

St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook

The Barra

2nd Sunday of Lent - Year A

28th February & 1st March 2026



Genesis 12:1-4; Psalm: 32; 2 Timothy 1:8-10; Matthew 17:1-9

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.....

"We're so engaged in doing things to achieve purposes of outer value that we forget that the inner value, the rapture that is associated with being alive, is what it's all about." -- Joseph Campbell

Well, we have such great earthly wisdom today to help us in our spiritual journey. The wisdom we are considering hits the nail on the head when we contemplate the attention and energy we attach to the goals we choose to achieve. The eternal reward to our endeavours is of heavenly import and is graced by God. It concerns the spiritual health of our souls. As fallen humanity the abode of the soul is rather hidden from our eyes and we can find it difficult to attach sight and meaning to the soul. We believe that we have a soul, which is the place for the indwelling of God, but we may be uncertain about the experience of it.

We are more easily taken with what we can see and feel with our senses, which is God-given, so we are not going to dismiss it. We are here to flourish, to excel in the capacities with which we are endowed. Such talents and gifts abound and we may be particularly gifted in many areas. What is easy to not notice is that earth-bound capacities are meant for the building up of this world but we may not be able to carry them into the next world. The gifts we have from God by way of sanctification will surely be granted merit at our personal judgment. While we are earthly beings, we shall lay down our mortal coils at death and our personal projects to be the best human beings we can become will come to an end.

What distinguishes humanity from the rest of creation is the spiritual element of who we are, the "inner value" by which we move and have our being. Made in the Image of God we have to keep reminding ourselves of our true self-worth. This can be tricky when we are so earth-bound as to forget the dignity we carry at all times. Even though earth-bound for now we can begin to savour the taste of heavenly realities. This entails the "rapture of being alive". For those of a negative disposition we easily see the glass as always half-empty.

Being raptured with being alive at all can give us the impetus to see the glass as almost full because we live in a world of continuous possibilities. We just need to look closely to see how blessed we continue to be.

May the season of Lent help us to be positive in acknowledging how great we are, after the measure of our Saviour himself.



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

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

PARRAMATTA DIOCESE NEWS

<p>Sunday 1st March <i>2nd Sunday of Lent Year A</i></p>	<p>7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass 6.00pm Youth Mass 7.00pm Youth Group P/C</p>
<p>Monday 2nd March</p>	<p>No Morning Mass -Office is closed 5.00pm SVDP Meeting M/R</p>
<p>Tuesday 3rd March</p>	<p>9.15am Mass 10.00am Timeout Tuesday 6.00pm Cantabile Choir Practice 7.30pm Parent's Sacramental Information Night P/C</p>
<p>Wednesday 4th March</p>	<p>9.15am Mass followed by Rosary 9.30am Playgroup 7.00pm Bridge P/C</p>
<p>Thursday 5th March</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>Friday 6th March</p>	<p>9.15am Mass 1.30pm Bowlers P/C 7.30pm Stations of the Cross</p>
<p>Saturday 7th March</p>	<p>7.30am Men's Breakfast P/C 9.00am Martin's Lenten Group M/R 9.15am Mass 4.15pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass</p>
<p>Sunday 8th March <i>3rd Sunday of Lent Year A</i></p>	<p>7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass 10.45am Baptisms 11.00am Lenten Soup Sunday at the Baptist Church</p>

When should I complete my Safeguarding Training?

All Clergy, employees and volunteers in parish ministry are required by the NSW Children's Guardian Act 2019 to be current and complete with Safeguarding Training. Check with your Parish Office when you are due to update your Safeguarding Training.

- If you are new to ministry, you must complete the Introductory Modules 1-3 (Cycle 1).
 - If you completed Cycle 1 modules two years ago, you must complete Renewal Modules 4 and 5 (Cycle 2)
 - If you renewed your Cycle 2 two years ago, you must complete a Refresher Module 6 (Cycle 3)
- Safeguarding Training Modules can always be completed online at <https://learning.safeguarding.org.au/>.

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

MEN'S BREAKFAST - SATURDAY 7TH OF 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 February. 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.

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.

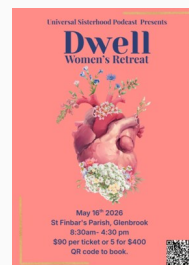
We look forward to sharing this special afternoon with you.

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.



CHURCH IT UPDATE

Pat Watson has arranged for an IT company to assess the church's technology system. Following their inspection, they have advised that at least two of the TV screens are no longer functioning and cannot be repaired. Tamar and Pat are currently seeking the best available pricing for two replacement TVs. Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

2026 SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION EVENING

Parents of children who wish to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, 1st Holy Communion and Confirmation in 2026 are required to attend Parents Sacramental Information Night on Tuesday the 3rd of March at 7.30pm in the parish hall. Registration Forms and requirements for participation in each of the Sacraments will be discussed and distributed during the meeting. Children need not attend.

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*

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2026 – FOCUS ON NIGERIA

Service Date: Friday 6th March 2026 at 7.30pm
Location: Lower Blue Mountains Uniting Church
Address: 72 Old Bathurst Rd, Blaxland East
Contact: Peter 0402 045 093



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.

BEING A SIGN OF HOPE TO THOSE ON THE EDGE: SOME THOUGHTS FROM THE AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS' ANNUAL SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT

The 2025/2026 *Australian Catholic Bishops Social Justice on Homelessness and Mental Health* invites us to embrace a culture of encounter when engaging with marginalised people, including homeless people with mental ill-health. The Statement tells the stories behind some people we might encounter on the street or in our communities. They are people dealing with tragedy, substance abuse and significant mental health diagnoses. The statement emphasises that this could be any one of us or our family members—they are not just statistics. It encourages us to see those facing these challenges as God's children not just a societal "problem".

It is a significant challenge for each of us to know how to respond when engaging with people facing homelessness or mental health challenges on the streets, on our trains and in other public spaces. This Statement challenges us to rethink our attitudes:

'We encourage all who are baptised to offer loving friendship to people on the edge of society. Instead of walking by and not noticing the plight of our neighbours, pay attention to them and their plight, listen to their stories, and serve them with the love we learn from Jesus.'

How can we do as individuals, and as a Parish Community, embrace a culture of encounter with people on the margins? <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2025/08/06/signs-of-hope-on-the-edge-social-justice-statement-2025-2026/>.

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LITURGICAL ROSTER FOR 7TH & 8TH MARCH 2026

Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	Jim Barndon	Carl Moll	Garry Pursehouse
Senior Server	Jim Barndon	Carl Moll	Nick McMaster
Junior Servers	Quentin Lynch & Sophie Lynch		Summer Wilson, Oliver Wilson & Noah Young
Warden	Maree Roach	Ben Oxley	Patricia Murnane
1 st Reading	Maureen Tulk	Peter McMahan	Richard Cutler
2nd Reading	Therese Ross	Geraldine Agahari	Frank Zammit
Intercession	Felicity Lindfield	Elizabeth Konza	Joanne Stubbs
Music			
IT Operators	Juliette Lynch	Kylie Mills	Sophia Karatovic
Gifts	Margaret & Michael Richards	Volunteers Please	Dorothea Walsh
Communion	Brian Robertson & Vince Dobson	Brian Grech & Helen Keogh	Yvonne Scanlan & Colin Stead
Children's Liturgy	Daniella & Gwen		
Church Care	Francis Isaksen, Lynne Atkinson, Veronica Clune, Emily Mulhall.		
Hospitality	Anne King, Lynn Atkinson, Liz & Daren Dukes		

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

Margaret Moore, Jennifer Devlin, Gilbert Frontain (Jeannine Ashbee's Dad) and Phil Bailey (Michelle Santoro's Dad).

PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK PARISHIONERS, RELATIVES & FRIENDS:

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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