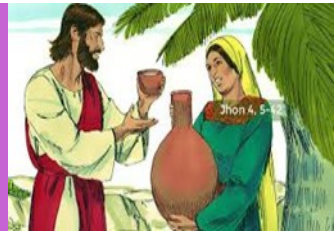


St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook

The Barra

3rd Sunday of Lent - Year A

7th & 8th March 2026



Exodus 17:3-7; Psalm: 94; Romans 5:1-2, 5-8; John 4:5-42

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.....

PARISH INFORMATION

*"With the gift of listening comes the gift of healing."
-- Catherine de Hueck Doherty*

It is not lost on any of us that the art of listening well is not easy to achieve. When we hear someone or something our memories are often flooded with similar experiences we have had and very quickly the conversation sinks to an episode whereby the meaning of it disappears. Listening well means clearing our own minds from the rubble of our past so that we can pay close attention to what the other is saying. This is especially true if the other has sought us out in order to disclose something with which they may be struggling. Patience is important while the other tries to speak clearly to convey the depth of their struggle or suffering. As Christians such attentive listening enables us to participate in the healing ministry of the Lord Jesus, and with so little effort!

People carry around with them mental confusion and suffering which needs to be alleviated. We are not all called to be psychotherapists but we are called to be the face of Christ to those we meet. Gentle listening to the troubles of others as they unburden their afflictions, is a work of God's mercy enabled through us by the Holy Spirit. We should be happy to provide this simple but extremely helpful service to anyone we meet in such circumstances which can be very isolating. What is efficacious about this ministry, and ministry it is, is that the person feels acknowledged and experiences some healing by the very act of being listened to. In the social context of a one-to-one encounter they come to know that they are not on their own, and someone else understands what they are going through. The other does not expect us to solve problems, but the very act of unburdening themselves is a gateway to settling their own minds and seeing their experiences in a much wider context. Thus, the other begins to distance themselves from concentrating on one aspect of their suffering and allows it to become a smaller part of a much greater whole. Such helpful listening empowers the other to take control of their lives instead of feeling out of control.

And we have done very little except to listen well and allow the other to recover their own sense of wellbeing and re-establish their own sense of agency in their lives. Our quotation today is quite right. Listening well has the tremendous gift of enabling healing and requires from us Christians such little effort. May the Healing Christ be with us!

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 (Acting)
Mrs Kym Romanous
Phone: 4724 3600

Baptisms

The Parish joyfully welcomes the Baptisms of

Charlie Joshua Devrell & Casey Thomas Sneesby

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

PARRAMATTA DIOCESE NEWS

<p>Sunday 8th March</p> <p><i>3rd Sunday of Lent Year A</i></p>	<p>7.30am Mass</p> <p>9.30am Mass</p> <p>10.45am Baptisms</p> <p>11.00am Lenten Soup Sunday—Baptist Church</p>
<p>Monday 9th March</p>	<p>No Morning Mass -Office is closed</p>
<p>Tuesday 10th March</p>	<p>9.15am Mass</p> <p>6.00pm Cantabile Choir Practice</p>
<p>Wednesday 11th March</p>	<p>9.15am Mass followed by Rosary</p> <p>9.30am Playgroup</p> <p>10.00am Easter Triduum information meeting M/R</p> <p>7.00pm Bridge P/C</p> <p>7.30pm Easter Triduum information meeting M/R</p>
<p>Thursday 12th March</p>	<p>9.15am Mass</p> <p>1.00pm Bridge P/C</p> <p>3.30pm Mila's Lenten Group M/R</p>
<p>Friday 13th March</p>	<p>9.15am Mass</p> <p>1.30pm Bowlers P/C</p> <p>7.30pm Stations of the Cross</p>
<p>Saturday 14th March</p>	<p>9.00am Martin's Lenten Group M/R</p> <p>9.15am Mass</p> <p>4.15pm Confessions</p> <p>5.30pm Vigil Mass</p>
<p>Sunday 15th March</p> <p><i>4th Sunday of Lent Year A</i></p>	<p>7.30am Mass</p> <p>9.30am Mass</p> <p>1.00pm Bridge Club</p> <p>6.00pm Youth Mass</p> <p>7.00pm Senior Youth Group P/C</p>

Special Screening – “Guadalupe: Mother of Humanity”

Friday 20 March, 7:00pm – Cloister Hall, St Patrick’s Cathedral, Parramatta
Discover the miraculous story of Our Lady of Guadalupe and the enduring mystery of the tilma of Juan Diego.

Tickets \$10 (payable on the night). Popcorn and snacks available. Recommended PG 13+. Stations of the Cross at 6:00pm prior to the screening. Seat reservations appreciated but not required.

Schoenstatt Shrine 24 Hours for the Lord.

You are warmly invited to take part in 24 Hours for the Lord, at the Schoenstatt Shrine in Mulgoa. Commencing with Mass and Confession from Friday 13 March at 6:30 pm to Mass at 5:30 pm on Saturday 14th March. The Shrine will remain open all night for 24 hours of prayer, adoration, and quiet reflection. Whether you come for a few minutes or stay longer, this is a beautiful opportunity to step away from the busyness of life and spend time in the gentle presence of the Lord. All parishioners, families, and visitors are welcome to drop in.

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.



UPPER PRIMARY (YEARS 4-7) YOUTH GROUP

Are you looking for a way for your kids to learn more about Jesus in a fun and creative way? Then the new upper primary (yrs 4-7) youth group at Our lady of the Way, Emu Plains, could be the answer! We meet on the 2nd Friday of every month and each night have a particular theme and includes **games, YouTube, prayer, craft activities and snacks**. Don't forget to bring your friends and new faces are always welcome. Our next night is **Fri 13th March from 7-8.30pm**. Parents need to sign their children in and out. For more information contact the OLOW parish office on 47351041.

PARISH OFFICE VISITORS REGISTER & NEW INCIDENT REPORT PROCESS

To comply with new Diocese requirements, all business visitors to the Parish Office will now be asked to sign the Visitors Register Book when attending the office for any parish-related business. This helps us maintain accurate records and ensure a safe and accountable environment for everyone. It is located in the office reception room. In addition, the parish is introducing an Incident Report Register for any incident that occurs on parish grounds. If you witness or are involved in any incident—no matter how small—please email Tamar at admin@stfinbars.org.au so it can be recorded appropriately.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us keep our parish community safe, organised, and well-supported.

THANK YOU TO OUR SACRAMENT COORDINATORS AND ASSISTANTS

The parish extends its heartfelt thanks to Peter McMahon and Elizabeth Culliver, who have generously taken on the role of First Holy Communion Coordinators. We are deeply grateful for their willingness to guide our children and families as they prepare for this beautiful sacrament.

We also offer our sincere thanks to Lucy Limbers for assisting Jessica Doherty with the Sacrament of Confirmation, and to Elizabeth Christie in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Your dedication, kindness, and spirit of service help our young people grow in faith and feel truly supported on their sacramental journey. Thank you for sharing your time, gifts, and hearts with our parish community.

HALL WALL PAINTING UPDATE

Our parish hall has been professionally repainted this week, giving the space a fresh, clean look for all our ministries and community gatherings. We kindly ask everyone who uses the hall to help us care for the newly painted walls by avoiding fingerprints, sticky tape, Blu Tack, and other adhesives that may damage the painted surface.

Thank you for your cooperation and for helping us keep our shared spaces welcoming and well looked after.

ST FINBARS YOUTH BAND INVITE YOU TO: A Lenten Worship night.

Theme: The Cross Sunday 22nd March, 7pm

All are welcome to a night of worship prayer and reflection with a light supper afterwards.

Hope to see you there!

EASTER TRIDUUM INFORMATION MEETINGS: Wednesday morning at 10:00 after morning Mass and 7:30 in the evening the sessions on the Easter Triduum its deep meaning and spirituality are continuing.

We will be looking at the Easter vigil, Christ resurrected his mercy love and grace.

All very welcome Sr Carmel and Margaret.

THE AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS' ANNUAL SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT (2025)

SOME FACTS ABOUT HOMELESSNESS AND MENTAL ILL-HEALTH

- Since 2011 the rate and proportion of homeless people with a mental health issue has increased each year
- Lack of housing availability and domestic violence are the main reasons people with mental ill-health seek assistance from homelessness services
- Approximately one-third of people assisted by homelessness services in 2022-2023 had a mental health issue and about one quarter of these were single parents
- Mental health issues can both contribute to the risk of homelessness and develop in response to homelessness
- There is a severe lack of appropriate services for people with mental health issues
- In 2023 about 40,000 young Australians sought homelessness support and nearly half were turned away from accommodation services because of severe lack of resources
- Homelessness in young people is not just about lack of shelter, it disrupts health, education, mental well-being and future opportunities
- Many homeless young people resort to self-harming and suicide
- The crisis in homelessness requires immediate and sustained action.

What actions can we take as Christians to advocate for adequate services in response to this crisis in homelessness and mental health? How can we respond at a personal level?

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We invite members of the parish to take advantage of our legal services.

- | | |
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LITURGICAL ROSTER FOR 14TH & 15TH MARCH 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	Kevin Lloyd	Peter or Trish Hurley	Elizabeth Christie
2nd Reading	Gideon Goosen	Carl Moll	Erin Kelly	Joanne Stubbs
Intercession	Volunteer Please	John Isaksen	Frank Fitzpatrick	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	Ahyiesha D'souza & Bernie Fisher	Jean Di Nucci & Jim Tierney	Todd Stanford & Erin Kelly	Brendan Khnouf
Children's Liturgy	Cate & Dan			
Church Care	Volunteers please			
Hospitality	Irene & Bert Aligno, Trish & Peter Hurley			
Lawn Mowing	Tony Doyle, Darren Dukes & Bryan Egan			

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK PARISHIONERS, RELATIVES & FRIENDS:

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, Margaret Stevens, Gerard Keenan (Anita Keenan's Son), 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:

Hugh McDaid, Shirley Konza, Joan Morgan, William Chambers, Maree Bowden, Joseph Loader, Irene Williams, Patrick Hanson, Harry Ragen, James Cottier, Vicky Noble, Catherine Smith, Robert Bunda, Anthony Clyne, John Everett, Tadeusz Opiel and Maria Cummins.

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