

# St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook

## *The Barra*

4th Sunday of Lent - Year A

14th & 15th March 2026



1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13; Psalm 22; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

*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.....**

#### **Maundy Thursday**

We are presented with many things during the liturgy of Maundy Thursday. Traditionally the focus was on the Institution of the Eucharistic Celebration and the Institution of the Priesthood. The Washing of Feet was there, often with twelve men representing the twelve apostles which is in aberration to the intentions and meaning of the rite. While we may consider at the Last Supper Christ washing the feet of the disciples with an undertone of Moses ordaining the Levites by washing with water (Leviticus 8:6), Christ gives a new commandment: that his followers should wash each other's feet (*mandatum* in Latin means "command" and where we get "Maundy Thursday"). It is important for us to understand the meaning and purpose so that the rite of washing each other's feet takes on the sacredness of the grace-filled action. It also commits us to following Christ's humility in serving one another by which we continue to develop into the Likeness of Christ. "It was at Antioch in Pisidia that the followers were first called "Christians" because of how they loved one another." (Acts)

To understand the importance of the Institution of the Eucharist the Blessed Sacrament will be safely stored elsewhere and the Tabernacle will be empty. This helps us to prepare ourselves with minds left open to appreciate the magnificence of what is to eventuate as the Eucharistic Prayer unfolds to present us with consecrated bread and wine which has been changed into the body, blood, soul and divinity of Christ. And of even greater import is that we are able to receive Him. Re-presented for us in sacramental form is His sacrificial death for us out of His immense love. Hence the washing of one another's feet is vitally important for us to understand how we can imitate Christ's love in a practical manner and be in union with Him. Of course, taking care of one another has wider implications such as all the works of mercy. Note: the people are not dismissed, because this is not the end of the whole liturgy which extends over Good Friday and the Easter Vigil when they will be dismissed with Alleluias!

At the end of the Maundy Mass the Blessed Sacrament is processed to the Altar of Repose where people are able to continue to offer thanksgiving and praise to Christ for the marvelous benefits of Creation, Redemption and Sanctification. It is a wonderful opportunity for us to soak ourselves in His True Presence in the Eucharistic Species allowing our souls to be fortified and filled with graces and divine blessings. In this way we are strengthened to abide by His command to love one another "as I have loved you" which is to the point of complete self-emptying love.



#### PARISH INFORMATION

##### **Parish Priest: Fr John Hogan**

E-mail: [John.hogan@parracatholic.org](mailto:John.hogan@parracatholic.org)

**Emergencies : 0466 500 880**

**(Sickness & Death only)**

##### **Secretary: Juliana Khnouf**

E-mail: [secretary@stfinbars.org.au](mailto:secretary@stfinbars.org.au)

Office Phone: **(02) 47426958**

##### **Admin: Tamar Alzened**

E-mail: [admin@stfinbars.org.au](mailto:admin@stfinbars.org.au)

##### **PPC:**

Cecilia Zammit (Chair)

E-mail: [stfinbarsppc@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.stfinbars.org.au)

##### **Facebook:**

Glenbrook Catholic Church St Finbars

##### **Parish School: Principal (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><b>Sunday</b> 15th March <i>4th Sunday of Lent</i> <i>Year A</i></p>	<p><b>7.30am Mass</b> <b>9.30am Mass</b> 1.00pm Bridge Club <b>6.00pm Youth Mass</b> 7.00pm Senior Youth Group P/C</p>
<p><b>Monday</b> 16th March</p>	<p><b>No Morning Mass –Office is closed</b> 5.00pm SVDP Meeting M/R</p>
<p><b>Tuesday</b> 17th March <i>St Patrick</i></p>	<p><b>9.15am Mass</b> 10.00am Timeout Tuesday P/C 10.30am Pastoral Care Meeting M/R 6.00pm Cantabile Choir Practice 7.00pm PFC Meeting M/R 7.30pm Claire Brown’s Group Choir Practice</p>
<p><b>Wednesday</b> 18th March</p>	<p><b>9.15am Mass followed by Rosary</b> 9.30am Playgroup 10.00am Easter Triduum information meeting M/R 7.00pm Bridge P/C 7.30pm Easter Triduum preparation meeting M/R 7.30pm Easter Vigil Choir Practice Naomi’s Group</p>
<p><b>Thursday</b> 19th March <i>St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i></p>	<p><b>9.15am Healing Mass followed by morning tea</b> 1.00pm Bridge P/C 1.00pm SRE Meeting M/R 3.30pm Mila’s Lenten Group M/R</p>
<p><b>Friday</b> 20th March</p>	<p><b>9.15am Mass</b> 1.30pm Bowlers P/C 7.30pm Stations of the Cross</p>
<p><b>Saturday</b> 21st March</p>	<p>9.00am Martin’s Lenten Group M/R <b>9.15am Mass</b> 4.15pm Confessions <b>5.30pm Vigil Mass</b></p>
<p><b>Sunday</b> 22nd March <i>5th Sunday of Lent</i> <i>Year A</i></p>	<p><b>7.30am Mass</b> <b>9.30am Mass</b> <b>10.45am Baptisms</b> 7.00pm Parish Youth Band Prayer &amp; Worship Concert</p>

Positions Vacant:

- Catholic Chaplain – Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains
- Facilities & Contract Manager – Diocese of Parramatta. **Applications close 17 March 2026.**
- Property & Project Coordinator – Diocese of Parramatta. **Applications close 17 March 2026.**

More details at: [parracatholic.org/jobs](http://parracatholic.org/jobs)  
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](http://parracatholic.org/communicators)  
**Launch of Fr Joe’s new book: 26 March**  
Fr Joe, Parish Priest of Baulkham Hills, has just published a new book with the title “Augustine on Listening, Humility and Unity. The Augustinian Root of Pope Leo XIV.” Launched by Sister Dr Margaret Ghosn, Theologian and Principal of Maronite College of the Holy Family in Harris Park, and Most Rev Vincent Long Nguyen, Bishop of Parramatta. Join us on Thursday 26 March 2026 at 7pm at St. Michael’s Downey Room, 1 Chapel Ln, 2153 Baulkham Hills. To register: [admin@parishofbaulkhamhills.org.au](mailto:admin@parishofbaulkhamhills.org.au)  
**Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary Celebrations: 6 April**

You are invited to celebrate with us the 75 years of the arrival of the first Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary to Australia AND 60 years of the Schoenstatt Movement in Australia. Join us on Easter Monday, 6th April 2026 from 1:30pm – 5:30pm at Mount Schoenstatt – 230 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa 2745. Please bring a plate to share for afternoon tea. Parallel children’s program will also be available. RSVP Shirley Hall 0417 153 930 [movtooffice@schoenstatt.org.au](mailto:movtooffice@schoenstatt.org.au)

**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. This year’s gathering will also include games and fun-filled activities, adding a joyful touch to the afternoon and giving everyone a chance to laugh, mingle, and enjoy each other’s company.

Please contact the parish office to add your name.

We look forward to sharing this special afternoon with you.

**FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBARIUM**

St Finbars is fortunate to have a resting place for our loved ones who have died. Currently we have 16 niches in the columbarium taken and another 97 niches have been bought. In order to keep this area clean and tidy we would like to form a group that makes decisions regarding the columbarium.

You are invited to be part of a new 'friends of the columbarium' committee. Please leave your name at the Warden's desk after Mass or contact the office. The group will meet 3 or 4 times a year.

*Cecilia Zammit  
Chair PPC*

**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!

**SHORT COURSE: INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE by Gideon Goosen**

4 Sessions @ St Finbar's Meeting room.

Mondays 7.30 - 9.00pm

April 20th, 27th, May 4th and 11th.

Register: 4742 6958 by 13th April 2026.

**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.*

**SENIORS WEEK** is happening around us and are you looking for a 'seniors activity'? St Finbars has opportunities for seniors all year round. The parish centre is a hive of activity because:

- ✦ On the first and third Tuesday of the month there is Time Out Tuesday. There may be some craft, but its the cuppa and the chat that's the best. Providing time out from the busy life of being retired and looking after each other. Come along bring your knitting, embroidery, crotchet or simply come for Time Out.
- ✦ Every Friday afternoon its time for carpet Bowls. This is for those who enjoy playing a relaxing game while having a chat. Once again a decent afternoon tea and plenty of fun. A nice way to welcome the weekend. Come one and all.
- ✦ Bridge is played in the parish centre Wednesday evenings and Thursday afternoon. Come and see how it is played

These groups are an opportunity to socialize a bit more than the greetings before and after Mass. It is time set aside to get to know each other. A time to relax and enjoy other members of our Parish community.

**RESPONDING AS CHRISTIANS TO HOMELESSNESS**

The Australian Bishop's in their 2025 *Social Justice Statement* acknowledge the great work that many people and institutions in the Church do to support homeless people. They do, however, point out that:

*"We who are baptised and given the responsibility of carrying out the mission entrusted to us by Jesus are called to reach out to those on the edges of society, like homeless people, and offer them loving care. We cannot leave it all to the "professionals".*

The *Statement* quotes Pope Francis:

*"The people on the edges have much to teach us. In their difficulties they know the suffering Christ. We need to let ourselves be evangelized by them... We are called to find Christ in them, to lend our voice to their causes, but also to be their friends".*

- *How does our faith community currently respond to the needs of people on the margins?*
- *How can we encourage a culture of encounter and engagement with homeless people that recognizes them as people with unique stories who need to be noticed and accompanied in their struggles?*

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- |                               |                             |
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## LITURGICAL ROSTER FOR 21ST & 22ND MARCH 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	Ben Oxley	Frank Zammit
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Jessica Doherty	Kevin Lloyd	Cecilia Zammit
2nd Reading	Naomi Cheeseman	Andrew Teece	Annissa Nilsson
Intercession	Katy Ferris	Peter McMahon	Yvonne Scanlan
Music	Dawn Willis		Holy Light
IT Operators		Robyn Flynn	Joanne Stubbs
Gifts	Steve & Heather Lee	Rivas Family	The Young Family
Communion	Lorraine Brown & Peter McIlvenna	Jessica Tiller & Kath Tierney	Annissa Nilsson & Carmel Higgins
Children's Liturgy	Michelle & Kim		
Church Care	Jeannine Ashbee, Elizabeth Plummer, Sandra Hanigan, Leesa & Wayne Gillard.		
Hospitality	Kerry & Peter Herborn		

### PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

Ray Duke (Darren Duke's Cousin), Margaret Moore and Jennifer Devlin.

### PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK PARISHIONERS, RELATIVES & FRIENDS:

Tom Torrance, 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:

Ruben Stanford, Dorothea Egan, May Hurry, Michael Cloran, John Barrett, Elmer (Bill) Taylor, Catherine McColl, Lance Baker, Scott Robertson, Carmel Koziol and David Burke.

# GRACE

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