



The Barra

Weekly Newsletter of St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook
6th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B
10th & 11th February 2024

Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46; Ps 31; 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1; Mark 1:40-45

**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

Return to God with all your heart

This day, Ash Wednesday, marks the beginning of the Lenten season, which lasts for about seven weeks until Good Friday. In Christian tradition, Lent is a time of reflection, of repentance, and fasting. It is a time to reflect on the suffering and death of Jesus Christ – and we begin this season with acknowledging that we have to die. Later on, we will hear the ominous words, 'Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.'

That's heavy stuff. And, in our day and age and the society we live in, everything that defines Lent is also highly counter-cultural.

Lent just doesn't have much of a place in the culture we live in. We celebrate and admire eternal youth – and there is a large industry out there that profits from our desire to look and feel young as long as possible. We propagate boundless and reckless individual freedom without responsibility – which, of course, always comes at the expense of someone else. We live in a society which worships the golden bull of the economy and where constant and often mindless consumption of goods is prized above almost anything else.

It is no surprise that there are many who don't observe Lent. Let's skip the cross and all it stands for – suffering, self-denial, ultimate sacrifice, and death – and go right to the resurrection and glory of our Lord, in which we get to bask as well. Let's accept God's gift of grace – without handling it with care and responsibility.

If self-fulfilment is the highest ideal, any inkling of self-denial out of concern for someone else of course is seen as weak, ridiculous, or even deplorable.

However, in the end denial is futile. People are suffering, People are dying. We are confronted with our own vulnerability and mortality. We are confronted with our shortcomings – as individuals and as a society.

The season of Lent may be seen as a drag by many, or as an inconsequential relic of a dark and religiously fanatic past. But Lent invites us to be honest: honest with ourselves. Honest about the need to reflect on our ways – again, as individuals and as a society. Honest about the need to change our minds, change our hearts, change our ways. Honest about the mortality of the people we love, honest about our own mortality – nobody will make it out of here alive.

To return to the Lord is possible as a "grace", for it is God's own work and the fruit of our faith in his mercy. In the New Testament, Jesus mentions three basic practices found in the law of Moses: almsgiving, prayer and fasting; these are also traditional signposts along the journey of Lent, pointing out how to respond to the call to "return to God with all your heart".

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*
(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

SUNDAY'S BAPTISMS:

The Parish joyfully announces the Baptism of



Amy Harriet Evans & Lucy Mary Evans

this Sunday, and warmly welcomes them 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.

<p>Sunday 11th February</p> <p><i>6th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B</i></p>	<p>7.30am Mass</p> <p>9.30am Mass</p> <p>10.45am Baptisms</p> <p>11.00am Musicians Meeting M/R</p>
<p>Monday 12th February</p>	<p>No Mass. Office is closed</p>
<p>Tuesday 13th February</p>	<p>9.15am Mass</p> <p>9.30am Pastoral Care Meeting M/R</p> <p>5.30pm Cantabile Choir Practice</p> <p>7.00pm Parish Council Meeting M/R</p>
<p>Wednesday 14th February</p> <p><i>Ash Wednesday (Fast & Abstinence)</i></p>	<p>9.15am Ash Wednesday Mass followed by Rosary</p> <p>9.30am Playgroup P/C</p> <p>7.00pm Bridge Club P/C</p> <p>7.30pm Ash Wednesday Evening Mass</p>
<p>Thursday 15th February</p>	<p>9.15am Healing Mass followed by morning tea</p> <p>10.45am Bridge Lessons M/R</p> <p>1.15pm Bridge Club P/C</p> <p>3.30pm Lenten Group—Mila Shehla's Group M/R</p> <p>7.30pm Lenten Group—Fr Joe' Group M/R</p>
<p>Friday 16th February</p>	<p>9.15am Mass</p> <p>1.00pm Bowlers P/C</p>
<p>Saturday 17th February</p>	<p>9.00am Lenten Group—Martin Roger's Group M/R</p> <p>9.15am Mass</p> <p>4.30pm Confessions</p> <p>5.30pm Vigil Mass</p>
<p>Sunday 18th February</p> <p><i>1st Sunday of Lent Year B</i></p>	<p>7.30am Mass</p> <p>9.30am Mass</p> <p>11.30am Lenten Soup Sunday at the Uniting Church</p> <p>1.15pm Bridge Club P/C</p> <p>6.00pm Youth Mass</p> <p>Live Streaming Link</p> <p>https://youtube.com/live/RgEcThY2KEw?feature=share</p> <p>7.00pm Senior Youth Group</p>

Celebrating Holy Week: Formation for Ministers of the Altar: 9 March
 The Office for Worship presents 'Celebrating Holy Week' – a workshop for current Acolytes and Ministers at the Altar presented by Chris Ohlsen. It will be held on Saturday 9 March from 9:30am to 3pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. To register or for more information, please contact lucy.woodbury@parracatholic.org or call (02) 8838 3456 by 5 March 2024.

Youth Mass 'Round the Diocese: 25 February
 Looking for some young adults to worship with? Hunting for an excuse to catch up with Jesus and friends? Wondering what goes on around our Diocese? Mass 'Round the Diocese is just that! Our young people are visiting different churches around the Diocese for Mass and fellowship afterwards with new and known friends. The next Mass will be at Our Lady, Queen of Peace Parish, Greystanes, on Sunday 25 February for 6pm Mass. For more information, please contact Laura on laura@stbernadette.org.au

MET The FaithFeed: 15 March
 Interested in live music + curious conversations + life & faith stories from those in their 20s, 30s 40s? Sign up for The FaithFeed, Friday 15 March 2024 – Doors open 7PM w/ live music for 7:30PM. Downstairs @ Bishop Bede Heather Centre: 1-5 Marion Street, Blacktown NSW 2148. RSVP via QR or get in touch with the team via met@parracatholic.org

Diocesan Lent & Holy Week Scripture Reflection Evening: 20 March
 Looking for a way to reflect on your experience of Lent as we enter Holy Week? Interested in praying with the Scripture readings for Holy Week? Register for the Diocesan Lent & Holy Week Scripture Reflection Evening Wednesday 20 March 2024 – 6:30PM to 8:30pm. RSVP via QR or get in touch with the team via met@parracatholic.org



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. **Last Opportunity to sign in will be THIS weekend 10th & 11th 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

But Jesus makes it clear that it is the quality and the truthfulness of our relationship with God which reveals the authenticity of any religious practice. Consequently, he denounces religious hypocrisy, ways of acting meant to impress others and to garner applause and approval.

I invite you to take the first step on this year's Lenten journey. To have open eyes, open ears, an open mind, and an open heart to take in what you encounter on this journey. To be honest and to pay attention where and how you encounter Christ on this journey, and where and how he walks with you.

And along this entire journey, God promises us: I am there for you. In life and death, I am with you. Fear not. I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine.

Fr Joe

2024 SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Please note that 2024 Sacramental Program will be on the following dates:

Parent's Information night will be on **Monday the 4th of March at 7.30pm** in the parish meeting room.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be on **Saturday the 18th of May at 2.30pm.**

The Sacrament of 1st Holy Communion will be on **Sunday the 7th of July at the 9.30am Mass.**

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be on **Sunday the 29th of September at the 9.30am Mass.**

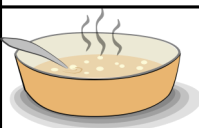
If you would like to enroll your child/children at any of the above Sacraments, you will need to attend the parent's information night to get the registration forms and the preparation schedule. Thank you.

PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT:

The report was presented at the parish's AGM last Sunday. A copy of the report is on display on the noticeboard in the narthex. It is available for collection from the parish office or by email upon request.

The parish has recently satisfactorily undergone the annual Diocesan Financial Audit.

Thank you to Fr Joe, Peter and Juliana for their work in preparing paperwork for the auditors.



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.

JOB VACANCIES" DIOCESAN OUTREACH ASSISTANTS – AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED (ACN)

Could you share the stories of suffering Christians? Are you looking for flexible part time work?

Aid to the Church in Need is recruiting for a number of Diocesan Outreach Assistants who will deliver monthly presentations in parishes across Sydney, Broken Bay, Perth and Maitland-Newcastle.

For more information and to view the full job ad go to www.aidtochurch.org/work Or scan



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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:

Mark Devlin, Joan Whiting, Daphne Klein, Ben Gibson, John Nethery, Margaret Meere, Beth Fehon and Cedrick McNamara.

LITURGICAL ROSTER FOR 17TH & 18TH FEBRUARY 2024

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	Harrison Bohan & Volunteer Please		Zoe Wilson, Dominic Sheary & Tim Kensey
Warden	Lorraine Brown	Volunteer Please	Frank Fitzpatrick
1 st Reading	Maire Griffin	John Killeen	Volunteers Please
2nd Reading	Gideon Goosen	Volunteer Please	Gary Clune
Intercession	Margaret Moore	John De Mattia	Justin Dowling
Music	Cantabile		Naomi's Group
IT Operators	Henry Hanko	Elizabeth Konza	Pat Watson
Gifts	Thea & Brian Robertson	Kay Whitty	The Wilson Family
Communion	Ahyiesha D'Souza & Volunteer Please	Helen Keogh & John Killeen	Irene Aligno & Annissa Nilsson
Children's Liturgy	Colin		
Piety Stall	Lee Jackson		
Church Care	Andrew Flaherty, Carl Moll, Steve Lee & Bryan Egan		
Hospitality	Irene & Bert Aligno		
Lawn Mowing	Tony Doyle, Darren Dukes, Bryan Egan		



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