

St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook

## **The Barra**

The Ascension of the Lord Year C

Year C

31st of May and 1st of June 2025

**Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 46; Ephesian 1:17-23; Luke 24:46-53**

*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.....**

*"We live in a world of theophanies. Holiness comes wrapped in the ordinary. There are burning bushes all around you. Every tree is full of angels. Hidden beauty is waiting in every crumb. Life wants to lead you from crumbs to angels, but this can happen only if you are willing to unwrap the ordinary by staying with it long enough to harvest its treasure." - Macrina Wiederkehr*

A theophany is some way in which God reveals himself to us and noted spiritual writers have frequently drawn our attention to this. Saint Teresa of Avila noted that the main way God reveals himself is through a veil of symbols. We are generally not ready for direct revelation, our systems would be well overloaded by divinity and we might burst asunder! God quietly protects us from his awesomeness by ordinary revelations in the down-to-earth of things. But in order to benefit from these experiences we need to know how to pay attention. The British poet, Elizabeth Barret Browning, begins one of her poems with these words "Earth's crammed with heaven and every tree a burning bush....." Thankfully, we don't need to be mystics in order to savour heaven in the here and now. If creation is of God, both nature and humanity, it seems obvious that somehow creation will reflect the nature of its Originator.

Of course, we can be over-stimulated by the flotsam and jetsam of life which absorbs our attention as we tend to the business of life just to get through the day. In this absorption we end up missing out on life's finer things such as the presence of God manifesting itself. "To have the experience and miss the meaning" is one of the warnings of T.S. Eliot about those who do not lift their vision to higher things and so miss out on the real richness of life. Last weekend we considered the value of silence which can so readily give us access to deep down things. The deep down things of ordinary life can swell the soul and draw our heart's contemplation to mystery. And by mystery here we do not understand some kind of puzzle which we cannot solve. Mystery is the nature of God. To understand it we must stay with it long enough to harvest its treasure, as today's quotation recommends.

But we always seem to be in a rush, on the run 24/7, to such an extent that we don't give ourselves the time to contemplate that life, and the things of life, are depositories of God's presence and purpose. As Barret Browning explains in her poem, those who see (the burning bush) take off their shoes while the rest sit around eating blackberries. While blackberries may be very tasty, if we miss the revelation of God then life becomes insipid.

Maybe we can decide, even once a day, to pay attention and be on the lookout, for God draws us very close to his heart and those clues are everywhere.



### **PARISH INFORMATION**

**Parish Priest:** Fr John Hogan

E-mail: [John.hogan@parracatholic.org](mailto:John.hogan@parracatholic.org)

Emergencies : 0466 500 880

(Sickness & Death only)

**Secretary:** Juliana Khnouf

E-mail: [secretary@stfinbars.org.au](mailto:secretary@stfinbars.org.au)

Office Phone: (02) 47426958

**Admin:** Peter McMahon

E-mail: [admin@stfinbars.org.au](mailto:admin@stfinbars.org.au)

**PPC:** Cecilia Zammit (Chair)

E-mail: [stfinbarsppc@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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

<b>Sunday</b> <b>1st June</b> <i>The Ascension of the Lord Year C</i>	<b>7.30am Mass</b> <b>9.30am Mass—Church 30th Anniversary</b> No Youth Mass or Youth Group
<b>Monday</b> <b>2nd June</b>	<b>No Morning Mass. Office is closed</b>
<b>Tuesday</b> <b>3rd June</b> <i>St Charles Lwanga &amp; Companions</i>	<b>9.15am Mass</b> 10.00am Timeout Tuesday P/C 6.00pm Cantabile Choir Practice
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>4th June</b>	<b>9.15am Mass followed by Rosary</b> 9.30am Playgroup P/C 7.00pm Bridge Club P/C
<b>Thursday</b> <b>5th June</b> <i>St Boniface</i>	<b>9.15am Mass</b> 1.15pm Bridge Club P/C 5.00pm Sacrament of 1st Holy Communion preparation sessions P/C
<b>Friday</b> <b>6th June</b>	<b>9.15am Mass</b> 1.30pm Bowlers P/C
<b>Saturday</b> <b>7th June</b>	7.30am Men's Breakfast P/C <b>9.15am Mass</b> 4.30pm Confessions <b>5.30pm Vigil Mass</b>
<b>Sunday</b> <b>8th June</b> <i>PENTECOST SUNDAY Year C</i>	<b>7.30am Mass</b> <b>9.30am Mass</b> 10.45am Baptisms



### Positions Vacant

- ✦ Safeguarding: Healing and Support Counsellor
  - ✦ Training & Development Specialist – Safeguarding
  - ✦ Senior Facilitator – Parish Engagement Lead
  - ✦ Property Lawyer: Diocese of Parramatta
- More details at: [parracatholic.org/about/jobs/](http://parracatholic.org/about/jobs/)

### Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal for our Holy Spirit Seminarians

Will you help our seminarians to be 'Pilgrims and Sowers of Hope' for God's people? With your prayers and generosity, they can continue to grow in faith and formation, as they prepare to become priests who will sow hope, faith and love in the hearts of God's people. Please give generously to the Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal at [parracatholic.org/appeal](http://parracatholic.org/appeal) or scan this QR code. Thank you.



### Safe Parishes Week: 2–8 June 2025

Safe Parishes Week is a time to renew our commitment to creating safe, welcoming communities for all — especially children and vulnerable adults. The Diocese supports this through training, resources, and new initiatives like online check-ins for visiting clergy. We're also developing child-friendly online tools, and other initiatives that align with our Diocesan Pastoral Plan to support safer communities. Learn more: [parracatholic.org/safeguarding](http://parracatholic.org/safeguarding)

### Music Workshop – The Importance of Copyright: 19 June

Copyright can be tricky to navigate. Come and learn all about your requirements for reporting music use at Mass, the different types of copyright licensing available, and much more. This workshop will be led by MET Music Formation Facilitator Eric Grella at Bishop Bede Heather Centre 1-5 Marion St, Blacktown. Be sure to bring along any questions you might have.

RSVP by Friday 13 June [parracatholic.org/events/music-workshop-19june/](http://parracatholic.org/events/music-workshop-19june/)

### Ministry of Care Courses: 4- 25 June

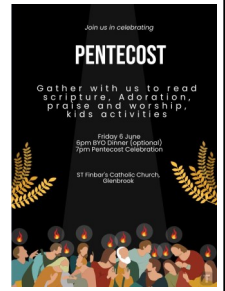
Those who visit the sick and are involved in the Ministry of Communion to the Sick and Dying in Hospitals, Aged Care Facilities and in Homes are invited to attend this course on the Ministry of Care.

It will be held every Wednesday evening at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre in Blacktown. Attend all 4 sessions to receive a certificate of completion or just attend the session (s) that interest you.

Please visit [parracatholic.org/events/OFW](http://parracatholic.org/events/OFW) to reserve a spot. For enquiries, please contact [ofw@parracatholic.org](mailto:ofw@parracatholic.org) or 0488 000 211.

**PENTECOST CELEBRATION FRIDAY 6TH OF JUNE AT 6PM**

Gather with us to read scripture, Adoration, praise and worship and kids activities  
Friday 6th June  
6pm - BYO dinner (optional)  
7pm Adoration (program provided for kids)



**INTERRELIGIOUS RELATIONS**

Be inspired by visiting US Catholic author and professor, Leo Lefebure at these two free public lectures:

June 17 - Christian Spirituality and Interreligious Relations; UNDA Broadway.

June 26 - Shaping a Culture of Encounter in a Fragmented World; Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown.



More details, including how to register, on narthex noticeboard

**WISDOM FROM LAUDATO SI: ON CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME (10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY)**

**ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS**

“This shows the great need for a sense of social responsibility on the part of consumers. Purchasing is always a moral and not simply an economic – act.” LS n206

- For reflection: Do we respond in a way that considers ecological economics?  
Are our economic transactions supporting ecology through sustainable, ethical and fair production, consumption and investment?



**THE NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK (NRW) 2025** theme, *Bridging Now to Next*, reflects the ongoing connection between past, present and future.

*Bridging Now to Next* calls on all Australians to step forward together, to look ahead and continue the push forward as past lessons guide us. In the #NRW2025 theme artwork created by Kalkadoon woman **Bree Buttenshaw**, native plants – which are known for regenerating after fire and thriving through adversity – symbolise our collective strength and the possibilities of renewal. This is a time for growth, reflection, and commitment to walking together.

<https://www.reconciliation.org.au/bridging-now-to-next-nrw-2025/>



*If we look at our stained-glass window here at St Finbar's, we can also use its regeneration after fire and new growth imagery to help us reflect on the message*

*Young Adult Faith Formation sessions continue on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2025 at the Sacred Heart Parish Hall, South Mt Druitt (9 Ropes Creek Rd Mt Druitt) at 7pm. The speaker is Sr Agnes who will talk about and lead discussion on St Padre Pio. All adults 18-35 are encouraged to come along and enjoy some faith formation, pizza, and fellowship! If you have any questions, please call Mark on 0477 004 678.*

**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 7TH & 8TH JUNE 2025

Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	Jim Barndon	Peter McMahon	Garry Purchasehouse
Senior Server	Jim Barndon	Peter McMahon	Peter McIlvenna
Junior Servers	Quentin Lynch & Eoghan McKenna		Oliver Wilson & Noah Young
Warden	Maree Roach	Ben Oxley	Patricia Murnane
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Volunteer Please	Carl Moll	Dan or Tim Kensey
2nd Reading	Jessica Doherty	Elizabeth Konza	Kristina Rajnoch
Intercession	Dawn Willis	John Isaksen	Gary Clune
Music	Dawn Willis & Michael Taylor		Finnie's Group
IT Operators	Anne Hobbs	Kylie Mills	Sophia Karatovic
Gifts	Margaret & Michael Richards	Volunteers Please	Dorthea Walsh
Communion	Brian & Thea Robertson	Jim & Kath Tierney	Yvonne Scanlan & Colin Stead
Children's Liturgy	Elizabeth & Jess		
Piety Stall	Beth Culliver		
Church Care	Volunteers please		
Hospitality	Anne King, Lynne Atkinson, Liz & Daren Dukes		

### PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

Ann Sue-Ellen Reardon, George Cottee, Sara Pinato and Noel Flaherty.

### PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK PARISHIONERS, RELATIVES & FRIENDS:

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

James Tighe, Norma Bennett, James Schultz, Thomas Oxley, Gregory Masters, Rosemary McCaffery, Rose Torrance, Maria Dinale, Matilda Lutze, Susan Gibson, Maurice Whitford, May Brophy, Ian McNay, Gregory Macquarie, Ellen Durham, Sarah Kleinmeulman, Monica Palmer, Charles Mooney, Philomena Owens and William Robb.



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