



St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook
The Barra

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C

2nd & 3rd August 2025

Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23; Psalm: 89; Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11; Luke 12:13-21

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.....

"The one sadness in life is not to be a saint." – Leon Bloy

We easily get disappointed with our feeble efforts to excel in life. Self-improvement is encouraged from just about every angle we can think of. At one time the self-improvement section in bookstores was the most popular. But now we have few bookstores and no such section to browse. I miss those books. I used to read the back covers to find out what the books were all about, imagining myself as a sage-in-waiting. I am sure each book had something worthwhile to say about how we can improve our daily living. Some secret by which we could find the elixir of life we were wanting to make life endlessly happy and secure. Alas, such a secret is no secret at all for self-improvement is hard work requiring great commitment and a great memory to remember all the various skills and insights we need to reach our goal.

From a spiritual perspective we find that God's grace is very illuminating. After all, Christ is the Light of the World! Grace is given to us for many reasons and all of them to build us up into the Image of Christ. Perhaps we have been trying to comply with grace all our lives yet seem to be getting nowhere. At least, it doesn't seem so to us. We live and act in such a way as to put our trust in God that He may think differently about us than we do about ourselves. While this impoverished way of thinking is understandable, it doesn't help. We were brought up to be humble and not to be presumptuous before the Lord. While humility is an excellent virtue, we mustn't confuse it with not acknowledging the great things the Almighty has done for us (Luke 1:49). We are each probably a lot further on the way to being remade in Christ's Likeness. Let us give thanks for God's wonders.

Let us be encouraged by Saint Paul as he writes to the Ephesians when he prays that "out of his infinite glory, may he give you the power through his spirit for your hidden self to grow strong, so that Christ may live in your hearts....." (Ephesians 3:16-17). We have all the saints in heaven praying for each of us that this outcome may come about. Our hidden selves growing strong is the very stuff of spirituality, it is the very stuff that makes saints. Little wonder that at a human level there is such a keen interest in self-improvement, sainthood is written deep within us. God goes beyond our human self-improvement and recreates the distorted Image of God we lost, and He makes all things new. To become a saint is the work of God and our small efforts at self-improvement are echoes of the work being undertaken by the Holy Spirit. Then we won't suffer the *"one sadness in life"*.

PARISH INFORMATION

Parish Priest: Fr John Hogan

E-mail: John.hogan@parracatholic.org

Emergencies : 0466 500 880

(Sickness & Death only)

Secretary:

Juliana Khnouf

E-mail:

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Office Phone:

(02) 47426958

Admin:

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E-mail:

admin@stfinbars.org.au

PPC:

Cecilia Zammit (Chair)

E-mail:

stfinbarsppc@gmail.com

Office Hours: 9.30am – 1.00pm

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

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Glenbrook Catholic
Church St Finbars



Baptism

The Parish joyfully announces the Baptism of Aria Lacey Muscat next Sunday 10th August.

We welcome you 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.

PARISH CALENDAR

DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA NOTICES

Sunday 3rd August <i>18th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass 6.00pm Youth Mass Live Streaming Link https://youtube.com/live/V9PnHhSOW00?feature=share 7.00pm Senior Youth Group P/C
Monday 4th August <i>St John Vianney</i>	No Morning Mass. Office is closed 5.00pm SVDP Meeting M/R
Tuesday 5th August	9.15am Mass 10.00am Timeout Tuesday P/C 6.00pm Cantabile Choir Practice
Wednesday 6th August <i>The Transfiguration of the Lord</i>	9.15am Mass followed by Rosary 9.30am Playgroup P/C 7.00pm Bridge Club P/C
Thursday 7th August	9.15am Mass 1.00pm Bridge Club P/C 5.00pm Confirmation Preparation Sessions P/C
Friday 8th August <i>St Mary of The Cross</i>	9.15am Grandparents' Day Mass for whole school 1.30pm Bowlers P/C
Saturday 9th August	9.15am Mass 4.30pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass 6.45pm Parish Trivia Night P/C
Sunday 10th August <i>19th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass 10.45am Baptism

DIOCESAN PASTORAL PLAN

Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv, Bishop of Parramatta, warmly invites you to join us for the First Anniversary of the [Diocesan Pastoral Plan](#) – a moment to give thanks for the first steps on this journey together.

Thanksgiving Mass & Gathering on Thursday 14 August 2025 at 12.30pm

St Patrick's Cathedral, 1 Marist Place, Parramatta
 Mass will be followed by a light lunch in the Cloister Hall. If you're attending the lunch gathering, please [RSVP via our events page](#) by 7 August for catering purposes. Please also advise of any special dietary requirements when you register.

ADULT CONFIRMATION 2025: 23 & 26 AUGUST

The Office for Worship will host a Catechesis and Formation Day for those candidates (16+) interested in receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation this year. The catechesis day will be on Saturday 23 August from 9.30am – 2.00pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown and the Confirmation will be on the evening of Tuesday 26 August at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. For more information and to enrol, please contact the Office for Worship on ofw@parracatholic.org or 0460 037 795 before

DIOCESAN RETREAT OPPORTUNITIES

The Diocese is hosting three retreat opportunities for adults of all ages to engage more with this Jubilee Year of Hope. Take the opportunity to step away from your usual routine to experience a Diocesan retreat – a sacred space for prayer, reflection, renewal and encounter with God. Registrations are now open. For more details and to register, see the options of retreats below:

16 August: <https://parracatholic.org/events/diocesan-retreat-16-august/>

15 November: <https://parracatholic.org/events/diocesan-retreat-15-november/>

FR. JOSEPH LAM'S BOOK ON POPE LEO XIV

Fr Joseph Lam, Parish Priest at the Parish of Baulkham Hills, has produced a new book that explores the traces of St Augustine in the words and messages of the successors of St Peter since 2005: Benedict XVI, Francis and Leo XIV. The book is \$45, with proceeds to help the renovation of the old heritage building at Baulkham Hills. To pre-order the book, please contact admin@parishofbaulkhamhills.org.au.

HOPEFEST is a Diocesan Jubilee of Hope three-day experience for all ages hosted by St John XXIII Parish, Glenwood-Stanhope Gardens on 8-10 August. Experiences will include praise & worship, a local pilgrimage, community activities, life & faith workshops and opportunities to celebrate the sacraments. Register via <https://parracatholic.org/events/hopefest/>

ST. FINBAR'S PARISH NEWS

OUR PARISH CALENDAR

Looking ahead within our parish, the following activities are planned, and you are invited to be involved:

- ✦ Confirmation preparation sessions commence on Thursday 7th August at 5pm
- ✦ School Grandparents concert in the parish hall after Mass from 10am on Friday 8th August
- ✦ Parish Trivia Night will be on Saturday 9th August after 5:30pm Vigil Mass
- ✦ Parish Pastoral Council regular meeting is on Tuesday 12th August at 7pm
- ✦ Our next Parish Healing Mass will be on Thursday 21st August at 9:15am
- ✦ The famous Men's Breakfast is on Saturday 30th August at 7:30am
- ✦ The Bishop's Fathers' Day Appeal for sick and retired priests is on the weekend of 6/7 September
- ✦ Confirmation Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Vincent on Sunday 7th September at 9:30am
- ✦ The "Meeting Yourself" course run by Fr John commences on Thursday 11th September at 7pm.

STAFF MATTERS

Juliana is currently on leave and is visiting her family. She is expected back in the parish on 12th August. **Tamar**'s mother has been taken ill and is in intensive care. Tamar has had to take some leave to be with her mother, and some admin tasks will be on hold until her return. I am sure Tamar would welcome your prayers for her Mum.

PARISH FINANCES

The parish has to undergo an external audit of its finances each year, and this year the audit will be undertaken by Dylan Fernandopulle on 14th August. In preparation for this audit the parish has had to prepare nearly 50 pages of reports and records for the auditor before he even sets foot in the parish. Part of the preparation also includes projected budgets for our expenditure in the 25/26 financial year, and while our finances are still healthy, they are a bit down on last year, limiting what we can afford to spend. If you can see your way clear to increasing your regular contributions, this would help enormously. For electronic givers, just contact the parish and we can get your regular contributions adjusted for you.

MEETING MYSELF: A SHORT COURSE IN PSYCHOSPIRITUALITY.

This brief course will introduce us to hidden aspects of ourselves that we may never have considered as impeding ourselves in life and in our relationships with one another and with God.

The eight week presentation will be delivered by Father John Hogan, parish priest in Glenbrook. His hope is to help people flourish in life, unencumbered by underlying traits which can trip people up so easily.

It is beginning on Thursday 11th September at 7pm, and it is essential to book in advance. More than 20 people have already booked. Please contact the parish on admin@stfinbars.org.au

SAFEGUARDING is a term used to describe the protection of the welfare and human rights of people who are, in some way, connected with our work, particularly people who may be at risk of abuse, neglect or exploitation. Safeguarding is part of the Diocese of Parramatta's duty of care. The next sessions of face-to-face Mandatory Safeguarding Training will be held on the following days at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre:

- Monday 1 September for Initial training (Modules 1-3) from 9.30am to 2.30pm
- Tuesday 2 September for Renewal training (Modules 4 and 5) from 10am to 1.39pm
- Wednesday 3 September for Refresher training (Module 6) from 10am to 12noon.

Please register directly by clicking on the training event at: <https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training>. For more information, please email: safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org

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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 9TH & 10TH AUGUST 2025

Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	Peter McIlvenna	Carl Moll	Garry Purchasehouse
Senior Server	Peter McIlvenna	Carl Moll	Nick McMaster
Junior Servers	Quentin Lynch & Eoghan McKenna		Oliver Wilson & Noah Young
Warden	Maree Roach	Ben Oxley	Patricia Murnane
1 st Reading	Maureen Tulk	Peter McMahon	Dan or Tim Kensey
2nd Reading	Jessica Doherty	Elizabeth Konza	Kristina Rajnoch
Intercession	Dawn Willis	John Isaksen	Yvonne Scanlan
Music			Finnie's Group
IT Operators	Anne Hobbs	Kylie Mills	Sophia Karatovic
Gifts	Margaret & Michael Richards	Volunteers Please	Dorothea Walsh
Communion	Thea Robertson & Vince Dobson	Jim & Kath Tierney	Gerard Egan & Yvonne Scanlan
Children's Liturgy	Elizabeth & Gwen		
Piety Stall	Beth Culliver		
Church Care	Fran Isaksen, Lynne Atkinson, Gabrielle Lynch & Veronica Clune Mopping group: Andrew Flaherty, Carl Moll, Steve Lee & Bryan Egan.		
Hospitality	Anne King, Lynne Atkinson, Liz & Daren Dukes		

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

Raymond O'Callaghan (Carmel Dobson's Brother), Jeff Cullinan, Ann Sue-Ellen Reardon and George Cottee.

PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK PARISHIONERS, RELATIVES & FRIENDS:

Natalie Gott, Melissa Mills (Kylie Mills' sister in law), Chris Wilson, Caroline Goosen, Robyn Behrooz, Chris Paine, Norman Fisher (Bernie Fisher's brother), Beryl & Stan Callaghan, Pat Barrett, Noreen Taylor, Jacqui Visser, Mark Bates, Gerard Keenan (Anita Keenan's Son), Maddison Farrugia, Margaret Stevens, Christopher Thomson, Colleen Nolan, Lyn Downes, Terry Stevens, David Haynes (Yvonne Scanlan's Dad), Sophie Hollies, Margaret Christensen, Gwen Cullinan, 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:

Brian Martland, Daisy Watterson, John Guerin, Gweneth Pinson, Carmel Harris, John Costello, Robert Murphy, Freda Weston, Robyn Connors, Eric Jeckeln, Reginald Hambilton, Michael Cahill and William Mathew.



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