



From the Principal

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2021 – a year that we hope will be a little more predictable and inclusive than the one that we faced together last year! We are so pleased by the settled manner that all of our students showed on their return to school. Our newest students in Kindergarten have started school beautifully... you would think they had been doing this for years!

This week, I read Luke's account (Luke 2:22-40) about Jesus being presented to the temple, as was the Jewish custom of the day. Whilst presenting Jesus, He was recognised by two devout people, Simeon and Anna. Both of them testified that this child was the One that the world had been waiting for, and shared this blessing with many people. Luke ended his account of the event with these words: "The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him." As your children begin this new chapter of their lives, I hope that they will grow during their years at St. Finbar's, that they will become strong and resilient, that they will come to love learning, and their actions will show they are favoured by God.

This year we welcome several new staff members to our community:

Mr Michael Lo Cascio	Year Three teacher
Mr Rob Matessi	RFF Music teacher
Mr Matthew Zolfel	School Learning Support Officer (SLSO) Stage Two
Mr Sam Lewis	Information Technology Support Trainee



We welcome back the Executive staff for 2021:

Mrs Robyn Clarke	Principal
Mr Ben Ticehurst	Assistant Principal/Stage Two support teacher
Mrs Leanne Brown	Religious Education Coordinator/Year Two teacher
Mrs Alison Maunder	Leader of Learning/ Stage Two support teacher
Mrs Alicia Borg	Special Projects coordinator/ Stage One Support Teacher

And we welcome back the rest of our staff for 2021:

Ms Terese Collins	Kindergarten teachers
Ms Georgia Hutchins	
Mrs Michelle Robinson	Kindergarten SLSOs
Mrs Kristie Loughton	
Mrs Julie Wilson	
Miss Rebekah Stopford	Year One teacher
Mrs Jo Leone	Stage One SLSOs
Mrs Denise Cupitt	
Mrs Julie Wilson	
Mrs Rebecca Southern	Year Four Teacher
Mrs Veronica Lee	Stage Two SLSOs
Miss Therese Sammut	
Mr Matthew Zolfel	



Mr Jonathan Tucker	Year Five teacher
Mrs Carolyn Viera/Mrs Jemima McLeod	Year Six teacher
Mrs Louise Corby	Stage Three SLSO
Mrs Jo-Ann Shean	Diversity teacher
Mrs Amber Baines	Executive Release

Ancillary Staff

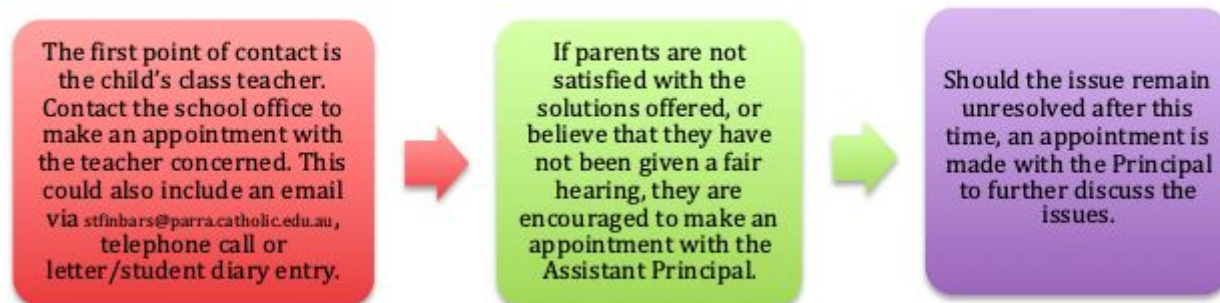
Mrs Elizabeth Denham	Senior Finance Officer
Mrs Donna Beukers	Administrative Support Officers
Mrs Tracey Procter	
Mrs Fran Pietersma	
Mrs Sara Berger	Library SLSO
Mr Mat Sharp	Grounds and Maintenance Manager

Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher if you have any concerns or issues about your child's learning that you need to discuss.

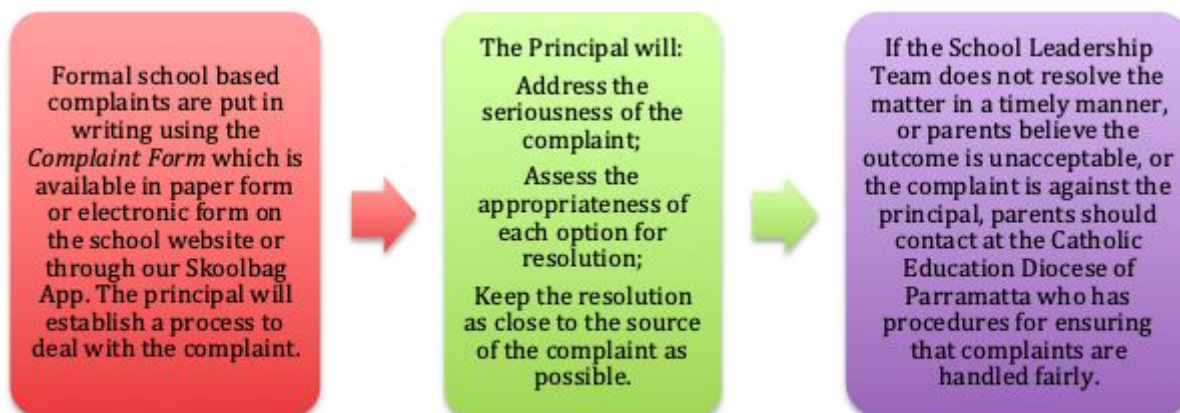




The procedure to be followed by parents for informal complaints or to seek information or feedback about a concern



The recommended procedure to be followed by parents for formal complaints



Please refer to the CEDP Complaints Handling Procedures & Guidelines

May Christ's peace be with you,

Mrs Robyn Clarke

Principal



Mr. Ben Ticehurst
Assistant Principal

St Finbar's, like any other community, has staff and students that have food allergies and anaphylaxis, a potentially life-threatening allergic reaction, to a range of different allergens.

The purpose of this information is to help families understand the importance of supporting students with food allergies and encourage members of our community to become allergy Aware.

Our community has staff and students that have allergies and anaphylaxis to nuts, tree nuts, pistachio nuts, eggs, kiwi fruit and gluten.

A food allergy is an immune system response to a food protein that the body (mistakenly) believes is harmful when the person eats food containing that protein. In an individual with a food allergy, the body sees a particular food as an enemy and releases something called "histamine" and other chemicals to fight the enemy. Any food can trigger an allergic reaction, however there are 9 foods that cause 90% of food triggered reactions.

The top 9 foods are:

Egg, milk, peanut, tree nuts (e.g. cashews, walnut, macadamia, almond), fish, shellfish (such as prawns), sesame, soy and wheat.

1 in 10 children in Australia will develop a food allergy. Most children outgrow them leaving 2% of Australians with food allergies in adulthood. Some of these may experience reactions that can be potentially life threatening.

I encourage you to talk to your child/ren about being allergy aware. It is important that children maintain vigilance when eating their food during the day and do not share food items with other children.

We Are One - Design / Drawing Competition

At the start of the year, Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced a change to our National Anthem. A change to the second line of our anthem from "We are young and free" to "We are one and free".

This change signified the importance of our nation recognising the ancient, rich history of our country and that we, as Australians, are unified and will embrace different cultures, ethnicities and abilities to highlight that we are all equal.

Despite the public debate that still continues about what our anthem should look like in the future, I believe that this change has helped highlight the importance of us being bonded rather than divided and recognising indigenous history as a part of who we are.



All students in the school are able to enter a competition where they will graphically represent what the idea of "One" means when we sing, "We are one and free".

Any student can submit a design (drawn or computer designed) to Mr Ticehurst by the end of Week 5. The winners will have their design published in our School Newsletter, Skoolbag and on our Facebook page. The winner will also receive a PBS4L wristband. In addition they will receive points for their House.

All entries should be handed into the office via the classroom office bags. If anyone wishing to enter needs access paper to create their design, please come and see me.

Let your light shine

Ben Ticehurst
Assistant Principal



OPENING SCHOOL MASS

On **Friday 12th February** at **9.30am** we will come together as a school community to celebrate the start of our new school year. At Mass, we will welcome our new kindergarten children, staff and the children who have commenced in other grades. We warmly invite all our family and friends to join us in our celebrations. We ask that parents please sit at the back of the church and social distance from each other. It is mandatory that masks are worn and all parents sign in on arrival.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DRAFT NEW CURRICULUM - UPDATE

This term all our classes will be engaging with one Learning Cycle (unit of work) from the Draft New Curriculum for Religious Education. Using experiential learning through student inquiry, students will be immersed in activities and experiences that apply scripture and tradition in a meaningful way to the contemporary life of our young people.

Each class/ stage will centre their inquiry around the following driving questions:

Kindergarten | Who is my friend?

Stage One | What is Sacred Scripture?

Stage Two | How is Jesus both God & man?

Stage Three | What does it mean for humans to think about their thinking?



We look forward to sharing the journey of each stage with you throughout the term. Don't forget to follow us on Facebook, where many of the learning photos will be posted.

PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM DATES 2021

St Finbar's Sacramental Program Information Evening will be held on **Monday 1st March at 7.30pm**, in the Parish Hall. All parents who wish to enrol their child/ren in one of the Sacramental programs in 2021 will need to attend the meeting (children do not need to attend the information meeting). Dates and requirements for participation in each of the Sacramental journeys will be discussed and distributed at this meeting.

If you have any questions regarding the Sacramental Program, please contact the Parish Office on 4739 8928.

CELEBRATING PARISH MASS

Students will be celebrating Parish Mass on a Friday again this term. Students will attend as a Stage. Kindergarten will attend with their buddies commencing in Term Two (subject to change depending on COVID restrictions).



Please note the date your child's class will be attending Mass this term. Mass begins at 9am. We warmly invite all parent/carers and family members to join us. Family members are invited to sit with their children during Parish Mass. Please note, masks are mandatory for adults in church.

Stage Three	Stage Two	Stage One
26th February Week 5	5th March Week 6	12th March Week 7

Strength, love and peace,

Leanne Brown
Acting Religious Education Coordinator



COVID PROCEDURES UPDATE

As we receive Covid Safety Updates we will endeavour to relay them to parents as soon as possible. At present, the following covid safety procedures are in place:

- Adults are not permitted onsite unless they are required to come to the school office. A sign in must be completed. Numbers are limited to four adults in the office foyer. Please use the sanitiser provided before entering.
- The Kiss and Ride system operating in the morning has been a great success and will continue for 2021. Parents who do not wish to drop their children off curbside are permitted to park in the adjacent church grounds or on the opposite side of King St, and walk their child/ren to the school gate. Please remember to practice 1.5m social distancing if interacting with other parents. Please refrain from parking in the Kiss and Ride zone as it disrupts the flow of traffic. **Parents are not permitted to alight from their cars** in the Kiss and Ride zone. A staff member will be on hand to assist any children who need help exiting the vehicle.
- Afternoon dismissal will remain as per 2020 for the present time, until further notice. Children will be called over to the gate for parent collection. Please remember the 1.5m rule regarding social distancing when waiting outside the King St. Gate. Infants children can be dismissed from 3:00pm, and primary children will be dismissed from 3:10pm.
- Parents **are** permitted to attend liturgies and masses, but must socially distance and wear a mask for the duration.
- Face to face meetings with teachers are permitted with the discretion of the Principal, however large group meetings are not allowed. For instance, our parent information night will be conducted via Zoom, and our first P&F meeting will have an option of face to face or Zoom attendance.
- Spectators, including parents and carers, ARE permitted at external sporting events or activities in **public areas (i.e. not in school/CEDP designated area)**, as per the venue/organiser's COVID-19 Safety Plan to ensure compliance with venue restrictions. If the school/CEDP designated area is the whole venue then spectators, parents and carers are not permitted. It is important that the designated areas are clearly marked at the venue. Parent/carers are not permitted to enter the CEDP designated area at any time.
- Please keep your child at home if they are running a temperature or have cold or flu-like symptoms. If your child is having a covid test, the results must be sent to the school email account stfinbars@parra.catholic.edu.au before your child returns to school. If the illness is attributed to seasonal allergies, please ask your doctor for a certificate that states that this causes the symptoms. If your child has cold or flu-like symptoms or a temperature at school parents will be requested to collect the child.

Thank you for your ongoing support of, and compliance with the safety precautions.



every learner every day ☒

When is sick too sick for school



If I am sick please call the school or write me a note to let the school know why I am not at school.

Send me to school if ...	Keep me home if ...
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ I have the symptoms of a cold or hayfever✓ I have a sprain, strain or pain and I can function (walk, talk and eat)✓ If I have asthma, diabetes, epilepsy etc - school personnel are trained to manage my condition. Talk to the school about my health plan✓ I haven't vomited or had diarrhoea for 24 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ I have a temperature higher than 37 degrees✓ I am vomiting or have diarrhoea✓ My eyes are red, and crusty (conjunctivitis)✓ I have influenza (flu) - combination fever, sore throat, cough, muscle aches and headaches✓ I have the symptoms of an infectious disease. Go to NSW Health - A-Z of infectious diseases for more information


Catholic Education
Diocese of Parramatta

School Information Night – Via Zoom

Our school Information Night will be held on **Tuesday 9 February via Zoom:**

<https://parracatholic.zoom.us/j/93441081364?pwd=V3lwb1VEY0F4WVICN2lBa0UwQmFTdz09>

This will commence at 6:30pm and it is expected that all families will be able to have someone in attendance. The evening will consist of two presentations. A whole school presentation at 6:30pm, followed by Stage Q&As from 7:00pm – 7:30pm. The links to these Q&A sessions will be published during the evening via the chat.

mark  your **Calendar**



New Strings Program | Captivate

This year we are very excited to be part of the Strings Program, run by the Captivate Team at CEDP. This program is for our Stage Two (years three and four) students, who will have the opportunity to select from four stringed instruments: violin, viola, cello or double bass. Yesterday Mrs Francoise D'Unienville presented a short workshop to the students who will be participating in the program, to explain the unique properties of each of these instruments. The students in Stage Two have been asked to nominate two preferences and hopefully we will be able to accommodate their wishes, based on the number of instruments available.

Year four students will eventually be allowed to take their instruments home to practise, once they have mastered the basic techniques of playing. These lessons occur each Wednesday. This program is at no cost to families, whilst small group private tutoring occurs on Wednesdays and Thursdays and incur a fee which will appear on school fees. Please contact the office if you have any enquiries.



Skoolbag

Skoolbag is used at St Finbar's to communicate information to parents and carers. Urgent updates, lodgement of permission notes, newsletter, class information are all things that are channeled through Skoolbag. If you do not already have the Skoolbag app downloaded on your phone or device, please do so.

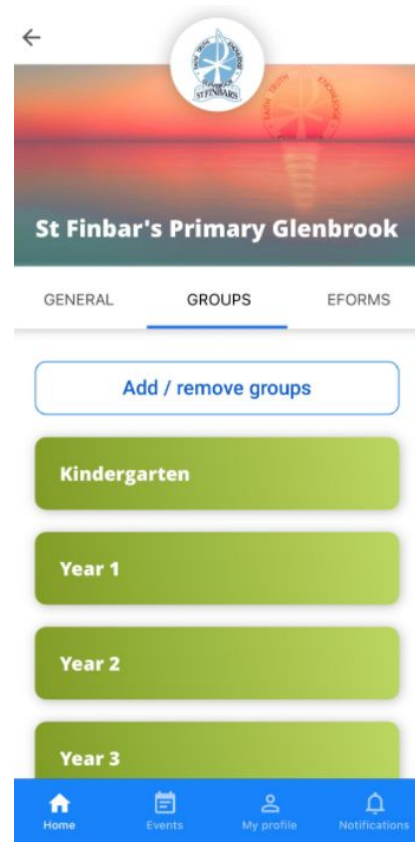
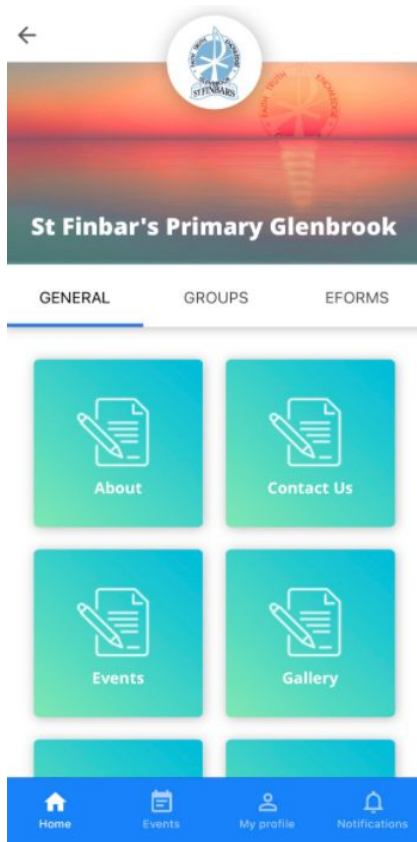
If you already have Skoolbag, you need to update the grades (groups) for your children, in order to receive the correct notifications.

You can do this by opening the app:

1. Clicking on the St Finbar's banner
2. Go to Groups
3. add/remove groups

You can select as many groups as you like, but you will receive notifications each group you select.


We are happy to assist anyone experiencing difficulty with the app. Please contact the office if you need assistance.





Dates To Remember

Monday 8 February Whole School Assembly 2:15pm	Friday 12 February Opening School Mass 9:30am	Tuesday 16 February Pancakes at break 1	Wednesday 17 February Ash Wednesday Mass 9am
Tuesday 9 February Parent Information Evening 6:30pm Via Zoom	Monday 15 February Nepean Zone Swimming Carnival	Tuesday 16 February P & F Meeting 6pm	

Our 2021 Calendar is now available. [View School Calendar](#). Use the  to add our calendar to your Google Calendar. It is also available on Skoolbag.

Drop Off and Pick Up in Wet Weather

We have recently made a change to the arrangements for wet weather arrival for students as well as wet weather dismissal in the afternoons.

Morning Wet Weather

- Students can be dropped at the Levy Street Gate (School Office).
- Students can be dropped at the Kiss and Ride zone and enter through the normal morning gate.
- During heavy rain parents should elect to drop students at the Levy Street gate to avoid a longer, unsheltered walk to their classroom.
- The Kiss and Ride will still operate.

Afternoon Wet Weather

- Students will gather under the COLA.
- All students will be dismissed via the COSHC Gate.



Lost Property

There is a large amount of lost property in a plastic tub outside the office. This has all been washed during the holidays by a staff member and is now ready to find a new home.

Parents are welcome to come in and check the tub, we would love to be able to return these goods to their owners.

Please make sure your child's belongings are always clearly labelled in case they are misplaced.



Road Safety

SCHOOL ZONE OFFENCES WHAT ARE YOU RISKING?*

FACT Children are small, harder to see, behave unpredictably and are extremely vulnerable. They need YOU to take extra care when driving and parking around school zones.	
No Parking You have 2 minutes to drop-off or pick-up and must stay within 3 metres of your vehicle. PENALTY \$191 + 2 DEMERIT POINTS	Pedestrian Crossings Do not stop on or near a marked crossing. PENALTY \$457 + 2 DEMERIT POINTS
No Stopping You are not permitted to stop on a length of road with a no stopping sign. PENALTY \$344 + 2 DEMERIT POINTS	Driveways Do not stop on or across a driveway. PENALTY \$344 + 2 DEMERIT POINTS
Bus Zone You must not stop your vehicle in a Bus Zone unless you are driving a public bus. PENALTY \$344 + 2 DEMERIT POINTS	Intersections Do not stop on or within 20 metres of an intersection. PENALTY \$457 + 2 DEMERIT POINTS
Mobile Phone Use Do not use a hand held mobile phone while driving. MAX. PENALTY \$2200 + 5 DEMERIT POINTS	Parallel Parking Must parallel park in direction of travel unless signpost states otherwise. PENALTY \$344 + 2 DEMERIT POINTS
School Zone Speeding Offences 40kmph is the speed limit. Children are vulnerable in school zones. SCHOOL ZONE 8-9am 2pm-4pm 40 MAX. PENALTY \$3821 + 7 DEMERIT POINTS	Double Parking Do not double park in a school zone. PENALTY \$344 + 2 DEMERIT POINTS
	Footpath and Nature Strip Do not stop on a footpath, nature strip or obstruct ramp or path access. PENALTY \$344 + 2 DEMERIT POINTS

*Fines current as of July 2019. Fines and demerit points are subject to change.

This is a timely reminder to please be aware of the school zone speed limits as well as any children that are crossing the road.

[Attached](#) is road safety information provided by NSW Government.

We have also put in an application for a School Crossing Supervisor. We hope to hear that this has been approved in the near future.

In the meantime, we ask that if your children are crossing the road, please continue to use the crossing, however, please walk with them.





School Fees

School Fee statements will be mailed out in the coming weeks. If you have any questions or concerns in relation to school fees, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Denham in the school office Tuesday - Thursday, or alternatively you are able to contact the office and make an appointment to see Mrs Clarke. All conversations remain strictly confidential.

Phone: 4724 3600 or Email: finb-glbrfees@parra.catholic.edu.au



Positive Partnerships

Positive Partnerships will be holding online parent/carers autism workshops from 2-24 February.



positive partnerships

Working together to support school-aged students on the autism spectrum

The first is a 4 week series of 2 hour sessions and the second is a full day workshop. Please see the attached flyers for full details. [Flyer 1](#) [Flyer 2](#)

These workshops are not region specific and will cater for any NSW parents, grandparents or full time carers. Positive Partnerships homepage: <https://www.positivepartnerships.com.au/>

Second Hand Uniforms

Mrs Gabrielle Lynch has kindly offered to coordinate the sale of second hand uniforms for us, for which we are very grateful. Gabrielle will be open to offers of assistance if anyone has a few moments here or there to assist with sorting from time to time.

If you would like any uniform items, please email a list of the items and sizes you would like to stfinbars@parra.catholic.edu.au which will then be forwarded to Gabrielle. We will endeavour to fill your order based on supply and reply via email. Once you have received your reply, items will be left in the office for you to consider and purchase if you choose to.

Please complete the [order form](#) attached to view items and prices.

Donations | We also welcome donations of pre loved uniforms in good condition. All donations can be dropped into the school office between 8:30am - 3:30pm daily. Unfortunately we are unable to accept any of the old uniform items ie. old style sports shirt, girls winter pinafore.





Policies & Timetables | Buses, Bikes, Scooters, Phones

Bus Timetables | Please click on this [link](#) to access the current bus timetable for morning and afternoon buses.

Opal Card | If you need to apply for an Opal card for your child or update your address details, [click here](#).

Bikes and Scooters | If your child rides their bike or scooter to and from school, it is a requirement that they understand and sign the [Bike and Scooter Policy](#). Please download the Policy or alternatively a copy can be obtained from the school office. The policy needs to be signed by parent and student and returned to school. If there are multiple children in the family, each child will need a signed policy.

Mobile Phones | The [Mobile Phone Policy](#) can be downloaded here or a copy can be obtained from the school office. Any student that brings a mobile phone to school needs to read and sign this policy. It will need to be handed in to the office after signing.

Change of Address

If you have moved during the holidays, please complete the attached Change of Details form and return it to the office.

It is important that we have up to date contact information for every student. It is also a good time to check on the emergency contacts that you listed at the time of enrolment, check they are current and advise us of any change.

Changes can be emailed to stfinbars@parra.catholic.edu.au

If your contact information has changed,
don't forget to let us know!





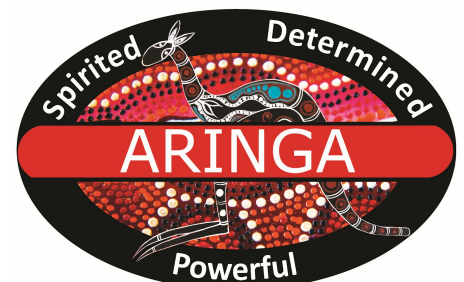
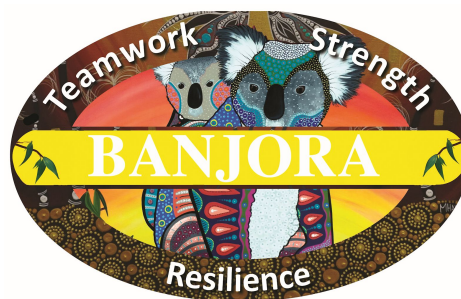
PBS4L



Our Focus

I am a Problem Solver

STOP - WALK - TALK





Parish News

Click this link to read The Parish Barra

Sunday Masses:

Vigil - 5.30pm Saturday evening

7.30am & 9.30am Sunday morning

6pm Family/Youth - First and Third Sunday evenings (except Jan)

Weekday Masses:

Monday: 9am **Tuesday:** 9am **Wednesday:** 8am

Thursday: 9am (except third Thursday - see Anointing Mass)

Friday: 9am

Saturday: 9am

Reconciliation: Saturday evening - 4.45 - 5.15pm, or any time on request

Rosary in Honour of Our Lady: Usually after Wednesday morning Mass.

Anointing Mass: Usually third Thursday of the month at 10am (except January)

Adoration & Benediction: Usually after Friday morning Mass.



Please read the Parish Barra for current Covid-19 Guidelines for Church

**ST FINBARS
NETBALL CLUB**

REGISTER ONLINE AT
stfinbarsnc.nsw.netball.com.au

from 15th of January. If you need help or a new uniform, please come to the Parish Hall (Levy St, Glenbrook) "Sat 6th Feb 9am - 12pm or Tues 9th Feb 3pm - 6pm"

OUR FEES ARE:

Junior	\$190
Senior	\$215
PWD	\$160

Registrar: **BELINDA LORKING** - 0416 131 175
President: **JANETTE ANKERS** - 0438 672 040

