



St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook
The Barra
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph - Year C
28th & 29th December 2024

1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28; Ps 83; 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24; Luke 2:41-52

FATHER JOHN PONDER'S.....

“How can you draw close to God when you are far from your own self? Grant Lord that I may know myself that I may know thee.” (Saint Augustine in the *Confessions*)

“None can know God who does not first know himself.” (Meister Eckhart)

At this time of year we find ourselves in the throes of celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. It is an occasion whereby our hearts are lifted up as we realise that we have not been forgotten by God. Our salvation has yet to be enacted. But we bask in the security that Christ not only takes on death but overcomes it in the resurrection. That new life he shares with us. Even now we are children of the resurrection and are able to live our lives illuminated by the presence of Christ who leads us to the Father.

Yet we tend to struggle to know God even when everything is handed to us on a plate. Having faith in the teachings of the Church is one thing, coming to know God personally is quite another. Our fear to do so is possibly based on a profound sense of inability to engage with Mystery. How do we become comfortable with the One who is so ineffable, beyond description, that we would feel incompetent in our efforts. But this is likely based on a false appreciation of who we are as children of God. We begin to realise that we are limited, and not a bad thing to learn – it is the truth. But God is quite capable in communicating himself with people who are limited. It is his nature as God.

So, what might be at the bottom of our reticence? Well, our quotes above from two very holy men point to our lack of self-knowledge. It is true that the ancient Greeks encouraged people to “know thyself” as an antidote to complacency in living a full life. A little pondering by ourselves can soon reveal who we really are. We can recognise our faults and failings and the life traps we continually fall into. Some reflection can help us identify the unhelpful ways of thinking we have come to acquire and the intention to be rid of them. We know we are not perfect but this should not lead us into denial and hide ourselves from God like Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden! As children of God we are blessed with gifts and talents and we should acknowledge these too. A healthy balance of recognizing the good and the bad in us and owning them will establish a strong platform for us to engage with God.

This self-knowledge, accepted as the truth of who we are, makes us real. We cannot establish a positive relationship with God while wearing a mask. If we are real with God, God will be real with us and the relationship will flourish. As for fear of the Mystery, have no fear. God will reveal himself as promised!

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 INFORMATION

Parish Priest: Fr John Hogan
 E-mail: john.hogan@parracatholic.org

Secretary: Juliana Khnouf
 E-mail: secretary@stfinbars.org.au

Admin: Peter McMahan
 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

The parish office extends their thanks and appreciation to all the parish volunteers, for all their valuable and continuous contribution to the parish life. May God Bless you all and your families.

*Wishing you all a happy, prosperous and safe 2025.
 St Finbar's Parish Staff*

PARISH CALENDAR

PARISH NEWS

<p>Sunday 29th December <i>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph</i></p>	<p>7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass</p>
<p>Monday 30th December</p>	<p>No Mass. Office is closed 5.00 to 7.00pm Confessions</p>
<p>Tuesday 31st December</p>	<p>9.15am Mass—Office is closed 7.00pm New Year's Eve Mass</p>
<p>Wednesday 1st January <i>Mary the Holy Mother of God</i></p>	<p>9.15am Mass—Office is closed</p>
<p>Thursday 2nd of January <i>Sts Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen</i></p>	<p>9.15am Mass—Office is open 9.30am to 12pm 3.00pm Epiphany Pilgrimage 7.00pm Epiphany Pilgrimage Adoration</p>
<p>Friday 3rd of January</p>	<p>9.15am Mass- Office is open 9.30am to 12pm</p>
<p>Saturday 4th January</p>	<p>9.15am Mass 3.30pm Dawn Willis Concert Practice 4.45pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass</p>
<p>Sunday 5th January <i>The Epiphany of the Lord Year C</i></p>	<p>7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass</p>

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 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.

Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown

is seeking a dedicated and enthusiastic Parish Secretary to join the parish team on a part time basis, working from the Parish Offices at St Patrick's Church, 51-19 Allawah Street, Blacktown. This position is for 4 days per week, Tuesday to Friday, with working hours from 9am to 4pm. This role offers a unique opportunity to support the mission of the Church in Western Sydney. For job description and details, please email admin@mqofblacktown.org.au

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.

Bateman Battersby

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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2024 IN PICTURES



Catholic Diocese of Parramatta
by Diocese of Parramatta

LITURGICAL ROSTER FOR 4TH & 5TH JANUARY 2025

Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	Kylie Mills	Carl Moll	Gerard Egan
Senior Server	Kylie Mills	Carl Moll	Lukas Rajnoch
Junior Servers	Alex and Luc Nilsson	Zoe & Oliver Wilson	Xavier Rajnoch & Benjamin Grus
Warden	Vince Dobson	Volunteer Please	Gary Clune
1 st Reading	Beth Culliver	John De Mattia	Pearse Cremin
2nd Reading	Jessica Doherty	Volunteer Please	Amanda Moore
Intercession	Greg Rowe	Kevin Flynn	Justin Dowling
Music	No Music		No Music
IT Operators	Robyn Flynn	Joseph Wilson	Pat Watson
Gifts	Volunteers Please	Maria Heinzl & Stanis Drobiszewski	The Grus Family
Communion	Vince Dobson & Beth Culliver	Colleen Fuller & Volunteer Please	Garry Purchasehouse & Wendy Brown
Children's Liturgy	School Holiday		
Piety Stall	Closed		
Church Care	Volunteers Please		
Hospitality	Lina Wiecek & Vicky Ang		

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

Therese Duval, Michael Schiemer & Kevin Wesley (Cousins of the Rivas Family).

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:

Semaan Mansour, Kathleen Thomas, Lucy Barrett, Barry McQuade, Harriet Walsh, Patrick Walsh, Dorothy Palise, Robyn Kopp, Alfred Groves, Valma Adamson and Joan Kelly.



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