



The Barra
Weekly Newsletter of St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook
1st Sunday of Lent - Year B
17th & 18th February 2024

Genesis 9:8-15; Ps 24; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:12-15

**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

Lost in translation? Lent as counter-cultural journey from exclusivity towards inclusivity

1st Sunday of Lent

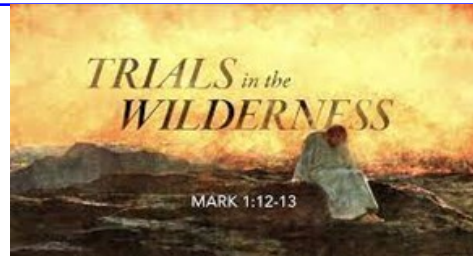
In today's moral landscape, it is unpopular to even speak of sin, never mind condemn it. When the word does appear, it is frequently in ironic quotation marks and often used in terms of 'naughty but nice', minor misdemeanours, something disapproved of, an outmoded Catholic shame culture. Should we follow Richard Dawkins (author of *The God Delusion*, 2006) assertion that 'the Christian focus is overwhelmingly on sin sin sin sin. What a nasty little preoccupation to have in your life.' Twisting Augustine's quote, Dawkins said: "I chose what I want instead of what God wanted."

It is a tragedy of our age was that it had lost its sense of sin, the awareness of sin. Pope Francis shares Pope St. John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI's concern about the influence of relativism on our sense of sin: "Relativism wounds people too: All things seem equal; all things appear the same."

Although the first reading tells the story of Noah and the destruction of the earth because of the people's sins, it is also about God's irreversible faithfulness by which Noah is saved. In the end, it is about God's merciful offer of forgiveness.

The Gospel's reading of the first Sunday of Lent speaks about Jesus' baptism. Hence, the Church interconnects Lent with Baptism. The practice of baptism, or immersion in water, was not unfamiliar to the first-century community when John the Baptist initiated the ritual. The community was already familiar with this practice, likely influenced by their familiarity with the liturgical use of water in Jewish traditions. However, John the Baptist introduces a radical departure by shifting the emphasis from ritual purity to repentance, and from exclusivity to inclusivity. John, instead of focusing solely on external cleansing, urged individuals to turn inward, acknowledging and repenting for their sins. John's call for repentance can be understood in light of Jesus' baptism. Mark quotes the prophesy from Malachi where the context is for the people of Israel and Judah to turn away from their wickedness. In the context of Malachi, the coming messiah will set things right and deliver the weak and disadvantaged from their cruel oppressors. By quoting Malachi, Mark is trying to say John is preparing the way for the Lord who brings justice to the world in the context of injustices. So, the repentance which John is proclaiming is a call to turn away from oppressing the poor and to live life justly. Jesus, for whom John has come to prepare the way is an epitome in offering an alternative way of life. In the Kingdom of God, baptism is a symbol of initiation, striving for such an alternative just way of living. Jesus' baptism therefore is a public symbolic expression, lifting up justice and removing barriers that divide people.

Please continue reading on page 3



PARISH INFORMATION

Parish Priest: Fr Joseph Lam

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

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Admin: Peter McMahon

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E-mail: stfinbarsppc@gmail.com

Office Hours: 9.30am – 3.00pm

Tuesday to Friday

(Closed on Mondays)

Office Phone: **(02) 47426958**

Parish QR Code:

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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 RITE OF WELCOME

The Parish joyfully welcomes

***Sienna Alexandra Radcliffe &
 Alexander Tinsley***

into our Faith Community.

They are going to be Baptised
 at our Parish next weekend.

May God bless them both.



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 18th February</p> <p><i>1st Sunday of Lent</i> <i>Year B</i></p>	<p>7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass—SRE Commissioning Mass</p> <p>11.30am Lenten Soup Sunday at the Uniting Church 1.15pm Bridge Club P/C</p> <p>6.00pm Youth Mass</p> <p>Live Streaming Link https://youtube.com/live/RqEcThY2KEw?feature=share</p> <p>7.00pm Senior Youth Group</p>
<p>Monday 19th February</p>	<p>No Mass. Office is closed</p> <p>5.00pm SVDP Meeting M/R</p>
<p>Tuesday 20th February</p>	<p>9.15am Mass</p> <p>10.00am Timeout Tuesday P/C 5.30pm Cantabile Choir Practice</p>
<p>Wednesday 21st February</p>	<p>9.15am Mass followed by Rosary</p> <p>9.30am Playgroup P/C 7.00pm Bridge Club P/C 7.30pm Rekindle our wonder - Aspects of the Eucharist—Chris Ohlsen</p>
<p>Thursday 22nd February</p> <p><i>St Peter's Chair</i></p>	<p>9.15am Mass</p> <p>10.45am Bridge Club Lessons M/R 1.15pm Bridge Club P/C 3.30pm Lenten Group—Mila Shehla's Group M/R 7.30pm Lenten Group—Fr Joe' Group M/R</p>
<p>Friday 23rd February</p>	<p>9.15am Mass</p> <p>1.00pm Bowlers P/C</p>
<p>Saturday 24th February</p>	<p>9.00am Lenten Group—Martin Roger's Group M/R</p> <p>9.15am Mass</p> <p>4.30pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass</p>
<p>Sunday 25th February</p> <p><i>2nd Sunday of Lent</i> <i>Year B</i></p>	<p>7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass 10.45am Baptisms</p>

Young Adult Faith Formation sessions continue on Sunday 3rd March 2024 at The Hustle (Unit 4, 4-6 Purdy Rd Minchinbury) at 7pm. The speaker is **Monica Doumit** who will talk about and lead discussion on 'How to speak about Hot Topics in the public sphere'.

All adults 18-35 are encouraged to come along and enjoy some faith formation, pizza and fellowship! If you have any questions please call Mark on 0477004687.

Catholic Youth Parramatta 2024 LIFTED Launch: 29 February

LIFTED Launch 2024 is here! Join young people from across our Diocese for an evening of faith, live music, formation, and announcements. Learn about ways you can meet, connect and 'walk with' other young people | West HQ Rooty Hill, 29 February 2024, 7pm to 9:30pm. Register www.parracatholic.org/liftedlaunch

The parish would like to wish Samantha Phillips all the best as she moves to Melbourne to study at RMIT. This Sunday is going to be the last weekend that Samantha will be attending Mass at the parish for a little. She will be back during her Uni break. Samantha has been helping with singing and being part of the parish for most of her young life.



Re: Bernadette & Samantha's Concert back in January
Bernadette and Samantha's concert on the 21st of January was a great success. They have raised about \$400 for Medicine San Frontiere and they would like to thank St Finbar's parishioners for coming to the concert and for their generous donations.

ST FINBAR'S NETBALL CLUB

We currently have room for players in our following teams:

- Under 8's x 2 (can be turning 6, 7 or 8 in 2024)
- Under 9's x 4
- Under 11/12's x 2
- Under 13/14's x 2
- Division 3 x 2

If you are interested please call Janette Ankers, Club President, on 0438 672 040.

LAWSON REFLECTION MORNING:

Saturday March 16th, 9.30am to 12.30pm. Barry Donaghue. cfc, D.Min "The Way of the Cross ... An Ending, a Beginning" A work of CATALYST FOR RENEWAL: Seeking renewal through conversation. This is one of 8 Reflections with varying presenters throughout 2024. More details: Jim 0421 125 722

FR JOE'S MUSINGS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Jesus's participation in this inclusive practice emphasises a departure from exclusion, signaling a new era characterized by openness and acceptance. Through his acceptance of baptism, Jesus rejects the exclusivity embedded in social systems, advocating for a more inclusive and egalitarian understanding of humanity. Baptism, therefore, holds not only spiritual significance but also serves as a catalyst for societal re-evaluation, calling for a more inclusive and just social order.

The Gospel of Mark 1:9–15, unveils a counter-cultural vision that carries profound significance for the Lenten season. As Christians partake in the season of Lent, the baptism of Jesus serves as a compelling call to challenge societal norms that perpetuate exclusion based on caste, race, gender, and other human made barriers. It calls people of faith to confront unjust power structures that exploit and marginalize individuals and communities.

The baptism of Jesus becomes a transformative invitation, urging Christians to embrace a lifestyle aligned with the kingdom values of love, compassion, justice, and peace. Lent can become a season of personal and societal transformation as people of faith respond to the counter-cultural call from Jesus' baptism. It challenges us to examine our own attitudes and behaviors, encouraging a shift towards a more compassionate and just way of living.

Fr Joe

**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.

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.

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?

- ✦ **Campaigns Coordinator:** <https://cathnews.com/job/campaigns-coordinator-aid-to-the-church-in-need/>
- ✦ **Coordinator, Friends of the Suffering Souls:** <https://cathnews.com/job/coordinator-friends-of-the-suffering-souls/>
- ✦ **Executive Assistant:** <https://cathnews.com/job/executive-assistant-to-the-national-director/>

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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, 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:

Louise Marquardt, Alice McGoldrick, Sarah Frazer, Ian Graham, Terry Groves, Robin Miles, Robert Dominish, Gregory McGee, William Pohlmann, Wendy Harley, Simon Egan, Virginia Windred, Mel Nethery and Sarah Watson.

LITURGICAL ROSTER FOR 24TH & 25TH FEBRUARY 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	Margaret Richards	Volunteer Please	Justin Dowling
1 st Reading	Marsha O'Meara	Kevin Lloyd	Patricia Murnane
2nd Reading	Naomi Cheeseman	Andrew Teece	Irene Aligno
Intercession	Felicity Lindfield	Volunteer Please	Carmel Higgins
Music	Bernadette Phillips & Michael Taylor		Holy Light Group
IT Operators	Robyn Flynn	Joseph Wilson	Susan Dowling
Gifts	Margaret Moore & Jan de Bie	Volunteer Please	The Young Family
Communion	Vince Dobson & Lorraine Brown	Jessica Tiller & Jean Di Nucci	Carmel Higgins & Greg Rowe
Children's Liturgy	Carolyn		
Piety Stall	Ann Marie King		
Church Care	Robyn Flynn, Jan de Bie, Jessica Doherty, Wendy Bohan & Marsha O'Meara		
Hospitality	Marie Nassif, Kerry & Peter Herborn		

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