



The Barra
Weekly Newsletter of St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook
31st Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A
4th & 5th November 2023

Malachi 1:14-2:2, 8-10; Ps 130; 1 Thessalonians 2:7-9, 13; Matthew 22:23:1-12

FR JOE'S MUSINGS

Christian commitment to pray for the deceased Loved Ones

Last year, I had the privilege to officiate at the funerals of few parishioners. There were others – grandparents, parents, siblings, relatives or loved friends – who were known to you and have passed away under different circumstances and in different places.

When someone we love dies, part of us dies with that person. Hence the suffering. One thinks of Mary's sorrow at the foot of the cross.

There are two ways by which our loved ones continue to be alive, even though they are dead. Our faith is firmly rooted in the resurrection of Jesus Christ in whom we are all baptised and will rise at the appointed time. The beloved in a special way comes alive within the person who loves. This coming alive takes place in the consciousness, imagination, memory, and emotions of the lover. In particular the loved one comes alive in the heart of the one who loves. The effect of love is a profound identification of the lover with the beloved.

Catholic faith teaches that God is pure love and that His love holds us in existence from the first moment we come into being. Christ does not come to bring God to us since God is already present. Rather Christ, by awakening in our hearts his love for those near to us, awakens us to the presence of Divine Love holding all things in existence. As Christ's love grows in our hearts, we experience not only the human love of Christ, but we experience Divine Love. God places that special person in our life – that child, that parent, that spouse, that loved one – in order to awaken in our love for that person the experience of His love.

Catholic commitment to the deceased is based on the certainty that they are still very much alive. St. Paul speaks of our resurrected bodies as endowed with the same qualities as those possessed by the resurrected body of Christ. When we think of those, we love who have died, we should visualize them as fully reconstituted, body and soul, with their bodies endowed with the spiritual qualities of the resurrected body of Christ.

On the love and remembrance of the deceased, St Ambrose (4th century) wrote: "We have loved them during life; let us not abandon them in death, until we have conducted them by our prayers into the house of the Lord." Ancient Christians believed in the practice of praying for the dead. Many locations in the ancient catacombs reveal passages marked into the walls reminding the living to pray for the dead. St Monica begged her son, St Augustine, to pray for her after her own death.

Please continue reading on page 3



Matthew 23:12

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: 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

SUNDAY RITE OF WELCOME

The Parish joyfully welcomes **Chelsea Victoria Mae Camlin** into our Faith Community. She is going to be Baptised at our Parish next weekend. May God bless her.



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 5th November</p> <p><i>31st Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A</i></p>	<p>7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass</p> <p>2.00pm Academy Singers Concert</p> <p>6.00pm Youth Mass</p> <p>7.00pm Senior Youth Group P/C</p>
<p>Monday 6th November</p>	<p>No Mass. Office is closed</p> <p>8.30am CCD Training Course P/C</p> <p>6.30pm Finnie's Choir Group</p>
<p>Tuesday 7th November</p>	<p>9.15am Mass</p> <p>9.30am Bridge Club Melbourne Cup Day P/C</p> <p>10.00am Timeout Tuesday M/R</p> <p>5.30pm Cantabile Choir Practice</p>
<p>Wednesday 8th November</p>	<p>9.15am Mass followed by Rosary</p> <p>9.30am Playgroup P/C</p> <p>10.30am Pastoral Care Meeting M/R</p> <p>7.00pm Bridge Club P/C</p>
<p>Thursday 9th November</p> <p><i>The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica</i></p>	<p>9.15am Mass</p> <p>1.15pm Bridge Club P/C</p>
<p>Friday 10th November</p> <p><i>St Leo the Great</i></p>	<p>9.15am Mass</p> <p>1.00am Bowlers P/C</p>
<p>Saturday 11th November</p> <p><i>St Martin of Tours</i></p>	<p>9.15am Mass</p> <p>4.30pm Confessions</p> <p>5.30pm Vigil Mass</p>
<p>Sunday 12th November</p> <p><i>32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A</i></p>	<p>7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass</p> <p>10.45am Baptisms</p> <p>3.00pm Children's Choir 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.

Positions Vacant:

- ✦ Facilitator – Marriage – Mission Enhancement Team, Diocese of Parramatta – **Applications close 10pm Monday 13 November 2023.**
- ✦ Youth Coordinator (part-time) - St Bernadette's Parish, Castle Hill – **Applications close Thursday 30 November 2023.**

More details at: parracatholic.org/employment

Celebrating Catholic Unity: Inside the Diocese of Parramatta's Historic First Synod!

Our Diocese concluded its first-ever Synod over the weekend of 13 – 15 October 2023. It was a momentous event that brought together 280 faithful from across Western Sydney, the Blue Mountains, and beyond to discuss the future of the local Church. Experience the historic culmination of our Diocese's inaugural Synod in this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PItRCgSPLng>. Want to know more about what's next?

Visit parracatholic.org/synod2023 to stay updated.

Bishop Vincent presents Christopher White: 9 November

Vatican correspondent and Pope Francis expert Christopher White is coming to the Diocese of Parramatta as part of the Diocese of Parramatta's 'Bishop Vincent Presents' series. His public lecture "Will our faith have children? Reflections on the health and dynamism of global Catholicism after the October 2023 Synod on Synodality" will be held in Parramatta on Thursday 9 November at Our Lady of Mercy College, Parramatta from 6pm. Places are strictly limited, so register today at <https://parracatholic.org/christopherwhite/>

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

The Book of Remembrance is on 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.

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

FR JOE'S MUSINGS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Hence Catholics not only pray, but more so remember the deceased loved ones through the celebration of the Eucharist as we read in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*: "From the beginning the Church has honoured the memory of the dead and offered prayers in suffrage for them, above all the Eucharistic Sacrifice, so that, thus purified, they may attain the beatific vision of God" (No. 1032).

During the month of November, it is especially important to recall the Church's teaching that there is indeed a Purgatory in which the souls of the saved but imperfect are awaiting the fulfillment of their purification and healing, and that these souls can be greatly helped by the prayers, sacrifices and Masses offered by the living. This is an aspect of the Catholic patrimony that must not be forgotten or de-emphasized. Justice demands that our brothers and sisters in the faith who have died find in us faithful friends who acknowledge that it is indeed a good and pious thing to pray for the dead.

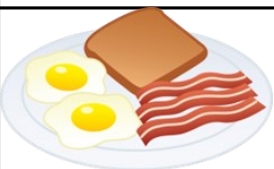
Fr Joe

USED TIMBER, SPARE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AND TREES NEEDED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A LIFE SIZE OUTDOOR NATIVITY SCENE

This Christmas we want to build an outdoor life size nativity scene in the front yard of the presbytery. A friend of Fr Joe who used to create outdoor nativity scenes has offered his time and skills to construct the outdoor nativity scene for parishioners, families and locals to enjoy during Advent and Christmas time.

If you have spare timber (leftover from renovation etc.), or used Christmas lights and trees (we need 4 – 5 trees), perhaps you may donate them to the parish for this project. Thank you.

Fr Joe



ST FINBARS MEN'S BREAKFAST

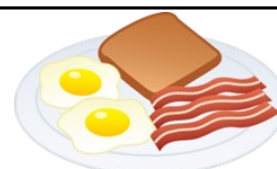
Date - Saturday 18th November 2023

Time - 7:30 am – 9:00 am - Venue - Parish hall

The parish is holding another Men's breakfast as an opportunity for parishioners to meet and get to know one another. This invitation is open to all male parishioners and any of their sons, grandsons, neighbours and friends.

For catering purposes we will need to confirm numbers by Sunday 12th November 2023.

Please add your name to the list on the warden's table. Any questions please contact the organisers, Carl Moll 0417 471 137 or John De Mattia 4739 6775



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



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PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

Maria Faggion (Fran Isaksen's Mother), 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:

Rose Hannigan, Genevieve Donnelly, Elizabeth Rynne, Agnes Gregory, Clive McInnes, Ludo Bos, Rose Hughes, Mikaela Au, Monica Roebuck, Michele Tagg, Terence McGrath, Kevin O'Neill, Gregory Kelly and Therese Voorn .

LITURGICAL ROSTER FOR 11TH & 12TH NOVEMBER 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	Philomena Watkins	Carl Moll	Richard Cutler
2nd Reading	Dawn Willis	Geraldine Agahari	Carmel Higgins
Intercession	Maureen Tulk	John Killeen	Volunteer Please
Music	Cormac's Group		Finnie's Choir
IT Operators	Anne Hobbs	Kylie Mills	Thais Turner
Gifts	Thea & Brian Robertson	Volunteers Please	Dorothea Walsh
Communion	Brian Robertson + Volunteer Please	Jim Tierney + Volunteer Please	Gerard Egan + Volunteer Please
Children's Liturgy	Cate		
Piety Stall	Beth Culliver		
Church Care	Volunteers Please		
Hospitality	Ann King, Lynne Atkinson, Daren & Liz Dukes		
Lawn Mowing	Lukas Rajnoch, Andrew Howard & Stuart Sheary		

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