



St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook

The Barra

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

22nd & 23rd August 2026

Matthew 16:18

And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church.

Isaiah 22:19-23; Psalm 137; Romans 11:33-36; Matthew 16:13-20

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.....

A man may fall many times but he won't be a failure until he says someone pushed him." -- Elmer G. Letterman

How easy it is for us to blame others or events to hide ourselves from responsibility for our own behavior. It can be a norm for us to want to be seen as perfect and woe betide anything which stands in the way of us being seen as anything other than perfection itself. And this applies not only to how others see us but also to how we see ourselves. It may fall under the deadly sin of vainglory or pride. Psychologically this attitude sets us up for failure because we tend to place ourselves on a pedestal of our own making, our own imagination, with little or no relevance to any evidence. Our reputation, hanging by a thread of unreality, is easily bruised if not crushed by the avoidance of the truth.

Owning up to the fact that we are imperfect is not an admission of failure, it is an admission of being just like everyone else with no claims to being without fault. Our own tall poppy syndrome will not take us anywhere worth going. So, what is important in owning up to the reality of imperfection. Well, it isn't about failure but it is about honesty and the wonderful virtue that travels alongside it, humility. Humility grounds us where we are precisely, it is an eyeglass which indicates our true self without any pretensions to greatness, nor with any hints about being worse than we are. If we are dissatisfied with ourselves and try to keep it a closely guarded secret we end up spending a lifetime in full mode of keeping up appearances and that is what the exercise is all about: appearances. Above all, this way of life is bereft of honesty.

Living a life that is true to one's ultimate self, which is to have been made in the image of God, takes on exceptional proportions. There is no need to be overwhelmed by this truth. Go along with it and explore it for all that it is worth. Denial of the truth, the covering up of mistakes we make, is alien to the spirit of who we are. Taking responsibility for our actions and behavior, especially if they are imperfect, is a sign of human maturity. Blaming others may get us out of an objective pickle but it is not the stuff of heroes. Mature Christian living accepts the responsibility of making mistakes rather than getting others into trouble merely to remove me from looking incompetent. Authenticity is the name of the game and avoids us being real failures.

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

Baptisms

The Parish joyfully welcomes the Baptisms of

Levi Matthew Murphy &

Lachlan Arthur Jones

this Sunday, and warmly welcomes 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

Sunday 23rd August <i>21st Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass 10.45am Baptisms
Monday 24th August <i>St Bartholomew</i>	No Morning Mass –Office is closed
Tuesday 25th August	9.15am Mass 6.00pm Cantabile Choir Practice 7.30pm Baptism Preparation Meeting M/R
Wednesday 26th August	9.15am Mass followed by Rosary 9.30am Playgroup P/C 7.00pm Bridge P/C
Thursday 27th August <i>St Monica</i>	9.15am Mass 1.00pm Bridge P/C 5.00pm Confirmation preparation meeting P/C 7.00pm Earth care and Social Justice meeting M/R
Friday 28th August <i>St Augustine</i>	9.15am Mass 1.30pm Bowlers P/C
Saturday 29th August <i>The passion of St John the Baptist</i>	7.30am Men's Breakfast 9.15am Mass 4.15pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass
Sunday 30th August <i>22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass 10.45am Baptism

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/iecc2028/.

Positions Vacant:

- Senior Development Manager – Diocese of Parramatta
- More details at: parracatholic.org/jobs

Bishop Vincent Presents: Vatican correspondent Gerard O'Connell and Elisabetta Pique: 26 August

Bishop Vincent, in partnership with the University of Notre Dame Australia and Catholic Schools Parramatta Diocese, warmly invites all to a special public lecture featuring two of the world's most respected Vatican journalists, Gerard O'Connell and Elisabetta Piqué. Hear their insider's account of the historic transition from Pope Francis to Pope Leo XIV. Wednesday 26 August, 6:00–8:00pm, at St Patrick's Cathedral Cloister Hall, 1 Marist Pl, Parramatta. All are welcome. Register at parracatholic.org/oconnellpique

BUILDING INTERFAITH RELATIONS

Window on the World's Religions is presenting Judaism and Islam. Teams of Jews and Muslims will present an immersive, engaging, personal encounter with the believers, through talk, video, show & tell, Q & A. Thursday 27 August 6:00-9:15PM. Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. Register via <https://events.humanitix.com/window-on-the-worlds-religions-2026> or use the QR code on narthex noticeboard. Only \$10.00 to cover refreshments.

Long Term Volunteer Opportunities in the Australia-Pacific Region - The Cagliero Project, Salesians of Don Bosco

We are seeking long term (6-12 month) volunteers for departure in January 2027 to work with young people in our Salesian communities in Samoa, Cambodia, Timor Leste, Solomon Islands and Mongolia. Applications close **October 31st, 2026**. Send us an enquiry - www.cagliero.org.au or lhichaaba@salesians.org.au.



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THANKSGIVING MASS FOR FR SETH HARSH

With great joy and gratitude, we invite all parishioners to join us in celebrating a **Mass of Thanksgiving** with **Fr Seth Harsh**, following his ordination to the priesthood. **The Most Reverend Brian G. Mascord DD, Bishop of Wollongong**, will ordain **Rev Seth Harsh** to the priesthood at **10:30am on Saturday, 12th September 2026**, at **Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church, Rosemeadow**. Fr Seth will then return to St Finbar's to celebrate a **Thanksgiving Mass on: Sunday, 13th September 2026 at 9:30am**

This is a special opportunity for our parish community to congratulate Fr Seth, give thanks for the gift of his priestly vocation, and pray for him as he begins his ministry as a priest.

All parishioners, families and friends are warmly invited to attend and share in this joyful celebration.

Please join us for refreshments to congratulate Father Seth after Mass.

"You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek." (Psalm 110:4)

WEEKDAY MASS

Here at St Finbar's we are privileged to have Mass celebrated every weekday morning other than Mondays. The church is heated and yet attendance is very poor. It would be a wonderful resolution to make to decide to attend at least one weekday Mass each week during spring, commencing on 1st September. We could offer our Masses for our own intentions and also that God brings peace to those countries currently at war.

ST FINBAR'S FEAST DAY CELEBRATION

Join us as we celebrate **St Finbar's Feast Day** on **Sunday, 27 September**, following the **9:30am Mass**.

Everyone is invited to stay and enjoy a wonderful morning of fellowship and celebration, including:

- ☐ Sausage sizzle and morning tea
- ☐ Games and activities for the children
- ☐ Live music from our Youth Band

To help create a festive atmosphere, parishioners are encouraged to **wear green** on the day in honor of St Finbar. Come along with your family and friends for a day of **fun, community, and celebration** as we gather to celebrate our parish patron saint. We look forward to seeing you there! **All are welcome.**

SEASON OF CREATION MASS AND BLESSING OF ANIMALS

As we celebrate the **Season of Creation**, all parishioners are warmly invited to our special **Season of Creation Mass will be on the weekend of 19/20th of September at all Masses**. To help celebrate the gifts of God's creation, parishioners will be invited to bring fresh fruit and vegetables, plants, flowers, herbs, or other garden produce to Mass. These offerings will be brought to the altar during the Entrance Procession and shared with fellow parishioners after Mass. Reflecting this year's theme, **"Living Water,"** the Mass will begin with a sprinkling rite, reminding us of God's gift of water and our responsibility to care for creation.

As part of our Season of Creation celebrations, there will also be a **Blessing of Animals on Saturday, 3 October**, at the **9.15 am Mass**. Parishioners are encouraged to bring their pets and other animals to receive a blessing. Come and join us as we give thanks for God's wonderful creation and renew our commitment to caring for our common home.

SEASON OF CREATION CAMPING TRIP 2026

Come along for a relaxed camping weekend of family fun and friendship, as we celebrate, reflect and pray with the Lord, delighting in the marvelous gift of His creation.

When: Friday, October 2 – Monday, October 5, 2026. Where: Wooglemai Catholic Bush Retreat Centre, Oakdale

For more information and to register visit: www.seasonofcreationcamping.org

SENIOR SERVERS, SACRISTANS & MINISTERS OF COMMUNION REFRESHER COURSE

On Sunday September 20th after 9:30 Mass there will be a session for Senior servers, Sacristans and Extraordinary Ministers of Communion with Father John to review the changes involving the two chalices for the Blood of Christ. Father John will be able to answer any question you may have about the liturgy. All ministers are invited to attend so our practice is the same at all Masses. Please come on September 20th after 9:30 Mass, in the church.

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LITURGICAL ROSTER FOR 29TH & 30TH AUGUST 2026

Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	Kylie Mills	Carl Moll	Stuart Sheary
Senior Server	Kylie Mills	Carl Moll	Martin Rogers
Junior Servers	Elondra & Thomas Karam Volunteer Please		Rebekah & Jude Mowbray
Warden	Maree Roach	Volunteer Please	Patricia Murnane
1 st Reading	Volunteer Please	Kevin Lloyd	Erin Kelly
2nd Reading	Katy Ferris	Andrew Teece	Volunteer Please
Intercession	Felicity Lindfield	Peter McMahon	Yvonne Scanlan
Music	Cormac's group		
IT Operators	Robyn Flynn	Jsoeph Wilson	Patrick Watson
Gifts	Parishioners are invited	To offer to	Bring up the gifts
Communion	Vince Dobson, Jim Barndon & Volunteer Please	Jessica Tiller & Volunteer Please	Annis Nilsson, Irene Aligno & Todd Stanford
Children's Liturgy	Carolyn & Michelle		
Church Care	Volunteer Please		
Hospitality	Julie Fehon, Anne Hobbs, Martin & Lyndal Rogers		

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK PARISHIONERS, RELATIVES & FRIENDS:

Bridget Sharp, Frank Higgins, Tony Phoebus (Mark's Uncle), Tom Torrance, John Brown, Mila Svehla, Chris Paine, Pat Barrett, Caroline Goosen, 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:

Margaret Smith, Angela Plevey, Eileen Farrell, Yvonne Price, Elizabeth Sefton, Les McDermott, Willy Boere, Andrew Wiecek, Ellen Fall, Maria Pay, Richard Nagle and Hermanus Voorn.

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