

St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook

The Barra

3rd Sunday of Lent - Year C

22nd & 23rd March 2025

The Parable of The Unfruitful Fig Tree

Luke 13:6-9

Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15; Psalm 102; 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12; Luke 13:1-9

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

"Nurture great thoughts for you will never go higher than your thoughts."

-- Benjamin Disraeli (former British Prime Minister)

A common mistake made by people is not to dare. Or if we do dare we tend to be inappropriate. Daring to excel is the stuff of champions and is a daring open to us all. Why shouldn't we excel? We should, but we tend to be a bit reticent in case others think badly of us. We slave under the impression that we mustn't stand out, that humility is an important virtue which means I need to withdraw from leading by good example.

I know it can be quite a conundrum which can leave us quite dissatisfied, because we are holding ourselves back. Well, what's the use of that? The Christian should excel in humility and all the other virtues. So, what is the way to do this without causing attention to ourselves? A tricky question! Following the path of virtue is meant to lead us more deeply into union with Christ. Any personal glory we perceive can be attributed to Christ, and glory and thanksgiving made to him.

If we are to come closer to Christ, then we need to nurture great thoughts about it. But we cannot afford to align our thoughts with personal magnificence. The magnificence belongs to Christ. We do the work and Christ gets the praise. If we want this to happen to us then Disraeli's thoughts that we are limited by our greatest thoughts need to be taken seriously. For the sake of salvation and sanctification our spiritual thoughts need to be superlative as the motivation to achieve high excellence in the pursuit of the virtuous life.

Then we might wonder that because this is so incredibly beyond our capabilities, that we don't want to set ourselves up for failure and leaving us feeling incapable. Now, we get to the heart of it all. We are incapable in and of ourselves. Who do we turn to? God Almighty. We learn to ask that the Holy Spirit come and write straight with our crooked lines. For the Godhead to overshadow us and to achieve in each one of us what we are not capable to do on our own. For each of us to excel in virtue, not only do we need to have great thoughts, but we also need to have God on board to bring our efforts to a glorious end. There is a great truth in the achievement of that which is good: that in every good act, God initiates it, God accompanies it, and God crowns it. It is his work! So, our initial fear about excelling in case we have pride is now answered by the humility we need to allow God to bring about great things in us. "And holy is his name." Nurture divine thoughts, there are none greater!

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Emergencies : 0466 500 880

(Sickness & Death only)

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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

Baptisms

The Parish joyfully announces the Baptism of

Hunter Tyler & Sydney Margaret Tyler

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.

Sunday 23rd March <i>3rd Sunday of Lent</i> <i>Year C</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass 10.45am Baptisms
Monday 24th March	No Mass. Office is closed
Tuesday 25th March <i>The Annunciation</i> <i>of the Lord</i>	9.15am Mass 6.00pm Cantabile Choir Practice 7.30pm Baptism Preparation Meeting M/R
Wednesday 26th March	9.15am Mass followed by Rosary 9.30am Playgroup P/C 7.00pm Bridge Club P/C 7.00pm Fr John's Lenten Group M/R
Thursday 27th March	9.15am Mass 1.15pm Bridge Club P/C 3.30pm Mila's Lenten Group M/R 5.00pm Reconciliation preparation sessions P/C 7.00pm RCIA Meeting M/R 7.30pm Netball Club General Meeting P/C
Friday 28th March	9.15am Mass 1.30pm Bowlers P/C
Saturday 29th March	9.00am Martin Roger's Lenten Group M/R 9.15am Mass 1.30pm Gabrielle Zammit & Jean Autard Wedding 4.30pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass
Sunday 30th March <i>4th Sunday of Lent</i> <i>Year C</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass—Parish 60th Anniversary followed by morning tea in the parish hall.

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>
ORGAN AND CONCERT - It is with deep regret that the Good Friday Music and Readings for 2025 will not be held. More details later – Carmel Higgins (Chairman).

SRE TEACHERS

Dear Parishioners,
St. Finbar's Parish is in great need of new SRE teachers or catechists. Our church teaches scripture in six public schools for children from kindergarten to sixth grade. Each class lasts 30 minutes, and it takes about 30 minutes to prepare the lesson for each class. If you think you can set aside an hour a week to serve as a catechist or SRE, or as a helper, please call Georgina 0451 234 620.

GOOD FRIDAY STATIONS OF THE CROSS AT ST FINBARS

This year our community will be praying Stations of the Cross a bit differently to normal.

- ✦ For those who are able, please add your name to one of the **small groups** on the warden's table in the narthex for a guided liturgy praying the Stations of the Cross **outside** around the church using the parish prayer walk. A limited number of chairs will be available at each station for those who need to sit. The liturgy will take about 1 hour.
- ✦ For those unable to participate in the outside liturgy, a Stations of the Cross liturgy will be held **inside** the church at 10am.

In case of poor weather, the outside Stations of the Cross will not go ahead, and all parishioners are invited to join for the 10am liturgy.

CONCERT FOR BUSH SCHOOL CAMBODIA AT ST. FINBAR'S

A Variety Concert will be held in the Parish Hall on Sat. 12th April, commencing 7.00pm, following Vigil Mass. A warm welcome is extended to all for this 10th concert for Bush School at St Finbar's. A full program of vocal and instrumental music will feature talented local performers, with some new surprises. The cost is \$35 per person, \$60 for family, with some concessions available. A generous supper will be provided at interval. The concert will fund education and nutrition for our students in the coming year and supports Bush School as a vital asset for a poor Cambodian community. To book seats, phone Doug on 0403 303 043. See also the flyers in the Narthex.

BISHOP'S GOOD SAMARITAN APPEAL FOR CATHOLIC CARE'S CHAPLAINCY SERVICES

This Lent, will you be a pilgrim of hope to people who may break in the face of suffering? Your kind-hearted gift and prayers will help our chaplains at Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains offer pastoral care, comfort and Christian companionship that can bring healing and transformation. Please give generously to the Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal at parracatholic.org/appeal or scan this QR code. Thank you.



ST. FINBAR'S PARISH NEWS

Invitation for All to:

60th Anniversary of St Finbar's Parish – Sunday 30th March at 9.30am

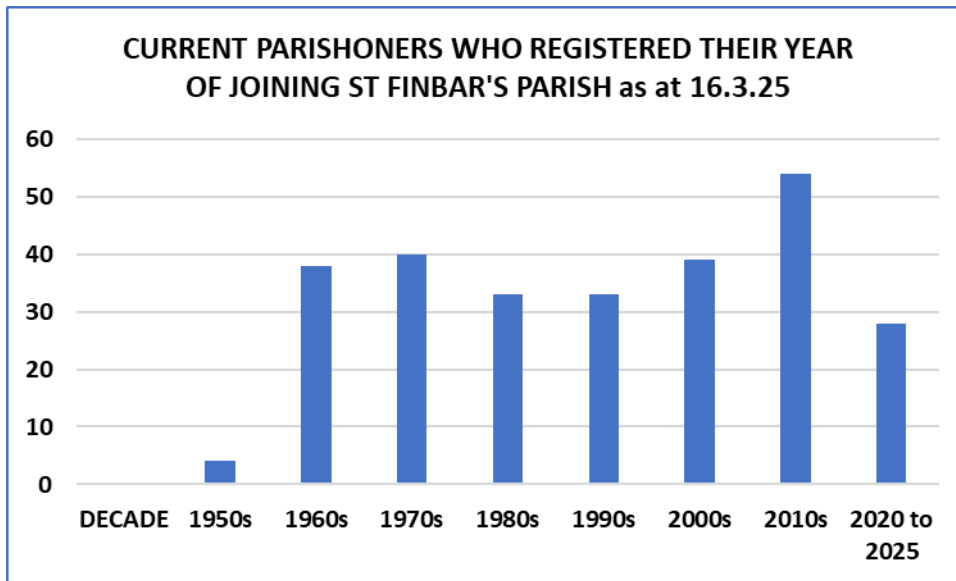
We remember the past with thanks and work to respond to the needs of the present.

- + 9.30am Mass
- + Short ceremony to acknowledge those current parishioners who were here in 1965 when the Parish was created, and also those current parishioners of 1995 when our sandstone church was built. A certificate is available after Mass for each of these parishioners.
- + A special anniversary pamphlet, for all individuals and families, has been created as a memento.
- + 10.30am. Big Morning Tea in the hall. Fun activities for the younger members.

Celebrating the 60th Anniversary of St Finbar's Parish

Thank you to the 269 people who responded as current parishioners to the origin year survey slip. This is most encouraging. Here is a graph to show the range.

Please note that the last column covers 5 years only, 2000 to 2025.



1950s-4, 1960s-38, 1970s-40, 1980s-33, 1990s-33, 2000s-39, 2010s-54, 2020 to 2025-28

The statistics do not cover the number of children and young people <18 years who are current parishioners.



Easter Sunrise Service Elizabeth Lookout Glenbrook



Date: Sunday, 20 April 2025

Time: 6am

Location: Elizabeth Lookout, Glenbrook. Gates open 5.15am – enter via vehicle track that branches off to the right on the Northern end of Barnet St (follow track and then keep to the right at the fork).

Bring: Chair or rug. Morning tea. Easter egg hunt for kids.

An initiative of The Glenbrook-Blaxland Inter-church Group.

This is an ecumenical, non-denominational service. All welcome

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L A W Y E R S

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|-------------------|---------------------|
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LITURGICAL ROSTER 29TH & 30TH MARCH FOR 2025

Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	Peter McIlvenna	Carl Moll	Gerard Egan
Senior Server	Peter McIlvenna	Carl Moll	Lukas Rajnoch
Junior Servers	Volunteers Please	Volunteers Please	Volunteers Please
Warden	Lorraine Brown	Volunteer Please	Frank Fitzpatrick
1 st Reading	Dawn Willis	Kevin Lloyd	Trish Murnane
2nd Reading	Katy Ferris	Andrew Teece	Gary Clune
Intercession	Felicity Lindfield	Volunteer Please	Irene Aligno
Music	Men's Group		Claire Brown
IT Operators	Thais Turner	Patrick Watson	Robyn Flynn/Juliette Lynch
Gifts	Parishioners are invited to	Offer To bring up the gifts	Cafe Family
Communion	Kylie Mills & Jim Barndon	Helen Keogh & Brian Grech	Greg Rowe & Elizabeth Rowe
Children's Liturgy	Cate & Dan Kensey		
Piety Stall	Jan Frampton		
Church Care	Volunteers please		
Hospitality	Julie Fehon, Anne Hobbs, Martin & Lyndal Rogers		

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

Myrna Ware, Clementine "Emie" Stapleton, Sara Pinato, Noel Flaherty, Michael Nolan, Diane Taite, Malcolm Watt, Peter Stapleton, Andrew Dennis & Therese Duval.

PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK PARISHIONERS, RELATIVES & FRIENDS:

Norman Fisher (Bernie Fisher's brother), Robyn Behrooz, Brian Pope, Beryl & Stan Callaghan, Gerard Keenan (Anita Keenan's Son), Pat Barrett, Noreen Taylor, Sue Bland, Connor Sipple, Jacqui Visser, Katie Maloney, Chris Paine, Margaret Stevens, Christopher Thomson, David Haynes (Yvonne Scanlan's Dad), Colleen Nolan, Margaret Christensen, Gwen Cullinan, Lyn Downes, Sophie Hollies, Terry Stevens, Mark Bates, Maddison Farrugia, 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:

Daisy Drape, Janette & John Bell, Clare Druhan, Thelma Sparks, Thomas Boylan, Julia Gunning, Paul Trevaskis, Ruby Luland, Lyndall McManus, Debra Saporito, Patrick Mungovan, Colin Gott, Gareth Hogan and Jean Blencowe.



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