



St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook

The Barra

2nd Sunday of Advent – Year A

6th & 7th December 2025



Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm: 71; Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12

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 ponders.....

"When busyness is the measure of time, no matter how much time exists it is never enough."

-- Diana Hunt

Ever thought of putting up your feet and taking some much needed time for yourself? It can be a brave thing to do especially when all life's tasks are piling up all around you. All you need is something else more to do and your spirit sags, you can't find your slippers, and you may as well get it done while there's time, and you go to bed exhausted and sleep badly. Well done human beings! We are over-exposed to competing with ourselves in the race to get everything done. True, we may get a profound sense of self-glorification that we are so industrious that others are just lazy hangers-on and not fit for purpose. A poor assessment of the rest of humanity! Have they something to teach us? We might be instructed by the timely wisdom of Thomas Gray, in his famous *Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard*: "The paths of glory lead but to the grave". Not much of an epitaph for our grave headstone is it? The adage "hold your horses" applies directly to us." So, where do we go from here? Slow down?

Slow down exactly! We need to remind ourselves of our true life's purpose which is to be united to God, for here is our eternity not the issues of this world which will pass away. Drawing closer to the Creator and Redeemer is our purpose and to become more and more familiar with God and his intentions for us. During Advent we can decide to take some time-out to dispose ourselves to his heavenly delights. But we do need to build into our daily routine that precious time.

Meditation is a beginning way to savour the mind of God. This involves our intellects where, to an extent, we are in charge. It involves taking a passage of scripture, reading through it a few times, absorbing it thoroughly, and trying to find the meaning and purpose of what is being taught. **Contemplation** is quite different. True contemplation is infused by God directly and we are not in charge. This can be quite difficult because we are required to let go of the reigns of control. God becomes both the teacher and the Beloved. For the highly active person this might be experienced as time lost and not worth the bother. An agitation creeps in which might adversely effect the contemplation. We may be so concentrated on ourselves that we demand quick fixes in our spiritual lives. Here we run into the problem of the ages: God summons us on His terms, we don't summon Him! The language of God is silence, which cannot be rushed. This is likely to take years but the effort is worth it. Engaging with the Divine is our life's intention. Let us not spoil it!

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: Cecilia Zammit (Chair)

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

CHRIS O'MEARA FUNERAL MASS

Will be on Thursday the 11th of December at 11am.

Please keep his wife Sandra and his children in your prayers.

May He Rest In Peace.

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

Sunday 7th December <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i> <i>Year A</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass 6.00pm Youth Mass 7.00pm Senior Youth Group—Last one for the year.
Monday 8th December <i>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	No Morning Mass. Office is closed 5.00pm SVDP Meeting M/R
Tuesday 9th December	9.15am Mass 6.00pm Cantabile Choir Practice 7.00pm PPC & PFC combined meeting P/C
Wednesday 10th December	9.15am Mass followed by Rosary 9.30am Playgroup P/C 7.00pm Bridge Club P/C 7.30pm Christmas Choir practice
Thursday 11th December	9.15am Mass 11.00am Christopher O'Meara Funeral Mass 1.00pm Bridge Club P/C 3.30pm Advent Group M/R
Friday 12th December	9.15am Mass 1.30pm Bowlers P/C
Saturday 13th December <i>St Lucy</i>	9.15am Mass 4.15pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass
Sunday 14th December <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i> <i>Year A</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass—SRE Recruitment Sunday 10.45am Baptisms 7.00pm Christmas Concert

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.

PARISH COMMUNICATION REMINDER

Dear Parishioners,

I kindly ask that all parish matters be directed to the parish office phone number. Please note that my private phone is not available for parish calls or texts, especially on weekends and Mondays.

If you need to reach me, simply ring the parish office number and leave a message—I will return your call as soon as possible.

This helps ensure that messages are received in the right place and that no one is overloaded.

Thank you for your understanding and for helping us keep communication clear and manageable.

Juliana Khnouf

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.

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

2025 CHRISTMAS MASSES & RECONCILIATION TIMETABLE*Christmas will be on Thursday this year. Weekend and weekday Masses will be at their regular times***Christmas Eve Masses**

Wednesday 24th of December are at 7pm and 10pm.

Children can come dressed as angels or shepherds.

Live Streaming Link<https://youtube.com/live/TCwBPtyx80c?feature=share>**Christmas Day Mass**Thursday 25th of December is at **9am.****New Year's Eve Mass**

Wednesday the 31st of December at 7pm

The Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God Mass

Thursday the 1st of January at 9.15am.

Reconciliation will be as follows:**Tuesday the 23rd of December**

from 10 to 11am & 6 to 7.30pm

Wednesday the 24th of December

from 10 to 11am

Christmas ConcertSunday 14th of December at 7pm**Parish Family Christmas Carols**Sunday 21st December at 6pm**ST FINBAR'S PARISH FAMILY CHRISTMAS CAROLS****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!

**Farewell from Beryl & Stan Callaghan***Sadly, we have to say farewell to St Finbars Parish, which has been our spiritual home since July 1951.**Thank you to Father John & all our past 'Fathers'.**As we go to new beginnings, somewhat frail, we ask if the St Fins community would say a prayer now & then to help us along the way.**We will be able to receive communion weekly & mass monthly in our new home.**One day, when we are called home, we will be back to take up residence in '2 small boxes' in St Matthew.****Lots of Love******Beryl & Stan******New Residence******Glenmore Park Care Community******Room 236******5-7 Floribunda Ave******Glenmore Park 2745******Direct phone line 02 4726 7174 Visitors & Phones calls most welcome Café on site*****Bateman Battersby**

L A W Y E R S

We invite members of the Parish to take advantage of our legal services specialising in :

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| • Property Law | • Family Law |
| • Business Law | • Negligence Law |
| • Wills & Estates | • Court Appearances |

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LITURGICAL ROSTER FOR 13TH & 14TH DECEMBER 2025

Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	Jim Barndon	Carl Moll	Peter McIlvenna
Senior Server	Jim Barndon	Carl Moll	Peter McIlvenna
Junior Servers	Quentin Lynch & Sophia Lynch		Summer Wilson, Oliver Wilson & Noah Young
Warden	Maree Roach	Ben Oxley	Patricia Murnane
Advent Prayer	Margaret Richards	John De Mattia	Geraldine Agahari
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			
IT Operators	Juliette Lynch	Kylie Mills	Sophia Karatovic
Gifts	Margaret & Michael Richards	Volunteers Please	Dorothea Walsh
Communion	Thea Robertson & Vince Dobson	Jim Tierney & Kath Tierney	Yvonne Scanlan & Colin Stead
Children's Liturgy	Michelle & Gwen		
Church Care	Robyn Flynn & Wendy Bohan		
Hospitality	Anne King, Lynne Atkinson, Liz & Daren Dukes		

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

Chris O'Meara, Yvonne Etherington, Marie Hurley OAM, John McKendry, 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:

Simon Culliver, Frank Culliver, Stephen Riddle, Stanley Lucas, Leo Hayes, John Debeck, Terence Hunt, Theresa Hemsley, Cornelus Van Der-Loo, Mary Bohan, Felice Macri, Lillian Pockran, Gary Dennis, Patrice O'Neill, Patricia Bell, Fredericke Vinzenz, Doreen Egan, Maria Toirkens, Thomas Hitchens, Monica Piggott, Tamara Shervashidze, Paul Edelbrock and Elma O'Shea.

GRACE

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