



St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook

The Barra

3rd Sunday of Advent – Year A

13th & 14th December 2025



Isaiah 35:1-6, 10; Psalm: 145; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

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.....

"Change. It has the power to uplift, to heal, to stimulate, surprise, open new doors, bring fresh experience and create excitement in life. Certainly it is worth the risk." -- Leo Buscaglia

It is often the case in life that we feel some fear with respect to change. We may believe that we are faced with such uncertainty that we will not be able to cope. This is understandable. We like to feel safe especially if we have a life which effortlessly affords us the experience of living without being disturbed. The perfect life? Well, no! Rip van Winkle was cast asleep for many years which didn't do him any good. We can't afford to sleep our way through life otherwise nothing will get done. Yes, we try to protect ourselves from the vagaries of human existence, but this does not allow us to learn the resilience we need to encounter whatever life throws at us. None of us can flourish if our lives are insipid and uninspiring. So, how to get a taste for life?

If the concept "change" evokes negative thoughts and feelings for you, then attach a different meaning to it. This psychological technique can make all the difference in so many ways in other struggles of life. It boils down to taking/making a different interpretation about something. When change is looming, look at it with new eyes and call it an "opportunity". If your reticence causes you to avoid the opportunity then you may need to evoke within a change of heart which can give you fresh momentum to accept the opportunity and see within it the seeds of something great. A kind of spiritual resistance-training without a gym! Accepting opportunities as they come along certainly adds breath and length to the experience of life. Backed up by success after success it is very much a useful way of building up self-assurance and self-esteem.

The advantages of accepting change/opportunity articulated by Buscaglia in today's quotation describe a brand new life which is fearless and open to life in all of its mysteries. It is the stuff of the flourishing that God expects of us so that we can excel while working up to be God's likeness. Fear of the new (*xenophobia*) keeps us within tight limits and boundaries and we do not allow ourselves to flex our muscles by taking on something we might see as beyond us. We think sensibly here and begin with small steps, at the bottom of the ladder, to ascend the steps to get to the top. This is the key to a life worth living. A life of constant variety and accomplishment. Using the many gifts God has given us we can make a valuable contribution to the life of the world, and maybe affect others for the better. Yes, it is worth the risk!

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

Baptisms

The Parish joyfully welcomes the Baptisms of

Cruz Alexander Chalmers and Sky Francis Fitzsimons

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.

PARISH CALENDAR

DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA NOTICES

Sunday 14th December <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i> <i>Year A</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass—SRE recruitment 10.45am Baptisms 7.00pm Christmas Concert
Monday 15th December	Office is closed 9.15am End of Year School Graduation Mass
Tuesday 16th December	9.15am Mass 1.00pm Pastoral Care Meeting M/R 6.00pm Cantabile Choir Practice
Wednesday 17th December	9.15am Mass followed by Rosary 9.30am Playgroup P/C 7.00pm Bridge Club P/C 7.30pm Christmas Carols Rehearsal
Thursday 18th December	9.15am Healing Mass followed by morning tea 1.00pm Bridge Club P/C 3.30pm Advent Group M/R
Friday 19th December	9.15am Mass 12.00pm Bowlers P/C
Saturday 20th December	9.15am Mass 4.15pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass
Sunday 21st December <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i> <i>Year A</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass 1.00pm Bridge Club P/C 4.30pm Parish Christmas Carols followed by sausage sizzle.

Positions Vacant
✦ Catholic Chaplain – Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains
More details at: parracatholic.org/jobs

Grab your FREE copy of the Catholic Outlook Magazine!
The latest quarterly edition of the *Catholic Outlook Magazine* is out now, keeping you connected with exciting news and events in the Diocese of Parramatta. In this Advent/Summer edition, you will find:

- Bishop Vincent’s Christmas message
- The Migrant Jubilee cross visiting Western Sydney
- Stories of love at the annual Wedding Anniversary Mass Reflections for the Advent and Christmas season

Pick up your copy from your church today! Also available online via catholicoutlook.org/magazine

Migrant Jubilee Cross visits the Diocese of Parramatta
To mark the end of the Jubilee Year, the Vatican’s Migrant Jubilee Cross will be visiting several parishes in the Diocese of Parramatta from 5-11 January. For one week, the Diocese of Parramatta will come alive with celebrations that recognise the faith, gifts and resilience of migrant communities who have enriched our parishes, schools and communities. Bring your friends and family to experience the Migrant Jubilee Cross Pilgrimage at a parish near you. Learn more at parracatholic.org/migrant-jubilee-cross.

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>.

Dominican Retreat
Single adults, ages 18-35, are invited to join the Dominican Friars and Sisters for a weekend retreat at St Mary’s Towers, Douglas Park, NSW from 13-15 February 2026. The retreat will consist of talks, discussion, silence, Eucharistic Adoration, the

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.

SHARE THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL!

The Catechist team here at St Finbars would like to invite you to join us in our mission to share the joy of the gospel to the young students in our local public schools.

In 2026 we will need more Special Religious Education Catechists to join us in this wonderful ministry of planting the seeds of faith.

We may not see the harvest but we are called to the vineyard to bring God's love and merciful face to young people.

Training and curriculum materials all provided! Start as a Catechist helper if that appeals more and please keep us in your prayers. Speak to the parish office or one of our friendly team to find out more.

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 TO MRS. ROBYN CLARKE—ST FINBAR'S SCHOOL PRINCIPAL.

With heartfelt gratitude, we bid farewell to our much-loved Principal, **Mrs. Robyn Clarke**.

Her years of dedicated leadership, wisdom, and care have shaped our school community in countless ways. Mrs. Clarke's vision and commitment have nurtured both students and staff, leaving a legacy of excellence and kindness that will be long remembered.

As she embarks on the next chapter of her journey, we extend our warmest wishes for joy, health, and fulfillment in all that lies ahead. May the future bring her every happiness, just as she has brought so much to us.

Thank you, Robyn, for your service and your guidance. You will always remain part of our school family.



2025 CHRISTMAS MASSES & CONFESSIONS 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

Parish Family Christmas Carols

Sunday 21st December at 4.30pm

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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 20TH & 21ST DECEMBER 2025

Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	Vince Dobson	Peter McMahon	Stuart Sheary
Senior Server	Vince Dobson	Peter McMahon	Martin Rogers
Junior Servers	Volunteers please		Joseph Sheary & Johnny Hamilton
Warden	Lorraine Brown	Volunteer Please	Frank Fitzpatrick
Advent Prayer	Thais Turner	Andrew Teece	Steve Brown
1 st Reading	Maire Griffin	Carl Moll	Peter or Trish Hurley
2nd Reading	Gideon Goosen	Andrew Teece	Gary Clune
Intercession	Margaret Moore	John De Mattia	Irene Aligno
Music	Cantabile		Finnie's Group
IT Operators	Anne Hobbs	Elizabeth Konza	Dan Kensey
Gifts	Thea & Brian Robertson	Kay Whitty	The Wilson Family
Communion	Ahyiesha D'Souza & Bernie Fisher	Brian Grech & Helen Keogh	Irene Aligno & Erin Kelly
Children's Liturgy	School Holidays		
Church Care	Volunteers please		
Hospitality	Trish & Peter Hurley, Irene and Bert Aligno		
Lawn Mowing	Tony Doyle, Darren Dukes and Bryan Egan		

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:

Henry Brockway, Malcolm King, Coral Darr, Denis O'Sullivan, Ann Lowe, Stephen Schaefer, Mark Broomhead, James Gapps, Marjorie Doyle, Margaret Gibson, Joseph Lopez, Venita Bronlow, Phyllis Helm and Anthony Crimston.

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