



The Barra

Weekly Newsletter of St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook
**OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE -
Year A**

25th & 26th November 2023

Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17; Ps 22; 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28; Matthew 25:31-46

FR JOE'S MUSINGS

Solemnity of Christ, King of the Universe

Pope Pius XI instituted this feast in 1925 with his encyclical *Quas primas* ("In the first") to respond to growing secularism and atheism. He recognized that attempting to "thrust Jesus Christ and his holy law" out of public life would result in continuing discord among people and nations. This solemnity reminds us that while governments come and go, Christ reigns as King forever.

During the early twentieth century, in Mexico, Russia, and some parts of Europe, militantly secularistic regimes threatened not just the Catholic Church and its faithful but civilization itself. Pope Pius XI's encyclical gave Catholics hope and—while governments around them crumbled—the assurance that Christ the King shall reign forever. Jesus Christ "is very truth, and it is from him that truth must be obediently received by all mankind" (*Quas primas*).

This Sunday's gospel of Matthew 25:31-46 suggests that Jesus Christ will also take his seat on the Throne of Glory from where He will judge the world. However, the same King is also depicted as the shepherd who gathers his scattered flock. The image of the shepherd is used in Scripture, as well as other ancient literature, to refer to a benevolent ruler. Like a shepherd caring for his flock, a good king is one who feeds and protects his people. In the words of our Holy Father Francis, "In his death and resurrection, Jesus will manifest himself as the Lord of History, the King of the Universe, the Judge of all. But the Christian paradox is that the Judge is not vested in the fearful trappings of royalty, but is the shepherd filled with meekness and mercy."

The goats are those who fail to perform the works of mercy—who lack charity. They choose to build themselves up, to make themselves "sleek and strong," at the expense of others. They exploit and oppress the vulnerable. We may be able to build up for ourselves a small, earthly kingdom, but in doing so, we exclude ourselves from the Kingdom of God.

So how do the People of God gain access to his grace? How do we live under the reign of the Lord? How do we "belong to Christ"? According to Matthew, we do the works of mercy. As Pope Benedict XVI says, "If we put love for our neighbour into practice in accordance with the Gospel message, we make room for God's dominion and his Kingdom is actualized among us. If, instead, each one thinks only of his or her own interests, the world can only go to ruin."

Please continue reading on page 3



King of kings
and **Lord** of lords

PARISH INFORMATION

Parish Priest: Fr Joseph Lam

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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

2023 CHRISTMAS MASSES

TIMETABLE

Christmas is on Monday this year.

Weekend Masses will be at their regular time.

Christmas Masses will be as follows:

Christmas Eve Masses Sunday 24th December at 7pm and 10pm.

Christmas Day Mass Monday 25th December at 8.30am.

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

<p>Sunday 26th November</p> <p><i>OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST KING OF THE UNIVERSE YEAR A</i></p>	<p>7.30am Mass</p> <p>9.30am Mass</p>
<p>Monday 27th November</p>	<p>No Mass. Office is closed</p> <p>5.00pm SVDP Meeting M/R</p>
<p>Tuesday 28th November</p>	<p>9.15am Mass</p> <p>5.30pm Cantabile Choir Practice</p> <p>7.30pm Baptisms Preparation Meeting M/R</p>
<p>Wednesday 29th November</p>	<p>9.15am Mass followed by Rosary</p> <p>9.30am Playgroup P/C</p> <p>3.30pm Advent Group M/R</p> <p>7.00pm Bridge Club P/C</p>
<p>Thursday 30th November</p> <p><i>St Andrew</i></p>	<p>9.15am Mass</p> <p>1.15pm Bridge Club P/C</p>
<p>Friday 1st December</p>	<p>9.15am Mass</p> <p>1.00pm Bowlers</p> <p>4.30pm Concert Committee Meeting M/R</p>
<p>Saturday 2nd December</p>	<p>9.15am Mass</p> <p>4.30pm Confessions</p> <p>5.30pm Vigil Mass</p>
<p>Sunday 3rd December</p> <p><i>1st Sunday of Advent Year B</i></p>	<p>7.30am Mass</p> <p>9.30am Mass</p> <p>3.00pm Children's Choir P/C</p> <p>6.00pm Youth Mass</p> <p>7.00pm Senior Youth Group P/C</p>

CHRISTMAS ROSTER

Parishioners are invited to nominate themselves, if qualified for the Liturgical Roles at one of our three Christmas Masses. A blank roster is placed on the notice board in the Narthex near the Warden's table. Please write your name against any one ministry vacancy that you can fill. Thank you for all your help and support.

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.

DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA NOTICES

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.



Envelopes are on the pews, or use this link yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal or scan this QR code. Please give generously to the Bishop's Christmas Appeal. Thank you.

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

The Blue Mountains 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. We hope to see you at the launch.

Epiphany Pilgrimage and Fiesta 2024

Commit the first fruits of your new year to Christ with the 2024 Epiphany Pilgrimage (2 - 9 Jan 2024). Enjoy 7 days of bushwalking, fellowship and prayer as we journey from Emu Plains to the top of the Blue Mountains, experiencing the wonderful hospitality of parish communities along the way. Day 1 is a family-friendly day, with the option for a children's pilgrimage finishing with the Finnie's Fiesta at St Finbar's Glenbrook. For more information and to register for all or part of the journey, visit www.epiphanypilgrimage.org.

The Glenbrook-Blastland Interchurch Group
Proudly Presents

Carols in the Park

WITH THE BLUE MOUNTAINS CONCERT BAND
& MOUNTAINS YOUTH BAND
GLENBROOK PARK
FRIDAY 15 DEC - 7.45PM

Supporting the
Christmas Bowl Appeal

BRING RUG/CHAIR - ELECTRONIC CANDLES WILL BE AVAILABLE
IF WET. MEET IN THE GLENBROOK UNITING CHURCH HALL

FR JOE'S MUSINGS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

At the end of the liturgical year, let us thank the good and caring King who encourages all of us to exercise the works of mercy in our daily life. God's mercy transforms the world and us. And so any work undertaken for the Church must be informed by prayer, in which we ask the King of the Universe to be our shepherd.

At this point, I also would like to acknowledge all volunteers for their love and commitment to works of charity. Particularly, I express my gratitude to Martin Rogers (outgoing PPC Chair), Jeannine Ashbee (outgoing PPC member), Colleen Fuller (outgoing PPC member), Elizabeth Rowe (outgoing DPC member), Elizabeth Culliver (outgoing parish coordinator of the catechists), Kathleen Tierney (outgoing coordinator of Tuesday TimeOut group), Melissa McDonald (outgoing music coordinator). Thank you for your dedication to faith and St Finbar's. May the Lord bless you abundantly.



I also welcome Jesse Mowbray who as current PPC Deputy will take on the role of PPC chair in accordance with the PPC statutes. I also welcome Claire Brown who will coordinate the music ministry. Thank you and my prayers for both of you.

Fr Joe

SVDP CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2023

Christmas Hampers

This year we will be following the format where families, groups or individuals make up and donate a full hamper or contribute items to be included in a hamper. A list of suggested hamper items is available from the warden's table.

Please ensure that all food items are within the expiry date

Christmas Gift Tree

The Christmas Gift tree will be put up during the week commencing 27 November and if parishioners wish to support this activity then please take a blue or pink tag from the tree or wardens table, purchase a gift for a child as suggested on the tag and return the Christmas wrapped gift with the tag securely attached to the outside.

All hampers items and gifts will need to be left at the church no later than Thursday 14 December 2023.

Volunteers

We will need helpers at 3.30pm on Friday 15 December to assist with Hamper packing and on Saturday 16 December to assist with the delivery of the hampers at 9.00am. If you are able to assist us with either of these activities please send a SMS message to 0413 549 518 and include your name and contact details.

Poor Box Donations

All donations to the Poor Box till the end of January will count towards our Christmas Appeal. Any and all donations will be greatly appreciated and will support our work over the Christmas period and into 2024.

We will be holding a leaving collection after each Mass on the weekend 16/17 December 2022. We are moving into the digital world this year and you will also be able to donate with your debit or credit card. All donations are tax deductible and receipts will be available at each mass.

Thank you, fellow parishioners, for your generosity in helping a family put food on the table this Christmas.

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 8th, 15th and 22nd 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.

Bateman Battersby

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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|-------------------|---------------------|
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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:

Lillian Pockran, Bernie Fisher, Katie Maloney, 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:

Cecil White, Nicholas Haddock, Stephen Hutchins, Glenna Van den Steen, Shirley Noyes, Ronald Aussel, Harold Mitchell, David Miles, Frank Kroehnert and Lawrence Dunne.

LITURGICAL ROSTER FOR 2ND & 3RD DECEMBER 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	Philomena Watkins	Michelle Wilson	Jessica Doherty
2nd Reading	Katy Ferris	John Killeen	Steve Baird
Intercession	Elizabeth Rowe	Kevin Flynn	Martin Rogers
Music	Naomi's Group		Anne Hobbs Group
IT Operators	Thais Turner	Joseph Wilson	Patrick Watson
Gifts	Janice Smith & Volunteer Please	Maria Heinzl & Stanis Drobiszewski	Volunteers please
Communion	Vince Dobson & Brian Robertson	2 x Volunteers please	Wendy Brown & Volunteer Please
Children's Liturgy	Elizabeth		
Piety Stall	Carmel Higgins		
Church Care	Jeannine Ashbee, Deb Gall, Leesa & Wayne Gillard		
Hospitality	Line Wiecek, Vicky Ang, Tamar Apkarian & Karen Sukkar		



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