

Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook
The Barra
 4th Sunday of Advent & Christmas 2024 - Year C
 21st, 22nd, 24th & 25th December 2024



4th Sunday of Advent: Micah 5:1-4; Ps 79; Hebrew 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-44
Christmas Eve: Isaiah 62:1-5; Ps 88; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Matthew 1:1-25
Christmas Night: Isaiah 9:1-7; Ps 95; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14
Christmas Day: Isaiah 52:7-10; Ps 97; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18

FATHER JOHN PONDER'S.....

"Wherever you are is always the right place. There is never a need to fix anything, to hitch up the bootstraps of the soul and start at some higher place. Start right where you are."

-- Julia Cameron

Isn't there always something peculiar about the fallen human being in that we never seem to be satisfied with where we are in life. I spoke last weekend about "holy dissatisfaction" as a gift from God to move us constantly toward Him. So, on the one hand we are impelled to want to achieve more and on the other hand we hesitate in doing much about it. To become aware of the right place in our lives is not a geographical location but rather the place deep within where we find the centre of who we are.

Advancing in our relationship with God can never mean that we have to become perfect first. The famous Catholic dictum "finding God among the pots and pans", and very much associated with the spirituality of Saint Teresa of Avila, is an encouragement to start wherever we find ourselves in life. Whether it be in the kitchen sink, weeding the garden, making the beds or washing the car; God is there waiting to be encountered. God is at the centre of all our endeavours and needs no introduction to the levels of distraction we may experience.

Although unlikely to lend a physical helping hand, He can alleviate the burdensomeness of it all. Turning to Christ brings relief for He is the one who brings us rest.

But what is so important is that Christ comes to us in the midst of where we are familiar even if not comfortable. And in the familiar we tend not to put up defences but engage the other with a sense of self-consolidation and acceptance which is a very firm place to stand.

We don't need to aspire to fly to the great heights of mysticism to engage the Lover of our souls. As the poet William Empson reminds us "the heart of standing is we cannot fly".

If we cannot fly upwards, then why expect it? Was Bethlehem so lofty? Was the borrowed manger so exquisite? No, Christ is quite happy among the pots and pans and is desirous to meet us there. After all, the ordinary events of life is where we are most real, and there is where we shall meet Him!

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

OFFICE CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Please note that the Parish office will be closed on the following dates:-
 Wednesday 25th December
 Thursday 26th December
 Tuesday 31st December
 Wednesday 1st January
 On Friday 27th, Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd of January the office will be opened from 9.30am to 12pm only.
 Weekday Masses will be on at 9.15am Tuesday to Saturday.

Wishing you all and your family a happy and Safe Christmas.

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

Sunday 22nd December <i>4th Sunday of Advent Year C</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass
Monday 23rd December	No Mass. Office is closed 5.00 to 7.00pm Confessions
Tuesday 24th December	9.15am Mass 10.00am Confessions 7.00pm Christmas Eve Mass Live Streaming Link https://youtube.com/live/VX9FR_UAxxk? feature=share 10.00pm Christmas Night Mass
Wednesday 25th December <i>Christmas Day</i>	8.30am Christmas Day Mass—Office is closed
Thursday 26th December <i>St Stephen</i>	9.15am Mass—Office is closed
Friday 27th December <i>St John</i>	9.15am Mass Office hours 9.30am to 12pm.
Saturday 28th December <i>The Holy Innocents</i>	9.15am Mass 4.45pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass
Sunday 29th December <i>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Year C</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass

DAWN WILLIS CONCERT PRACTICE

Please note that Dawn Willis' concert practice times will start on Saturday the 4th of January at 3:30pm. For those who are interested in participating in her concert please contact Dawn on dawnfrancesw@gmail.com. She has all the music for the day and will email to those who need a copy. Thank you.

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.

DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA NOTICES

Christmas Mass Times around the Diocese

There are many ways to celebrate the Christmas Season across the Diocese. At parracatholic.org you can find Christmas and New Year Mass times, Reconciliation and Adoration Near Me, and Christmas Carols and Nativity plays.

Go to: <https://parracatholic.org/connect/find-a-mass/>

Liturgical Ministry Course returns in 2025

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.

Safeguarding Face-to-face Training Opportunities

The next session of face-to-face Mandatory Safeguarding Training will be held on Saturday 29 January at St Andrew the Apostle Parish Marayong for Cycle 1 (Module 1). More training opportunities will be available throughout January and February. Please register directly for this training or for other convenient dates and locations by clicking on the training event at: <https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training>.

For more information, please email:

safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org

Thank you to Valeska Madrid and Year 6 students at St Finbar's for their help in cleaning the church last Friday in preparation for the Christmas events. It was greatly appreciated.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP FOR 2 NOMINATIONS OPPORTUNITY

Please contact the parish office on secretary@stfinbars.org.au if you would like to nominate yourself to join the Parish Pastoral Council.

ST. FINBAR'S PARISH NEWS



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

The parish would like to thank Claire Brown for her dedication, strong faith and motivation. Claire is stepping down after 15 years from her volunteer role as the parish Youth Co-Ordinator. Claire with the various parish priests established the Youth Mass and encouraged our young people to attend both Mass and Youth Group, making our parish Youth Group the only Youth Group in the Lower Blue Mountains.

THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (RCIA).

We have around six candidates who are seeking full initiation into the Catholic Church. This is a great time for our parish to be involved in passing on the faith of our forefathers. Father John will lead the programme and he is looking for some help in running the programme. We shall need team participants and sponsors. Please consider taking part in this work of evangelisation by contacting Juliana at the parish office. Meetings will be once a week beginning in mid-late January until Easter. Even if you are going to be away, you can join the group a little later. Many thanks for your kind consideration. RCIA is always an opportunity to enhance our own faith.

2024 CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S MASSES & RECONCILIATION

TIMETABLE

Christmas Masses will be as follows:-

Christmas Eve Masses Tuesday 24th of December are at 7pm and 10pm. Children can come dressed as angels or shepherds.

Live Streaming Link

https://youtube.com/live/VX9FR_UAxxk?feature=share

Christmas Day Mass Wednesday 25th of December is at 8.30am.

New Year's Eve Mass Tuesday the 31st of December at 7pm

The Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God Mass on Wednesday the 1st of January at 9.15am.

Reconciliation will be as follows: **Monday the 23rd of December** from 5 to 7pm
Tuesday the 24th of December from 10 to 11am



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L A W Y E R S

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

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LITURGICAL ROSTER FOR 28TH & 29TH DECEMBER 2024

Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	Kylie Mills	Peter McMahon	Nick McMaster
Senior Server	Kylie Mills	Peter McMahon	Nick McMaster
Junior Servers	Volunteers Please	Volunteers Please	Volunteers Please
Warden	Maree Roach	Volunteer Please	Justin Dowling
1 st Reading	Philomena Watkins	Volunteer Please	Annissa Nilsson
2nd Reading	Dawn Willis	Carl Moll	Irene Aligno
Intercession	Katy Ferris	Elizabeth Konza	Justin Dowling
Music	Men's Group		Lucy Limbers & Pam West
IT Operators	Patrick Watson	Kylie Mills	Joanne Stubbs
Gifts	Parishioners are	Invited to offer	To bring up the Gifts
Communion	Ahyiesha D'Souza & Volunteer Please	Brian Grech & Helen Keogh	Yvonne Scanlan & Colin Stead
Children's Liturgy	School Holidays		
Piety Stall	Closed		
Church Care	Catherine Marceau, Jane Lennon, Christyna Lloyd & Camilla Lobo		
Hospitality	Julie Fehon, Anne Hobbs, Lyndal & Martin Rogers		
Lawn Mowing	Lukas Rajnoch, Andrew Howard, Stuart Sheary & Brendan Christie		

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

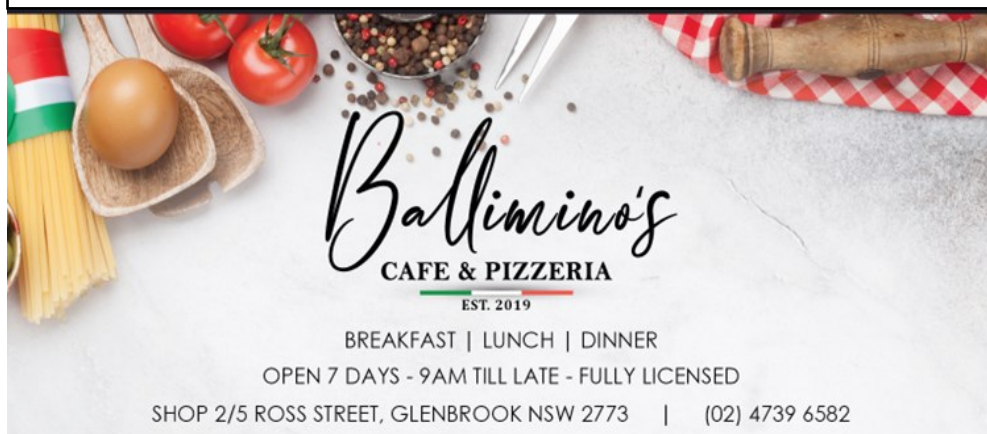
Therese Duval, Hubert Pereira (Marcia Pereira's Brother), Michael Schiemer & Kevin Wesley (Cousins of the Rivas Family) and Br. Steven (Joe Varga) (Helen Harsh's Brother).

PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK PARISHIONERS, RELATIVES & FRIENDS:

Bernadette Shalala, Beryl & Stan Callaghan, Myrna Ware, Andrew Dennis, Gerard Keenan (Anita Keenan's Son), 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:

Angela Hector, Shirley Tregillgas, Madeleine Oxley, Alice Nolan, Richard Mason, Violet Clements, Kathleen Macbeth, Colleen Pedersen, Joy Serne, Allen Klein, Lucy Barrett, Alice Quinn, John Simon, Colin Sell, Arthur Adamson, Richard Cranbrook and Phil O'Danaghoe.



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