

St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook

The Barra

5th Sunday of Lent - Year A

21st & 22nd March 2026



Ezekiel 37:12-14; Psalm 129; Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-45

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

Good Friday

Today we might take a look at the Liturgy for Good Friday afternoon, the Passion of the Lord. The ceremony begins with an opening prayer followed by the Liturgy of the Word which includes the proclamation of the Passion and Death of Our Lord from the Gospel of Saint John. This engages our thoughts minds and hearts of the sufferings and self-sacrificial death of Christ to redeem the sins of the world. This helps us to understand that we, who have inherited the fallenness of our first parents without being responsible for it, acknowledge that none of humanity was fit for causing our salvation. The consequence of the Fall was death, both physical and spiritual. We needed someone who was completely free of all fallenness, hence the Son of God took on humanity to go through the consequence of death and overcome it in the Resurrection. We need to be filled with gratitude.

After the homily we have a chance to pray for the needs of the world which still hasn't caught up with Redeeming Grace. This leads us to the Adoration of the Holy Cross which is announced by "This is the wood of the cross on which hung the salvation of the Cross: Come let us worship." While we have heard of the passion and death of Christ in the gospel, this rite introduces a new and necessary element for our adoration and contemplation, which is not Christ but the implement of his torture and death. We must be clear that this rite is not a re-enactment of Christ's death but a valuable opportunity to ponder and focus on the cross itself.

The wood of the cross brought about Christ's death. Our adoration of it emphasises our sinful contribution to Christ's death, that his death was necessary at all. The cross is also a work of human hands further emphasising the direct connection between humanity by our providing the source and device for Christ's horrendous death. In one of the penitential rites we acknowledge that Christ "mounted the wood of the cross for our salvation" as his choice to set us free from the ancient curse and to be brought into the Kingdom of Light.

The Adoration of the Cross gives us the opportunity to have the integrity to acknowledge our own responsibility for Christ's death by our sinfulness and to promise Him and ourselves to avoid such waywardness in the future. There is also plenty of room on the wood of the cross to include all the sins of the world, especially the evil perpetrated in our modern times and the displacement of so many people. The list is almost endless! And we also have the opportunity to be very grateful that the wood of the cross brought about so great a Redeemer.

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

Winslet Kennedy Neil & Gia Sarah Andreallo

this Sunday, and warmly welcome 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

ST. FINBAR'S PARISH NEWS

<p>Sunday 22nd March</p> <p><i>5th Sunday of Lent</i> <i>Year A</i></p>	<p>7.30am Mass</p> <p>9.30am Mass</p> <p>10.45am Baptisms</p> <p>4.00pm Parish Youth Band Prayer & Worship Concert</p>
<p>Monday 23rd March</p>	<p>No Morning Mass -Office is closed</p>
<p>Tuesday 24th March</p>	<p>9.15am Mass</p> <p>6.00pm Cantabile Choir Practice</p> <p>7.30pm Baptism Preparation Meeting M/R</p> <p>7.30pm Easter Choir Practice</p>
<p>Wednesday 25th March</p> <p><i>The annunciation of the Lord</i></p>	<p>9.15am Mass followed by Rosary</p> <p>9.30am Playgroup</p> <p>7.00pm Bridge P/C</p>
<p>Thursday 26th 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>7.30pm Easter Vigil Choir Practice—Naomi's group</p>
<p>Friday 27th March</p>	<p>9.15am Mass</p> <p>1.30pm Bowlers P/C</p> <p>7.30pm Stations of the Cross</p>
<p>Saturday 28th 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 29th March</p> <p><i>Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord</i> <i>Year A</i></p>	<p>7.30am Mass</p> <p>9.30am Mass</p>

HOLY WATER FOR YOUR HOME THIS EASTER

This Easter the church will have **Blessed Holy Baptismal Water** available for parishioners to take home after the **Easter Vigil** and **Easter Sunday Masses**.

If you would like to bring this blessing into your home, please **bring a bottle or jar** with you to fill.

As we celebrate the joy of the Resurrection, may this Holy Water be a source of grace and protection for you and your family this Easter.

PROJECT COMPASSION BOXES

Please remember to bring your Project Compassion Boxes to church next weekend. Thank you.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE – TUESDAY 7 APRIL

Please note that the Parish Office will be closed on Tuesday, 7 April. There will be **no morning Mass** on this day.

Thank you for your understanding.

MEET YOUR PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

A new Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) Poster is now on display on the church noticeboard. We invite all parishioners to take a moment to have a look and familiarize yourselves with our PPC councilors and their portfolios. The poster highlights who is serving on the Council this year and the areas of parish life they each support. It's a great way to know who to approach with ideas, questions, or feedback. Thank you for staying connected and engaged with the life of our parish.

LADIES MOTHER'S DAY HIGH TEA —

Fundraising for the Parish Office Floor Covering
Saturday, 9 May 2026 at 2.30pm
Parish Hall

Cost: \$25 per person

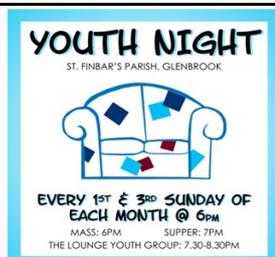
Join us for a delightful afternoon!

We warmly invite mothers, grandmothers, stepmothers, daughters, and all the wonderful women of our parish to come together for a joyful Mother's Day High Tea. Enjoy an afternoon filled with fun, friendship, and the chance to connect with other lovely ladies in our community.

This year's gathering will also feature light games, fun-filled activities and lots of prizes to be won, adding laughter, energy, and a playful spirit to the celebration.

Please contact the parish office to add your name on 47426958

We look forward to sharing this special afternoon with you.



ST FINBAR'S GLENBROOK, PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT FOR 17.3.2026 -

MAJOR POINTS:

We are pleased to report:

- ✦ completion and payment of work to repair the solar panels & batteries; to install new audio-visual technology for the hall & fix the Parish WiFi as well as paint work in the hall;
- ✦ repair & replacement of lightning damaged the TV monitors in the church, various other technology, and the associated wiring issues including connectivity for the parish office. Tamar (who is the administration officer and PFC committee member) is working arduously to provide facts and paperwork for the anticipated insurance claim. The severe lightning strike also damaged our smoke alarm and security system, and this is currently being rectified. This cost will also be forwarded for the insurance claim.

We hope to collaborate with the Organ & Concert Committee to assess the necessity & cost for a full service for our historic church organ. It has been in our church for 30 years. Periodic services have occurred over the years, but we want to ensure a professional assessment to help with the continuing organ condition and longevity. The PFC supports the creation of a 'Friends of the Columbarium' committee, so that all the cleaning and physical needs of the walls are supported as well as the spiritual nature of this sacred place.

A special thank you to parishioner John de Mattia for his professional work for the completion of mandatory Cemeteries & Crematoria NSW paperwork regarding St Finbar's Columbarium.

Please check the church noticeboard for more details on the parish income and expenses.

Thank you for all your contributions. St Finbar's Parish Finance Committee

REFLECTIONS ON THE 2025 AUSTRALIAN BISHOPS STATEMENT ON HOMELESSNESS

The *Statement* highlights a form of poverty that many people who are homeless and have mental health issues experience. They describe this as "relational poverty". This is defined as "entrenched isolation in which there is minimal and, oftentimes, no human contact". People experiencing this form of poverty are often left in isolation and relying on their own devices without human connections.

Most of our responses to welfare and homelessness are focused on relieving material poverty and, while this is vitally important, it tends to be impersonal and clinical. It does not adequately address the need for human contact that allows people to thrive and not just exist. In times of natural disasters, and in the height of the COVID pandemic, there were many examples of people who did not only provide physical support to those affected but also formed relationships of care and connectedness. Organizations like the St Vincent De Paul Society and the Salvos model this way of addressing both physical and emotional needs.

This is a significant challenge for each of us as Christians. How can we find ways of connecting on a personal level with people experiencing relational poverty? This *Statement* challenges us to appreciate that: "Everyone has a name. Everyone has a story. That includes those who live with the loneliness of homelessness and mental ill-health". If our hearts are connected to Jesus, then we are called "to know the names and stories of those who know the loneliness of the street."

LIVE STREAMING OF EASTER SERVICES

Please note that the parish is unable to provide Live Streaming of the Easter Services this year.

Our Live Streaming Camera was damaged during the recent lightning storm and is currently not functioning and needs replacement.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your understanding as we work toward restoring our equipment..

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.

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

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LITURGICAL ROSTER FOR 28TH & 29TH MARCH 2026

Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	Peter McIlvenna	Carl Moll	Gerard Egan
Senior Server	Peter McIlvenna	Carl Moll	Lukas Rajnoch
Junior Servers	Volunteers Please		Rebekah & Jude Mowbray, James Horner
Warden	Lorraine Brown	Ben Oxley	Gary Clune
1 st Reading	Dawn Willis	Kevin Lloyd	Erin Kelly
2nd Reading	Katy Ferris	Andrew Teece	Volunteer Please
Gospel Narrator	Maire Griffin	Kevin Flynn	Pearce Cremin
Other	Gideon Goosen	Ben Oxley	Greg Rowe
Intercession	Felicity Lindfield	Peter McMahon	Yvonne Scanlan
Music	Men's Choir Group		Finnie's Group
IT Operators	Henry Hanko	Joseph Wilson	Pat Watson
Gifts	Parishioners are	Invited to offer to	Bring up the gifts
Communion	Lorraine Brown & Jim Barndon	Jessica Tiller & Jean Di Nucci	Annissa Nilsson & Todd Stanford
Children's Liturgy	Elizabeth & Matthew		
Church Care	Volunteers Please		
Hospitality	Julie Fehon, Anne Hobbs, Martin & Lyndal Rogers		

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK PARISHIONERS, RELATIVES & FRIENDS:

Tony Phoebus (Mark Phoebus' Uncle), 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:

Gavin Paine, Clare Druhan, Thelma Sparks, Thomas Boylan, Julia Gunning, Paul Trevaskis, Ruby Luland, Lyndall McManus, Debra Saporito, Patrick Mungovan, Colin Gott, Gareth Hogan and Jean Blencowe.

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