



St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook

The Barra

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE—Year C

22nd & 23rd November 2025

2 Samuel 5:1-3; Psalm: 121; Colossians 1:12-20; Luke 23:35-43

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.....

I wanted to change the world. But I have found that the only thing one can be sure of changing is oneself. - Aldous Huxley

In our quotation today we have something akin to the prayer of Saint Augustine: "Lord, change the world and start with me". Aldous Huxley recognises this truth from a purely secular point of view. Philosophy and the social sciences begin their exploration of humanity by asking the question: "How do we account for this or that phenomenon". This may probably be how the writers of Sacred Scripture, under the influence of the Holy Spirit, penned their writings in trying to understand the workings of God in the history of creation and salvation. The story of the Fall from Grace (Genesis 3) is an excellent example of probing how there can be good in the world, yet so much evil alongside the good. It must be acknowledged that people do want a better world and would encourage everybody to pull up their socks and make it happen. But this is very unlikely to happen because of the consequences of the Fall from Grace. People are consumed with themselves and what they can get from life. The narcissistic core of the unredeemed Ego dies hard: as long as it doesn't interfere with my preferences, then go hang the world!

Truly, the sentiment that we need a new world is a very noble thought, but we need to apply our intuition and wisdom to understand how this can come about. Leaving it to everyone else is a non-starter. They, like ourselves, are happy to leave it to others. Leaving it solely up to God is also a non-starter because He has given us everything we need in order to make it happen. He sent His only begotten Son to establish and show us the way to bring about a new world. That it hasn't happened yet is a clear indication that the world is not interested in making the effort. So, what do we do?

If others are not interested then we need to start with ourselves. This at least can begin the revolution! When we think of the Lord's Prayer we are invited into considering the phrase "thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven", which indicates that God the Father wills that his Kingdom of love and peace can be established on earth with the graces obtained for us by Christ in his saving death and resurrection. Graces are poured out to us in abundance, but do we see or even consider that they are applicable to this fallen world? Certainly they are, but someone has to take up the slack. We are chosen to bring relief to the world by applying the graces of redemption in our own lives, and be of witness to others to emulate!



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: secretary@stfinbars.org.au

Office Phone: (02) 47426958

Admin: Tamar Alzened

E-mail: admin@stfinbars.org.au

PPC:

E-mail: stfinbarsppc@gmail.com

Office Hours: 8.30am – 2.00pm

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

Sunday 23rd November <i>Our Lord Jesus Christ King of the Universe Year C</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass
Monday 24th November <i>Sts Andrew Dung-Lac and companions</i>	No Morning Mass. Office is closed 5.00pm SVDP Meeting M/R
Tuesday 25th November	9.15am Mass 6.00pm Cantabile Choir Practice 7.30pm Baptism Preparation Meeting M/R
Wednesday 26th November	9.15am Mass followed by Rosary (Parish Office closed on Wednesday the 26th) 9.30am Playgroup P/C 7.00pm Bridge Club P/C 7.00pm Earth care & Social Justice M/R
Thursday 27th November	9.15am Mass 1.00pm Bridge Club P/C 3.30pm Advent Group M/R
Friday 28th November	9.15am Mass 1.30pm Bowlers P/C
Saturday 29th November	9.15am Mass 4.15pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass
Sunday 30th November <i>1st Sunday of Advent Year A</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass 10.45am Baptisms

2026 RELIGIOUS CALENDARS

Franciscan & Columban calendars are now on sale at the Wardens' table.

\$8 Franciscan, \$10 Columban

Proceeds go to St Vincent de Paul Society.

Positions Vacant

- Catholic Chaplain – Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains
- Parish Secretary (permanent part-time) – Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Wentworthville

More details at: parracatholic.org/jobs

Bishop's Christmas Appeal – supporting Catholic Care Grief and Loss Counselling

Christmas is drawing near, and with it the promise that God is with us. For many in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains, that promise is needed right now. Many individuals and families are carrying grief, stress and uncertainty – wrestling with the rising cost-of-living, unstable work and the heartbreak of losing a loved one. Your generosity is the way to open the doors of hope for the broken-hearted ensuring that no one in our community grieves alone. Please give generously at parracatholic.org/appeal or scan the QR code. Thank you.



New 2026 Academic Scholarship Opportunity

Nagle College Blacktown is now offering a limited number of Academic Scholarships for Year 7 students commencing in 2026. These scholarships are intended to recognise exceptional academic promise and help make an excellent Catholic secondary girls' education more accessible to families. Please review the eligibility criteria and application process on the school website as soon as possible. Learn more here: <https://www.nagleblacktown.catholic.edu.au/nagle-scholarship>.

Diocesan Advent Week Scripture Reflection Evening; 26 November

In what way would you say I'm 'awaiting' God's presence this Advent? How do I see myself in Advent Scripture stories this year? Register for the Diocesan Advent Scripture Reflection Evening w/ Dr Debra Snoddy on Wednesday 26 November 2025 – 6:30PM to 8:30pm. RSVP via <https://parracatholic.org/events/diocesan-advent-scripture-night-26-november/> or get in touch with the team via met@parracatholic.org

ST FINBAR'S PARISH FAMILY CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Sunday 21st December 4.30pm–6.00pm

All parishioners are warmly invited to join us for an afternoon of Christmas cheer at our **Family Christmas Concert**. Enjoy joyful carols, a sausage sizzle, and a special Christmas story for the children.

Families are encouraged to bring a plate of sweets to share as we celebrate together.

Let's gather in song and spirit to welcome the season—everyone is welcome!

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE – WEDNESDAY 26TH NOVEMBER

Please note that the parish office will be closed on Wednesday 26th November as staff attend the annual Diocese Secretary Day. We appreciate your understanding and look forward to assisting you when the office reopens on Thursday 27th.

SVDP CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2025

Christmas Hampers

This year we will be following the format where families, groups or individuals make up and donate a full hamper or contribute items to be included in a hamper. A list of suggested hamper items is available from the warden's table.

Please ensure that all food items are within the expiry date

Christmas Gift Tree

The Christmas Gift tree will be put up during the week commencing 30 November and if parishioners wish to support this activity then please take a blue or pink tag from the tree or wardens table, purchase a gift for a child as suggested on the tag and return the Christmas wrapped gift with the tag securely attached to the outside.

All hampers items and gifts will need to be left at the church no later than Thursday 11 December 2025.

Volunteers

We will need helpers at 3.30pm on Friday 13 December to assist with Hamper packing and on Saturday 14 December to assist with the delivery of the hampers at 9.00am. If you are able to assist us with either of these activities please send a SMS message to 0413 549 518 and include your name and contact details.

Poor Box Donations

All donations to the Poor Box till the end of January will count towards our Christmas Appeal. Any and all donations will be greatly appreciated and will support our work over the Christmas period and into 2026.

Leaving Collection

We will be holding a leaving collection after each Mass on the weekend 29/30 November 2024. We have moved into the digital world and you will also be able to donate with your debit or credit card. All donations are tax deductible and written receipts for cash will be available and email receipts for cards at each mass.

Thank you for your generous support in helping a family put food on the table this Christmas



Carols in the Park
(by candlelight)
7.45pm, Friday 12 December 2025
Glenbrook Park (Opposite St Andrews Uniting Church)
Lucasville Road end



All Welcome - bring the family and a chair/rug
Electronic Candles will be provided
The Blue Mountains Concert Band & Mountain Youth Band from 7.45pm
Supporting the annual Christmas Bowl Appeal
Brought to you by the Glenbrook-Blaxland Inter-church Group
(Glenbrook & Blaxland Uniting Churches, Glenbrook Baptist and St. Finbars Catholic Church)
If wet, meet in the Glenbrook Uniting Church Hall

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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 29TH & 30TH NOVEMBER 2025

Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	Peter McIlvenna	Peter McMahon	Stephen Brown
Senior Server	Peter McIlvenna	Peter McMahon	Stephen Brown
Junior Servers	Volunteers please		Rebekah Mowbray & Jude Mowbray
Warden	Maree Roach	Ben Oxley	Frank Zammit
Advent Prayer	Dawn Willis	Andrew Teece	Carmel Higgins
1 st Reading	Dawn Willis	Kevin Lloyd	Irene Aligno
2nd Reading	Katy Ferris	Andrew Teece	Pearse Cremin
Intercession	Felicity Lindfield	Carl Moll	Yvonne Scanlan
Music	Men's choir		
IT Operators	Pat Watson	Robyn Flynn	Joanne Stubbs
Gifts	Parishioners are	Invited to offer to	Bring up the gifts
Communion	Thea Robertson & Kylie Mills	Jim & Kath Tierney	Annissa Nilsson & Carmel Higgins
Children's Liturgy	Cate & Dan		
Church Care	Francis Isaksen, Lynne Atkinson, Gabrielle Lynch & Veronica Clune		
Hospitality	Julie Fehon, Anne Hobbs, Lyndel & Martin Rogers		

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

Marie Hurley OAM, John McKendry, Ian Lack (Lina Wiecek's brother in law) and Robyn Behrooz.

PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK PARISHIONERS, RELATIVES & FRIENDS:

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

Ida Brown, Marie Brooks, Myee Goymour, Raelene Baskett, Winifred Lawrence, Cecil White, Nicholas Haddock, Stephen Hutchins and Glenna Van den Steen.

GRACE

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