



Newsletter | Term 3 Week 10 | 16 September 2021



Mrs. Robyn Clarke  
Principal

## From the Principal

Today we commemorate the Feast of Our Lady Of Sorrows. Mary played many roles in her life, but the role of the sorrowful mother is probably her most poignant. Imagine not knowing whether her husband-to-be would stand by her side, after finding out Mary was pregnant with God's son? Imagine giving birth in a stable instead of a sterile hospital delivery room or the comfort of her own home? Imagine becoming a refugee in Egypt after fleeing her homeland, with a baby in tow. Imagine visiting the temple and finding out on your return that you had left your son behind? Imagine her son moving out

of your home to begin his own ministry, leaving her alone in the house? And finally, imagine having to endure the crucifixion of her son while she stood by, helpless to take the suffering away from him? It's unimaginable! The amount of sorrow that this woman had to endure was incomprehensible to us. But Mary learned the secret to sorrow and grief – that it is never permanent. Mary knew that Jesus' death was not the end, but a new beginning. So even as she grieved all that she had endured, she trusted that God would never leave her, and that her grief would one day turn to joy.

We may think that this Term has been one of the hardest things we have ever had to endure. Endless lockdown, remote learning, limited physical contact with families and friends have all been challenges for us to endure. These hardships may have elicited feelings of loss and grief by some of us. However, we need to remember that God is always with us, and that eventually our hardships will dissipate and we can return to our normal lives again.

The staff of St Finbar's have been working hard on a "Back To School Roadmap" where we have been discussing every possible means to ensure that when your children return to school, they can be safe and healthy. Please bear with us, as we fine tune this process, and as soon as we have concrete plans we will share them with you. We have the best interests of the children, families and staff in mind, so this plan to



return to school will be essential for all to follow, regardless of personal beliefs. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of our families who have supported us over the term with kind words, positive feedback, encouraging emails, and gifts. All of these have contributed to our well-being as we have navigated this term.

I'd also like to wish all our families a restful and peaceful break. Try to take some time out for yourselves, away from the screens, and enjoy two weeks without deadlines or demands!

## St Finbar's Day Celebrations

Unfortunately we have had to cancel Motiv8 who normally run our St Finbar's day celebrations. When we return to school we will schedule a liturgy via zoom for the whole school to celebrate St Finbar's Day and there will be a surprise for the children on that day. Stay tuned!

## School Resumes for Term Four

Just a reminder that school resumes for any children of essential workers, and for those who have no at-home supervision available, on Tuesday October 6th, due to Monday being the October Long Weekend. Please ensure that you continue to fill in the form to indicate days that your child may be attending, so that we can continue to arrange adequate supervision each day. Thank you for your ongoing support, and for working with us to ensure the safety and well-being of all students and staff.

## School Uniform

When we return to school next Term, all students will be required to wear full Summer school uniform. You can access the full list of uniform items [here](#). Uniforms can be ordered from The School Locker. We have a selection of uniform sizes available to try on here at school, under covid safety procedures, and we are currently trying to arrange a School Locker pop-up shop in Term four for Kindergarten 2022, and any other parents who may wish to purchase items.

Enjoy your break!

May Christ's peace be with you,

Mrs Robyn Clarke  
Principal



Mr. Ben Ticehurst  
Assistant Principal

## From the Assistant Principal

Despite the difficulties that this lockdown has brought upon all of us over the last 12 weeks, both the trials and tribulations of homeschooling our own children whilst working, it would be easy to think about the difficulties that we have all experienced.

I was reflecting this morning, about what the last 10 weeks have been like and I couldn't help but think of the many positives that come to mind.

I don't know how, but in some way working with the students in my stage I have felt that despite the distance between us all we have somehow remained closely connected and in many ways become closer as a group. Perhaps removing the physical barriers and the ideology of what "school" means, especially when you think about the stereotyped relationship between teacher and student, I feel like in some ways we have become one and learnt how to work together to achieve some fantastic results. The sense of togetherness has been amazing.

From a personal point of view, I don't think I will ever get the opportunity to spend this much time with my own children and be able to be a part of their learning journey for such an extended period. Not only have I been able to see how they have grown and been around to be able to help them too with any difficulties they have had during the term, they have also been able to support and help one another. This forced Lockdown couldn't have come at a better time for 3 children between the ages of 11 and 16. It was almost like some sort of miracle that they became closer as siblings and I know that this has strengthened their relationship as they continue to grow together.

I would like to also acknowledge the beautiful messages and gifts we have received from many of the families of St Finbar's. I have taken a lot of strength and comfort from these messages of support and they have helped myself and all of the teachers to continue to remain motivated and upbeat. I sincerely thank you for the time that you took to share these messages and gifts with us all.

So, as the holidays beckon at our doorstep I wish everyone a safe and stress free break. Fortunately my wife and I, and my two children over 12, have all been lucky enough to get vaccinated and we hope to be able to do a few other things that we haven't been able to do over the last 12 weeks. I hope you too can enjoy some of the new reduced restrictions in a safe and community focussed way.

Let your light shine

Ben Ticehurst  
Assistant Principal





## From the RE Coordinator



Tomorrow, as a school community, we will be coming together to celebrate the children in our school that display the qualities of our school's patron saint, Saint Finbar. In a more normal time, we would celebrate this by coming together as a school community and having a day filled with joy and celebration, but we can still celebrate together, albeit remotely.

St Finbar was a man who dedicated his life to Christ and his fellow man. He was given his name when he became a monk, 'Finn Barre'

translates into 'beautiful hair', something to which he sacrificed and sent up to God. In Ireland, he is more commonly known as 'Barra'.

St Finbar was a man who was known for his teaching skills and his healing abilities. He treasured the role of education in people's lives and his views are instilled across the world today. He worked hard across areas of Europe, mainly Ireland, to spread his faith and knowledge of God.

Similar to our story as a school and parish, St Finbar saw a need to develop a faith community and ensured that all came together to create this. In our school and parish communities, our history dates back over 100 years ago with the growing community in Glenbrook. The people working on the railways saw a need for their children to receive a Catholic Education for their children.

In 1912, The Sisters of St Joseph created a church on the grounds, which we still use today as the 'Father Barlow Room'. As the local community was predominantly Irish, the Church was given the special name of 'St Finbar's Church'. The Sisters of St Joseph taught the children in this special place during the week. With the completion of the railway, the workers, their families and the Sisters moved away from the area.

It wasn't until 1955, when the Sisters returned and the education and formation of the community continued. It is thanks to that early community so many years ago that we have such a special community today that journeys together in faith and learning.

I wish everyone a restful holiday and a blessed St Finbar's Feast Day.

Yours in Christ,

Michael Lo Cascio  
Acting Religious Education Coordinator

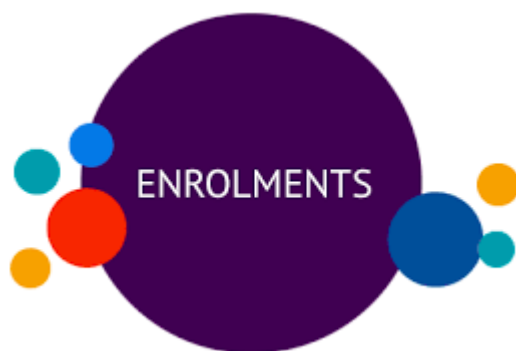


## 2022 Enrolments

Our enrolments for Kinder 2022 are now being finalised. We are conducting the last few interviews via Zoom this week.

Unfortunately due to Covid-19 restrictions, we are unsure at this stage what our Orientation process will look like. However, we are feeling hopeful that we will be able to welcome the children on site in some capacity during Term Four.

If you know someone who is still looking to enrol their child for Kinder in 2022, please pass on our details to them and we would be happy to send them an enrolment pack. Limited vacancies are available in grades 1 - 6, these are subject to availability on enquiry.



## Leaving St Finbar's in 2021?

A reminder that families need to inform us in writing by Friday 17 September, if they will be leaving St Finbar's at the end of the 2021 school year.

We understand some families may not have confirmation by this date, however, if there is a chance that you will be moving at the end of the year, please email us [stfinbars@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stfinbars@parra.catholic.edu.au) to advise us of the possibility.

If it is certain you will be leaving St Finbar's, please email us prior to 17 September to avoid any additional school fees for Term One 2022.

As part of the departure process, we require written confirmation from the new school that your child will be attending.

Email Us





## Parish News

[Click this link to read The Parish Barra](#)

[Saturday Night Vigil Mass](#)

At present due to Covid, Parish Mass is live streamed.

Visit the [Parish website](#) to access all links.



### St Finbar's Online Trivia Night

Join us online for a FUN Trivia Night using ZOOM.

**When:** Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2021

**Time:** 7pm

**How:** Via ZOOM

#### How will it work

Create a virtual team of up to 8 people. This could be your own family or with friends. (You don't have to physically be together, we will connect you over the internet). We will use the breakout room function in ZOOM, so at the end of each round you will be put into a separate room with those in your group to discuss your answers before working out as a group which answers to use.

If you don't have a team, no problems we will assign you to one.

#### What do you need to do

Email the parish office ([secretary@stfinbars.org.au](mailto:secretary@stfinbars.org.au)) with the names and email addresses of the members of your team. If you don't have your own team and would like to be added to a team, just mention that in the email.

We will send more information closer to the date, including how to download ZOOM, if you don't currently have it. *Please note*, we are limited to 100 connections in ZOOM.

We are looking forward to having a FUN night of challenging our minds, as well as continuing to remain connected as a parish and community.



positive partnerships

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

## FREE WEBINARS RETURNING TO SCHOOL - PRIMARY FOCUSED



*Be part of an interactive hour where you will have the opportunity to listen, share and learn with families and school staff living and working in South West and Western Sydney who support autistic students.*

Once again, NSW students are preparing to return to school. For students on the autism spectrum, returning to school may present challenges and opportunities.

We invite you to join us as we:

- explore why students on the spectrum may need additional support
- share strategies to support students on the spectrum who have returned or are returning to school
- plan for home/school communication and collaboration during the transition back to school and beyond
- identify ways to support the mental health and wellbeing of students on the spectrum.

There are two different session times to choose from.

- ✦ **Tuesday 7th October, 2021** – 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM AEDT
- ✦ **Friday 8th October, 2021** – 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM AEDT

*All of our webinars are free and participants receive a certificate following their completion of the webinar.*



To register for these webinars, please click on your preferred date above.