



The Barra

Weekly Newsletter of St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook
2nd Sunday of Advent - Year B
9th & 10th December 2023

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 84; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8

WE ARE FILLED WITH THE PRESENCE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST INTO THE HEARTS, SOULS AND MINDS OF ALL OUR PARISHIONERS.

FR JOE'S MUSINGS

Second Sunday of Advent: a Sunday of Hope and Peace

The tradition for the second Sunday of Advent includes lighting the second purple candle which has its origins in the prophet Micah who prophesied the saviour would be born in Bethlehem. It is referred to as the *Bethlehem Candle* reminding us of Mary and Joseph's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem before Mary gave birth to Jesus. Building on the meaning of the Prophecy Candle, this second candle recalls that after all the division, destruction, and dispersion of the kingdom in the Old Testament, there might finally be peace on Earth – Jesus is coming, and so is his Kingdom of Peace.

Reflecting on the gift of peace, this Sunday's gospel of Mark relates that the birth of Jesus Christ is the beginning of the GOOD NEWS. We are reminded of the book of Genesis, which begins, "In the beginning." Just as that book describes the beginning of all creation, this Gospel describes the salvation work of Jesus Christ—the culmination of God's creative relationship with the world. Jesus is the name—the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew Joshua, which means "Yahweh saves."

Salvation is the English translation of the Greek word *Soteria* used 158 times in the OT and includes a variety of meaning from general safety and security to the manifestation of God's glory bringing joy to the world. The NT employs *Soteria* 46 times, mostly to emphasize the divine deliverance(2x), preservation(1x), salvation(42x).

Importantly, salvation is related to God taking on the human flesh. It means that the Eternal One entered the limits of time and space to make the encounter with him possible "today". The liturgical texts of Christmas help us to understand that the events of salvation brought about by Christ are always up to date and concern every person and all people. When in the liturgical celebrations we hear or proclaim: "today is born our Saviour", we are not using an empty, conventional expression. Rather, we mean that God is offering to us "today", now, to me, to each one of us, the possibility of recognizing and welcoming him, as did the shepherds in Bethlehem, so that he may also be born in our lives and renew, illuminate and transform them by his Grace and by his Presence.

St Leo the Great said in one of his Christmas sermons: "Today the Maker of the world was born of a Virgin's womb, and he, who made all natures, became Son of her whom he created. Today the Word of God appeared clothed in flesh, and that which had never been visible to human eyes began to be tangible to our hands as well. Today the shepherds learned from angels' voices that the Saviour was born in the substance of our flesh and soul."

Furthermore, the event of Bethlehem is not just an historical fact but must be considered in the light of the Paschal Mystery; Jesus' Incarnation and Birth are already an invitation to us to direct our gaze to his death and his Resurrection.

Please continue reading on page 3

PARISH INFORMATION

Parish Priest: Fr Joseph Lam

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Secretary: Juliana Khnouf

E-mail: secretary@stfinbars.org.au

Admin: Peter McMahan

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

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.

SUNDAY'S BAPTISMS:

The Parish joyfully announces the Baptism of

Chad David Corner

this Sunday, and warmly welcomes him into our Faith Community here at St Finbar's.



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 10th December</p> <p><i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i> <i>Year B</i></p>	<p>7.30am Mass</p> <p>9.30am Mass</p> <p>10.45am Baptisms</p> <p>12.00pm Bridge Club Christmas Party P/C</p> <p>3.00pm Concert Rehearsal</p> <p>7.30pm Christmas Concert</p>
<p>Monday 11th December</p>	<p>No Mass. Office is closed</p> <p>5.00pm SVDP Meeting M/R</p>
<p>Tuesday 12th December</p>	<p>9.15am Mass</p> <p>5.30pm Cantabile Choir Practice</p> <p>7.00pm PPC & PFC Meeting & Dinner</p> <p>7.00pm Bridge Club P/C</p>
<p>Wednesday 13th December</p> <p><i>St Lucy</i></p>	<p>9.15am Year 6 Graduation Mass</p> <p>9.30am Playgroup P/C</p> <p>10.00am Pastoral Care Meeting M/R</p> <p>3.30pm Advent Group M/R</p> <p>5.30pm Year 6 Graduations Dinner P/C</p>
<p>Thursday 14th December</p> <p><i>St John of the Cross</i></p>	<p>9.15am Mass</p> <p>1.00pm Pat Bell's Funeral Mass</p> <p>1.15pm Bridge Club P/C</p>
<p>Friday 15th December</p>	<p>6.30am Rorate Mass</p> <p>10.00am Lilian Pockran Funeral Mass</p> <p>1.00pm Bowlers P/C</p> <p>7.30pm Advent Adoration and Confessions</p>
<p>Saturday 16th December</p>	<p>6.30am Rorate Mass</p> <p>4.30pm Confessions</p> <p>5.30pm Vigil Mass</p>
<p>Sunday 17th December</p> <p><i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i> <i>Year B</i></p>	<p>7.30am Mass</p> <p>9.30am Mass</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.

2023 CHRISTMAS MASSES TIMETABLE

Christmas is on Monday this year. Weekend Masses will be at their regular time.

Christmas Masses will be as follows:

1. Christmas Eve Masses
Sunday 24th December at 7pm. Children are encouraged to dress up as an angel or a shepherd.



For the safety of our children

parking access is only via King Street for this Mass only.

Live Streaming Link for the 7pm Christmas Eve
<https://youtube.com/live/bki7nfqxUH8?feature=share>

2. Christmas Eve Carols & Mass **from 9.30pm**
3. Christmas Day Mass **Monday 25th December at 8.30am.**

Future Church, Our Church:

The recent Church Synods in Rome and Paramatta are about our future as Church, the people of God. You are invited to an informal discussion on these Synods with the view of breaking open what they mean for us in our own parishes. The first discussion will dip into the Synthesis Report of the Synod on Synodality. Further discussions will take place in the coming months. The discussion is an initiative of the Sacred Heart Parish Pastoral Council (Blackheath, Megalong Valley, Mt Victoria) and is an open invitation to all Mountains Parishes (and beyond!).

Please register your interest by contacting Clive at the email address below.

Date: Saturday December 23 + Saturday Jan 27 (tbc).

Time: 2:00 – 3:30pm

Venue: Parish Hall 165 Wentworth St, Blackheath.

Contact: Clive at c_kanes@yahoo.com.au

EPIPHANY PILGRIMAGE 2024 PRAYER

REQUESTS

Our parish community will be hosting the Epiphany Pilgrimage group again in 2024 as they journey up the mountains from 2 - 9 January. In preparation for the pilgrimage, you are invited to write any prayer requests on the cards provided and place them in the Epiphany Pilgrimage prayer box to be prayed each day by the pilgrims. To participate in some or all of the pilgrimage - including walks, Mass, Adoration / prayer sessions and meals - visit www.epiphanypilgrimage.org, or to assist with hospitality when the group visits our parish, please contact the parish office.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR 2024

I have started preparing the new rosters for 2024 and we are in urgent need of more volunteers across the board. Help is needed for lawn mowing, church cleaning, hospitality & special events, IT operators, Catechists, musicians, welcomers, readers, Ministers of Communion, Parish Pastoral Council PPC (3) members, Deanery Council (1), Sacristans & Senior Servers, Catechists, Pastoral outreach and Wardens. Training will be provided before you start.

If you are able to help please add your name and phone number to the new volunteers list on the noticeboard. Thank you.

FR JOE'S MUSINGS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Christmas and Easter are both feasts of redemption. Easter celebrates it as a victory over sin and death; it marks the final moment when the glory of the Man-God shines out like the light of day. Christmas celebrates it as God's entry into history, his becoming man to restore mankind to God and His peace.

The birth of Jesus Christ calls for a new way of being human, one that reflects the divine communion of persons. The incarnation of Jesus Christ is about the *fullness of humanity* without sin!

Let us pray for the peace of **TODAY**, especially in places of wars (Ukraine and in the Middle East). May the prayer of St Paul for peace resonates in our world: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him." (Rom 15:13)

Fr Joe

Invitation to Rorate Sunrise Mass during Advent

From Friday 15 – Saturday 23 December, daily at 6.30am except Sundays and Mondays (outdoor altar)

What is a Rorate Mass?

Rorate Caeli is Latin for "Drop down, ye heavens" and are the opening words of the Introit (which is an opening psalm or antiphon), coming from Isaiah 45:8.

"Rorate, caeli, desuper, et nubes pluant justum, aperiatur terra, et germinet Salvatorem."

"Drop down dew, ye heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain the just: let the earth be opened and bud forth a Savior." – Isaiah 45:8

A Rorate Sunrise Mass is traditionally celebrated just before dawn in Advent as a devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Mass is only lit by candles, representing Mary's role in bringing the Light of the World

How is it Celebrated?

Mass begins in darkness before sunrise, with only candles to remind us of a world in darkness and sin that is anticipating the coming of the "Light of the World." As Mass progresses, it becomes brighter until the risen sun fills it with the light of day.

After the Mass, you may stay back to have BYO breakfast together!

(Note: There is no 9.15am Mass on these days)

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

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 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.

Bateman Battersby

LAWYERS

We invite members of the Parish to take advantage of our legal services specialising in :

- Property Law, Business Law, Wills & Estates, Family Law, Negligence Law, Court Appearances

Phone: 02 47315899

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PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

Pat Bell, Lilian Pockran, Maria Faggion (Fran Isaksen’s Mother), Marie Kovacova (Mila Svehla’s Cousin) and Lyn Beltran.

PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK PARISHIONERS, RELATIVES & FRIENDS:

Huia Kingi, Bernie Fisher, Katie Maloney, Christopher Thomson, David Haynes (Yvonne Scanlan’s Dad), Gwen Cullinan, Chris Paine, Lyn Downes, Jacqui Visser, Margaret Stevens, Mark Bates, Margaret Christensen, 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:

Garry Dennis, Patrice O’Neill, Fredericke Vinzenz, Doreen Egan, Maria Toirkens, Thomas Hitchens, Monica Piggott, Tamara Shervashidze, Paul Edelbrock, Elma O’Shea, Henry Brockway, Malcolm King, Coral Darr, Denis O’Sullivan, Ann Lowe, Stephen Schaefer, Mark Broomhead, James Gapps, Marjorie Doyle, Margaret Gibson and Josphe Lopez.

LITURGICAL ROSTER FOR 16TH & 17TH DECEMBER 2023

Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	Vince Dobson	Carl Moll	Stuart Sheary
Senior Server	Vince Dobson	Carl Moll	Martin Rogers
Junior Servers	Volunteers Please		Zoe Wilson, Dominic Sheary & Tim Kensey
Warden	Lorraine Brown	Volunteer Please	Frank Fitzpatrick
1 st Reading	Maire Griffin	John Killeen	Peter or Trish Hurley
2nd Reading	Gideon Goosen	Margaret Dickson	Gary Clune
Intercession	Margaret Moore	John De Mattia	Frank Fitzpatrick
Music	Cantabile		Naomi’s Group
IT Operators	Robyn Flynn	Elizabeth Konza	Joanne Stubbs
Gifts	Allan & Eileen Jones	Kay Whitty	The Wilson Family
Communion	2 x Volunteers Please	Brian Grech & Volunteer Please	Todd Stanford & Volunteer Please
Children’s Liturgy	Michelle		
Piety Stall	Lee Jackson		
Church Care	Veronica Clune, Fran Isaksen, Lynne Atkinson & Gabrielle Lynch		
Hospitality	Trish & Peter Hurley, Irene & Bert Aligno		



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