



St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook

The Barra

1st Sunday of Advent - Year C

30th November & 1st December 2024

Jeremiah 33:14-16; Ps 24; 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2; Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

As part of the Diocese of Parramatta, St Finbar's is committed to being a community of safeguarding, and echoes Bishop Vincent's zero-tolerance to abuse of any form.

For details on safeguarding, please visit the diocesan safeguarding website:

<https://parracatholic.org/safeguarding/>

FATHER JOHN PONDER'S.....

'If you read history, you will find that the Christians who did the most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next.' (C.S. Lewis)

C.S. Lewis is very well known as the author of the Narnia novels, the first of which is the "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" a modern day metaphor of the overcoming of evil through the death and resurrection of the hero, Aslan. Very Christian indeed! But Lewis wrote many Christian books of which the "Screwtape Letters" is a formidable exploration of the foibles of Fallen Humanity. Lewis certainly had deep psychological insights into how we operate and we would be well-served in paying attention to what he has to say.

We are in this world, with God's intention that we live worthy lives. Hopefully, most of the time, we try to do this for the love of God and our neighbour. In considering our past we may be able to observe many occasions when we have excelled. We have striven against all odds to achieve a positive outcome. We can be rightly proud that we have made a contribution to our own lives, the lives of our families and friends, indeed to the wider community. Resting on our laurels is not the way of the Christian. Identifying the contributions we have made in the past is not the opportunity to sit back, rather it is the opportunity to keep going with confidence knowing we can achieve greatness. It can also be the opportunity to check whether or not our achievements are heading in the right direction.

As Lewis reminds us, Christians who did the most for this world were those who thought most of the next world. I am reminded of the glorious contribution of the monks in long-ago England. They were given vast tracts of land to build their monasteries to live their religious life and look after themselves. However, these lands tended to be marshland and not much good for anything. So, the monks set about draining the land and making it fit for agriculture. Crops were sown and harvests gathered which gave work and wages for the common folk. The Benedictine motto is "laborare et orare" meaning "work and prayer". While working for secular advantage for themselves and their poor neighbours, they had their minds, hearts and souls very much on heaven. They benefitted the poor labourers by seeing them as citizens of heaven to be treated well on earth. A positive outcome for all.

There is not anything wrong with making substantial contributions in helping the world go around. We are duty-bound to fulfil the gifts and talents with which we have been endowed by God. How great then, that if we keep a focus on heavenly things, we may excel in our efforts in secular things to have them blessed by heavenly things!



PARISH INFORMATION

Parish Priest: Fr John Hogan

E-mail: john.hogan@parracatholic.org

Secretary: Juliana Khnouf

E-mail: secretary@stfinbars.org.au

Admin: Peter McMahon

E-mail: admin@stfinbars.org.au

PPC: Jesse Mowbray (Chair)

E-mail: stfinbarsppc@gmail.com

Office Hours: 9.30am – 3.00pm

Tuesday to Friday

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

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

Congratulations to Caroline Goosen who turns 80 this week. Caroline was on our parish council for many years.



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

<p>Sunday 1st December</p> <p><i>1st Sunday of Advent</i> <i>Year C</i></p>	<p>7.30am Mass</p> <p>9.30am Mass</p> <p>2.00pm Summer Serenade Concert</p> <p>6.00pm Youth Mass (Last one for the year)</p> <p>7.00pm Senior Youth Group</p>
<p>Monday 2nd December</p>	<p>No Mass. Office is closed</p>
<p>Tuesday 3rd December</p> <p><i>St Francis Xavier</i></p>	<p>9.15am Mass</p> <p>5.30pm Cantabile Choir Practice</p> <p>7.00pm Liturgy Committee Meeting M/R</p>
<p>Wednesday 4th December</p>	<p>9.15am Mass followed by Rosary</p> <p>9.30am Playgroup P/C</p> <p>7.00pm Bridge Club P/C</p>
<p>Thursday 5th December</p>	<p>9.15am Mass</p> <p>1.15pm Bridge Club P/C</p> <p>3.30pm Advent Group M/R</p>
<p>Friday 6th December</p>	<p>9.15am Mass</p> <p>1.30pm Bowlers P/C</p>
<p>Saturday 7th December</p> <p><i>St Ambrase</i></p>	<p>9.15am Mass</p> <p>4.45pm Confessions</p> <p>5.30pm Vigil Mass</p>
<p>Sunday 8th December</p> <p><i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i> <i>Year C</i></p>	<p>7.30am Mass</p> <p>9.30am Mass</p> <p>10.45am Baptisms</p>

Bishop's Christmas Appeal for Catholic Care's Houses to Homes

This Christmas, will you help homeless mothers and children find a safe place to call home and rebuild their lives? Your kind-hearted gift and prayers will help Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains provide homeless mothers and their children with practical and emotional support, and a safe haven to call home.

Please give generously to the Bishop's Christmas Appeal which will be held in our parish on the weekend of 7th & 8th December. Please donate using the Diocese appeal website parracatholic.org/appeal or use the envelopes provided on the church pews to give your gift of a new beginning today.

Faith Enrichment Role Vacancy – Our Lady Queen of Peace, Greystanes

Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish is seeking a suitably qualified and experienced person for a Faith Enrichment role, working 16 hours per week onsite. Key responsibilities include:

- Facilitating and resourcing parents as they guide their children in sacraments and faith.
- Liaising with key faith enrichment ministries.
- Assisting in opportunities for faith inquiry and parishioners' spiritual enrichment.

Sharing relevant administrative and technical tasks with the parish team.

For more information and details on how to apply, please contact parishoffice@olqp.org.au.

2025 RELIGIOUS CALENDARS

Franciscan & Columban calendars are now on sale at the Wardens' table.

\$8 Franciscan, \$10 Columban

Proceeds go to St Vincent de Paul Society.

SVDP CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2024

Christmas Hampers

This year we will be following the format where families, groups or individuals make up and donate a full hamper or contribute items to be included in a hamper. A list of suggested hamper items is available from the warden's table. **Please ensure that all food items are within the expiry date.**

Christmas Gift Tree

The Christmas Gift tree will be put up during the week commencing 20 November and if parishioners wish to support this activity then please take a blue or pink tag from the tree or wardens table, purchase a gift for a child as suggested on the tag and return the Christmas wrapped gift with the tag securely attached to the outside.

All hampers items and gifts will need to be left at the church no later than Thursday 12 December 2024.

Volunteers

We will need helpers at 3.30pm on Friday 13 December to assist with Hamper packing and on Saturday 14 December to assist with the delivery of the hampers at 9.00am. If you are able to assist us with either of these activities please send a SMS message to 0413 549 518 and include your name and contact details.

Poor Box Donations

All donations to the Poor Box till the end of January will count towards our Christmas Appeal. Any and all donations will be greatly appreciated and will support our work over the Christmas period and into 2025.

Thank your for generous support in helping a family put food on the table this Christmas

ST. FINBAR'S PARISH NEWS

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S MASSES ROSTER

Parishioners are invited to nominate themselves, if qualified for the Liturgical Roles at the Christmas and New Year's Masses. A blank roster is placed on the notice board in the Narthex near the Warden's table. Please add your name to any ministry vacancy that you can fill.
Thanking you all for your continued help and support.

THRILLING CAROLS AT ST FINBAR'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Thrilling carol singing by the 500-strong congregation, led by the splendid pipe organ, Penrith Symphony Brass and a massed choir will be an inspiring feature of this year's Music and Readings for Christmas at St Finbar's Catholic Church, Glenbrook on Sunday 15th December. This will be a true Christmas celebration – with the Christmas story told in words and music. Favourite carols will include "Once in Royal David's City", "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing", "The First Noel" and "Silent Night". Uplifting music from the massed choir (Penrith City Choir and the German Lutheran Church Choir) will include "Hallelujah" from Handel's immortal Messiah, "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice" and "O Holy Night". At times, soft candle light will illuminating the church, creating a special, and moving atmosphere.



The service will commence at 7.30pm and all are welcome. There will be a request for donations (\$15/\$35 Families). The church always fills up, so early arrival is recommended. For more information ring 0421 105 017.

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON TIMEOUT TUESDAY

As a result of our trading table and generous donations \$600 was handed to the team at Jesuit Refugee Services Parramatta. They were most appreciative and will use it for their food services. The unsold goods from the table were donated to Mamre House. Thank you all for your generosity

SUMMER SERENADE THIS SUNDAY AT 2PM

You are warmly invited to the annual Phillips and Stringy Bach concert. The Phillips sisters will be performing several musical hits from Wicked, Into the Woods, a duet "Happy Days are Here" and many more. You will be serenaded by a guitar duet as well as an **Australian premier** of a recently discovered **Mozart's** work for string trio **Serenade in C, K648** "Ganze Kleine Nachtmusik". Be one of the first to hear it!!

Glenbrook St Finbar's Catholic Church Sunday 1st December at 2 pm.

Suggested donation (\$10 or more, cash preferred). Ticket sales will be donated to the **Bush School in Cambodia**, which was founded by Doug and Christine Frewer, providing free education to disadvantaged children.

THE GLENBROOK-BLAXLAND INTERCHURCH GROUP PROUDLY PRESENT

Carols in the Park

With the Blue Mountains Concert Band and Mountains Youth Band

Glenbrook Park 13th of December at 7.45pm

Supporting the Christmas Bowl Appeal. Bring Rug/Chair- Electronic Candles will be available. If wet meet in the Glenbrook Uniting Church Hall.

EPIPHANY PILGRIMAGE 2025

St Finbars will be hosting the Epiphany Pilgrimage group again in 2025 as they journey up the mountains from 2 - 9 January and celebrate 10 years of pilgrimage through our deanery. In preparation for the pilgrimage, you are invited to write any prayer requests on the cards provided and place them in the Epiphany Pilgrimage prayer box to be prayed each day by the pilgrims. Please join the pilgrimage group for the Fannies Fiesta, Adoration and a festive meal on 2 January, and Mass on 3 January at 6.30am. To participate in some or all of the pilgrimage - including walks, Mass, Adoration / prayer sessions and meals - visit www.epiphanypilgrimage.org, or to assist with hospitality when the group visits our parish, please contact the parish office.

Bateman Battersby

L A W Y E R S

We invite members of the Parish to take advantage of our legal services specialising in :

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Property Law• Business Law• Wills & Estates | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Family Law• Negligence Law• Court Appearances |
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www.batemanbattersby.com.au

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LITURGICAL ROSTER FOR 7TH & 8TH DECEMBER 2024

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

Br. Steven (Joe Varga) (Helen Harsh's Brother), Anne Smythe, Louise Konza, Ruth Robinson and Jiri Kozumplik.

PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK PARISHIONERS, RELATIVES & FRIENDS:

Gerard Keenan (Anita Keenan's Son), Beryl Callaghan, Sara Pinato (Matthew Pinato's Mother), Pat Barrett, Noreen Taylor, Sue Bland, Connor Sipple, Jacqui Visser, Katie Maloney, Chris Paine, Margaret Stevens, Christopher Thomson, David Haynes (Yvonne Scanlan's Dad), Gwen Cullinan, Lyn Downes, Sophie Hollies, Terry Stevens, Mark Bates, Margaret Christensen, Maddison Farrugia, Colleen & Michael Nolan, Harrison Aggar (Margaret & Ian Dickson's Grandson), Joan, Hubert Pereira, Maureen Brown and (Marcia Pereira's Sister, Brother & Niece), Catherine, Elizabeth and Monika Gawlik.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:

Harold Mitchell, David Miles, Frank Kroehnert, Lawrence Dunne, Thomas O'Malley, Julia Rudnicki, Ronald Lowe, Winifred Nolan, Paul Gibbeson, Carolyn Van Dyke, Phillip Moloney, Peter May, Marjorie Clark, Stephen Riddle, Stanley Lucas, Leo Hayes, John Debeck and Terence Hunt.



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