

The Barra

Weekly Newsletter of St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook
5th Sunday of Lent - Year B
16th & 17th March 2024

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ps 50; Hebrews 5:7-9 ; John 12:20-30

**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

Religion and Productivity

A recent Productivity Commission's draft report on philanthropy recommends removing tax deductibility for donations to school building funds so that donations to other areas "with greater social benefits" could be prioritised. In addition to its attack on faith-based schools, the report also recommends the abolition of Basic Religious Charities (BRC). Finally, and perhaps most concerning, the draft report recommends expanding tax deductibility for donations to most charity types, while specifically excluding charities registered under the subtype advancing religion.

It is evident that the Productivity Commission sees little value in religion and religious when it judges on social benefits of religious organisation. Yet, there is clear evidence that religious adherence and practice contributes greatly to the social welfare. Religious adherence and features of a faith community, such as attending service together, likely facilitate each of the primary components of social capital—networks, norms, and trust. Potentially, religious adherence generates these components in a way that is conducive to building both bonding and bridging social capital. The ethical emphasis on equity, which constitutes the moral baseline of the monotheistic religions—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—has historically militated against the known productive potential of capitalism, prioritizing social justice over the maximization of wealth in both its private and aggregate forms of accumulation. Hence, the Productivity Commission draft report must be categorised as biased because it just ignores the basics of social sciences. A governmental body that is biased towards its citizens cannot claim to represent the objective view of all Australians.

Charles Taylor, a luminary sociologist and philosopher of our time, has argued that religion is important for society since it contributes to shaping the social authenticity of individuals.

At St Finbars, we value highly spiritual authenticity and social cohesion. To achieve this, we will focus on the faith and social formation our young children and youth. Supported by the PPC, Lucy Twyford will introduce and teach the *Good Shepherd Catechesis Programme* to our children at the early age. This programme focusses on the growth in the relationship between God and the child, and thereby also assists the child to mature in its interpersonal relationship. Lucy has completed the training and is now a registered catechist. On behalf of St Finbars, I thank Lucy and her team for her faith commitment. Particularly, I would like to thank Robyn Clark and the school community for their wonderful cooperation.

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

GOOD FRIDAY MUSIC AND READING

Please note that the Good Friday Concert has had to be cancelled for this year, due to lack of musicians.

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

DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA NOTICES

Sunday 17th March <i>5th Sunday of</i> <i>Lent Year B</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass 1.15pm Bridge Club P/C 6.00pm Youth Mass Live Streaming Link https://youtube.com/live/dhFqXdNe7wM?feature=share 7.00pm "The Lounge" Youth Group P/C
Monday 18th March <i>St Patrick</i>	No Mass. Office is closed 5.00pm SVDP Meeting M/R
Tuesday 19th March <i>St Joseph</i>	9.15am Mass 10.00am Timeout Tuesday M/R 5.30pm Cantabile Choir Practice 7.30pm Biblical Studies - Discipleship and Passion according to Mark P/C
Wednesday 20th March	9.15am Mass followed by Rosary 9.30am Playgroup P/C 7.00pm Bridge Club P/C
Thursday 21st March	9.15am Healing Mass followed by morning tea 10.45am Bridge Club Lessons P/C 1.15pm Bridge Club P/C 3.30pm Lenten Group—Mila Svehla's Group M/R 7.30pm Lenten Group—Fr Joe' Group M/R 7.30pm Netball Club Executive General Meeting P/C
Friday 22nd March	9.15am Mass 1.00pm Bowlers P/C 7.30pm Lent Adoration and Confessions
Saturday 23 March	9.00am Lenten Group—Martin Roger's group M/R 9.15am Mass 4.30pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass 6.30pm San Antonio, Tabaco, Albay, Holy Cross Children's Home Fundraising Dinner P/C
Sunday 24th March <i>Palm Sunday</i> <i>of the Pasion</i> <i>of the Lord</i> <i>Year B</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass 2.00pm Blue Mountains City Band Concert

Pontifical Holy Land Good Friday Collection: 29th March

Every year on Good Friday, a collection is taken up in every Catholic church to support the people and places of the Holy Land. The Franciscans of the Custody of the Holy Land have the unique responsibility of caring for the Holy Places as well as caring for the Christians living in the Holy Land. Your donation is a direct way to make a difference in the lives of people who are keeping alive the Christian presence in the land of Jesus, often in the face of great difficulty in recent years. Make your donation this Holy Week via the envelopes in your parish or donate directly via Commissariat of the Holy Land, 47 Victoria St. Waverley NSW 2024 or holyland@franciscans.org.au.

Synod 2023 Update: Decree issued and Development of Diocesan Plan Begins

In January, the Synodal Decree from our inaugural Diocesan Synod was issued, enabling us to move forward in the development of a Diocesan Plan. Join us in the next phase of our journey, as we discern a new path forward for our local Church in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains. The Diocesan Plan for a Synodal Church will launch at the Diocesan Gathering on Saturday 10 August. Learn more at parracatholic.org/synod

FOR YOUR DIARY FIX THE ROOF RAFFLE Begins Sunday 21st April AND Ends Sunday 16th June

12 WONDERFUL PRIZES (HOLIDAYS STAYS, SYDNEY SCENIC FLIGHT, SPECIALLY SIGNED SPORT JERSEYS AND ITEMS, GIFT VOUCHERS, AND MANY OTHER ITEMS) TO BE WON.
RAFFLE TICKETS 10 AUD EACH.
OUR GOAL IS TO RAISE 50K FOR THE REPAIR OF THE CHURCH'S ROOF.

EASTER ROSTERS –2024

We are still in need of more Volunteers to help with all the Easter Liturgies. We need qualified Readers, Senior Servers, Sacristans, Junior Servers, Thurifier and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. If you are qualified and able to help, please add your name to the list on the notice board. Please do not wait to see if others nominate - put your name up early as this helps enormously with the organisation of all the ceremonies.
Thank you for all your help and support.

PASSOVER MEAL

You are invited to celebrate a Passover Meal at St Finbar's Parish Hall,
52 Levy Street Glenbrook on

TUESDAY 26TH MARCH AT 6.30PM

Cost: \$20pp or \$70 per family

RSVP: secretary@stfinbars.org.au

Limited seats are available and pre-booking is essential

FR JOE'S MUSINGS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

I would like to invite you all attend the blessing of Atrium space (Fr Barlow room) on 17th March after the 9.30am Mass.

Another initiative is the *Young Parents Mentoring Youth Programme*. Over the years, St Finbars has had an active youth ministry. To my knowledge, it is the only Catholic youth group in the Blue Mountains. To enhance the youth ministry, it is important not to stagnate. Hence, the youth want to take it to the next level. Now, it also involves the whole family, with young parents becoming the mentors to youth leaders who then in return are mentoring and leading the Parish youth. This is an holistic approach to youth ministry.

On behalf of St Finbars, I thank the young families and youth for their faith filled mission and commitment. I am sure that all parishioners will join in with prayers for the success of this particular ministry.

While faith may not generate hard dollars, it assists in educating wonderful and considerate people who contribute to transforming a society into a fair and lovable place for all. In a world that often pits faith against productivity, the Faithful Life offers a refreshing perspective.

Fr Joe

SAVE THE DATE: Parish Trivia Night is on Saturday the 17th of August at 7.00pm.

ST FINBARS' GLENBROOK CHILDREN'S ATRIUM BLESSING: SUNDAY 17 MARCH

We're very excited to start the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd faith formation for children 3-6 years of age in our parish this month. Come and join all the families for the blessing of the new St Finbars' Glenbrook Children's Atrium.

When: Sunday 17 March 2024 10:30am after morning Mass

Where: St Finbars' Glenbrook Children's Atrium (Father Barlow room)

Isabelle Cox & Lucie Twyford - Lead Catechists

COME AND BE WITH THE

Sydney Male Choir

"We Raise You Up"

With a potpourri of Jazz, Opera, Gospel & Musicals

Paul Simon, Wagner, Leonard Cohen, Queen, Les Misérables, Ed Sheeran, Joe Cocker, When The Saints Go Marchin In, Creedence Clearwater Revival, Non Nobis Domine
plus Michael Rigby

playing St Finbar's restored historical Pipe Organ



Come and enjoy the music and at the same time, support the restoration of the Church roof, with at least **\$5.00 going to St /Finbar's Roof Restoration fund** with every ticket purchased.

2:00 PM, SUNDAY 14TH APRIL 2024

St Finbar's Catholic Church, 46 Levy Street, Glenbrook

Tickets \$35.00 Purchase on-line at www.sydneymalechoir.com or at the Door

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PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

Paul McMahon (Peter McMahon's Brother), Trevor Anthony (Father-in-law of Rachel Egan) and Pat Bell.

PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK PARISHIONERS, RELATIVES & FRIENDS:

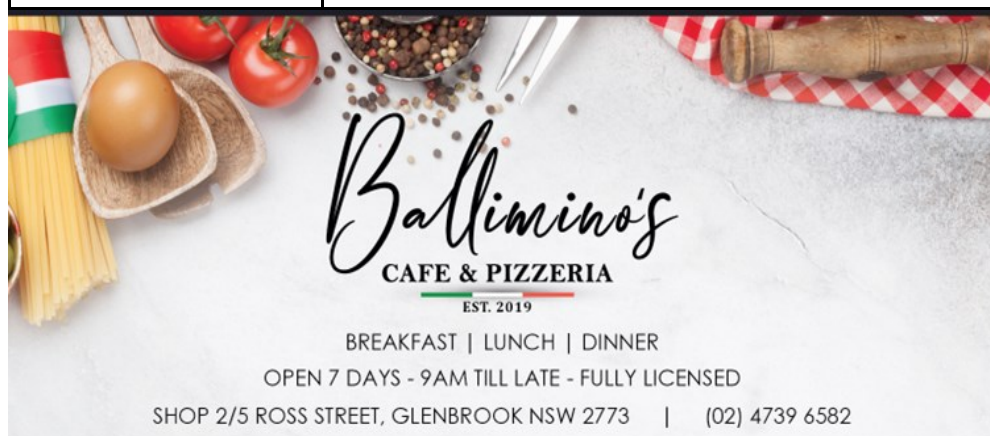
Pat Barrett, Noreen Taylor, Huia Kingi, Sue Bland, Connor Sipple, Katie Maloney, Margaret Stevens, Christopher Thomson, David Haynes (Yvonne Scanlan's Dad), Gwen Cullinan, Chris Paine, Lyn Downes, Jacqui Visser, Terry Stevens, Mark Bates, Margaret Christensen, Sophie Hollies, Colleen & Michael Nolan, Maddison Farrugia, Harrison Aggar (Margaret & Ian Dickson's Grandson), Diosdado Roque (Geraldine Agahari's Father), Joan, Hubert Pereira & Maureen Brown (Marcia Pereira's Sister, Brother & Niece).

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:

Elmer (Bill) Taylor, Catherine McColl, Lance Baker, Scott Robertson, Carmel Koziol, David Burke, Clare Druhan, Thelma Sparks, Thomas Boylan, Julia Gunning and Paul Trevaskis.

LITURGICAL ROSTER FOR 23RD & 24TH MARCH 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	Volunteer Please
1 st Reading	Jessica Doherty	Kevin Lloyd	Cecelia Zammit
2nd Reading	Naomi Cheeseman	Andrew Teece	Michelle Wilson
Gospel Narrator	Maire Griffin	Carl Moll	Joanne Stubbs
Gospel Other	Volunteer Please	Volunteer Please	Volunteer Please
Intercession	Katy Ferris	Carl Moll	Yvonne Scanlan
Music	Te Deum's		Holy Light
IT Operators	Robyn Flynn	Kylie Mills	Susan Dowling
Gifts	Steve & Heather Lee	Rivas Family	The Young Family
Communion	Lorraine Brown & Vince Dobson	Jessica Tiller & Kath Tierney	Erin Kelly & Carmel Higgins
Children's Liturgy	Elizabeth		
Piety Stall	Ann Marie King		
Church Care	Veronica Clune, Fran Isaksen, Lynne Atkinson & Gabrielle Lynch		
Hospitality	Marie Nassif, Kerry & Peter Herborn		



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