



**The Barra**  
 Weekly Newsletter of St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook  
 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A  
 18th & 19th November 2023

**Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31; Ps 127; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6; Matthew 25:14-30**

**FR JOE'S MUSINGS**

**The gift of service leads to a life of love: Thank you to our Parish Volunteers**

Leading to The Solemnity of Christ the King on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November also signals the end of the liturgical calendar. The gospel readings call us to stay awake for the coming of the Lord; but they also underscore the importance of continuous service of love. In fact, this Sunday's gospel reading reminds us sharply that we are servants because of our mutual debt of love. In his letter to the Romans, Paul instructs his audience: 'Owe no man anything, but to love one another, for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.' (Rom 13:8).

In our modern culture, it is customary to outsource "unproductive" labour to save costs. From the Christian perspective, however, service is most productive since it builds up and strengthens relationships. Pointing to Jesus Christ, Paul asserts that Parish is an organic body of spiritual growth: "... from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love." (Eph 4:16). So what verse 16 means when it says that "the whole body causes the growth of the body" when "each individual part is working properly," is that all the members have gifts, and all of those gifts are to be used in building up the body "in love." And this is how Christ, the all-supplying, supernatural Head of the body, builds and cares for his Church.

On behalf of St Finbar's, I would like to wholeheartedly thank you VOLUNTEERS for offering to and serving your Parish community with the gifts and talents furnished by God Himself. I also congratulate St Finbar's for having such a big number of dedicated and faith filled volunteers. *I know that you are all time poor. Life is very busy. Nevertheless, you've made a difference and have enriched your peers with your big and generous heart for your Parish community.*

**May I offer this prayer of gratitude to all our volunteers:**

*Loving God, Thank you for those who say yes!*

*Thank you for those who say yes, show up, and help! Thank you for all those who volunteer however they are able.*

*God, for all those who must recruit volunteers, we lift those hard workers up to you. Give them the words to say and the strength to keep on asking.*

*O Holy One, help us to use our gifts to share your love with all we meet! Amen.*

**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: 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><b>Sunday</b> 19th November</p> <p><i>33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A</i></p>	<p><b>7.30am Mass</b></p> <p><b>9.30am Mass</b></p> <p>1.15pm Bridge Club P/C</p> <p><b>6.00pm Youth Mass</b></p> <p>7.00pm Senior Youth Group P/C</p>
<p><b>Monday</b> 20th November</p>	<p><b>No Mass. Office is closed</b></p>
<p><b>Tuesday</b> 21st November</p> <p><i>The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i></p>	<p><b>9.15am Mass</b></p> <p>10.00am Timeout Tuesday P/C</p> <p>5.30pm Cantabile Choir Practice</p>
<p><b>Wednesday</b> 22nd November</p> <p><i>St Cecilia</i></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> 23rd November</p>	<p><b>9.15am Mass</b></p> <p>1.15pm Bridge</p>
<p><b>Friday</b> 24th November</p> <p><i>Sts Andrew Dung-Lac and companions</i></p>	<p><b>9.15am Mass</b></p> <p>1.00pm Bowlers P/C</p> <p><b>No Adoration Tonight</b></p>
<p><b>Saturday</b> 25th November</p>	<p><b>9.15am Mass</b></p> <p>4.30pm Confessions</p> <p><b>5.30pm Vigil Mass</b></p> <p>6.30pm Volunteers Christmas Dinner P/C</p>
<p><b>Sunday</b> 26th November</p> <p><i>OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST KING OF THE UNIVERSE YEAR A</i></p>	<p><b>7.30am Mass</b></p> <p><b>9.30am Family Mass followed by sausage sizzle.</b></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.

**Bishop's Christmas Appeal for Catholic Care chaplaincy services**

Will you support our chaplains to listen with the ear of the heart? Your compassionate generosity and prayers will help our 15 Catholic Care chaplains to provide pastoral, spiritual, and sacramental support to seriously ill, lonely, and distraught people this Christmas. Please give generously to the Bishop's Christmas Appeal at [yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal](http://yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal) or scan this QR code. Thank you.



**Positions Vacant:**

- + Liturgy Administration Support – Mission Enhancement Team, Diocese of Parramatta – **Applications close 24 November 2023.**
- + Youth Coordinator (part-time) - St Bernadette's Parish, Castle Hill – **Applications close Thursday 30 November 2023.**

More details at: [parracatholic.org/employment](http://parracatholic.org/employment)

**'Eugene Stockton: Blue Mountains Hermit' Book Launch: 3 December**

The Blue Mountain Education & Research Trust cordially invite you to our Book Launch of 'Eugene Stockton: Blue Mountains Hermit' on 2pm Sunday 3 December at Mid Mountains Community Centre, 9 New St Lawson. Additional books at \$20 for contributors can be ordered in advance and picked up on the day or posted. Please direct any enquiries to [contact@bmert.com.au](mailto:contact@bmert.com.au). We hope to see you at the launch.

**Local World Youth Day and Leaders Commissioning Mass: 26 November**

Catholic Youth Parramatta invites all youth leaders, new school leaders and young people to the annual Local World Youth Day & Leaders Commissioning Mass, which will be held on Sunday 26 November (Feast of Christ the King) at 3.30pm at Our Lady, Queen of Peace Parish, Greystanes. The Youth Mass will give thanks for the Youth ministry year so far and bless all leaders for their 2024 ministry year. Family, friends and community members are all invited to join in this celebration. For catering purposes, please RSVP to [met@parracatholic.org](mailto:met@parracatholic.org).

**Br Barry Donaghue Preparing for Advent Series: Starting 29 November**

Br Barry Donaghue cfc is offering 90-minute Advent presentations held on Wednesday evenings, 7:30pm to 9pm for 4 weeks, beginning 29 November until 20 December. Each presentation will be scripture based and have time for questions, reflection and small group conversation. The presentation will be held at Mary Rooms at Edmund Rice Retreat Centre Winbourne, 1315 Mulgoa Road, Mulgoa. Please contact 0478 408 337 or [bgdonaghue@edmundrice.org](mailto:bgdonaghue@edmundrice.org) for enquiries.

## FR JOE'S MUSINGS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

*I also invite each of you to participate in the service of love.* There are many ways to serve and there are many ministries in our Parish that need your big hearts and talents. The Parish is not a one man show (and the PP is not a showman either). If the Church (and the Parish community) is the Body of Christ, then volunteers are essential for the functioning and mission of the Body in the world. Volunteers are "the lights of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house."

My brother priest (he currently serves in Norway as PP) and cousins will be visiting me from 15-26 November. They will be staying in the presbytery for the duration of their visit. Personally, I am overjoyed to have them with me. As migrant children scattered all over the world, we have been separated for over many years. My brother escaped Vietnam in 1978 with the boat, when I was a little boy. You would understand that I will take a bit of time out of the parish ministry to be with my brother and cousins. There may be some minor changes concerning the weekly Masses. However, I will attempt to minimize the impact.

*Fr Joe*

## ADVENT ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

### RECONCILIATION AND ADORATION DURING ADVENT

During Advent we prepare for the birth of Jesus by preparing ourselves to be worthy of Him. There are not enough priests to allow for the second rite of Reconciliation (as has sometimes happened in the past), so Fr Joe has made himself available for Reconciliation at times additional to the normal Saturday afternoons. This year on each of Fridays 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> December there will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and the opportunity for Reconciliation. On each Friday evening Fr Joe will place the Blessed Sacrament on exposition at 7:30pm, and then be available in the confessional until 8:15pm. He will then close Adoration with Benediction. You are invited to attend one or more of these sessions during Advent.

***READERS FOR CHRISTMAS CONCERT.*** Many thanks for volunteering to read at our concert on the 10th December. Your reading is now available on the Warden's table.

## THANK YOU TO MELISSA MCDONALD

On behalf of St Finbars, I would like to express our gratitude to Melissa who has been our Parish Music Coordinator for many years.

Liturgical music is an essential ministry as it helps parishioners to actively praise God with their voices. Initially, Fr Jolly tapped Melissa to take on this role. I was very blessed to have her continuing in this role. On the importance of liturgical music, Saint Augustine (354-430) wrote: "Music, that is the science or the sense of proper modulation, is likewise given by God's generosity to mortals having rational souls in order to lead them to higher things." Since this month, Melissa decided to hand over her role to Claire Brown, who is also a member of the Liturgy Committee.

So, many thanks to Melissa for her dedication and help. A warm welcome to Claire and our prayers for her in this role.

*Fr Joe*

## INVITATION

### FAMILY MASS TO CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING FOLLOWED BY MORNING TEA & SAUSAGE SIZZLE. ST FINBAR'S PARISH GLENBROOK

You are invited to come and join the parish for Family Mass followed by morning tea, sausage sizzle and games on Sunday the 26th of November 2023 at 9.30am.



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**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:**

Maria Faggion (Fran Isaksen's Mother), Marie Kovacova (Mila Svehla's Cousin) and Lyn Beltran.

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

Christopher Thomson, David Haynes (Yvonne Scanlan's Dad), 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:**

Kevin Sharp, George Tinning, Coleen McHardy, Gary Shackleton, Lillian Mitchell, Julie Stone, Joseph Redler, Joseph McGoldrick, Keith Trevenar, John Hennessy, Ida Brown, Marie Brooks, Myee Goumour, Raelene Baskett and Winifred Lawrence.

**LITURGICAL ROSTER FOR 25TH & 26TH NOVEMBER 2023**

Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	Ahyiesha D'Souza	Carl Moll	Stephen Brown
Senior Server	Ahyiesha D'Souza	Carl Moll	Stephen Brown
Junior Servers	Harrison Bohan & Volunteer Please		Benjamin Grus & Abigail Stanford
Warden	Volunteer Please	Volunteer Please	School Family
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Eileen Jones	Kevin Lloyd	School Family
2nd Reading	Naomi Cheeseman	John Killeen	School Family
Intercession	Katy Ferris	Carl Moll	School Family
Music	Te Deum's		Holy Light
IT Operators	Robyn Flynn & Phil Eltakchi	Kylie Mills	Joanne Stubbs
Gifts	Steve & Heather Lee	Rivas Family	School Family
Communion	Lorraine Brown + Volunteer Please	Brian Grech + Volunteer Please	School
Children's Liturgy	Pia		
Piety Stall	Ann Marie King		
Church Care	Volunteers Please		
Hospitality	Marie Nassif, Kerry & Peter Herborn		
Lawn Mowing	Tony Doyle, Darren Dukes & Paul Geftakis		



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