



St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook

The Barra

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

15th & 16th August 2026



Isaiah 56:1, 6-7; Psalm 66; Romans 11:13-15, 29-32; Matthew 15:21-28

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.....

When I let go of what I am, I become what I might be. - Lao Tzu

Lao Tzu, was an ancient and legendary Chinese philosopher, and made a deep impression on Confucius. While pre-dating Christ he has been held in esteem for the earthly wisdom he taught and how much he contributed by way of insight into how people view themselves. Our quotation today enables us to take a deep breath of honesty as we explore how easily we restrict ideas about ourselves in order to remain either comfortable or remain in a state of indolence which can also be seen as idleness.

We are quite aware that as imperfect Christians we are being re-fashioned into the likeness of Christ. This is a supreme good enabled by the Holy Spirit of God and by which God has great joy in seeing his creatures slowly begin to flourish. God certainly does not want us to remain in a state of languishing which translates into a life of failure, not affected by the gifts of the Holy Spirit. We might take note of the advice given by Saint Carlo Acutis that "we are all originals but most people turn out to be photocopies." The likeness of Christ is not meant to restrict us but to propel us into making ourselves into unique individuals who flourish in every dimension of life possible.

A problem, in our weakness, is that we can be afraid of becoming anything different to the way we see ourselves. That we don't give ourselves permission to excel into the person we are continually becoming. We were not meant to stay as we are, created and fallen, but to surmount where we find ourselves with possibilities ensured by the resurrection of Christ and the 'new man' into which we are invited. Holding on to what I am, frustrates the power of God and leaves us no nearer to what we can become.

Discovering what we might be gives us the possibility to move beyond ourselves and to pray for the divine imagination which can rescue us from indolence and energize us to make drastic attempts to head ourselves towards the possibilities to what we can become. And there is no need to be afraid. During the storm at sea Peter became overwhelmed by fear because of the threat of personal annihilation with which we can identify. He was reaching out to Christ but was overcome by self-preservation. Such fear does restrict easily and we remain in restriction of our capabilities and our possibilities. If we remain adamant in becoming better than we are, The Holy Spirit will guide us in our efforts.

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 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 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 Blessings for Fr John

We warmly wish Fr John a very happy 74th Birthday this Wednesday.

May God continue to bless him abundantly with good health, joy, wisdom, and many more years of faithful service. We thank him for his dedication, spiritual guidance, and loving care of our parish community.

Please keep Fr John in your prayers as he celebrates this special milestone.

May the Lord grant him strength, peace, and a long and blessed life.

Happy 74th Birthday, Fr John



PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday 16th August <i>20th Sunday in Ordinary</i> <i>Time Year A</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass 1.00pm Bridge Club 3.00pm Bach Akademie Concert 6.00pm Youth Mass Live Streaming Link https://youtube.com/live/2B18ALknHTI?feature=share 7.30pm Youth Group
Monday 17th August	No Morning Mass -Office is closed 5.00pm SVDP Meeting M/R
Tuesday 18th August	9.15am Mass 10.00am Timeout Tuesday P/C 10.30am Pastoral Care Meeting M/R 6.00pm Cantabile Choir Practice 7.00pm PFC Meeting M/R
Wednesday 19th August	9.15am Mass followed by Rosary 9.30am Playgroup P/C 7.00pm Bridge P/C
Thursday 20th August <i>St Bernard</i>	9.15am Healing Mass followed by morning tea 1.00pm Bridge P/C 5.00pm Confirmation preparation Meeting M/R
Friday 21st August <i>St Pius X</i>	9.15am Mass 11.00am Memorial Service for Linda Bourke 1.30pm Bowlers P/C
Saturday 22nd August <i>The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	9.15am Mass 4.15pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass
Sunday 23rd August <i>21st Sunday in Ordinary</i> <i>Time Year A</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass 10.45am Baptisms

PARRAMATTA DIOCESE NEWS

Bishop's Father's Day Appeal 2026

The Bishop's Father's Day Appeal is to support the retired and unwell priests of our Diocese, our spiritual fathers, who have devoted their lives to serving God and His People. The Clergy Support Foundation will run across four weekends, from **29-30 August to 19-20 September 2026**. Thank you for your continued support in helping care for our retired priests & clergy experiencing ill health.

St Carlo Acutis's Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition: 11-25 October

Designed by **St Carlo Acutis, the first millennial Saint**, this exhibition documents reported Eucharistic miracles from around the world and is touring parishes across our Diocese. We are delighted to announce that **our parish will host the exhibition from Sunday 11 October to Sunday 25 October**. Parishioners, students, teachers, families and visitors are warmly invited to attend. **Entry is free and no bookings are required**. To see where the exhibition is heading next across the Diocese, visit parracatholic.org/iec2028/.

SCHOENSTATT SISTERS OF MARY CENTENARY JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS AT MOUNT SCHOENSTATT, MULGOA

Come join us as we give thanks for the past 100 years and entrust the future to the loving care of the Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt.

Date: Sunday 13th September

Time: Please be seated by 9:45am for a 10am start. The celebration is to conclude at approximately 3pm.

The day will begin with a Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving with Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP followed by light refreshments and an official program. Parish bus groups are encouraged.

An exhibition on the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary will be available for viewing in the Family Hall from 8:30am – 6:00pm. To RSVP and for more information scan the QR-Code or visit:

www.schoenstatt.org.au



Local family owned and operated

Traditional Care with Dignity & Respect
24 hrs. / 7 days



Tel: 4722 8222
info@nepeanvalleyfunerals.com.au
nepeanvalleyfunerals.com.au
Shop 4 2-6 Castlereagh Street, Penrith

SUPPORTING THE PERSECUTED: HELP REBUILD A CATHEDRAL IN THE PHILIPPINES

In 2017, Christians in the city of Marawi in the southern Philippines faced brutal persecution from Islamist militants. More than 800 people were killed and thousands of families were displaced. During the five months of violence, the Cathedral of St Mary was bombed, desecrated and destroyed. Nine years on, there is a growing desire for healing and reconciliation. The poor and faithful people of Marawi have asked for our help to rebuild their beloved cathedral so they can once again gather, pray, and be witnesses of Christ in this Muslim-majority region. To learn more or provide your support, please scan the QR code or visit: aidtochurch.org/monthlyproject. Thanks to generous supporters, every contribution during August will be doubled.



UPCOMING COURSE ON EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT STARTING 3RD SEPTEMBER AT 7PM

It is beyond doubt that the emotional life is the richest part of our lives and earthly experience.

It is also true that the emotional life is the least understood aspect of our lives.

God has given us the emotions for a purpose, each of them has a message for us so that we can live life to the full.

If we are unaware of these messages then we fail to live out the meanings presented to us.

In our fallen state we can easily misconstrue how the emotions are instructing us for healthy living.

It is easy to become under the influence of what has come to be called the "amygdala highjack" whereby we are at the mercy of the emotion. ***Anger and fear are especially prone for taking over our lives.***

This course will deal with the thoughts and feelings about emotions, how emotions are to be understood, the message each emotion has for us and how to interpret the messages and apply them to our lives. It is a safari into our inner lives which can provide all the secrets to a controlled and well-ordered emotional life. There will be 10 sessions in total. If you would like to join the group please email secretary@stfinbars.org.au.

Fr John

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU!

A heartfelt congratulations to the winning team (Red) at our Parish Trivia Night held last Saturday evening, who took home first prize on the night!

A very special thank you to **Martin and Lyndal Rogers** for their wonderful work in organizing and running this event each year. Their creativity, enthusiasm, and ability to come up with great questions and ideas always make the evening a memorable and enjoyable occasion for everyone. We are also delighted to report that the fundraiser raised **\$1,465**, which will go towards the replacement of the carpet in the Parish meeting room and offices. Thank you to all parishioners who supported and participated in this fun-filled night. Your generosity and community spirit helped make the event a great success. We look forward to another fantastic Trivia Night next year!

**MEN'S BREAKFAST - SATURDAY 29TH AUGUST 2026 | 7.30AM | CHURCH HALL**

Start your Saturday with a hearty breakfast, good company and great conversation. Our Men's Breakfast is a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow parishioners and build friendships within our parish community. All men are warmly invited, along with sons, grandsons, neighbours and friends. Whether you are a regular attendee or coming for the first time, we would love to see you there. To assist with catering, please add your name to the sign-up sheet on the Warden's table by **Sunday 23rd of August**. **Guest Speaker: Darrin Pearce**, a local herpetologist, who will share stories and insights from his fascinating reptile hobby. It promises to be an entertaining and informative presentation. For further information, please contact: **Carl Moll** – 0417 471 137

John De Mattia – 0419 919 443. ***Come along for breakfast, fellowship and an engaging talk. Bring a friend!***

TOGETHER WE CAN CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME

As we enter the Season of Creation, join the Earthcare & Social Justice group for some hands-on community action with the Kodala Lane Bushcare group (Kodala Lane is adjacent to Glenbrook Lagoon). Learn more about the local eco-system with a Council Bushcare Officer, contribute to maintaining our beautiful local environment, have fun and enjoy afternoon tea together with other community members. Sunday 30 August 1:30-4:30pm. Meet Kodala Lane, cnr Carmel & Kedron St. BYO water, hat, sunscreen, closed footwear. RSVP: Melissa 0408693042 or Liesje 0430586133

Laudato Si' Goal 7, Community Resilience and Empowerment, calls for developing regenerative cultures, local advocacy, and participatory action to protect our common home. It encourages communities to build resilience together through grassroots campaigns and local neighbourhood initiatives.

BIBLE STUDY: Mark's Gospel. 3 sessions will be offered in the parish (12, 19, 26 Oct).

Register by **Friday 4th September** if you can come to all three sessions.

Please leave name and email address with St Finbar's secretary 47426958.

**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 22ND & 23RD AUGUST 2026

Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	Volunteer Please	Carl Moll	Martin Rogers
Senior Server	Volunteer Please	Carl Moll	Martin Rogers
Junior Servers	Rebekah & Jude Mowbray		Sebastian & Oscar Baird, Nicholas Egan
Warden	Margaret Richards	Ben Oxley	Frank Zammit
1 st Reading	Dawn Willis	Kevin Lloyd	Cecilia Zammit
2nd Reading	Naomi Cheeseman	Peter McMahon	Frank Zammit
Intercession	Felicity Lindfield	Volunteer Please	Carmel Higgins
Music			Holy Light
IT Operators	Thais Turner	Elizabeth Konza	Joanne Stubbs
Gifts	Jan de Bie & Volunteer Please	Volunteer please	The Young Family
Communion	Lorraine Brown, Jim Barndon & Vince Dobson	Jessica Tiller & Volunteer please	Annis Nilsson, Greg Rowe & Todd Stanford
Children's Liturgy	Pia & Volunteer Please		
Church Care	Fran Isaksen, Lynne Atkinson, Veronica Clune, Emily Mulhall & Nora Cordoba		
Hospitality	Kerry & Peter Herborn		

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

Fr Eugene Stockton, Peter McIlvenna, Pam Bailey (Michelle Santoro's Mother) and Jeffrie Harsh.

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, Mark Bates, Sophie Hollies, Beryl & Stan Callaghan, Terry Stevens, Jacqui Visser, 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:

Annia Audet, Winifred Coyle, John Cloran, Betty Grange, Edward Keough, Laurence Rowe and Handley Sweeney.

GRACE

F U N E R A L S

(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