

**Baruch 5:1-9; Ps 125; Philipians 1:4-6, 8-11; Luke 3:1-6**

*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 PONDERS.....**

**PARISH INFORMATION**

**As G.K. Chesterton wrote: 'Christianity has died many times and risen again; for it had a God who knew the way out of the grave.'**

Gilbert Keith Chesterton was an English man who died almost a hundred years ago. He began life as a Unitarian but found it wasn't addressing the questions he had about life. Moving to Anglicanism he eventually found all his questions answered by the Catholic Church. During his lifetime he was a foremost defender of the Catholic faith and wrote a great deal on matters religious. He is famous for his paradoxes which he used to help people think more deeply about things. The quotation we are considering today is very apt for it displays a God who is comfortable with both death and resurrection. Nothing can come between God and the love he has for his people. God plunges into the history of the world time and time again to save us for his love. Even though we don't understand his intentions nor his agency in how he achieves things.

Advent is the perfect time to consider our quotation. Humanity is sunk in darkness and despair. One of the few certainties is death with little assurance of anything beyond death. Which way is humanity to turn, what will bring meaning and purpose? We know that such purpose was embodied in the second person of the Blessed Trinity who took on human flesh to help humanity out of the tomb of Original Sin through lighting the way along the long path to the Empty Tomb. In overcoming death (the curse laid on Adam and Eve due to sin) Christ, in his humanity, has taken on the responsibility which we weren't able to do because of sinfulness. God required a pure human to undergo and overcome death in resurrection. And in his ascension into heaven, humanity now resides in perfect form in the person of Christ. That is how our salvation works, as fallen humans we are joined to the perfect humanity in heaven which Christ has.

In knowing the way out of the grave, God also knew the way out of every hopeless situation. Advent gives us pause to consider the events of the conception and birth of Christ. Yes, we know the answer, to free us from sin. But there is a lot more for us to contemplate. Christ cherished our humanity by sharing in it. Human nature's perfection is exquisite! And in his life, Christ put on public display the beauty of who we can become as humans.

It is right and fitting that we celebrate the birth of Our Lord. But let us not forget that the paradox of the God-made-Man is the tremendous event of the Son of God totally identifying with us in humanity so that in heaven we may share in his divinity. Yet another paradox for us to ponder. Can we get our minds around this magnificence in time for Christmas?

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**PPC:** **Jesse Mowbray (Chair)**

E-mail: [stfinbarsppc@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.stfinbars.org.au)

**Facebook:** Glenbrook Catholic Church St Finbars

**Parish School:** Principal

Mrs Robyn Clarke

**CHRISTMAS CARDS AND GIFTS AT THE CHURCH PIETY STALL**

The Piety Stall has a new range of Christmas Cards and Christmas gifts. Please check them out after Mass today.

**SUNDAY'S BAPTISMS:**

The Parish joyfully announces the Baptism of

**Theo Thomas Koutsoukos**

**Ezra Gregory Koutsoukos**

**Finan Michael Koutsoukos**

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><b>Sunday</b> 8th December <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i> <i>Year C</i></p>	<p><b>7.30am Mass</b> <b>9.30am Mass</b> <b>10.45am Baptisms</b></p>
<p><b>Monday</b> 9th December <i>The Immaculate</i> <i>Conception of the</i> <i>Blessed Virgin Mary</i></p>	<p><b>No Mass. Office is closed</b> 5.00pm SVDP Meeting M/R</p>
<p><b>Tuesday</b> 10th December</p>	<p><b>9.15am Mass</b> 9.30am Pastoral Care Meeting M/R 1.00pm Atrium end of the year celebration P/C 5.30pm Cantabile Choir Practice 7.00pm PPC Meeting M/R</p>
<p><b>Wednesday</b> 11th December</p>	<p><b>9.15am Mass followed by Rosary</b> 9.30am Playgroup P/C 6.00pm Concert Rehearsal 7.00pm Bridge Club P/C</p>
<p><b>Thursday</b> 12th December</p>	<p><b>9.15am Mass</b> 1.15pm Bridge Club P/C 3.30pm Advent Group M/R 6.00pm School End of the Year Concert</p>
<p><b>Friday</b> 13th December <i>St Lucy</i></p>	<p><b>9.15am Mass</b> 1.30pm Bowlers P/C 6.00pm Concert Rehearsal</p>
<p><b>Saturday</b> 14th December <i>St John of the Cross</i></p>	<p><b>9.15am Mass</b> 4.45pm Confessions <b>5.30pm Vigil Mass</b></p>
<p><b>Sunday</b> 15th December <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i> <i>Year C</i></p>	<p><b>7.30am Mass</b> <b>9.30am Mass - Fr John Installation Bishop</b> <b>Vincent Celebrating Mass.</b> <b>11.15am Baptism</b> 1.15pm Bridge Club P/C 7.30pm Christmas Concert</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 this weekend. Please donate using the Diocese appeal website [parracatholic.org/appeal](http://parracatholic.org/appeal) or use the envelopes provided on the church pews to give your gift of a new beginning today.

**Ordination to the Permanent Diaconate of Mr Charles Hyson: 7 December**

Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv, Bishop of Parramatta invites you to the Ordination to the Permanent Diaconate of Mr Charles Philip Hyson on Saturday 7 December at 10.30am at St Patrick's Cathedral on the Memorial of Saint Ambrose. Please RSVP to Hannah Portelli at [Hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org](mailto:Hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org) if you wish to attend.

**Summer Serenade Concert**

Special thanks to the Phillips family and Stringy Bach players for presenting a most enjoyable concert on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December. The contribution of funds to Bush School Cambodia is greatly appreciated and will be directed to improving student nutrition. Thanks also to the St Finbar's Concert Committee for facilitating the event in our church.

Please note that the committee is in urgent need of new members to continue it's valuable work. If able to help, please contact the parish office.

**Doug Frewer**

**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](http://www.epiphanypilgrimage.org), or to assist with hospitality when the group visits our parish, please contact the parish office.

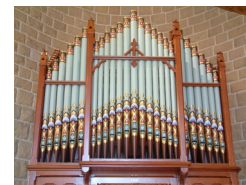
**2025 RELIGIOUS CALENDARS**

Franciscan & Columban calendars are now on sale at the Wardens' table.  
\$8 Franciscan, \$10 Columban  
Proceeds go to St Vincent de Paul Society.

# ST. FINBAR'S PARISH NEWS

## 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

### Thank you

The parish would like to extend their appreciation and thanks to Jan de Bie and Robyn Flynn for their 50 years of volunteering to clean the church. Jan and Robyn will be retiring from their duties at the end of January. May God bless them both with good health.

### Church Care Volunteers

Starting 2025 more volunteers are needed to help clean the church, you will be rostered every two to three months with a group that do the cleaning on a Friday or Saturday mornings. For more details please ring the parish office on 4742 6958. Thank you for all your help and support.

### Would you like to be an IT Operator?

The IT ministry is responsible for presenting the on-screen slides at the weekend Masses.

We are currently very short of Operators due to a number of recent retirements.

No particular skills are required, except for a good understanding of the Mass parts and sequences.

Full training will be given and you will sit with an experienced operator as often as you like until you decide you are competent to operate by yourself. You would be expected to operate on one Vigil or Sunday Mass per month, more often if you like, and your choice of Mass. You will find this ministry to be very rewarding and self-fulfilling. There are no gender or age limitations. Please contact Juliana or Pat Watson for full details,

## 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. **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 you for generous support in helping a family put food on the table this Christmas**

## Bateman Battersby

L A W Y E R S

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- |   |   |
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Phone: 02 47315899

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[Enquiries@batemanbattersby.com.au](mailto:Enquiries@batemanbattersby.com.au)



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✉ [Gerard.Morson@turnerfreeman.com.au](mailto:Gerard.Morson@turnerfreeman.com.au)



## LITURGICAL ROSTER FOR 14TH & 15TH DECEMBER 2024

Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	Vince Dobson	Peter McMahon	Stuart Sheary
Senior Server	Vince Dobson	Peter McMahon	Martin Rogers
Junior Servers	Harrison Bohan & Volunteer Please		Zoe Wilson, Dominic Sheary & Tim Kensey
Warden	Lorraine Brown	Volunteer Please	Frank Fitzpatrick
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Maire Griffin	Volunteer Please	Peter or Trish Hurley
2nd Reading	Gideon Goosen	Carl Moll	Gary Clune
Intercession	Margaret Moore	John De Mattia	Frank Fitzpatrick
Music	Cantabile		Naomi's group
IT Operators	Henry Hanko	Elizabeth Konza	Patrick Watson
Gifts	Thea & Brian Robertson	Kay Whitty	The Wilson Family
Communion	Ahyiesha D'Souza & Bernie Fisher	Brian Grech & Helen Keogh	Irene Aligno & Erin Kelly
Children's Liturgy	Michelle		
Piety Stall	Lee Jackson		
Church Care	Jeannine Ashbee, Leesa & Wayne Gillard, Andrew Flaherty, Carl Moll, Steve Lee & Bryan Egan.		
Hospitality	Trish & Peter Hurley, Irene & Bert Aligno		
Lawn Mowing	Kevin Debeck, Rob Lennon & Bob Hanigan		

### PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

Michael Schiemer & Kevin Wesley (Cousins of the Rivas Family), Br. Steven (Joe Varga) (Helen Harsh's Brother), Anne Smythe, Louise Konza, Ruth Robinson and Jiri Kozumplik.

### PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK PARISHIONERS, RELATIVES & FRIENDS:

Andrew Dennis, 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:

Frank Culliver, Simon Culliver, Theresa Hemsley, Cornelus Van Der-Loo, Mary Bohan, Felice Macri, Lillian Pockran, Gary Dennis, Patrice O'Neill, Patricia Bell, Fredericke Vinzenz, Doreen Egan, Maria Toirkens, Thomas Hitchens, Monica Piggott, Tamara Shervashidze, Paul Edelbrock, Elma O'Shea, Henry Brockway, Malcolm King, Coral Darr and Denis O'Sullivan.



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