



**The Barra**  
*Weekly Newsletter of St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook*  
**3rd Sunday of Advent - Year B**  
**16th & 17th December 2023**

**Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11; Luke 1:46-50, 53-54; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28**

**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**

**Third Sunday of Advent – Rejoice (Gaudete Sunday)**

The story of the lost sheep in Matthew chapter 18 has always been one of my favourites. However, I have now gained a new insight into it. It says in Matthew that the shepherd will rejoice IF he finds the lost sheep. Matthew made it a conditional IF because he remains open to the reading that the lost sheep might be not found at all. There is a possibility that the sheep does not hear or recognize the voice of the shepherd because of the many other loud voices that he was accustomed to. He may fail and ignore the voice of the shepherd.

The lost sheep may also represent us, modern people who are used and overladen with many voices shouting out from shopping centres, televisions, and advertisement music. Because of these voices, we become deaf to the gentle call of the one who comes to us in the *silence* of the night. The only witnesses of Jesus' entrance into the world were probably some animals, and a *silent* Joseph who never utters a single word in Scripture. There was no royal parade, crowds cheering, or even a midwife to help deliver this child. For thousands of years, the prophets had been announcing the coming of a Savior. But for the centuries leading up to the Incarnation, the prophets were silent. Then, in an unassuming stable one silent night, the world changed forever. God had come to us in silence. And it's only in silence that we encounter God.

Silence is mystery; and the greatest mystery, God, remains silent," writes Cardinal Sarah. The word is not just a sound; it is a person and a presence. No prophet ever encountered God without withdrawing into solitude and silence.

Amid the parties and festivities of the holidays, we must withdraw to hear the voice of God, because God's voice is silent. I can't count the number of times someone has told me that they can't hear God: Why doesn't he just show up in fireworks or a loud booming voice from heaven? Why isn't God speaking to the world like he did in the Bible? How do I even know he's there? Why doesn't he just give me a clear sign? Why can't I hear him?

At the heart of a person there is an innate silence, for God abides in the innermost part of every person. God is silence, and this divine silence dwells in every person who withdraws into the silence of his heart. Nothing will make us discover God better than his silence inscribed in the centre of our being. If we do not cultivate this silence, how can we find God?

*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



**CHRISTMAS ROSTER**

We still have few vacancies in the Christmas roster that need to be filled. Please add your name against any role that you can do. Your help with this is greatly appreciated.

**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

## DIocese OF PARRAMATTA NOTICES

<b>Sunday</b> <b>17th December</b> <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i> <i>Year B</i>	<b>7.30am Mass</b> <b>9.30am Mass</b>
<b>Monday</b> <b>18th December</b>	<b>No Mass. Office is closed</b> 5.00pm SVDP Meeting M/R
<b>Tuesday</b> <b>19th December</b>	<b>6.30am Rorate Mass</b> 5.30pm Cantabile Choir Practice
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>20th December</b>	<b>6.30am Rorate Mass</b> 3.30pm Advent Group M/R 7.00pm Bridge Club P/C
<b>Thursday</b> <b>21st December</b>	<b>6.30am Rorate Mass</b> 1.15pm Bridge Club P/C
<b>Friday</b> <b>22nd December</b>	<b>6.30am Rorate Mass</b> <b>7.30pm Advent Adoration and Confessions</b>
<b>Saturday</b> <b>23rd December</b>	<b>6.30am Rorate Mass</b> 4.30pm Confessions <b>5.30pm Vigil Mass</b>
<b>Sunday</b> <b>24th December</b> <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i> <i>Year B</i>	<b>7.30am Mass</b> <b>9.30am Mass</b> <b>7.00pm Christmas Family Mass</b> <b>Live Streaming link</b> <a href="https://youtube.com/live/bki7nfqxUH8?feature=share">https://youtube.com/live/bki7nfqxUH8?feature=share</a> <b>10.00pm Christmas Eve Mass</b>
<b>Monday</b> <b>25th December</b> <i>Christmas Day</i>	8.30am Christmas Day Mass

### 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.

### NEW Diocesan website launched

The new [parracatholic.org](http://parracatholic.org) website is now here with exciting new features and functionality including a comprehensive 'Find a Mass' function which includes Daily and Weekend Masses, Reconciliation and Adoration times; a centralised event calendar; Daily Mass readings and different ways you can contribute to the Church in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains. Check it out today!

### Join our CYP team!

The Diocese of Parramatta's Mission Enhancement Team (MET) is looking to expand and deepen the work of Catholic Youth Parramatta in 2024. You have the opportunity to impact the lives of thousands of youth and young adults in our ever-growing ministry, especially in schools. Forward your current CV, refer to the position description, and record a 2-3 minute video addressing your passion, skills and experience for the role to [parracatholicjobs@parracatholic.org](mailto:parracatholicjobs@parracatholic.org)

### Thank you for giving comfort, faith, and hope to distraught people this Christmas

Fr Fernando Montano, Parramatta Catholic Foundation, and Catholic Care thank you for your kind-hearted generosity and support for people in hospital and prison who might otherwise feel abandoned. If you haven't had a chance to donate, please visit [yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal](http://yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal) or scan this QR code. Thank you.



### Liturgical Ministry Course returns in 2024

The Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in February 2024. This is formation for anyone interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact the Office for Worship on 0460 037 795 or [mary.gale@parracatholic.org](mailto:mary.gale@parracatholic.org) or visit our website to download an enrolment form at <https://officeforworship.org.au/>

### Donate to Caritas Australia's Gaza Appeal

Following a series of surprise attacks against Israel by Hamas in early October, Caritas Australia is supporting partner agencies on the ground to provide emergency cash, shelter, and psychosocial support to those affected by the violence. The efforts of these partner agencies are expected to support 17,000 displaced families, representing around 100,000 of the 1 million people displaced. To support Caritas Australia's Gaza Appeal, visit [www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/gaza-crisis/](http://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/gaza-crisis/) or call 1800 024 413 toll free.

# ST. FINBAR'S PARISH NEWS

## FR JOE'S MUSINGS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Mother Teresa once said: "We need to find God, and he cannot be found in noise and restlessness. God is the friend of silence. See how nature – trees, flowers, grass- grows in silence; see the stars, the moon and the sun, how they move in silence... We need silence to be able to touch souls."

The world has forgotten the joys of silence, the peace of solitude, which is necessary, to some extent, for the fullness of human living. We cannot be happy for long unless we are in contact with the springs of spiritual life which are hidden in the depths of his own soul. If we are exiled constantly from our own home, locked out of our spiritual solitude, we cease to be a true person.

And this is what Mary, Joseph and the animals may have discovered: In Silence God ceases to be an object and becomes an experience.

Fr Joe

## 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/bki7nfgxUH8?feature=share>

2. Christmas Eve Carols & Mass **from 9.30pm**

3. Christmas Day Mass **Monday 25th December at 8.30am.**

## 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.

## 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](http://www.epiphanypilgrimage.org), or to assist with hospitality when the group visits our parish, please contact the parish office.

### Bateman Battersby

L A W Y E R S

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

- |                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| • Property Law    | • Family Law        |
| • Business Law    | • Negligence Law    |
| • Wills & Estates | • Court Appearances |

**Phone: 02 47315899**

[www.batemanbattersby.com.au](http://www.batemanbattersby.com.au)

[Enquiries@batemanbattersby.com.au](mailto:Enquiries@batemanbattersby.com.au)

### Turner Freeman

Lawyers Est. 1992

Turner Freeman Lawyers have been providing members of the community with outstanding legal services since 1952 in the following areas:

Personal injury claims | Wills & estate planning | Property law | Deceased estates & will disputes



Suite 4, 311 High Street Penrith NSW 2750

☎ 4729 5200

🌐 [www.turnerfreeman.com.au](http://www.turnerfreeman.com.au)

✉ [Gerard.Morson@turnerfreeman.com.au](mailto:Gerard.Morson@turnerfreeman.com.au)

**Ballimino's**  
CAFE & PIZZERIA  
EST. 2019

BREAKFAST | LUNCH | DINNER  
OPEN 7 DAYS - 9AM TILL LATE - FULLY LICENSED  
SHOP 2/5 ROSS STREET, GLENBROOK NSW 2773 | (02) 4739 6582

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:**

Pat Bell, Lilian Pockran and Maria Faggion (Fran Isaksen’s Mother).

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

Huia Kingi, Bernie Fisher, Sue Bland, Connor Sipple, 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 Pereira & Maureen Brown (Marcia Pereira's Sister, Brother & Niece).

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:**

Venita Bronlow, Phyllis Helm, Anthony Crimston, Brian Jenkins, Monica Keating, Geoffrey Shalala, Angela Hector and Shirley Tregillgas.

**LITURGICAL ROSTER FOR 23RD & 24TH, 25TH DECEMBER 2023**

<b>Liturgical Ministries</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	<b>7.30 am</b>	<b>9.30 am</b>	<b>Christmas Eve 7pm</b>	<b>Christmas Night 10pm</b>	<b>Christmas Day 8.30am</b>
<b>Sacristan</b>	<b>Ahyiesha D’Souza</b>	<b>Peter McMahon</b>	<b>Stephen Brown</b>	<b>Ahyiesha D’Souza</b>	<b>Peter McMahon</b>	<b>Carl Moll</b>
<b>Senior Server</b>	<b>Ahyiesha D’Souza</b>	<b>Peter McMahon</b>	<b>Stephen Brown</b>	<b>Ahyiesha D’Souza</b>	<b>Peter McMahon</b>	<b>Carl Moll</b>
<b>Junior Servers</b>	<b>Harrison Bohan &amp; Volunteer Please</b>		<b>Benjamin Grus &amp; Abigail Stanford</b>	<b>Eoghan McKenna Oliver Wilson Zoe Wilson</b>		<b>Volunteers please</b>
<b>Warden</b>	<b>Volunteer Please</b>	<b>Volunteer Please</b>	<b>Justin Dowling</b>	<b>Vince Dobson</b>		<b>Tricia Murnane Kieren Murnane Cecilia Zammit Frank Zammit</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading</b>	<b>Beth Culliver</b>	<b>Kevin Lloyd</b>	<b>Patricia Murnane</b>	<b>Joanne Stubbs</b>	<b>Maire Griffin</b>	<b>Cecilia Zammit</b>
<b>2nd Reading</b>	<b>Naomi Cheeseman</b>	<b>Andrew Teece</b>	<b>Irene Aligno</b>	<b>Dawn Willis</b>	<b>Louise Debeck</b>	<b>Volunteer Please</b>
<b>Intercession</b>	<b>Felicity Lindfield</b>	<b>Kevin Flynn</b>	<b>Carmel Higgins</b>	<b>Erin Kelly</b>	<b>Volunteer Please</b>	<b>Volunteer Please</b>
<b>Music</b>	<b>Te Deum’s</b>		<b>Holy Light</b>	<b>Youth Group</b>	<b>Cantabile</b>	<b>Naomi’s Group</b>
<b>IT Operators</b>	<b>Pat Watson</b>	<b>Elizabeth Konza</b>	<b>Susan Dowling</b>	<b>Lachlan Lloyd</b>	<b>Robyn Flynn</b>	<b>Patrick Watson</b>
<b>Gifts</b>	<b>Margaret Moore &amp; Jan de Bie</b>	<b>Ann &amp; Ray Keating</b>	<b>The Young Family</b>	<b>The Young Family</b>	<b>Volunteers please</b>	<b>Volunteers please</b>
<b>Communion</b>	<b>2 x Volunteers Please</b>	<b>2 x Volunteers Please</b>	<b>Annis Nilsson &amp; Volunteer Please</b>	<b>Gerard Egan &amp; Carmel Higgins</b>	<b>Louise Debeck &amp; Volunteers please</b>	<b>Jim Tierney Kath Tierney &amp; Volunteer please</b>
<b>Hospitality</b>	<b>Marie Nassif, Kerry &amp; Peter Herborn</b>					
<b>Lawn Mowing</b>	<b>Lukas Rajnoch, Andrew Howard &amp; Stuart Sheary</b>					