

St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook

The Barra

3rd Sunday of Easter - Year A

18th & 19th April 2026



Acts 2:14, 22-33; Psalm 15; 1 Peter 1:17-21; Luke 24:13-35

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.....

"I like thinking of possibilities. At any time, an entirely new possibility is liable to come along and spin you off in an entirely new direction. The trick, I've learned, is to be awake to the moment." --

Doug Hall

Daydreaming is a very popular activity and can bring us great joy as we imagine ourselves in so many situations where we see ourselves as Masters of the Universe or attaining great things to the adulation of the crowds. The problem here is that it is all in our imagination. The Queen of Hearts (*Alice in Wonderland*) was wont to declare that she tried to do six impossible things before breakfast. A very bold claim which we can reduce to the literature from whence it came. But it can serve to teach us that the world of the imagination is not real in spite of the comfort it brings us in bolstering our self-esteem. Imagining great things is what brought about the conversion of Saint Ignatius Loyola as he thought about doing great things for God so we don't want to exclude the possibilities that might be there.

What we need not do, however, is to spend so much time in dreaming about possibilities that we miss actual occasions of possibilities as they emerge in our lives. A balance between possibilities in the air and possibilities down on the ground needs to be adhered to or we miss out on living life to the full. In John 3 Christ talks to Nicodemus about the wind blowing where it will, that wind represents the Holy Spirit. And the Holy Spirit sends all manner of opportunities to us each day. As our quotation today instructs "we need to be awake to the moment." This helps us to be less concerned with vague possibilities and more focused on the real-life offerings which are there in abundance. These are moments where the divine touches earth and draws each one of us to excellence.

And these invitations from the Holy Spirit are likely to "come along and spin you off in a new direction". Think of so many saints who allowed the Holy Spirit to take them over and who then achieved such marvels that they can scarcely be believed. The Holy Spirit does use us, but does not force us, to manifest God's almighty power to raise up our fallen world. They may not be earth-shattering events, but every little helps in the building up of Christ's Kingdom. And all are worthy. What we need to do is to be on the look-out by paying attention and being quick to notice the presence of the Holy Spirit and being generous to respond to his invitation to do great things for God. And as a bonus, God gets to have all 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 (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 19th April</p> <p><i>3rd Sunday of Easter</i> <i>Year A</i></p>	<p>7.30am Mass</p> <p>9.30am Mass</p> <p>1.00pm Bridge Club P/C</p> <p>6.00pm Youth Mass</p> <p>7.00pm "The Lounge" Youth Group P/C</p>
<p>Monday 20th April</p>	<p>No Morning Mass –Office is closed</p> <p>7.30pm Gideon Goosen Bible Study M/R</p>
<p>Tuesday 21st April</p>	<p>9.15am Mass</p> <p>10.00am Timeout Tuesday P/C</p> <p>10.30am Pastoral Care Meeting M/R</p> <p>6.00pm Cantabile Choir Practice</p>
<p>Wednesday 22nd April</p>	<p>9.15am Mass followed by Rosary</p> <p>9.30am Playgroup P/C</p> <p>7.00pm Bridge P/C</p> <p>7.30pm Liturgy Committee Meeting M/R</p>
<p>Thursday 23rd April</p>	<p>9.15am Mass</p> <p>1.00pm Bridge P/C</p> <p>5.00pm Reconciliation preparation sessions P/C</p> <p>7.30pm SFNC General Meeting P/C</p>
<p>Friday 24th April</p>	<p>9.15am Mass</p> <p>1.30pm Bowlers P/C</p>
<p>Saturday 25th April</p> <p><i>ANZAC DAY</i></p>	<p>8.00am ANZAC Day Mass</p> <p>4.15pm Confessions</p> <p>5.30pm Vigil Mass</p>
<p>Sunday 26th April</p> <p><i>4th Sunday of Easter</i> <i>Year A</i></p>	<p>7.30am Mass</p> <p>9.30am Mass</p>

Safeguarding Face-to-face Training Opportunities for May 2026

The next session of face-to-face Mandatory Safeguarding Renewal Training will be held on 2 May at St Joseph’s Parish, Kingswood. More training opportunities are available throughout May at different parishes. Please register directly for this training or for other convenient dates and locations by clicking on the training event at: <https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training>. For more information, please email:

safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org

Commissioning Mass of Liturgical Ministers: 12 May

All liturgical ministers – readers, servers, extra ordinary ministers are invited to join us for our [Annual Commissioning Mass of Liturgical Ministers](#). Families and friends are also invited. This celebration will take place at 7:30pm on 12 May 2026, at St Patrick’s Cathedral, Parramatta. Liturgical ministers are asked to please arrive by 7pm and be seated by 7:15pm. To register the number of guests and ministers attending please register by Thursday, 7th May. To register please contact ofw@parracatholic.org or 0460 037 795.

Adult Confirmations 2026

The Office for Worship will host a Catechesis and Formation Day for those candidates (16+) interested in receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation this year. This will be on Saturday 29th August, 9.30am – 2.00pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre in Blacktown. A light lunch will be provided on the day. It is recommended that all sponsors attend the catechesis day. A contribution of \$40 is suggested from the candidates to assist in covering the Catechesis Day.

The Confirmation will take place on Tuesday 1st September, 2026 at 7:30pm at the Cathedral. Please Note: Enrolment forms and a copy of Baptismal Certificates should be sent to OFW before Monday 18th August, 2026. For more information, please contact the Office for Worship ofw@parracatholic.org or 0460 037 795.

Middle East Emergency Appeal – Aid to the Church in Need

Aid to the Church in Need is calling for urgent prayer and support for Christian communities affected by war in the Middle East. Your help will provide emergency food packages, support parishes sheltering displaced families, keep schools running, and supply vital medical and pastoral care. To learn more or give today, please scan the QR code or visit www.rebrand.ly/EmergencyAppeal



LADIES MOTHER’S DAY HIGH TEA —
Fundraising for the Parish Office Floor Covering
Saturday, 9 May 2026 • 2.30pm • Parish Hall
Cost: \$25 per person
Spots are still available!

We invite mothers, grandmothers, stepmothers, daughters, and all the wonderful women of our Parish to join us for a joyful afternoon of high tea, friendship, and fun. Enjoy light games, activities, and plenty of prizes as we celebrate together. To add your name, please contact the Parish Office on 4742 6958. Thank you for supporting this parish fundraiser.

DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA – 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

This year marks 40 years since the Diocese of Parramatta was established. To honour this milestone, a **Mass of Thanksgiving** will be held at **St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta, on Sunday 31 May 2026 at 2pm**, followed by afternoon tea.

Each parish has been asked to send three families to represent our community.

If you or your family were part of our parish **forty years ago**, when the Diocese was founded it would be particularly poignant if you like to add your name to attend this historic celebration.

If you would like to represent our parish, please email Father John on john.hogan@parracatholic.org

PARISH SAFEGUARDING AUDIT 2026 – IMPORTANT REMINDER FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS

The Diocese will undertake its Safeguarding Audit between April and June 2026, conducted by Quality Innovation Performance (QIP). As part of this process, all parishes must provide evidence of compliance with Safeguarding Standards, including up-to-date volunteer training.

All parishes will participate in a Desktop Audit, with required documents due to the Diocesan Safeguarding Team by Friday 24 April 2026 at safeguardingaudit@parracatholic.org.

A number of parishes and chaplaincies will also be selected for a half-day onsite visit by QIP in June. Others may be contacted later in the year for the ACSL Audit or scheduled for an internal Diocesan Safeguarding Audit during the Finance & Risk Audit (July–September).

All parish volunteers are reminded that Safeguarding training must be completed before the due date. This is essential to ensure our parish remains compliant with Diocesan requirements and avoids penalties for incomplete obligations.

PARISH BANKING UPDATE – YOUR HELP APPRECIATED

Since the start of the new financial year, our bank has made it increasingly difficult for the parish to deposit coins. The machine that previously allowed us to bank coins directly into our accounts has been removed, and the remaining machine is often out of service and has a strict weight limit.

To help us manage parish banking more efficiently, we kindly ask that, where possible, coin contributions in the collection bags be limited to **\$2 and \$1 coins**.

Your generosity keeps our parish running, and your support with this small change will make a big difference. Thank you for your understanding and continued kindness.

ANNUAL VARIETY CONCERT FOR BUSH SCHOOL CAMBODIA.

When : Saturday 2 May 202 **Where :** St. Finbar's Church Hall, Levy St., Glenbrook, **Time:** 7pm to 9.30 pm

This will be a most enjoyable night, featuring vocal and instrumental music in a true spirit of variety and will include the impressive "Vocal Edge" and "Moo" choirs and the "Neil Hall Band". A sumptuous supper, the drawing of some great raffle prizes and an informative photo history of the school will complete the evening. The cost is \$35 per person, \$60 for family, with some concessions available.

To book: Phone Doug on 0403 303 943 or email: bushschoolcambodia@gmail.com (some seats will be available at the door). We'd love to see you at the concert, but if you can't make it and would still like to donate, this can be done also through our special updated account below:

Commonwealth Bank "Cambodian Educational Support Inc."

Account: 062601 10496685—Note that all donations to the school are now tax deductible and receipts will be issued for this purpose (please provide name, amount donated and email). A one-off donation is much appreciated, but we also have an urgent need for monthly subscribers, to secure the school into the future. Can you help? If so, email bushschoolcambodia@gmail.com. For further information, visit www.bushschoolcambodia.com or see Fb: bush school Cambodia

**Bateman
Battersby**

**Complete
Legal.**

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

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Conveyancing & Property Law | • Family Law |
| • Business & Commercial Law | • Disputes & Litigation |
| • Wills & Deceased Estates | • Criminal & Employment Law |

02 4731 5899

bbcl.com.au

enquiries@bbcl.com.au



**SCOTT GLEESON
Funeral Director**

0404 770 008

02 9896 3299

info@scottgleesonfunerals.com.au

www.scottgleesonfunerals.com.au

2 Fennell Street, Parramatta,
NSW 2150

**Turner
Freeman**
Lawyers Est. 1952

Turner Freeman Lawyers have been providing members of the community with outstanding legal services since 1952 in the following areas:
Personal injury claims |
Wills & estate planning | Property law |
Deceased estates & will disputes



Suite 4, 311 High Street Penrith NSW 2750

☎ 4729 5200
🌐 www.turnerfreeman.com.au
✉ Gerard.Morson@turnerfreeman.com.au

LITURGICAL ROSTER FOR 25TH & 26TH APRIL 2026

Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	Peter McIlvenna	Carl Moll	Stephen Brown
Senior Server	Peter McIlvenna	Carl Moll	Stephen Brown
Junior Servers	Volunteers Please		Sebastian & Oscar Baird, Nicholas Egan
Warden	Margaret Richards	Ben Oxley	Frank Zammit
1 st Reading	Volunteer Please	Kevin Lloyd	Cecilia Zammit
2nd Reading	Naomi Cheeseman	Peter McMahon	Frank Zammit
Intercession	Felicity Lindfield	Kevin Flynn	Carmel Higgins
Music			Holy Light group
IT Operators	Patrick Watson	Kylie Mills	Joanne Stubbs
Gifts	Jan de Bie & Volunteer Please	Volunteers Please	The Young Family
Communion	Lorraine Brown & Volunteer Please	Brian Grech & Helen Keogh	Carmel Higgins & Elizabeth Rowe
Children's Liturgy	Pia & Clare		
Church Care	Volunteers Please		
Hospitality	Kerry & Peter Herborn		

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

John Broomhead (Elizabeth's Father), Ray Mirabito (Briony Mowbray's Father), Michelle Pereira (June Bouche's sister), Margaret Moore and Jennifer Devlin.

PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK PARISHIONERS, RELATIVES & FRIENDS:

Tony Phoebus (Mark's Uncle), Tom Torrance, John Brown, Mila Svehla, Anita Keenan, Chris Wilson, Caroline Goosen, Chris Paine, Norman Fisher (Bernie's brother), Noreen Taylor, Beryl & Stan Callaghan, Pat Barrett, Terry Stevens, Jacqui Visser, Mark Bates, Lyn Downes, Maddison Farrugia, Margaret Stevens, Gerard Keenan (Anita Keenan's Son), Colleen Nolan, Christopher Thomson, 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:

Max Callaghan, Rein Bruinsma, Benjamin Lowe, Baby Gwen Fielden, Eleanor Morgan, Grace Walkley, Alan Bryan, Madge Boylan, Raymond Merchant, Kathleen Moore, Margaret Mead, Robert Aitken and Wayne Portelli.

GRACE

FUNERALS
(Formerly Blue Mountains Funerals)

CREATING A MEMORABLE
FAREWELL IS AN ART



First we listen, then we curate an authentic funeral for your loved one.
Contact us today to chat about your funeral needs.

02 9953 6900 or info@gracefunerals.com.au
Blue Mountains | Springwood | Penrith | Emu Plains | North Shore

GRACEFUNERALS.COM.AU