



## The Barra

Weekly Newsletter of St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook  
4th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B  
27th & 28th January 2024

**Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Ps 94; 1 Corinthians 7:32-35; Mark 1:21-28**

**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

#### How do we celebrate together, and not exclude?

While I do not wish to enter a debate about the choice of 26 January as a celebratory date, I would like to offer my view on how we can celebrate without exclusion. As you already know, there are various and different forms of celebration: a celebration may be conducted as commemoration, as a thanksgiving or as a social gathering for entertainment or fun. In general, a celebration is the act of showing appreciation. I guess that when we celebrate Australia Day, we first recall the fact that we are all Australians (I am a German citizen, but feel like an Australian). Hence we appreciate and celebrate the values that bind all Australians together. Australians pride themselves as being *fair*, meaning a 'fair go' for all that embraces, a) mutual respect; b) tolerance; c) compassion for those in need and d) equality of opportunity for all. This means that Australia Day calls also for respect of the sisters and brothers of the First Nations. It is important to acknowledge their sufferings and struggle not just with the Day, but also in other fields. Our task is to strive to be friends together who listen to each other's concern, who care and seek to heal the wounds and so improve each other's life. Between friends, there should be no gap! We know that there is still a lot of work ahead of us.

Australia Day is also an opportunity to give THANKS to GOD for the opportunities that are given to each of us. When I see so many families joint together from various corners of the world to celebrate, it just melts my heart. I can't recall any place on the earth that can bring so many colours together to celebrate. Personally, I am very grateful for being giving the opportunity to live and to serve in this wonderful country. Having lived here for 15 years, I am getting better in saying "G'day, mate", without feeling embarrassed.

Wholeheartedly, I say THANK YOU for your wonderful Aussie friendship and welcoming spirit!

Let's now move to another topic. Traditionally, our ecumenical soup event during Lent would happen over three Sundays. However, this year the Uniting church, the Baptist church and St Finbar's agree to have only one Soup Sunday which is scheduled for **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February at 11.30** at the Uniting church in Glenbrook. We will then rotate the schedule so that each community will host one soup Sunday over the three years period. The reason for the concentration to one Sunday is that it will foster a closer relationship between the churches as we all cooperate and share responsibilities by assisting each other with the setting up and provision of soups.

*Please continue reading on page 3*

*Jesus*  
**can cast out the enemy!**

### PARISH INFORMATION

**Parish Priest:** Fr Joseph Lam

E-mail: [joseph.lam@parracatholic.org](mailto:joseph.lam@parracatholic.org)

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

**Secretary:** Juliana Khnouf

E-mail: [secretary@stfinbars.org.au](mailto:secretary@stfinbars.org.au)

**Admin:** Peter McMahon

E-mail: [admin@stfinbars.org.au](mailto:admin@stfinbars.org.au)

**PPC:**

E-mail: [stfinbarsppc@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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.*

## PARISH CALENDAR

<b>Sunday</b> <b>28th January</b>  <i>4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B</i>	<b>7.30am Mass</b>  <b>9.30am Mass</b>
<b>Monday</b> <b>29th January</b>	<b>No Mass. Office is closed</b>
<b>Tuesday</b> <b>30th January</b>	<b>9.15am Mass</b> 6.00pm Cantabile Choir Practice 7.30pm Baptism Preparation Meeting M/R
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>31st January</b> <i>St John Bosco</i>	<b>9.15am Mass followed by Rosary</b> 9.30am Playgroup P/C 7.00pm Bridge Club P/C
<b>Thursday</b> <b>1st February</b>	<b>9.15am Mass</b> 1.15pm Bridge Club P/C 5.45pm Netball Club Uniform Fitting P/C
<b>Friday</b> <b>2nd February</b> <i>The Presentation of the Lord</i>	<b>9.15am Mass</b> 1.00pm Bowlers P/C
<b>Saturday</b> <b>3rd February</b>	<b>9.15am Mass</b> 4.30pm Confessions <b>5.30pm Vigil Mass</b>
<b>Sunday</b> <b>4th February</b>  <i>5th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B</i>	<b>7.30am Mass</b> <b>9.30am Mass</b> <b>10.30am Parish AGM Meeting M/R</b> <b>6.00pm Youth Mass</b> <b>Live Streaming Link</b> <a href="https://youtube.com/live/XSnfxfNIH3Y?feature=share">https://youtube.com/live/XSnfxfNIH3Y?feature=share</a> 7.00pm Youth Group P/C



## Parish News

### SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION EVENING

An information night for the parents of children who wish to receive the Sacraments of (Reconciliation & 1st Holy Communion) or Confirmation in 2024 will be held on Monday the 4th of March at 7.30pm in the parish hall. Dates, requirements and registration forms for participants in each of the Sacramental journey will be discussed and distributed at this meeting.

### 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 **NEXT 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.

## Parramatta Diocese News

### \*\*NEW DATE\*\* Music for Lent Workshop: 8 February

Musicians and Liturgy Planners are invited to attend an evening exploring Music for Lent on **Thursday 8 February 2024** from 7pm to 8.30pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. The session will be presented by Eric Grella, Music Formation Facilitator, Mission Enhancement Team. To RSVP, please contact [lucy.woodbury@parracatholic.org](mailto:lucy.woodbury@parracatholic.org) or call 0460 037 795 by 6 February 2024.

### Safeguarding Face-to-face Training Opportunities

Opportunities for face-to-face Mandatory Safeguarding Training will be held at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown, this coming February.

- + Monday 5 February (9.30am – 2.30pm) – Modules 1-3: For those new to Parish Ministry or for those who have not yet completed the initial Cycle 1 training, or
- + Monday 12 February (10am – 1.30pm) – Modules 4-5: Renewal Safeguarding Training is for those in Parish Ministry who commenced Cycle 1 Training two years ago.

Please register directly for this training or for other convenient dates and locations by clicking on the training event at:

<https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training>

For more information, please email:

[safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org)

# Parish News

## FR JOE'S MUSINGS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In this way, we will walk together and lessen each other's burden. The donation collected on this day will support **Mountain Mentors** who are supporting a Syrian family of 6 to safely settle in the in the Blue Mountains (kids 4-14).] For further information about the works of Mountains Mentors:

<https://www.bluemountainsgazette.com.au/story/8270118/i-am-very-happy-to-be-here-after-living-in-detention-for-so-long-afghan-refugees-find-safety/>

Our roof repair project is going ahead as scheduled: Having consulted with experts, we are now waiting for the quotes to come in. Meanwhile, we are thinking about the finances for the repair which is estimated to be costing between 150-200K. **Donation** and **ideas** are very welcome!

*Fr Joe*

## 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*

## YOUTH NIGHT AT ST FINBAR'S

Please note that Youth Mass and Youth group will be back on next Sunday the 4th of February at 6pm. If you would like to be on a roster for Reading at the Youth Mass please contact the parish office.

## LIFE STREAMING MASSES

Please note that we are going to start Live Streaming of the Youth Mass every two weeks on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month.

Here is the link for Sunday the 4th of February Mass <https://youtube.com/live/XSnxfNIH3Y?feature=share>

## 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 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.



## Bateman Battersby

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



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



**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, Terry Stevens, Margaret Stevens, Mark Bates, Margaret Christensen, 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:**

Elsie Frontain (Jeannine Ashbee’s Mum in Canada), Rosanna OLoughlin, Michael O’Connor, Peter Burrett, Dr Michael McGirr, Jeremy Crawley, Paul Hammerton, Monica Cashman, Henriette Harrington, Fredrick Casey, John Halligan, Lillie Ferrie, Amanda McCulloch, Olive O’Neill and Thomas Nolan.

**LITURGICAL ROSTER FOR 3RD & 4TH FEBRUARY 2024**

Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	Emily Dowling	Carl Moll	Gerard Egan
Senior Server	Emily Dowling	Carl Moll	Lukas Rajnoch
Junior Servers	Alex & Luc Nilsson	Zoe & Oliver Wilson	Xavier Rajnoch & Benjamin Grus
Warden	Vince Dobson	Volunteer Please	Gary Clune
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Philomena Watkins	Michelle Wilson	Jessica Doherty
2nd Reading	Katy Ferris	John Killeen	Steve Baird
Intercession	Elizabeth Rowe	Volunteer Please	Martin Rogers
Music	Naomi’s Group	-	Anne Hobbs Group
IT Operators	Robyn Flynn	Kylie Mills	Pat Watson
Gifts	Janice Smith & Volunteer Please	Maria Heinzl & Stanis Drobiszewski	The Grus Family
Communion	Beth Culliver & Elizabeth Rowe	Brian Grech & Colleen Fuller	Garry Pursehouse & Wendy Brown
Children’s Liturgy	Christyna		
Piety Stall	Carmel Higgins		
Church Care	Volunteers Please		
Hospitality	Lina Wiecek, Vicky Ang, Tamar Apkarian & Karen Sukkar		
Lawn Mowing	Lukas Rajnoch, Andrew Howard, Stuart Sheary & Brendan Christie.		



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