

The Barra
Weekly Newsletter of St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook
5th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B
3rd & 4th February 2024

Job 7:1-4, 6-7; Ps 146; 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23; Mark 1:29-39

**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

Dear Friends,

It is only the first chapter of the Gospel of Mark, but already Jesus is performing miracles—and dealing with crowds who are clamoring for more miracles—and dealing with disciples who do not understand his ministry. Already he is withdrawing to a deserted place for prayer. Already he finds himself having to re-set the focus where it belongs—the proclamation of the message (v. 38).

The deserted place to which Jesus goes to pray is not desert—there is no desert in the vicinity of Capernaum. Rather, the place where Jesus goes must be spiritually akin to the desert wilderness—a place where he can be free from distractions—a place where he can give himself unreservedly to prayer—a place where he can find strength from the One in whose service he has come.

Clearly prayer was important to Jesus—it was his lifeline and his connection to the Heavenly Father. It equipped him for the battles he was about to face. It kept alive the intimate relationship that sustained him. And it revealed to him God's desires and direction.

It is through prayers that we grow in faith and in our relationship with Jesus and God. As we grow to love him, we will want to become more like him. When we find forgiveness through prayer, God softens our heart and allows us to forgive others. When we experience God's compassion and mercy, we will share that with others. When we understand that God's grace is freely given, we recognize that no one is any more or less deserving of God's love than we are, and it transforms our hearts and our actions, helping us reveal God's generous love to others.

As we return to normalcy – as our children and teachers return to schools, we, too, return to our workplace – let us pray for wisdom of discernment, patience, and charity, specially when we are faced with challenges.

Understandably, some Christians find praying in public uncomfortable. Others feel the misaligned urge to preach. Jesus says the power of prayer is not in the quantity of our words but the quality of our hearts. After all, God knows our needs before we even express them. Praying with our co-workers or employees allows us to demonstrate our desire to align our business decisions and practices with God's will and way. Praying openly may open opportunities to serve and minister to the needs of others, to comfort them in their crises, or to engage in conversations about faith.

Please continue reading on page 3

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 INFORMATION

Parish Priest: Fr Joseph Lam

E-mail: joseph.lam@parracatholic.org
 Phone: 0493 461 990 ***Emergencies only***
(Sick call & death)

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

**PROJECT COMPASSION
 BOXES**

Are available for collection from the Narthex this weekend. Please remember to take yours home today



SUNDAY RITE OF WELCOME

The Parish joyfully welcomes

***Amy Harriet Evans &
 Lucy Mary Evans***

into our Faith Community.

They are going to be Baptised at

our Parish next weekend.

May God bless them.



WEDDING

Congratulations to

***Maddison Farrugia &
 Joshua McCrorie*** for

getting married on Friday the 9th of February.

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



PARISH CALENDAR

<p>Sunday 4th February</p> <p><i>5th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B</i></p>	<p>7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass</p> <p>10.30am Parish AGM P/C</p> <p>6.00pm Youth Mass</p> <p>Live Streaming Link https://youtube.com/live/XSnfxfNIH3Y?feature=share</p> <p>7.00pm Senior Youth Group</p>
<p>Monday 5th February</p> <p><i>St Agatha</i></p>	<p>No Mass. Office is closed</p> <p>5.00pm SVDP Meeting M/R</p> <p>5.30pm Wedding Rehearsal</p> <p>6.30pm Finnie's Choir Practice</p>
<p>Tuesday 6th February</p> <p><i>St Paul Miki and his companions</i></p>	<p>9.15am Mass</p> <p>10.00am Timeout Tuesday P/C</p> <p>5.30pm Cantabile Choir Practice</p> <p>7.30pm Liturgy Committee Meeting M/R</p>
<p>Wednesday 7th February</p>	<p>9.15am Mass followed by Rosary</p> <p>9.30am Project Compassion School Launch P/C</p> <p>7.00pm Bridge Club P/C</p>
<p>Thursday 8th February</p>	<p>9.15am Mass</p> <p>10.00am SRE Meeting M/R</p> <p>10.45am Bridge Lessons P/C</p> <p>1.15pm Bridge Club P/C</p>
<p>Friday 9th February</p>	<p>9.15am Mass</p> <p>1.00pm Bowlers</p> <p>2.00pm Maddison Farrugia & Joshua McCrorie Wedding</p>
<p>Saturday 10th February</p> <p><i>St Scholastica</i></p>	<p>9.15am Mass</p> <p>4.30pm Confessions</p> <p>5.30pm Vigil Mass</p>
<p>Sunday 11th February</p> <p><i>6th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B</i></p>	<p>7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass</p> <p>10.45am Baptisms</p> <p>11.00am Musicians Meeting M/R</p>

Rekindle our wonder - Aspects of the Eucharist talk- Wednesdays 21st & 28th February at 7.30pm (not 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.

TIME OUT TUESDAY

I s back for 2024 on Tuesday 6th February, 10:00am – noon. We meet in the parish centre on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. Come for time out from the busyness of life. Bring your craft, display and share your skills, ask questions and maybe learn something new.

No Craft? doesn't matter we are ready for a chat, Time Out. Always a cuppa, a short reflection and plenty of friendships.

Thank you - At the end of 2023 we were able to donate \$450 and over 10 rugs to Gateway Family Services.

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 **THIS 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.

FR JOE'S MUSINGS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In acknowledging that he is Lord, the One in ultimate control, we experience the *freedom to be human*. There is a *blessed humility* resulting from prayer that will inevitably percolate through our interactions with co-workers, supervisors, and subordinates.

Right posture before God leads to right posture before others.

There is great joy and peace to be discovered in making prayer an office habit.

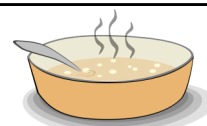
Fr Joe



SHARING SOUP & BREAD FOR LENT

Sunday 18th of February at 11.30pm

At St Andrew's Uniting Church Glenbrook.



Please note that this year the Lenten combined churches Soup & Bread lunch will be hosted by St Andrew's Uniting Church Glenbrook. We are in need of 5 different soups to take and share. If you are able to help with the cooking & serving, please ring or email the parish office to let me know.

Most specially we would like to have a strong Catholic representation at this event.

The donations 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/>. Thanking you all for all your help and support.

MUSIC AT ST FINBAR'S

This is a warm invitation to anyone who would like to share their gifts and join a music group at St Finbar's! We are very blessed to have a range of worship styles in our parish but we always need / welcome more help!

There will be a musicians meeting on 11th Feb after the 9:30am Mass. Please come along.

Or if you have any enquiries please contact the church office or Claire Brown- clairebrownmusic@gmail.com 0432599570

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Cycle 1 - Modules 1 - 3:

Are you new to ministry or have not yet had an opportunity to complete your Cycle 1 of Safeguarding Training (Mods 1-3)?

Please register for a Face-to-Face Training Session that is convenient for you:

Monday 5th February (9.30am-2.30pm) at Bishop Bede Heather Centre, 1-5 Marion St, Blacktown, or

Saturday 17th February (10.00am- 3.00pm) at Sacred Heart Parish, 9 Ropes Creek Rd, Mt Drutt.

Cycle 2 - Modules 4 - 5:

Did you complete Modules 1-3 in 2021-2022? Safeguarding Training is valid for two years.

Please register for your Renewal Modules at a Face-to-Face session convenient to you:

Monday 12th February (10.00am-1.30pm) at Bishop Bede Heather Centre, 1-5 Marion St, Blacktown, or

Thursdays (7.00pm-8.30pm) on 22nd (Mod 4) & 29th February (Mod 5) at St Nicholas of Myra Parish, 326 High St, Penrith; or

Saturday 2nd March (10.00am-1.30pm) at Holy Spirit Parish, Cnr Todd & Moore St, St Clair

You can register for these Face-to-Face Safeguarding Training Sessions on the Diocese of Parramatta 'In-Person Training' link on: <https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training>

or email: safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org

You are also welcome to complete this training independently on our online training platform at: <https://learning.safeguarding.org.au>

Should you have any other Safeguarding Training questions, please email Maria Kervin, Manager, Prevention, Healing and Support at maria.kervin@parracatholic.org

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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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PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK PARISHIONERS, RELATIVES & FRIENDS:

Trevor Anthony (Gerard Egan's Son in Law's Father), 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:

Stella Ryan, Esme Kramhoft, Richard Smith and Robert Sisson

LITURGICAL ROSTER FOR 10TH & 11TH FEBRUARY 2024

Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	Anaru Veitch	Peter McMahon	Garry Pursehouse
Senior Server	Anaru Veitch	Peter McMahon	Joseph Sukkar
Junior Servers	Quentin Lynch & Eoghan McKenna		Oliver Wilson, Noah Young & Patrick Sukkar
Warden	Maree Roach	Volunteer Please	Patricia Murnane
1 st Reading	Maureen Tulk	Carl Moll	Dan or Tim Kensey
2nd Reading	Jessica Doherty	Elizabeth Konza	Kristina Rajnoch
Intercession	Dawn Willis	John Isaksen	Yvonne Scanlan
Music	Bernadette Phillips & Michael Taylor		Finnie's group
IT Operators	Anne Hobbs	Kylie Mills	Joanne Stubbs
Gifts	Margaret & Michael Richards	Volunteers Please	Dorothea Walsh & Volunteer Please
Communion	Thea Robertson & Brian Robertson	Jim Tierney & Kath Tierney	Gerard Egan & Yvonne Scanlan
Children's Liturgy	Michelle		
Piety Stall	Beth Culliver		
Church Care	Jeannine Ashbee, Deb Gall, Leesa & Wayne Gillard		
Hospitality	Anne King, Lynne Atkinson, Liz & Daren Dukes		



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 journeys will be discussed and distributed at this meeting.