephone 4754 8900.

FR JOE'S MUSINGS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Getting in touch with our own poverty / weakness / misery means getting in touch with an area which is the source of the most senseless and maddest trust. God's madness is revealed in the folly of the Cross: Christ empties himself totally to let his being be filled by the Glory of God.

The Holy Spirit reveals a strange secret to us: the art of reaching out to our misery as if it were a precious pearl, difficult to find and worthy of the most passionate search.

I would like to conclude with a saying from Saint Therese of Lisieux. A few days before she died, she advised her sister Celine, who was distressed about her weakness and imperfection, "to love her poverty gently."

Fr Joe

ORGAN AND CONCERT COMMITTEE

Do you like beautiful music and singing? Would you like to join our small committee as we are looking for new members. We have approximately 6 meetings per year, depending on the concert bookings and meet on Fridays at 4.30pm. The meeting usually only goes for approximately 30 to 40 minutes. If you would like more information, or are interested in joining, please contact me on 0420975948.

Carmel Higgins – Chairman, St Finbar's Organ and Concert Committee

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

(This is a private event)

UPDATING THE PARISH DATABASE

I am trying to update the parish database with mobile numbers and email addresses to replace the landline phone numbers on the register.

Can you please ring the parish office on 47426958 or email secretary@stfinbars.org.au to update your details.

Thanking you all for your prompt response.

Juliana Khnouf/Parish Secretary

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

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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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📧 Gerard.Morson@turnerfreeman.com.au

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

Marie Kovacova (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:

Amanda Oxford, Anna Vella, Virginia Criswick, Charlie Psaila, Richard Formosa, Alice Cleary, Julie Young, Scott Blondahl, Kathleen Grange, Marjorie Gormly, Ian Robinson, Gerard Vandeweyer, Julia Barakat, Andrew Pallett and Patricia Hazelton.

LITURGICAL ROSTER FOR 4TH & 5TH NOVEMBER 2023

Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	Father Joe	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	Pearse Cremin
2nd Reading	Eileen Jones	John Killeen	Amanda Moore
Intercession	Greg Rowe	Kevin Flynn	Justin Dowling
Music	Naomi's Group		Anne Hobbs Group
IT Operators	Robyn Flynn	Joseph Wilson	Pat Watson
Gifts	Noreen Taylor & Janice Smith	Maria Heinzl & Stanis Drobiszewski	Volunteers Please
Communion	Elizabeth Rowe & Thea Robertson	Colleen Fuller	Garry Pursehouse
Children's Liturgy	Melissa		
Piety Stall	Carmel Higgins		
Church Care	Jeannine Ashbee, Deb Gall, Leesa & Wayne Gillard		
Hospitality	Lina Wiecek, Vicky Ang, Tamar Apkarian & Karen Sukkar		

Ballimino's
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