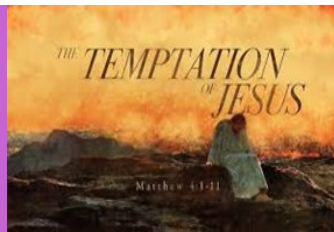


St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook

The Barra

1st Sunday of Lent - Year A

21st & 22nd February 2026



Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7; Psalm: 50; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

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.....

"Mastery does not come from dabbling. We have to be prepared to pay the price. We need to have the sustained enthusiasm that motivates us to give our best." -- Eknath Easwaran

Our quotation today gives us a precise encouragement, at the beginning of Lent, to treat our Lenten resolutions with the respect with which they are due. Not taking on too much, nor doing little or nothing are not worthy of us as human beings being called to greater things. We need to become aware of our earthly limitations, and taking on too much is likely to cause failure within a couple of days. A positive attitude to our Lenten practices can give enormous benefit to our success. Even how we refer to them is a positive stepping stone to help us reap the rewards in our spiritual/moral lives. Calling them "penances" seems to infer something imposed from the outside with which we may not be entirely comfortable.

Addressing them as "resolutions" gives a positive slant whereby we acknowledge them as freely chosen by ourselves, and gladly undertaken to increase an awareness of our imperfection and to reach out, with the support of God, to slowly achieve the glory which He continually wishes to bestow on us.

But we have to be committed to the path we have chosen, this Lent or any other Lent. *"Mastery does not come from dabbling"*. Starting with one resolution and continually changing it day by day cannot give the success we seek. Homing in on one's weakness which we wish to overcome cannot be addressed if we are continually changing our goals because what we experience seems to be too hard. *"We have to be prepared to pay the price."* The price is sticking to our resolution no matter how hard the struggle is. Otherwise our journey to God, of which Lent is a significant part, will end up merely lukewarm rather than the fire of enthusiasm *"which motivates us to give our best"*. I'm sure most of us would acknowledge from past experience that arriving at Easter Sunday with only less than a half-hearted attempt at Lenten resolutions does leave a sour taste in our mouths. Hardly the right disposition to celebrate the Resurrection praises of our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. As is so often the case we remain dissatisfied with ourselves and we need to keep picking ourselves up and dusting ourselves down.

To avoid this it is best to choose something easy, definite and manageable within the time span of six weeks. Take the resolution gently and bolster ourselves with daily successes which can give a wonderful experience of achievement. Then the feast of Resurrection can be ours without doubt, knowing our Saviour has helped us through. To Him be the glory!

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

Rosie Ann Jurkovic & Cali Louise Summerville

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 22nd February <i>1st Sunday of Lent</i> <i>Year A</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass 10.45am Baptisms
Monday 23rd February	No Morning Mass –Office is closed
Tuesday 24th February	9.15am Mass 6.00pm Cantabile Choir Practice 7.30pm Baptism Preparation Meeting M/R
Wednesday 25th February	9.15am Mass followed by Rosary 9.30am Playgroup 7.00pm Bridge P/C 7.30pm Liturgy Committee Meeting M/R
Thursday 26th February	9.15am Mass 10.00am Easter Triduum preparation meeting M/R 1.00pm Bridge P/C 3.30pm Mila's Lenten Group M/R 7.30pm Easter Triduum preparation meeting M/R
Friday 27th February	9.15am Mass 1.30pm Bowlers P/C 7.30pm Stations of the Cross
Saturday 28th February	9.00am Martin's Lenten Group M/R 9.15am Mass 4.15pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass
Sunday 1st March <i>2nd Sunday of Lent</i> <i>Year A</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass 6.00pm Youth Mass 7.00pm Youth Group P/C

LOST AND FOUND. This wedding ring and golden bracelet were found in the church last week.

Please contact the parish office on 4742 6958 if they belong to you .
Thank you.



PARRAMATTA DIOCESE NEWS

Catholic Youth Parramatta 2026 Kick-Off: 26 February

Young people from across the Diocese are invited to an evening of celebration as we begin 2026 together. Hear testimonies from local leaders, take part in prayer, connect with others, and discover the vision for Catholic Youth Parramatta in the year ahead. Join us on Thursday 26 February from 7pm to 9.30pm at Holy Family Primary School, 11 Emert Parade, Emerton. Register today: <https://parracatholic.org/events/liftedlaunch/>

Volunteer Communicators Network

Are you savvy with a camera, writing or social media? We want to hear from you! Share your interest with us to support our storytelling in **Catholic Outlook**, our websites and social media. Name/contact details are required: Parracatholic.org/communicators

Parish Events

UNIVERSAL SISTERHOOD PODCAST

PRESENTS

DWELL

WOMEN'S RETREAT

May 16th 2026

8.30am—4.30pm \$90 per ticket or 5 for \$400

Please use the QR code to Book.



MOTHER'S DAY HIGH TEA—Fundraising for the Parish Office Floor Covering

Saturday, 9 May 2026 at 2.30pm Parish Hall

Cost: \$25/pp

Join us for a lovely afternoon!

Enjoy a warm and welcoming **Mother's Day High Tea**, filled with fun, friendship, and the chance to meet other wonderful ladies in our parish community. Please contact the parish office to add your name.

We look forward to sharing this special afternoon with you.

EASTER TRIDUUM PREPARATION

The Liturgy Committee with Sister Carmel and Margaret Richards are holding five information sessions on the Easter Triduum, its meaning, symbols and preparation. These will be held on Thursdays in Lent commencing Thursday 26th February at 10.15am following Morning Mass and repeated at 7.30pm that evening. Each session will be for one hour. All parishioners are invited particularly the musicians and those planning to be involved in the Easter Liturgies.

Thank you. *Carmel and Margaret.*

LENTEN SOUP SUNDAY – 8 MARCH at 11.30AM

The Interfaith Church Group warmly invites everyone to **Lenten Soup Sunday** on **Sunday, 8 March**, hosted this year at the **Baptist Church, Glenbrook**.

Come and share a simple meal of delicious homemade soups while supporting fundraising for a worthy cause. It's a wonderful opportunity to gather in fellowship and generosity with our wider church community.

As part of our contribution, St Finbar's parish community is asked to provide 6–7 soups. If you are able to help by making a soup for the day, please contact the Parish Office. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

LENTEN REFLECTIONS FROM ST FINBAR'S EARTHCARE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP

Lent is a season of repentance and growth—a great time to reflect on the values that Jesus teaches us through the Gospels. It is a time when we can begin to make significant changes in our lives.

Each year since 1940 the Australian Bishops have released a major Social Justice Statement. The 2025/2026 Statement is entitled *Signs of Hope on the Edge* <http://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2025/08/06/signs-of-hope-on-the-edge-social-justice-statement-2025-2026/>. This Statement focuses on the intersection of homelessness and mental ill-health. Through personal stories it explores the complexity of both these issues and calls us to move beyond indifference to actively engage with those on the margins. We are called not to walk past, but to walk with. Not to avert our eyes, but to notice with love. Not to offer only charity, but to foster relationships of dignity and belonging—every person has a name, a story, and an unshakeable dignity as a child of God.

Each weekend during Lent we will share an idea/insight from this Statement upon which we can ponder and reflect throughout the coming week.

MEN'S BREAKFAST - SATURDAY 7TH MARCH 2026 AT 7.30AM IN THE CHURCH HALL

The Parish is holding another Men's Breakfast as an opportunity for parishioners to meet and get to know one another. This invitation is open to all male parishioners and any of their sons, grandsons, neighbours and friends. For catering purposes we will need to confirm numbers by Sunday 1st of March. Please add your name to the list on the Warden's table.

Any questions please contact Carl Moll 0417 471 137 or John De Mattia 0419 919 443.



A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR NEW IT MINISTRY COORDINATORS

The parish is delighted to extend a heartfelt thank you to Joseph and Michelle Wilson, who have generously volunteered to take on the role of IT Ministry Coordinator following our recent call for assistance.

We are deeply grateful for their willingness to serve our community in this important ministry. Their commitment ensures the smooth running of our weekend liturgies and supports all who rely on our parish's technology.

We also once again thank Patrick (Pat) Watson for his many years of dedicated service and for his continued support as he helps guide Joseph and Michelle into their new roles.

Please join us in praying for Joseph and Michelle as they begin this ministry, and in thanking them for their generous spirit and service to our parish.

3RD WORKING BEE: SATURDAY FEBRUARY 28TH 7.30am to 9.39am. Mulching some of the garden beds.

Morning tea is provided.

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LITURGICAL ROSTER FOR 28TH FEBRUARY & 1ST MARCH 2026

Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	7.30 am	9.30 am	6.00pm Youth Mass
Sacristan	Ahyiesha D'Souza	Peter McMahon	Gerard Egan	Nick McMaster
Senior Server	Ahyiesha D'Souza	Peter McMahon	Lukas Rajnoch	Nick McMaster & Tim Kensey
Junior Servers	Alex & Luc Nilsson		Xavier Rajnoch, Elizabeth & Sofia Grus	James Horner
Warden	Vince Dobson	Ben Oxley	Gary Clune	Volunteer Please
1 st Reading	Beth Culliver	John De Mattia	Pearse Cremin	Elizabeth Christie
2nd Reading	Jim Bardon	Andrew Teece	Amanda Moore	Volunteer Please
Intercession	Greg Rowe	Kevin Flynn	Patricia Murnane	Yvonne Scanlan
Music	Naomi's Group		Anne's Group	Youth Choir
IT Operators	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Gifts	Eleanor Thompson & Volunteer Please	Maria Heinzl & Stanis Drobiszewski	The Grus Family	N/A
Communion	Elizabeth Rowe & Jim Bardon	Volunteers Please	Wendy Brown & Martin Rogers	Brendan Khnouf
Children's Liturgy	Christyna & Clare			
Church Care	Volunteers please			
Hospitality	Lina Wiecek & Vicky Ang			
Lawn Mowing	Lukas Rajnoch, Andrew Howard, Stuart Sheary & Brendan Christie			

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

Jennifer Devlin, 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:

Margaret Moore, Allan Jones, John Brown, Mila Svehla, Anita Keenan, 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 and Marcia Pereira, 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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