



St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook
The Barra
Australia Day
25th & 26th January 2025

Isaiah 32:15-18; Psalm 84; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; Matthew 5:1-12

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 are ready to accept all which you find in yourself, you will be able to move through everything with deep sensitivity, awareness, love and understanding." -- Gerd Ziegler

Australia Day does offer us the opportunity to ponder on what Australia means to us as a nation and as individuals. Like everywhere on earth we are a nation where dwells people who have inherited the long-term effects of the Fall from Grace. But this does not mean we have to be inert and lacking in energy to make our own efforts at making a positive contribution to the nation at large and to our family and local community. By adopting a positive attitude toward ourselves and letting it outpour from our hearts, minds and souls can mean the difference between defeat and victory.

The history of modern Australia is relatively brief, yet built on one of the oldest societies on earth. Our modern nation has much to be proud of and to celebrate as one of the nations where people are eager to come, live and work.

Pondering why this is may lead us to discover what people overseas find so attractive about us. We are a people which is welcoming, and helping others never seems to be too much of a burden. We seem to have an attitude to life and others which looks hardship in the face and sees it as a challenge to be overcome. We are generally a resourceful lot and when difficulties arise others are ready to lend a hand. The Australian spirit is indomitable because it does not admit of defeat. Our earlier colonial past produced individuals of such striking self-reliance in overcoming various obstacles that it resulted in a nation of people who work hard and will not let the worst affect them. "She'll be right" became a common slogan to mean that nothing can overcome us.

Finding this Australian spirit within ourselves and sharing it around affects others to adopt a nationwide positive attitude. If this spirit is part of who we really are then, as the quote above, we will be able to move through everything with deep sensitivity, awareness, love and understanding. This is not a gratuitous sentiment to make us feel good, it is a personal discovery to acknowledge the resilience which become part of who we are because we strive against all odds and wish to share what we find about ourselves with others.

Sometime it takes an outsider, like myself, to uncover the deeper spirit of all Australians, old and new, to point to what makes this nation great, and to point the way forward in building on what we have for the sake of the Kingdom of God. Thanks to Him who makes it happen!



PARISH INFORMATION

Parish Priest: Fr John Hogan

E-mail: John.hogan@parracatholic.org

Secretary: Juliana Khnouf

E-mail: secretary@stfinbars.org.au

Office Phone: **(02) 47426958**

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

(Closed on Mondays)

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

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 26th January <i>Australia Day</i></p>	<p>7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass</p>	<p><u>Diocesan Healthcare Ministries Formation Community</u> 11/2/2025 Anointing Mass for World Day of the Sick 11:00 a.m. Mary Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown Principal celebrant – Fr. Fernando 15/2/2025 Formation session Healthcare Ministries Formation Community <i>Pope Francis message for 2025 World Day of the Sick</i> 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Mary Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown 19/3/2025 Formation session <i>‘The Dark Night of Suffering – Healthcare in the shadow of the Cross’</i> 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Our Lady of the Angels Rouse Hill 12/4/2025 Formation session <i>Synodality in the Healthcare Ministry of the Church</i> St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, Springwood 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. 14/6/2025 Formation session <i>The Journey of Healthcare – the Road to Emmaus</i> Sacred Heart Parish, South Mt. Drutt 10:00 – 12:30 p.m. 19/7/2025 Proposed Formation session <i>Boundaries in Healthcare</i> St. Paul the Apostle, Winston Hills 10:00-12:30 p.m. 13/9/2025 Formation session <i>Self-care in the Healthcare Ministry of the Church</i> Cloister Hall, St. Patrick’s Cathedral Parramatta 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon Plan for a session at Windsor on <i>The Dignity of the Patient in Healthcare</i> in the second half of the year Registrations to met@parracatholic.org and enquiries to Michael.Tan@parracatholic.org <u>Solemn High Mass for the Feast of the Presentation of The Lord and World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life: 2 February</u> Join us for Mass at 11am at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta celebrated by Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv for the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord and a special celebration of Consecrated Life. Jubilee candles for each Order or Congregation will be blessed during a short ceremony in the Cathedral courtyard then carried in procession into the Cathedral.</p>
<p>Monday 27th January</p>	<p>No Mass. Office is closed</p>	
<p>Tuesday 28th January <i>St Thomas Aquinas</i></p>	<p>9.15am Mass 6.00pm Cantabile Choir Practice 7.00pm Baptism Preparation Meeting M/R</p>	
<p>Wednesday 29th January</p>	<p>9.15am Mass followed by the Rosary 9.30am Playgroup P/C 7.00pm Bridge P/C</p>	
<p>Thursday 30th January</p>	<p>9.15am Mass 1.15pm Bridge P/C</p>	
<p>Friday 31st January <i>St John Bosco</i></p>	<p>9.15am Mass 1.30pm Bowlers P/C</p>	
<p>Saturday 1st February</p>	<p>9.15am Mass 2.00pm Baptism 4.45pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass</p>	
<p>Sunday 2nd February <i>The Presentation of the Lord Year C</i></p>	<p>7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass 6.00pm Youth Mass 7.00pm Youth Group P/C</p>	

THANK YOU FROM THE PILGRIMS!

Thank you to the community at St Finbars for welcoming the 2025 Epiphany Pilgrims in such a beautiful way. In particular, a huge thank you to Michelle Wilson and her team of volunteers for preparing such a wonderful festive meal and to the many parishioners who joined in the celebrations. We felt so blessed by your generous hospitality and welcome. Thank you! A selection of photos from the 2025 pilgrimage can be found at:
<https://www.epiphanypilgrimage.org/photos-2025.html>

SAPIENTIA RETREAT

Single adults, ages 18-30, are invited to join the Dominican Friars and Dominican Sisters of St Cecilia for a weekend retreat at St Mary’s Towers, Douglas Park, NSW, from 7-9 February 2025. The retreat will consist of talks, discussion, silence, Eucharistic Adoration, the Sacrament of Confession, Mass, and time for fun and fellowship. Fee: \$300 per person. Please complete the google form (<https://forms.gle/hHyBFDjN3A5pexXJA>) to register your intention. Registrations close 31 January.

ST. FINBAR'S PARISH NEWS

PARISH NEWS

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL AND PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

This year the parish annual AGM is scheduled for Sunday the 16th of February straight after the 9.30am Mass in the Parish Hall. All parishioners are invited to attend.

During the AGM, the Parish Pastoral Council and Parish Finance Committee will provide updates on pastoral and financial planning. Hope to see you all there.

YOUTH MASS & YOUTH GROUP

Youth Mass and Senior Youth Group will be back starting Sunday the 2nd of February at 6pm. Please bring a candle with you as Father John will be blessing them during Mass.

PARISH RCIA PROGRAM

The RCIA will begin soon. Anyone interested in becoming a Catholic and anyone able to volunteer to be a team member for the preparation, please contact the parish office asap. Thank you.

PARENT'S SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION EVENING

Parents of children who wish to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Eucharist in 2025 are invited to attend the Sacramental Information Evening on Tuesday the 4th of March at 7.30pm in the parish hall. Dates, registration forms and requirements for participation in each of the Sacramental journeys will be discussed and distributed at this meeting. Children need not attend.

2025 SACRAMENTAL SCHEDULE

Please note that the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be on Saturday the 5th of April at 2.30pm with the preparation sessions to start on Thursday the 20th of March at 5.30pm. The Sacrament of 1st Holy Communion will be on Sunday the 22nd of June at the 9.30am Mass with the preparation sessions to start on Thursday the 22nd of May at 5.30pm. The Sacrament of Confirmation will be on Sunday the 7th of September with Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv celebrating at the 9.30am Mass. Preparation sessions will start on Thursday the 7th of August at 5.30pm in the parish hall.

2025 LENTEN GROUPS

Lent starts on Wednesday the 5th of March this year. The parish is organising some Lenten groups to meet once a week during Lent, and needs to get an idea of numbers so sufficient books can be ordered. If you would like to be part of one of the groups please add your name to the list which will be in the Narthex of the Church next weekend the 1st and 2nd of February.

PARISH GARDEN CONCERNS

We are sorry to report that just before Christmas part of the garden on the south side of the church was vandalised. Green logs, that helped to secure the slope, were removed. They were used to create a cubby house against a tree in the garden. Some young hydrangea plants were destroyed, agapanthus trampled, and mulch was pushed aside to reveal a large area of bare ground. The mulch was pushed up onto some other hydrangea, nearly burying them. The area has now been rectified and secured with heavy sleepers. An orange plastic fencing barricade has been erected and will remain there for the next few months until the plants recover. This deliberate destruction is very disappointing and also added to the work of the gardeners, who are already trying to remediate the garden areas spoiled by the machinery that the painters had to use for the roof restoration, and also to catch up on weeding which couldn't be done while the church was off-limits for the roof painting. In line with the usual destruction of the purple agapanthus flower heads that we experience each summer, this reoccurred in December. A lovely and inspiring garden of peace and prayer has been violated. God is everywhere and we believe that gardens are special places that encourage 'God thoughts'. Could you please help by monitoring and advising anyone, including children, who enter any of the gardens to keep to the paths only? The gardens are out of bounds. They are not play areas. With thanks for your understanding.

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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LITURGICAL ROSTER FOR 1ST & 2ND FEBRUARY 2025

Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	7.30 am	9.30 am	6.00pm Youth Mass
Sacristan	Kylie Mills	Carl Moll	Gerard Egan	Nick McMaster
Senior Server	Kylie Mills	Carl Moll	Lukas Rajnoch	Nick McMaster & Tim Kensey
Junior Servers	Alex & Luc Nilsson	Zoe & Oliver Wilson	Xavier Rajnoch & Benjamin Grus	Sophia Lynch
Warden	Vince Dobson	Volunteer Please	Gary Clune	Daniel Lynch
1 st Reading	Philomena Watkins	Michelle Wilson	Jessica Doherty	Elizabeth Christie
2nd Reading	Katy Ferris	Andrew Teece	Steve Baird	Quentin Lynch
Intercession	Elizabeth Rowe	Kevin Flynn	Martin Rogers	Yvonne Scanlan
Music	Naomi's Group		Anne's Group	N/A
IT Operators	Pat Watson	Elizabeth Konza	Robyn Flynn	Lachlan Lloyd
Gifts	Eleanor Thompson & Volunteer Please	Maria Heinzl & Stanis Drobiszewski	The Grus Family	N/A
Communion	Beth Culliver & Elizabeth Rowe	Brian Grech & Colleen Fuller	Martin Rogers & Garry Pursehouse	Brendan Khnouf
Children's Liturgy				
Piety Stall	Carmel Higgins			
Church Care	Jane Lennon & Valeska Madrid Moping Group: Claire Warren, Liam Isaksen & Connor Isaksen			
Hospitality	Lina Wiecek & Vicky Ang			

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

Kees Van der Donk (John Verhoeven's step-father), Malcolm Watt, Aaron Greetree (Patrick Watson's Nephew), Peter Stapleton, Andrew Dennis & Therese Duval.

PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK PARISHIONERS, RELATIVES & FRIENDS:

Bernadette Shalala, Beryl & Stan Callaghan, Myrna Ware, 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:

Andrew Patterson, John Brown, Pat Psaila, Christopher Auckett, Rosanna O'Loughlin, Michael O'Connor, Dr Michael McGirr, Jeremy Crawley, Paul Hammerton, Henriette Harrington and Monica Cashman.



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