

St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook

The Barra

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

25th & 26th July 2026

Matthew Chapter 13

44 In his joy, he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.



1 Kings 3:5, 7-12; Psalm 118; Romans 8:28-30; Matthew 13:44-52

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.....

How do we keep our inner fire alive? Two things, at minimum, are needed: an ability to appreciate the positives in our life - and a commitment to action. Every day, it's important to ask and answer these questions: 'What's good in my life?' and 'What needs to be done?'" -- Nathaniel Branden

As Christians we are very much under the seven gifts and twelve fruits of the Holy Spirit which bring enormous potential to the way we consider who we are and the ways in which we live our lives. Our faith in the Holy Spirit's fire in our souls will be very strong but often enough we will wonder where it is and how is it going to manifest. We wait and we pray and still wonder when the power is going to show up! The truth of the matter is that we need to play our part as a contribution to a holistic human formation. We find ourselves stuck because we don't quite know where to begin. Today's quotation can give us some certainty about a couple of steps to put in motion to make ourselves consciously available to the Spirit's gifts. Nathaniel Branden, whom we have met before, is a psychologist and leading practitioner in the field of Self-Esteem.

Human Formation needs identifiable steps for achievement. Two simple questions are posed here to help us appreciate the richness we already have. "What's good in my life?" is a precursor to acknowledging all the good we have received from God. We may not see God as the author of our good, which is a bit of a let-down. But we can easily recover by putting this question to the test by listing all the good that is there. Once we begin to make such a list we will find, by daily repetition of the exercise, that the list gets longer and longer. We might also realise that we need to give thanks each day for the graces we have received. Even waking up each morning is a divine favour. The Spirit has been at work even though we have not recognised him.

In convincing ourselves how richly we have been imbued by the divine fire we now ask "what needs to be done?" which gives us a solid springboard to seek other ways to focus the Spirit's attendance to the real possibilities in our lives. In understanding how precious we are to God we easily accept the potential for even more enlightenment about how we would like our lives to be, according to God's plan. We should have no fear of asking. Keeping in mind that our foresight can be dimmed, and so in the end we leave it to God. The exercises together help us to know how we privileged we are to be under the Lord's help and to know how seriously we take ourselves to be. **Our fire is God's fire!**

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.

REPLACEMENT OF THE CARPET IN THE PARISH OFFICES AND MEETING ROOM.

Please note that the parish office will be closed from Tuesday 25th to Friday 28th as we are having the carpet replaced. Thank you for your patience and support. **Parish Office**

PARISH INFORMATION

Parish Priest: Fr John Hogan

E-mail: John.hogan@parracatholic.org (on Leave)

Emergencies : 0466 500 880 (Sickness & Death only)

Secretary: Juliana Khnouf
E-mail: secretary@stfinbars.org.au
Office Phone: (02) 47426958

Admin: Tamar Apkarian
E-mail: admin@stfinbars.org.au

PPC: Kylie Mills (Chair)
E-mail: stfinbarsppc@gmail.com

Parish Youth: Brendan Khnouf
sfyglenbrook@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
Mrs Kym Romanous
Phone: 4724 3600

Birthday Congratulations

A very happy 96th Birthday to Jacqui Visser, who celebrates this special milestone on Sunday.

May God bless her abundantly on her birthday and throughout the year ahead with good health, happiness, and the love of family and friends.

Happy 96th Birthday,
Jacqui! 🎂 🎉 🙏



PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday 26th July <i>17th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> <i>Year A</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass 10.30am Sacristans and Senior Server refresher course. 1.00pm Bridge Club P/C
Monday 27th July	No Morning Mass –Office is closed
Tuesday 28th July	No Morning Mass –Office is closed 6.00pm Cantabile Choir Practice 7.30pm Baptism Preparation Meeting—Church
Wednesday 29th July <i>Sts Martha, Mary and Lazarus</i>	No Morning Mass –Office is closed 9.30am Playgroup P/C 7.00pm Bridge P/C
Thursday 30th July	No Morning Mass –Office is closed 1.00pm Bridge P/C
Friday 31st July <i>St Ignatius of Loyola</i>	No Morning Mass –Office is closed 1.30pm Bowlers P/C 4.00pm Organ Committee Meeting M/R
Saturday 1st August <i>St Alphonsus Liguori</i>	No Morning Mass 4.45pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass—Father John is back 6.30pm SFNC Family Games Night P/C
Sunday 2nd August <i>18th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> <i>Year A</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass 6.00pm Youth Mass Live Streaming Link https://youtube.com/live/37QdwtwpzQs?feature=share 7.30pm Youth Group P/C

PARRAMATTA DIOCESE NEWS

Get #Active4Vocations: Spur on Bishop Vincent and our Holy Spirit Seminarians

This National Vocations Awareness Week, Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv and our Holy Spirit Seminarians will get #Active4Vocations in City2Surf on Sunday 9 August. Please pray for vocations and support our seminarians as they take on the 14km journey from Sydney to Bondi to promote priestly vocations. Spur them on with a donation at tinyurl.com/Active4Vocations. If you feel called to the priesthood, visit parracatholic.org/contribute/discern-my-vocation/priesthood

From stories to solidarity – A table talk on Homelessness: 9 August

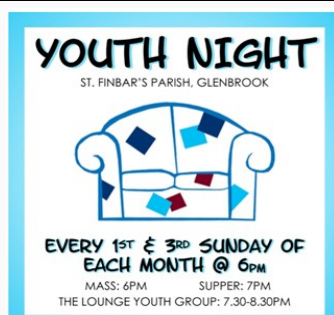
Join us for an afternoon of conversation, connection and community as we explore how relationships can inspire meaningful action on housing insecurity and homelessness. *What is the call to us as members of the Diocese of Parramatta? What strategies can we put in place?* What to Expect: Light refreshments, Table conversations in mixed groups, Practical action we can take together. All are welcome! Please register at <https://parracatholic.org/events/pje-table-talk-homelessness/>

Married Couples' Retreat – Reflect, Renew & Reconnect: 5 September

Married couples are invited to a special retreat day, *Reflect, Renew & Reconnect*, on Saturday 5 September 2026 at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, 1 Marion Street, Blacktown. The day runs from 8:30am–4.30pm and includes Mass with Bishop Vincent, light refreshments, and lunch. Couples will explore topics including Expressions of Love, Living Your Vocation of Marriage, 7 Principles of Making Marriage Work, Creating a Marriage First Aid Kit, and a Couples Prayer and Commitment Ceremony. Cost is \$45 per couple. Places are strictly limited. Bookings are essential. Register now at <https://parracatholic.org/marriedcouplesretreat/>.

Diocese of Parramatta World Youth Day Seoul 2027 Launch: 12 August

Come and discover the pilgrimage to the 17th International World Youth Day in Seoul, South Korea (26 July – 11 August 2027), themed “Take courage! I have overcome the world” (John 16:33). Join us for an inspiring evening to learn about the pilgrimage, hear testimonies from past pilgrims, explore the faith and culture of the Korean Church, and enjoy fellowship with other young people. Date: 12 August 2026 Doors open at 6:30pm. Venue: Nagle College, 58A Orwell Street, Blacktown Register today at parracatholic.org/events/wyd27-launch/ We look forward to welcoming you!



FATHER JOHN'S 45TH PRIESTHOOD ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Join us in celebrating Father John's 45th Anniversary of Priesthood!

We warmly invite all parishioners to join us on **Sunday, 16 August**, following the **9.30am Mass**, as we gather to give thanks for **Father John's 45 years of faithful priestly ministry**.

This special occasion is an opportunity for our parish community to express our gratitude and appreciation for Father John's dedicated service, spiritual guidance, and generous commitment to our parish over the last 2 years. Please come and share in this joyful celebration as we honour Father John and thank God for the many blessings received through his ministry.

All parishioners are most welcome. We look forward to celebrating together as a parish family.

PARISH VOLUNTEERING LISTENING WORKSHOP

Our parish is hosting a one-hour listening workshop to better understand what encourages people to volunteer, what makes it difficult, and how we can better invite and support parishioners to share their gifts in parish life. Parish helpers, ministry leaders and anyone with a heart for service are warmly invited to come and share their experience and ideas. The workshop will be held on **Monday 3 August, 7:15 pm for a 7:30 pm start**, and will run for **one hour only**. A light supper will be provided. To register your interest, please contact the parish office. For further information contact Anissa Nilsson or Kylie Mills

WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY

This Sunday, our parish joyfully celebrates the **World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly**. We extend our heartfelt congratulations and sincere gratitude to all grandparents and elderly members of our parish community for the wisdom, faith, love, and guidance you generously share with us.

May God bless you with good health, happiness, peace, and strength, and grant you many more years filled with love and the companionship of family and friends. Thank you for your faithful witness and the invaluable contribution you make to our parish and society.

BIBLE STUDY—THE GOSPEL OF MARK. 29th November marks the beginning of Advent, the readings will be those for YEAR B and the gospel will be that of MARK. Watch this space for more information!

PARISH OFFICE AND MEETING ROOM CARPET REPLACEMENT

We would like to inform parishioners that the carpet in the Parish Office and Meeting Room will be replaced beginning this **Monday, 27 July**.

The total cost of replacing the flooring in both areas will be more than \$10,000. The parish office warmly welcomes any donations from parishioners who are able to contribute towards this important work.

Every contribution, no matter the size, will help us maintain our parish facilities for the benefit of the entire community.

To donate please use the QR Code or via the Parish website (please select "OTHER" from the list), or by cash if this suits you.



Thank you for your continued generosity, support, and understanding. Please keep this project in your prayers as we work to improve our parish facilities.

The Parish Office

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION SESSIONS

We warmly welcome our Confirmation candidates and their families as they begin their journey of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Preparation sessions will commence on **Thursday, 6 August at 5.00pm in the Parish Hall**. We are delighted that **Most Rev Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv** will celebrate the **Sacrament of Confirmation** at the **9.30am Mass on Sunday, 6 September**. As a parish community, let us keep the **25 children preparing for Confirmation** in our prayers, asking the Holy Spirit to guide them, strengthen them, and fill their hearts with His gifts as they continue their faith journey.

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LITURGICAL ROSTER FOR 1ST & 2ND AUGUST 2026

Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	7.30 am	9.30 am	6.00pm Youth Mass
Sacristan	Kylie Mills	Carl Moll	Gerard Egan	Nick McMaster
Senior Server	Kylie Mills	Carl Moll	Lukas Rajnoch	Nick McMaster & Tim Kensey
Junior Servers	Alex & Luc Nilsson	Summer & Oliver Wilson	Xavier Rajnoch & Elizabeth & Sofia Grus	Volunteer Please
Warden	Vince Dobson	Volunteer Please	Gary Clune	Volunteer Please
1 st Reading	Philomena Watkins	Volunteer Please	Jessica Doherty	Elizabeth Christie
2nd Reading	Katy Ferris	Andrew Teece	Steve Baird	Emily Mulhall
Intercession	Elizabeth Rowe	Volunteer Please	Martin Rogers	Yvonne Scanlan
Music	Naomi's Group		Anne's Group	
IT Operators	Henry Hanco	Joseph Wilson	Patrick Watson	Lachlan Lloyd
Gifts	Volunteers Please	Maria Heinzl & Stanis Drobiszewski	The Grus Family	N/A
Communion	Beth Culliver, Elizabeth Rowe & Jim Barndon	Brian Grech & Helen Keogh	Martin Rogers, Garry Pursehouse & Wendy Brown	Brendan Khnouf
Children's Liturgy	Colin			
Church Care	Volunteers please			
Hospitality	Lina Wiecek & Vicky Ang			

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

Jeffrie Harsh (Helen's Husband), James McCaughan (Cormac's Father) and Anita Keenan.

PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK PARISHIONERS, RELATIVES & FRIENDS:

Frank Higgins, Tony Phoebus (Mark's Uncle), Tom Torrance, John Brown, Mila Svehla, Chris Paine, Pat Barrett, Caroline Goosen, Norman Fisher (Bernie's brother), Noreen Taylor, Lyn Downes, Colleen Nolan, Sophie Hollies, Beryl & Stan Callaghan, Terry Stevens, Jacqui Visser, Mark Bates, Margaret Stevens, Maddison Farrugia, Gerard Keenan (Anita's Son), Christopher Thomson, David Haynes (Yvonne Scanlan's Dad), Margaret Christensen, Joan and Marcia Pereira, Catherine, Elizabeth and Monika Gawlik.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:

Paul Treble, Janet Tulk, David McSorley, Anthony Visser, Peter Bryant, Bernard Wilson, Anni Grundschoettel, Danuta Ryan and Frances Roberts.

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