

St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook

The Barra

1st Sunday of Advent Year B

28th & 29th November2026

Isaiah 63:16-17, 64:1, 3-8;
Psalm 79;
1 Corinthians 1:3-9;
Mark 13:33-37

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/

Gospel Reflection by Fr Matthew Dimian

Christ's arrival in History, Mystery and Majesty

The season of Advent has begun – happy liturgical new year! It's a liturgical season that rightly produces in us many layers of joyful anticipation. It signals that the year is wrapping up (like a Christmas gift). We are relieved that school and university holidays are beginning, the workload at our jobs might soon lighten up, family feasts, festive cards, hidden gifts, and summer beach days are around the corner. But most importantly, the cherry on top of the cake (or the star on top of the Christmas tree) is that these very human delights are suffused with a supernatural joy in the near arrival of Christ Our Saviour at Christmas!

Given that Advent prepares for Christmas, the picture of Our Lord's arrival that most clearly fills our minds is that of his birth in history, in a stable in Bethlehem accompanied by Our Lady, St Joseph, shepherds, barn animals and kings. We prepare for that saving event by meditating upon it, accepting the great gift of Christ's divinity made present to us in the incarnation, and letting our humanity be conformed to his.

So, it might surprise us that the readings of the First Sunday of Advent are about Jesus' coming in a very different way. Our second reading from St Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians says we "are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ." Advent begins with a recollection of Christ's second coming in glory, in continuity with the focus of the last weeks of the liturgical year. If his birth is Christ's arrival in history, the Last Day is his coming in majesty. We can prepare for that second coming by a sincere repentance, constant readiness, and haste to reform our lives to be saintly.

Adding to this double arrival of Our Lord, we can also add a third way Our Lord comes to us in Advent, and it lies between the first coming and his second coming. Christ, in fact, comes to us every single day. He dwells within the hearts of those who love him. He comes to us in the Scriptures, in the Eucharist, and in the fellowship on the saints. He is already here, though not as obviously. This is Christ's coming in mystery. We prepare for it by attentiveness to his presence, fervent and constant prayer, pondering the Scriptures, and responsiveness to Sacramental grace,

To sum up, Advent reminds us to prepare for this triple coming of Christ: in history, in mystery, and in majesty. The call of Advent is to be ready for each of these three arrivals of Our Loving Saviour.

I'll let St Bernard of Clairvaux have the final word: "This middle coming is like a road that leads from the first coming to the last. At the first, Christ was our redemption; at the last, he will become manifest as our life; but in this middle way he is our rest and our consolation."

PARISH INFORMATION

Parish Administrator: **Fr Matthew Dimian**
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Emergencies : **0**411 783 173
(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 Finbar's
Parish School: Principal Mrs Kym Romanous
Phone: 4724 3600

Baptisms

The Parish joyfully welcomes the Baptisms of

Annabelle Lisa Duncan &
Jamie Alexander Duncan

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 29th November *1st Sunday of Advent Year B*	**7.30am Mass** **9.30am Mass** **10.45am Baptisms**
Monday 30th November *St Andrew*	**No Morning Mass –Office is closed**
Tuesday 1st December	**9.15am Mass** 6.00pm Cantabile Choir Practice 7.00pm Advent Adoration and Confessions
Wednesday 2nd December	**9.15am Mass followed by Rosary** 9.30am Playgroup P/C 7.00pm Bridge P/C
Thursday 3rd December *St Francis Xavier*	**9.15am Mass** 1.00pm Bridge P/C 3.30pm Advent group M/R 7.00pm RCIA Program M/R
Friday 4th December	**9.15am Mass** 9.45am Advent Adoration and Confessions 10.00am Chair Yoga P/C 1.30pm Bowlers P/C
Saturday 5th December	**9.15am Mass** 9.00am Young Adults Advent Retreat P/C 4.15pm Confessions **5.30pm Vigil Mass**
Sunday 6th December *2nd Sunday of Advent Year B*	**7.30am Mass** **9.30am Mass** 2.30pm Volunteers afternoon tea P/C **6.00pm Youth Mass (last one for this year)** 7.30pm Youth Group P/C

ST FINBAR'S PARISH CHRISTMAS CAROLS.
Come and join us for a joyful evening of Christmas Carols at **St Finbar's Parish** on **Sunday, 13 December at 5:00pm**. Gather with family, friends, and fellow parishioners as we celebrate the spirit of Christmas through music, singing, and community. **Everyone is warmly invited.**
We look forward to celebrating with you!

PERFECT CATHOLIC GIFTS FOR THE LITTLE ONES NOW AVAILABLE FOR SALE. We are delighted to introduce **a new range of** a beautiful faith-inspired Christmas collection designed to help children grow closer to Jesus and Mary through prayer, creativity and learning. Please email Tamar on admin@stfinbars.org.au. The range includes:
The Story of Christmas for Little Hearts,
The Nativity mini gold tin box
The Nativity puzzle 50 pieces.



CAROLS IN THE PARK. Everyone is warmly invited to *Carols in the Park* on **11 December at 7.45pm in Glenbrook Park**. Hosted by the Blaxland-Glenbrook Inter-Church Group, with music from the Blue Mountains Concert Band and Mountain Youth Band, this special community event supports the Christmas Bowl Appeal. Bring a picnic rug or chair and join us for an evening of Christmas carols and fellowship under the stars. If wet, the event will be held at Glenbrook Uniting Church.

Young Adults Advent Retreat – Journey Towards Eucharist28. Catholic Youth Parramatta invites young adults. (18–35) to an Advent Retreat featuring international guest speaker Fr Patrick Briscoe OP, co-host of the *Godsplaining* podcast and confirmed speaker at the 2028 International Eucharistic Congress. Exploring the theme, "God became man so that we may become like God," the day will include talks, Mass, Confession, Eucharistic Adoration and fellowship as we prepare for Christmas and journey towards Eucharist28.
Saturday 5 December | 9:00am–2:30pm
St Finbar's Glenbrook. **Cost: $10 | Limited to 100 places. Register here:** CYP Advent Retreat (5 December) | Diocese of Parramatta

2027 CALENDARS NOW AVAILABLE AT THE WARDEN'S TABLE
Franciscan: $9
Columban: $12

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PARISH CHRISTMAS RAFFLE. Due to the cancellation of the Parish Dinner fundraising event, we still have many wonderful prizes to be raffled as part of our Christmas fundraising appeal. Tickets are available from the Parish Office and in the narthex after all Masses. Tickets are **3 for $20 (cash only)**. Please write your name and phone number on each ticket. Many fantastic prizes, generously donated by local businesses, are on display in the glass cabinet in the narthex. **The raffle draw will take place on Sunday 20 December after the 9.30am Mass.** All proceeds will go towards maintaining our beautiful parish. Thank you for your continued support and generosity. ***Tamar Apkarian/Parish Administrator***

40 YEARS SINCE POPE ST JOHN PAUL II'S ADDRESS TO ABORIGINAL PEOPLE. This weekend, we commemorate 40 years since Pope St John Paul II's historic address to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Darwin, an important moment in the life of the Australian Church.

CHRISTMAS MASS ROSTERS. Our **Christmas Mass roster** is on the church noticeboard. We warmly invite parishioners to add their names and take part in our Christmas celebrations by assisting in one of the many ministries. Your willingness to serve helps make our Christmas liturgies welcoming and prayerful for all. Please note that **incense will be used at all Christmas Masses this year**. We are seeking volunteers to assist as **Thurifers** and **Boat Bearers** at each of our three Christmas Masses. If you would like to help in this special ministry, please add your name to the roster.
Thank you for sharing your time and talents with our parish community this Christmas.

ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS DURING ADVENT. As we journey through Advent preparing for the celebration of the birth of Jesus at Christmas, you are warmly invited to spend some time in quiet prayer and contemplation with our Lord. During Advent a Holy Hour of Eucharistic adoration will be held every Tuesday evening from 7.00pm starting December 1 and every Friday after the 9.15am Mass starting December 4. Feel free to come for 5 minutes or for 60 minutes. Reconciliation will also be available.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT: St Finbar's Catholic Church on Levy St, Glenbrook will present a Christmas service on December 20 at 7.30 pm. This will feature traditional readings by church members and carols performed by the Academy Singers and Penrith City Choir, with organ and brass accompaniment under the direction of Dr Paul Terracini, conductor of the Penrith Symphony Orchestra. Ticket sales are available online at https://events.humanitix.com/christmas-at-st-finbars as well as at the door on the day.
Please consider booking online to minimize congestion at the Church on the day.



PRESBYTERY GARDEN WORKING BEE: SATURDAY DECEMBER 5th. Calling for help please! At least 8 people required. Ages 10 years and up. TIME: 8.30am to 11am at the latest. ***Morning tea will be provided.*** **TASK: Some weeding; apply mulch – Light Work. Bring** trowel and bucket and water to drink. **Wear** items such as long-sleeve shirt, hat, sunscreen, gloves. **If you are able to help,** ***please contact Kieran 0419246972*****. Thank you.**

FUN SINGERS. The St Finbar's Fun Singers were established nearly 25 years ago by the late Marie Hurley who strongly believed that older people benefit from music which is now scientifically supported. Unfortunately, the Fun Singers have lost several members due to various personal and health reasons, so we are appealing to parishioners to consider using their singing skills to bring happiness and hope to our older community. We perform on every third Monday mornings of the month, so can you please join us to ensure we can continue. All you require is enjoy singing various tunes, can access emails and open documents to read our monthly program and bring a smile. We need at least another three men and women to volunteer. For more information, please ring Colleen Sisson on 0448 100 005 or email colleensisson48@gmail.com

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LITURGICAL ROSTER FOR 5TH & 6TH DECEMBER 2026

Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	7.30 am	9.30 am	6.00pm Youth Mass
Sacristan	Kylie Mills	Peter McMahon	Gerard Egan	Nick McMaster
Senior Server	Kylie Mills	Peter McMahon	Lukas Rajnoch	Nick McMaster & Tim Kensey
Junior Servers	Alex, Luck Nilsson & Patrick Barach	Summer & Oliver Wilson	Xavier Rajnoch, Elizabeth & Sofia Grus	James Christie
Warden	Vince Dobson	Ben Oxley	Gary Clune	Volunteer please
1st Reading	Philomena Watkins	Carl Moll	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	N/A	Anne's group	N/A
IT Operators	Henry Hanko	Joseph Wilson	Patrick Watson	Lachlan Lloyd
Gifts	Volunteer 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	Danielle & Jess			
Church Care	Volunteer please			
Hospitality	Lina Wiecek & Vicky Ang			
Lawn Mowing	Tony Doyle, Darren Dukes, Brian Egan and Courtney Whiticker			

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:
Genevieve Keoghi (Kath Tierney's sister), Dietrich Blatz (Carl Moll's Cousin) and Thelma Fogarty.

PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK PARISHIONERS, RELATIVES & FRIENDS:
Tracey Jamieson, Vanessa Lawson, 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*:**
Yousef Sayah, Frank Culliver, Simon Culliver, Glenna Van den Steen, Shirley Noyes, Ronald Aussel, Harlod Mitchell, David Miles, Frank Kroehnert, Lawrence Dunne, Thomas O'Malley, Julia Rudnicki, Ronald Lowe, Christopher O'Meara, Winifred Nolan, Paul Gibbeson, Carolyn Van Dyke, Phillipa Moloney and Peter May.

