



St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook

The Barra

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

24th & 25th October 2026

Exodus 22:20-26; Psalm 17;

1 Thessalonians 1:5-10

Matthew 22:34-40

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.....

"Sometimes what seems like surrender isn't surrender at all. It's about what's going on in our hearts. About seeing clearly the way life is and accepting it and being true to it, whatever the pain, because the pain of not being true to it is far, far greater." – Nicholas Evans

It appears to be very true that life is not a bed of roses where absolutely everything always goes right for us and we never experience a problem or a disagreement. Even those who are born with a silver spoon in their mouth can have a hard time with the unpredictability of life in the raw. Life can be very tough, and the demands made on us can be so suffocating that we constantly wish to just roll over and sleep for a week hoping that it will all just disappear. We may feel that we are getting nowhere in life, that we are locked in a treadmill of treachery, that life has ganged up against us and continually points a finger of accusation against us. But such is not an opportunity to give up on life but the very moment to surrender to reality, even if the reality is not to our liking.

The reality we attempt to avoid is the very reality we need to choose to embrace. Whether or not it promises great rewards is not the point, because there is no alternative. We may assume that the tough things in life do not appear to deliver a life of flourishing. If we can get our head around this, we can see that fortitude in the face of adversity is flourishing even if we don't enjoy what we are going through. Among other things it strengthens our emotional muscles and provides a sense of deep satisfaction of tasks completed in the face of overwhelming odds.

Avoiding life in its rawness does not provide the seeds for personal integrity but dissolution of the responsibilities for which we were placed on earth. It may be quite true that often life can appear to be just too overwhelming and that we lack all the resources for seeing things through to the bitter end. It is particularly gruesome when everyone else around us is having a whale of a time. This is not the time to give up. It is the time to be proud of taking life on in its perceived bitterness knowing that we are making efforts to make the best of circumstances as they are. The pain of going through the motions toward a desired completion is far greater than the pain of withdrawing all efforts and realising you are a failure. And a quick prayer to you Guardian Angel would not go amiss!

PARISH INFORMATION

Parish Priest: Fr John Hogan
E-mail: John.hogan@parracatholic.org
Emergencies : 0466 500 880
(Sickness & Death only)
Juliana Khnouf
Secretary: secretary@stfinbars.org.au
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 Finbar's

Parish School:

Principal
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.

Sunday 25th October <i>30th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass 10.45am Baptisms 3.00pm Academy Singers Concert
Monday 26th October	No Morning Mass -Office is closed 5.00pm SVDP Meeting M/R 7.30pm Bible Study M/R
Tuesday 27th October	9.15am Mass 6.00pm Cantabile Choir Practice 7.30pm Baptism Preparation Meeting M/R
Wednesday 28th October <i>Sts Simon and Jude</i>	9.15am Mass followed by Rosary 9.30am Playgroup P/C 7.00pm Bridge P/C
Thursday 29th October	9.15am Mass 1.00pm Bridge P/C 7.00pm Emotional Development Course P/C
Friday 30th October	9.15am Mass 10.00am Chair Yoga P/C 1.30pm Bowlers P/C
Saturday 31st October	9.15am Mass 12.00pm SFNC Presentation P/C 4.15pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass
Sunday 1st November <i>ALL SAINTS Year A</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass 6.00pm All Souls Mass 7.30pm Youth Group P/C

Music Workshop for Advent: 5 November

All musicians in the diocese are invited to attend the Office for Worship's upcoming music workshop on November 5th. Mr Eric Grella will focus this workshop on choosing music that is suitable for the liturgical season of Advent and will be present to answer any questions you may have. It will be held on Thursday 5th Nov at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre from 7pm-8:30pm. Please register via parracatholic.org/music-workshop

Serving at the Altar Workshop: 14 November

A day of ongoing formation for acolytes and ministers of the altar will be held at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre on Saturday 14 November, 2026 from 9:30am-3pm. Morning tea and lunch will be provided. Topics covered: Basic structure of the Mass: including how various rites can be inserted into the Mass, practical scenarios of planning celebrations, the use of incense, benediction, planning Mass with the Bishop and time for all your questions. Please register by 9 November at parracatholic.org/events/ofw

BACH & CHARPENTIER - MUSIC FOR CHRISTMAS

Bach Akademie Australia presents a concert encompassing the spirit of a French Christmas with a performance of Charpentier's Messe de minuit, his Midnight Mass, full of joyous, dancing melodies and two of Bach's most loved and joyous Advent cantatas, radiating a sense of hope and expectation. Hear five soloists, the Choir of St James', King Street and the Bach Akademie Australia Orchestra all directed by Madeleine Easton in this glorious celebration on Friday 13 November, 7.30pm at St Finbar's, Glenbrook.

bachakademieaustralia.com.au or call 1300 785 377

YOUTH NIGHT

ST. FINBAR'S PARISH, GLENBROOK



EVERY 1ST & 3RD SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH @ 6PM

MASS: 6PM SUPPER: 7PM
THE LOUNGE YOUTH GROUP: 7.30-8.30PM

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FATHER JOHN TO RETIRE

Hello friends, I need to announce my forthcoming retirement. My last day with you will be Sunday, 1st November and I shall be in retirement the very next day. The reason for retirement is continuing declining health especially with regard to my feet. The pain and instability I have been experiencing over the past few months has caused multiple falls two of which have caused serious damage to me. I am no longer able to provide an adequate priestly ministry. Thank you for your warm welcome when I arrived and a double thank you for your co-operation over the past two years. A priest will take my place from 2nd November who will be here until the end of January when you will get a permanent priest. May your lives increase with every favour from heaven and God bless you all. **Father John.**



FINBAR'S FESTIVE FUNDRAISING FROCK UP!

Dine • Drink • Dance • Dazzle

Get ready for one of the most exciting parish events of the year! Join us on **Saturday, 14 November at 7.00pm in the Parish Hall** for a night filled with great food, wonderful company, music, dancing, laughter, and plenty of festive fun. There will be an abundance of **fantastic prizes, lucky door prizes, raffles, and special gifts to be won throughout the evening**, giving everyone a chance to take home something special! Dress up in your finest festive attire, gather your family and friends, and enjoy a memorable evening while supporting the important work of **St Finbar's Parish**. Every ticket purchased helps strengthen and support our parish community. **Come for the fun, stay for the friendship, and help our parish shine!**

Tickets: \$50 per person.

RSVP by 1st November 2026

To book, email **Tamar at admin@stfinbars.org.au**

PARISH EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS AMBASSADOR. Father John has appointed **Margaret Richards** as St Finbar's Parish Ambassador for the **Eucharist28 International Eucharistic Congress**.

In this important role, Margaret will act as a link between the Eucharist28 Operational Team and our parish community, helping to share information and encourage parishioners to engage with and prepare for the Congress in 2028. We thank Margaret for generously accepting this role and ask parishioners to keep her and the success of Eucharist28 in their prayers.

The family of Beryl Callaghan are delighted to advise that our beloved wife & mother turned 100 years on Wed 21 October 2026.

As many of you know, Beryl 100 yrs & Stan 99 yrs have been devoted members of the St Finbar's community for more than 70 years, until they moved to assisted care at Glenmore Park just 10mths ago. We'd love to mark this special milestone with the St Finbar's parish.



Calling for help please! At least 8 people required. Ages 12 years and up.

WORKING BEE: SATURDAY OCTOBER 31st

TIME: 9.00am to 10.30am approximately. Morning tea will be provided

TASK: Putting hedge cuttings on a truck and fertilising the Levy St hedge.

For your own comfort and protection please **bring items such as long-sleeve shirt, hat, sunscreen, gloves, water** If you are able to help, **please contact Kieran 0419246972. Thank you.**

**Bateman
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Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	7.30 am	9.30 am	6.00pm All Souls Mass
Sacristan	Kylie Mills	Peter McMahon	Gerard Egan	Nick McMaster
Senior Server	Kylie Mills	Peter McMahon	Lukas Rajnoch	Nick McMaster
Junior Servers	Alex & Luc Nilsson Patrick Barach	Summer & Oliver Wilson	Xavier Rajnoch & Elizabeth & Sofia Grus	Volunteers please
Warden	Vince Dobson	Ben Oxley	Gary Clune	Volunteers please
1 st Reading	Beth Culliver	John De Mattia	Pearse Cremin	Irene Aligno
2nd Reading	Jim Barndon	Andrew Teece	Amanda Moore	Peter McMahon
Intercession	Greg Rowe	Volunteer Please	Irene Aligno	Carolyn Duval
Music	Naomi's Group	N/A	Anne's Group	Naomi's Group
IT Operators	Thais Turner	Joseph Wilson	Volunteer Please	Patrick Watson
Gifts	Volunteer Please	Maria Heinzl & Stanis Drobiszewski	The Grus Family	Julie Fehon & Volunteer Please
Communion	Beth Culliver Elizabeth Rowe Jim Barndon	Brian Grech & Helen Keogh	Martin Rogers Garry Pursehouse Wendy Brown	Juliana Khnouf Margaret Richards
Children's Liturgy	Elizabeth & Jess			
Church Care	Jane Lennon, Melissa McDonald, Gabrielle Lynch & Lucy Limbers			
Hospitality	Vicky Ang & Volunteer Please			

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

Thelma Fogarty and Monika Locke.

PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK PARISHIONERS, RELATIVES & FRIENDS:

Frank Higgins, Tony Phoebus (Mark's Uncle), Tom Torrance, John Brown, Mila Svehla, Mark Bates, Chris Paine, Pat Barrett, Caroline Goosen, Noreen Taylor, Lyn Downes, Sophie Hollies, Jacqui Visser, Beryl & Stan Callaghan, Terry Stevens, Margaret Stevens, Maddison Farrugia, Gerard Keenan, 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:

Stephen Critchley, Baby Peter Shatford, Lorna O'Neill, Edna Helm, Alice McGregor, Rubena Appleton, Michael Drinkwater, Anne Bell, Ottilia Gyucha, John Guinney, Ann Walker, Rocco Galderisi, Archibald Johnson, Charles Breese, Allan McMillan, Irene Baker, David Hancock, Amanda Oxford and Anna Vella.

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