



The Barra
Weekly Newsletter of St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook
3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B
20th & 21st January 2024

Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Ps 24; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

**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

Don't take everything so easily...

At the moment there is not much good news: the rising cost of living is bothering us, the wars in Ukraine and in the Middle East are exhausting us all. And things aren't any better in the Church. That's why we really need good news. Today's Gospel of Mark brings us not only good news, but also glad tidings. He speaks of the fulfilled time (peplērotai ho **kairos**) that is connected with Jesus' proclamation of the kingdom of God. It is now God's time. In Mark, Jesus claims that this **KAIROS**, this decisive moment of God's intervention was happening in his ministry. The kingdom of God has come near to bring light to those who walk in darkness.

It is so easy to despair and lose heart when there is darkness. It's so easy to give up and give in to fate. It is so easy to become a cynic and, at worst, to support an unjust system through passivity or even actively. It's so easy to believe that there's nothing but bad news, so why not try to make the best of it for yourself? It's so easy to lose hope.

Christ brings hope and new life to all those who are in despair. The Kingdom is present in history in that the power of evil spirits was being broken, sins forgiven, and sinners gathered into God's friendship. That's why Mark calls people: Repent and believe in the gospel, the good news.

By asking people to repent and believe in the good news, Jesus is telling them: Don't get used to the circumstances! **Don't take everything so easily!** Don't just become a cog in the wheel of arbitrariness and injustice! Don't let yourself be pushed into the role of victim! Don't lose heart, don't lose hope! No, repent, or in other words, turn back. Change your mind, have a change of heart, change your attitude. And not only that: believe in the gospel, believe in the good news. Believe that God calls you to actively participate in the changing circumstances, that you are the ones through whom the Kingdom of God can be experienced. Believe that you are a light in the darkness. Let us be renewed and let us breath in the Good News of Hope as we begin the new year.

We surely need renewal for our Parish. Concretely, we need to repair the roof of the church building. After nearly 30 years the roof begins to leak and its wood structure shows concerning damages. Now, it is the opportune time to do some major works on the roof to keep it for the next 30 years or so. We need to urgently recoat and replace the rusty screws to protect water from entering under the roof and hence into the church. Because of its massive size, distinguished construction, and the need to add anchors on the roof that would allow painters to stay safe on the roof, it is expected that the total cost would be around **150-200K**. If we don't do it now, it would be very costly in 2 or 3 years when the roof would require not just repainting but replacing. It could cost us up to 1 million to do so.

Please continue reading on page 3



PARISH INFORMATION

Parish Priest: Fr Joseph Lam

E-mail: joseph.lam@parracatholic.org

Phone: 0493 461 990 **Emergencies only**
 (Sickness & death)

Secretary: Juliana Khnouf

E-mail: secretary@stfinbars.org.au

Admin: Peter McMahon

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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

WEDDING

Congratulations to
William Neville and
Coralie Cangy



for getting married on Thursday the
 25th of January.

May God bless them both with
 happiness and great life together.

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	
Sunday 21st January <i>3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass 1.30pm Bridge Club P/C 2.00pm Midsummer Melodies Concert—Church
Monday 22nd January	No Mass. Office is closed
Tuesday 23rd January	9.15am Mass
Wednesday 24th January <i>St Francis de Sales</i>	9.15am Mass followed by Rosary 7.00pm Bridge Club P/C
Thursday 25th January <i>The Conversion of St Paul</i>	9.15am Mass 1.15pm Bridge Club P/C 2.00pm Coralie & William's Wedding
Friday 26th January <i>Australia Day</i>	9.15am Australia Day Mass 7.30pm Adoration
Saturday 27th January	9.15am Mass 4.30pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass
Sunday 28th January <i>4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass

Parish News

PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
 This year annual AGM is scheduled for Sunday the 4th of February 2024, straight after the 9.30am Sunday Mass in the Parish Hall.
 All parishioners are invited to attend.
 During the AGM, the Parish Pastoral Council and Parish Finance Committee will provide updates on pastoral, financial and construction or maintenance planning.
 Hope to see you all there.

Fr. Joe

HOW WILL YOU PREPARE FOR EASTER THIS YEAR?
 We invite you to join a Lenten Group and to journey to Easter with other members of our Parish Family.
Lenten Groups offer you an opportunity to explore the message of Jesus with others, to relate it to your own experiences and thereby to express it more fully in your daily life. It is a very rewarding way to prepare for the Easter Season. Material for individual sessions is provided. Ash Wednesday is 14 February !!! Please consider joining this preparation. Opportunity to sign in will be the weekend 3 & 4 February.
 The program we are using this year is the *Pieta, Lenten Program 2024-Wollongong Diocese*. You can choose from these 3 groups;
 + **Thursday at 3.30pm** Group leader Mila Svehla
 + **Thursday evening at 7.30pm** Group leader Fr Joe
 + **Saturday Morning at 9am** Group leader Martin Rogers.

Thank you
 The Pastoral Care Team helps those in need through all sorts of visits to the elderly, sick and lonely to mention a few. They also organise the anointing of the sick at Mass on the third Thursday of each month.
 Recently, they sent 100 parishioners a lovely surprise box of thoughtful goodies that reminded them that the community is thinking of them during the festive season.
 The parishioners got such a surprise and are still smiling. Thank you to Margaret Richards and all her helpers in the team for the Christmas cheer that really did mean so much.

Eleanor Thompson



Parish News

FR JOE'S MUSINGS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Together with the Parish Finance Committee, I am looking into various financial options. While we have just paid off the debt, we are not yet in a position to finance fully the repair. We may need to borrow once again, if we don't raise enough money for it. If you have any ideas, please let me know.

There is hope. We don't need to despair. There is still a lot of good in the world and in our Parish.

God bless and have a wonderful week ahead.

Fr Joe

Rekindle our wonder - Aspects of the Eucharist talk– Wednesdays 21st & 28th February at 7pm

The Church draws her life from the Eucharist. This truth does not simply express a daily experience of faith but recapitulates the heart of the mystery of the Church (John Paul II, *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, no. 1). According to Vatican II, the "Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life." Pope Francis invites all Catholics to deepen their knowledge of the Eucharist because "Understanding the Eucharist: the Greatest Need in the Church Today!"

Please join Mr Chris Ohlsen in the exploration of the fundamental aspects of the Eucharist.

Mr Ohlsen previously worked as a funeral director and after that became the Executive Assistant to Bishop Vincent and between February 2017 –October 2018 was the first lay Master of Ceremonies for the Diocese of Parramatta. Following that he went and worked as an Executive Secretary at the Bishops Conference and now works at Government House, Sydney. He obtained a Master of Theological Studies majoring in Liturgy from the ACU Centre for Liturgy.



St Finbar's Catholic Church

Presenting

Midsummer Melodies

Sunday, 2 pm, 21st January 24



Be captivated by the beautiful voices of Bernadette and Samantha Phillips,

Be Swooned by the chamber group Stringy Bach....

Beethoven String Trio in G Major op. 9 no. 1

Come to the Fair (duet)

For Good (duet)

Si Le Bonheur (Bernadette)

Four Songs (Bernadette)

Vittoria Mio Core (Samantha)

He Shall Feed His Flock (Samantha)

And many more.....

Enjoy your summer with this great repertoire. Entry by donations

(Stringy Bach)

Easthope Martin

From the Musical 'Wicked'

From Faust by Gounod

Jean Berger (1909-2002)

Giacomo Carissimi (1605-1674)

Handel (1685-1759)

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PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK PARISHIONERS, RELATIVES & FRIENDS:

Noreen Taylor, 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:

Don Moffit, Max Callaghan, Philip Mason, John Castor, Phillip Coburn, Patrick Egan, Lachlan Turnbull, Margaret Lane, Andrew Patterson, John Brown, Pat Psaila and Christopher Auckett.

LITURGICAL ROSTER FOR 27TH & 28TH JANUARY 2024

Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	Ahyiesha D'Souza	Peter McMahon	Stephen Brown
Senior Server	Ahyiesha D'Souza	Peter McMahon	Stephen Brown
Junior Servers	Sophie & Juliette Lynch		Elija & Oscar Baird
Warden	Volunteer Please	Volunteer Please	Justin Dowling
1 st Reading	Volunteer Please	Kevin Lloyd	Cecilia Zammit
2nd Reading	Naomi Cheeseman	Andrew Teece	Michelle Wilson
Intercession	Katy Ferris	Carl Moll	Yvonne Scanlan
Music	No Music		No Music
IT Operators	Thais Turner	Kylie Mills	Susan Dowling
Gifts	Heather & Steve Lee	Rivas Family	The Young Family
Communion	Lorraine Brown & Volunteer Please	Jean Di Nucci & Volunteer Please	Carmel Higgins & Volunteer Please
Children's Liturgy	School Holiday		
Piety Stall	No Stall		
Church Care	Veronica Clune, Fran Isaksen, Lynne Atkinson & Gabrielle Lynch		
Hospitality	Marie Nassif, Kerry & Peter Herborn		



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