

St. Finbar's Catholic Parish,
Glenbrook
The Barra
3rd Sunday of Advent - Year C
14th & 15th December 2024



Zephaniah 3:14-18; Isa 12; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:10-18

*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.....

"If you think you're too small to have an impact, try going to bed with a mosquito in the room."

-- Anita Roddick

Our time of Advent gives us pause to consider the greatness of our humanity. It is so easy to dismiss our humanity because of our frailty. While this may be understandable from the Fall from Grace onward, it doesn't permit us to decry our humanity. We are preparing to commemorate and celebrate the Incarnation of Christ. His taking on humanity must surely awaken us to the fact that humanity isn't all too bad, it can be saved! Admittedly, the humanity he assumed was in perfect form and ours is not. In baptism we are joined to Christ's perfection so we should not be despising our humanity. Yes, we do drift away through sin and are reunited through the forgiveness of our sins.

What we should be awakened to is the fact that in order to save us, God became that which is not God. Christmas is the celebration of that fact, the Word becoming flesh for our sake not his own. What we might also keep in mind is that Christ lived that humanity is an extraordinary way. And invites us to do likewise. To live as the divine one lived. We may think that this is too far beyond us, but we would be wrong to think this way. The Holy Spirit poured out at Pentecost came with all the graces, gifts and fruits for virtuous living, which is the life of Christ.

Unfortunately, we tend to think too small of ourselves, that we are weak and puny, maybe even we believe we are too small for God to even be interested in us. Is that really the correct attitude to have about ourselves for whom the Godhead came to earth to dwell among us? Hardly! We have been imbued with such magnificence, with all kinds of gifts and talents in order to excel beyond our own beliefs. 'To dare greatly' as former president Teddy Roosevelt described it.

We need to begin believing in ourselves and the powers given in divine graces. The gifts of heaven are inexhaustible and wonderful. If we can only believe in their magnificence we could turn our lives around by believing the capabilities we are given. Like the mosquito in the quotation above, as small as it is it can have a tremendous effect. And we are far more than mosquitos!

Let the graces brought by the new born Christ enable us to 'dare greatly' by giving testimony to heaven's power to affect our lives so radically that we become a new person who can achieve great things for God.

St Finbar's Parish community welcomes Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv to this Sunday morning 9.30am Mass to celebrate the Installation of Father John Hogan as St Finbar's parish priest.

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

Baptisms

Congratulations to

Grayson Kevin Gregory Halloran

Who will be Baptised at St Finbar's this Sunday and warmly welcomes him into our Faith Community.



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 15th December</p> <p><i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i> <i>Year C</i></p>	<p>7.30am Mass</p> <p>9.30am Mass</p> <p>11.15am Baptism</p> <p>1.15pm Bridge Club P/C</p> <p>7.30pm Christmas Concert</p>	<p><u>Thank You for Supporting our Catholic Care's Houses to Homes</u></p> <p>Fr Fernando Montano, Parramatta Catholic Foundation, and Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains thank you for your generous support of homeless mothers and children. This will ensure Catholic Care can continue to provide homeless mothers and children safety, support, and a place to call home. If you haven't had a chance to donate, please use the envelopes on the pews or visit parracatholic.org/appeal. Thank you.</p> <p><u>Liturgical Ministry Course returns in 2025</u></p> <p>The Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in 2025 in Blacktown and Penrith. This free formation is open to anyone in the diocese interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar. To enrol and for more information, please contact the Office for Worship on 0460 037 795 or lucy.woodbury@parracatholic.org. Registrations close 28th January, 2025 but spaces are limited so enrol now to avoid disappointment.</p>
<p>Monday 16th December</p>	<p>9.15am End of the Year School Mass</p> <p>5.00pm SVDP Meeting M/R</p>	
<p>Tuesday 17th December</p>	<p>9.15am Mass</p> <p>5.30pm Cantabile Choir Practice</p>	
<p>Wednesday 18th 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 19th December</p>	<p>9.15am Healing Mass followed by morning tea</p> <p>1.15pm Bridge Club P/C</p> <p>3.30pm Advent Group M/R</p>	
<p>Friday 20th December</p>	<p>9.15am Mass</p> <p>1.30pm Bowlers P/C</p>	
<p>Saturday 21st December</p>	<p>9.15am Mass</p> <p>4.45pm Confessions</p> <p>5.30pm Vigil Mass</p>	
<p>Sunday 22nd December</p> <p><i>4th Sunday of Advent</i> <i>Year C</i></p>	<p>7.30am Mass</p> <p>9.30am Mass</p>	
<p><u>2025 RELIGIOUS CALENDARS</u></p> <p>Franciscan & Columban calendars are now on sale at the Wardens' table. \$8 Franciscan, \$10 Columban.</p> <p>Proceeds go to St Vincent de Paul Society.</p>		<p><u>PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP FOR 2 NOMINATIONS OPPORTUNITY</u></p> <p>Please contact the parish office on secretary@stfinbars.org.au if you would like to nominate yourself to join the Parish Pastoral Council.</p> <p><u>WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE AN IT OPERATOR?</u></p> <p>The IT ministry is responsible for presenting the on-screen slides at the weekend Masses.</p> <p>We are currently very short of Operators due to a number of recent retirements.</p> <p>No particular skills are required, except for a good understanding of the Mass parts and sequences.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p><u>EPIPHANY PILGRIMAGE 2025</u></p> <p>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 Finnies 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.</p>		

ROOF RESTORATION

On Monday 2nd December Kevin Lloyd and I met with the contractor to review and sign off on the finished works of the Church roof repair and the painting of the whole roof with an industrial grade paint, designed to protect the roof for at least another 15 years. We hope that some repair work that occurred will keep the roof in fine shape even longer. The name of the paint colour is 'Mangrove'.

I want to express the Parish's gratitude to Kevin Lloyd for his work in liaison with the roof repair team.

Through the fundraising parish raffle, many generous parishioners have made this project a reality.

The final cost will come in close to the projected estimate.

It will take some months to return some parts of the Church garden to its former shape. Heavy machinery was required to assist the painters, resulting in some plants and grass being unavoidably affected.

Thank you for your patience during this important work.

Carl Moll
Finance committee Chair

THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (RCIA).

We have a number of people in the area who wish to become Catholic Christians. We need to compose a team to assist these people in learning about the Faith. Father John will lead this team on a journey of faith discovery. It is likely that sessions will begin in mid to late January 2025. If you can help Father John spread the Good News through the RCIA, please contact the office during business hours. Thank you.



MASSES—CHRISTMAS EVE, CHRISTMAS DAY, NEW YEAR'S EVE AND NEW YEAR'S DAY.

MINISTERS NEEDED

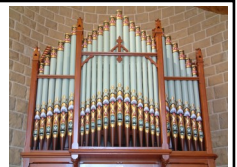
We are looking for

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Sacristans | Senior Servers | Altar Servers |
| Extraordinary Ministers of Communion | Readers | Wardens |
- If you are fully trained and able to help, please add your name to the list on the noticeboard or email secretary@stfinbars.org.au.

- Christmas Mass times at St Finbar's:-
- 24 Dec Tuesday: 7pm and 10pm
 - 25 Dec Wednesday: 8.30am
 - 31 Dec Tuesday: 7pm
 - 1 Jan Wednesday: 9.15am

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.



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LITURGICAL ROSTER FOR 21ST AND 21ND DECEMBER 2024

Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	Ahyiesha D'Souza	Carl Moll	Martin Rogers
Senior Server	Ahyiesha D'Souza	Carl Moll	Martin Rogers
Junior Servers	Sophie & Juliette Lynch		Elija & Oscar Baird
Warden	Margaret Richards	Volunteer Please	Gary Clune
1 st Reading	Marsha O'Meara	Kevin Lloyd	Patricia Murnane
2nd Reading	Naomi Cheeseman	Andrew Teece	Volunteer Please
Intercession	Volunteer Please	Kevin Flynn	Carmel Higgins
Music	Te Deum's		Holy Light
IT Operators	Robyn Flynn	Elizabeth Konza	Joanne Stubbs
Gifts	Margaret Moore & Jan de Bie	Volunteers Please	The Young Family
Communion	Lorraine Brown & Vince Dobson	Jessica Tiller & Jean Di Nucci	Greg Rowe & Carmel Higgins
Children's Liturgy	School Holidays		
Piety Stall	Ann Marie King		
Church Care	Volunteers Please		
Hospitality	Kerry & Peter Herborn		

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

Hubert Pereira (Marcia Pereira's Brother), 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 & Maureen Brown (Marcia Pereira's Sister & Niece), Catherine, Elizabeth and Monika Gawlik.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:

Ann Lowe, Stephen Schaefer, Mark Broomhead, James Gapps, Marjorie Doyle, Margaret Gibson, Joseph Lopez, Venita Bronlow, Phyllis Helm, Anthony Crimston, Brian Jenkins, Monica Keating and Geoffrey Shalala.



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