

St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook

The Barra

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

17th & 18th January 2026



Isaiah 49:3, 5-6; Psalm 39; 1 Corinthians 1:1-3; John 1:29-34

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.....

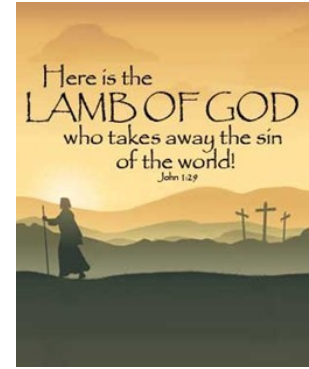
The man who removes a mountain begins by carrying away small stones." -- William Faulkner

There are many sayings which, in their own way, capture the essence of our quotation today. What we might take from it is the understandable human desire to get things done as quickly as possible. We may also see that despite the "plans of mice and men" the practicalities of our wishes have to be guided by reality. If we need to move a mountain then we need to apply the laws of nature and do so a bit at a time.

New year resolutions are a typical example of poor thinking and planning in this regard. Great promises of spending two hours a day at the gym doing resistance training to deliver the "body beautiful" by the end of the following month is most unlikely to deliver the goods. The body needs a much longer strategy. Our impulsiveness may dissuade us to carry on with our plan, and we chalk up another failure on our list of things to do. Gardening is another example over which we have little control except to put in the effort. There are so many variables at work. Weeds, pests, the weather and our bad backs will be far more deterministic in achieving an English country garden.

Maybe we don't have the patience to take care and to spend much time in our endeavours. In our modern quick-fix world we like to have what we want yesterday irrespective of time constraints. But if we remember that it takes one year to get through the four seasons we may realise that our ways of doing things may not be at all natural.

This is the same in the spiritual life. Many go on a day's retreat believing it will really sort out their spiritual lives. They quickly become disappointed. A week's retreat, a month's retreat may be a good kick-start, but it won't be the be-all and end-all of our dreams. Part of the problem with this outlook is that we think we are doing all the work. Absolutely wrong! The main work we do in spiritual growth is to lay ourselves open to God so that the Holy Spirit can take us further along the journey. It is all grace. To become nearer to God, and therefore like God, is very noble, and even that is a grace from God. But the work is God's, and He will not be rushed. We cannot even think to attain the mystical experiences of the likes of Saint Teresa of Avila or Saint John of the Cross within a few days or months of our deciding it to be so. God works slowly in us because there is so much trash to be disposed of, and we will not like the clearing-out that needs to be done! "Slowly does it" needs to be the hallmark of our spiritual endeavours.



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

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

Sunday 18th January <i>2nd Sunday in Ordinary time Year A</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass 1.00pm Bridge P/C
Monday 19th January	No Mass. Office is closed
Tuesday 20th January	9.15am Mass 7.00pm Parish Finance Committee
Wednesday 21st January <i>St Agnes</i>	9.15am Mass followed by Rosary 7.00pm Bridge P/C
Thursday 22nd January	9.15am Mass 1.00pm Bridge P/C
Friday 23rd January	9.15am Mass 1.30pm Bowlers P/C
Saturday 24th January <i>St Francis de Sales</i>	9.15am Mass 4.15pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass
Sunday 25th January <i>3rd Sunday in Ordinary time Year A</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:
Natalie Gott, Miguel Cordoba (Nora Cordoba) and Chris O'Meara.

PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK PARISHIONERS, RELATIVES & FRIENDS:
John Brown, Mila Svehla, Anita Keenan, 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, Marcia Pereira, Joan Brown, Catherine, Elizabeth and Monika Gawlik.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:
Guiseppe Nardi, Angela McGregor, Kathleen McFadden, Bruce Oxford, Philip Mason, John Castor, Phillip Coburn, Patrick Egan and Lachlan Turnbull.



WORKING BEE: SATURDAY JANUARY 24th
TIME: 7.30am to 9.30am

TASK: Mulching some of the garden

A limited supply of relevant tools will be available so it would be great if you can bring any of these tools:

rake, shovel, bucket/s

For your own comfort and protection please *bring items such as long-sleeve shirt, hat, sunscreen, gloves, water.*

If you are able to help, please contact Kieran 0438242652. Thank you.

ST.FINBAR'S (GLENBROOK) NETBALL CLUB

St. Finbar's Netball Club has been providing a safe, family-oriented space for young (as well as the not-so-young) people to play since 1969. Registrations for season 2026 are now open.

For any and all enquiries, please email sfgncpresident@gmail.com or phone 0423 623 489.

Tania De La Mare (President)

LITURGICAL ROSTER FOR 24TH & 25TH JANUARY 2026

Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	Ahyiesha D'Souza	Carl Moll	Stephen Brown
Senior Server	Ahyiesha D'Souza	Carl Moll	Stephen Brown
Junior Servers	Volunteers Please		Sebastian & Oscar Baird, Nicholas Egan
Warden	Margaret Richards	Volunteer Please	Frank Zammit
1 st Reading	Jim Barndon	Kevin Lloyd	Cecilia Zammit
2nd Reading	Naomi Cheeseman	Andrew Teece	Annissa Nilsson
Intercession	Katy Ferris	Peter McMahon	Yvonne Scanlan
Music	NO MUSIC	IN	JANUARY
IT Operators	Pat Watson	Robyn Flynn	Joanne Stubbs
Gifts	Steve & Heather Lee	Rivas Family	The Young Family
Communion	Lorraine Brown & Peter McIlvenna	Jessica Tiller & Jean Di Nucci	Annissa Nilsson & Carmel Higgins
Children's Liturgy	School Holidays		
Church Care	Jeannine Ashbee, Leesa & Wayne Gillard		
Hospitality	No Hospitality in January		