



St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook

The Barra

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

7th & 8th February 2026



Isaiah 58:7-10; Psalm: 111; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5; Matthew 5:13-16

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 word 'question' is derived from the Latin 'quarrier' (to seek) which is also the root of 'quest.' A creative life is a continued quest, and good questions can be very useful guides. Most useful are open-ended questions; they allow for fresh unanticipated answers to reveal themselves." -- Source Unknown

One of the deepest questions we can ask is "what is this world all about?". Much literature has been written over thousands of years and remains valid to this day. So many answers to just one question. The ancients loved good stories and would pay well to hear them. Many were in the form of a quest undertaken by somebody who went through many trials and tribulations, overcoming them and providing a good example to follow. Endurance is the name of the game. Homer's *Odyssey* or Virgil's *Aeneid* are just two examples of how overcoming the odds we might get our questions answered. More modern examples also abound such as the *Star Wars* series where the question of how to overcome evil is presented in dramatic fashion. And people are faced with their own frailties. Facing oneself is one of the oldest questions seeking an answer there is.

Finding oneself can be a bit of an arduous task because often we don't know where to begin. Part of the problem is we do not necessarily ask the right question in the first place. It is an unfortunate trait of fallen humanity to be so self-absorbed in wondering who we might be that we are enclosed in a cocoon with little ability to step out of the box and see afresh. For the Christian there is the light of faith to help us on our quest in asking questions of a deep nature. What is this world all about seeks more than just a scientific answer about a material explanation. It is to seek meaning and purpose in the creation. Taking a wider view we know and believe that we are made in the Image of God and our questions become clearer and more focused. Questions such as where do I come from, where am I going, and how do I get there become far more important and relevant to us in looking for a resolution about who I am.

Once our minds are firmly established in the knowledge of the Image of God we can let our thoughts run riot in creative question where the answers we seek guide the questions we ask. Because, the intellect will not be satisfied until we know and understand the wisdom of God. We abandon superfluous questions about the nature of things and concentrate on the true answers of God's intentions in the salvation of humanity and what it means to be forever in heaven with God. For this to happen we need to ask the correct questions and open ourselves to the Lord's answers.

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 (In acting)
Mrs Kym Romanous
Phone: 4724 3600

Baptisms

The Parish joyfully welcomes the Baptisms of

Regina Mary Elizabeth Christie
Josephine Marie Robinson &
Amira Nematalla

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

Sunday 8th February <i>5th Sunday in Ordinary time Year A</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass 10.45am Baptisms
Monday 9th February	No Morning Mass –Office is closed
Tuesday 10th February <i>St Scholastica</i>	9.15am Mass 6.00pm Cantabile Choir practice
Wednesday 11th February	9.15am Mass followed by Rosary 9.30am Playgroup P/C 7.00pm Bridge P/C
Thursday 12th February	9.15am Mass 1.00pm Bridge P/C
Friday 13th February	9.15am Mass 1.30pm Bowlers P/C
Saturday 14th February <i>Sts Cyril and Methodius</i>	9.15am Mass 4.15pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass
Sunday 15th February <i>6th Sunday in Ordinary time Year A</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass 1.00pm Bridge Club P/C 6.00pm Youth Mass 7.00pm Senior Youth Group P/C

BE A STRONGER YOU – FREE EMPOWERMENT COURSE FOR WOMEN

Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains has partnered with Survivor Voice Australia to run a free six-week empowerment program for women who have experienced domestic violence and abuse. The program will start in February 2026 in the Blue Mountains. Contact Catholic Care to express your interest: (02) 8843 2500.

PARRAMATTA DIOCESE NEWS

Be the Witness

Calling all singers to participate in the upcoming auditions for the Chorus and Crew, for the musical "Be The Witness" Auditions are on:
 Sunday, 1st Feb from 11am - 4pm
 Monday, 2nd Feb from 6pm - 8pm
 At : St. Patrick's Church, Allawah Street, Blacktown. Click here to register now!

Registrations is still open.

(link to: <https://www.privyr.com/form/5W7hISmG#the-witness-musical-cast-crew>)

For more information, please visit www.bethewitness.com.au

FaithLIFE Scripture Short Course: Begins 10 February

FaithLIFE Scripture offers a 3-session Catholic Bible study and faith formation short course on how to engage with the Bible through the Catholic tradition during turbulent times. The program will run on Tuesday 10, 17 and 24 February at Our Lady, Queen of Peace Parish, Greystanes, from 7pm to 9pm. The program is facilitated by Scripture scholar Dr Michele Connolly RSJ and is open to adults of all ages and supports ongoing adult faith formation. To register, visit <https://parracatholic.org/events/faithlife-scripture-session-1/>

Diocesan World Day of the Sick: 11 February

A Mass for the World Day of the Sick, including the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, will be held at 11am on 11 February 2026 at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown. All are welcome, including those who may be sick, and those who care for the sick and dying and health care professionals. To register, please visit parracatholic.org/events/diocesan-world-day-of-the-sick-mass/

Safeguarding Training Dates for Deaneries

From this year, parishes within a Deanery will have the same Safeguarding Training Renewal and Refresher Dates. In 2026, the dates for those in a Deanery to update and complete their Training will be:

- Blacktown Deanery – April 2026
- The Hills Deanery – August 2026
- Cumberland Deanery – November 2026

The remaining Deaneries will renew in 2027.

Online Training Modules are always available for those who are entering ministry.

Face-to-face opportunities can be found at: <https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training>.

For further inquiries and to book in F2F Training dates at your Parish, please contact: safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org

IT MINISTRY COORDINATOR NEEDED

The parish extends its sincere thanks to Patrick (Pat) Watson, who has faithfully led our IT Ministry since 2015, originally appointed by Fr Jolly Chacko. After many years of dedicated service, Pat has stepped down from this ministry, effective **1 March 2026**.

We are now in urgent need of a new volunteer to take on this important role.

The IT Ministry Coordinator is responsible for:

- Preparing the weekend operator roster
- Coordinating and supporting all IT operators
- Preparing the IT slides for the second weekend of each month
- Being available to troubleshoot issues with the church computer and screens

Pat is happy to train the new coordinator and guide them through everything he does.

If you are able to assist, please contact the parish office.

This is a vital ministry in the life of our church, and we are grateful for anyone who can help ensure it continues.

EARTHCARE WORKSHOP SATURDAY 21 FEBRUARY 10AM-1.30PM

The Earthcare and Social Justice team have engaged the Blue Mountains Council to run two workshops for parishioners on reducing our food waste and how to compost. It is estimated that about 33% of what goes to landfill is organic waste which then contributes significantly to the production of methane gases and climate change. As Catholics we are called to hear the cry of the poor and the cry of the earth. Come join us as we explore practical ideas for how we can make a difference.

We will also learn about Council's plans for moving to the FOGO bin system in 2027. Register at <https://events.humanitix.com/avoiding-food-waste-and-composting> or through the QR code. See also our flyer in the Narthex. Note places are limited.

If you have any questions please contact the parish office on 47426958.

DISCOVER YOUR GIFTS

Are you wondering - How can I know and follow Jesus' plan for my life? What special gifts has God given me? How can I go deeper in my faith journey?

If the answer to any of these questions is "yes", then the Called & Gifted Discernment Process (C&G) may be for you. C&G helps Christians recognise the unique charisms, or spiritual gifts, that they have been given in order to represent Christ and be a channel of God's goodness for others. St Finbars will be running C&G over six sessions beginning Tuesday 24 February. For more information see the flyer in the narthex, or call Dan Kensey on 0403 995 620. The cost is \$100 per person.

LENTEN GROUP SIGN UP SHEET—MARTIN ROGERS GROUP ON SATURDAY MORNING AT 9AM

Please add your name to the list on the Warden's table. The group starts on Saturday the 21st of February at 9am.



2ND WORKING BEE: SATURDAY FEBRUARY 14TH

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 0419246972.

A sincere thank you to those 5 fabulous parishioners who assisted us at the 1st working bee. Thank you also to the one person who mowed the lawn owing to rain preventing the work previously. You did a great job.

**Bateman
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take advantage of our legal services.

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LITURGICAL ROSTER FOR 14TH & 15TH FEBRUARY 2026

Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	7.30 am	9.30 am	6.00pm Youth Mass
Sacristan	Vince Dobson	Peter McMahon	Stuart Sheary	Nick McMaster
Senior Server	Vince Dobson	Peter McMahon	Martin Rogers	Nick McMaster & Quentin Lynch
Junior Servers	Volunteers Please		Joseph Sheary & Johnny Hamilton	Sophia Lynch & James Horner
Warden	Lorraine Brown	Ben Oxley	Frank Fitzpatrick	Daniel Lynch
1 st Reading	Maire Griffin	Carl Moll	Peter or Trish Hurley	Elizabeth Christie
2nd Reading	Gideon Goosen	Andrew Teece	Gary Clune	Joanne Stubbs
Intercession	Margaret Moore	John De Mattia	Irene Aligno	Volunteer please
Music	Cantabile		Finnie's Group	
IT Operators	Anne Hobbs	Elizabeth Konza	Dan Kensey	Lachlan Lloyd
Gifts	Thea & Brian Robertson	Kay Whitty	The Wilson Family	N/A
Communion	Bernie Fisher & Volunteer Please	Helen Keogh & Volunteer Please	Irene Aligno & Wendy Brown	Brendan Khnouf
Children's Liturgy				
Church Care	Volunteers please			
Hospitality	Trish & Peter Hurley, Irene and Bert Aligno			
Lawn Mowing	Rob Lennon & Bob Hanigan.			

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

Gilbert Frontain (Jeannine Ashbee's Dad), Phil Bailey (Michelle Santoro's Dad), Natalie Gott and Miguel Cordoba (Nora Cordoba's husband).

PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK PARISHIONERS, RELATIVES & FRIENDS:

Allan Jones, Marcia Pereira, 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, Joan (Marcia Pereira's Niece), Catherine, Elizabeth and Monika Gawlik.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:

Richard Smith, Robert Sisson, Mark Devlin, Joan Whiting, Daphne Klein and Ben Gibson.

GRACE

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