

**Sunday 29th August 2021**

Mass Times: ~~Monday – Friday 9.30am, Saturday: 9:30am, 5:30pm Sunday 9:00am, 11:00am~~

Baptisms & other sacraments: please call the office to organise.



# St Finbar's Catholic Parish

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Tues & Thurs

9.00am – 3.30pm

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1800 305 330

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Mr Patrick Berlingeri

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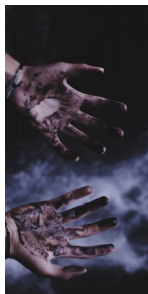
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Year B

## Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B



The overarching theme of the readings for this Sunday is 'words spoken in truth'. On one level, the laws are the words of the covenant. They are part of the contract that was drawn up between God and the people. They are words of truth, because they are the reliable revelation of God and because they genuinely reflect righteous living. The biblical covenant laws are truly humane. Obedience to the words of the covenant leads to life and blessings, while disobedience results in the opposite.

Our religious customs always carry some profound religious meaning, but we may not know or care what it is – and yet we perform them. Do people know or care why we stand or sit or kneel during liturgy? Do people have a 'church' wedding because it is a religious event, or because 'that's the way we have always done it'? Religious practices do not always flow from a deep religious conviction. But once we realise our need for God, these practices become genuine expressions of religious sentiment.

When the word of God has taken root in us, everything becomes a religious practice. This word can come to us through the teachings of our faith, through the example of good people around us, through the wonder and mystery of creation. When it does take hold of us, our inner eye is opened, our hearts are softened, and we turn instinctively to God like a flower turns to the sun. When we are brought to birth in this way, covenant law becomes sacred, religious practices are cherished, and we are filled with the power that saves.

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### **HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

#### **Pharisees**

Pharisees were mostly lay men (i.e. generally not Priests) who were characterised by a strict observance of the Torah as well as an oral tradition of teaching and interpretation. They believed that the Torah required interpretation – by engaging in this interpretation they participated in God's ongoing revelation. They also had a strong belief that all Jewish people were called to be a priestly people. This belief naturally put them at odds with the Priests of the Temple. After the destruction of the Temple in 70 CE, the teachings of the Pharisees gained prominence and eventually developed into Rabbinic Judaism that continues today.

### **GOSPEL FOCUS**

#### **The things within**

We live in a culture that is very quick to lay blame on external factors; some people are very reluctant to accept responsibility for their own actions and look for opportunities to distance themselves from feelings of guilt or even regret. Jesus makes it very clear that evil intentions – the things that make a person 'unclean' – actually come from within. He presents a confronting list of the things that come from within and we may be able to add others relevant to our own time. In our culture of no personal responsibility, Jesus challenges us to rethink just where the buck does stop.

Please refer to the following Archdiocesan guidelines and resources for the COVID-19 pandemic:

<https://www.cam.org.au/Guidance-for-Parishes-COVID-19>

## AUGUST: The Immaculate Heart of Mary

29th The Beheading of St John the Baptist

30th St Rose of Lima, St Flaker

31st St Raymund Nonnatus

## SEPTEMBER: Our Lady of Sorrows

1st St Giles

2nd St Stephen, King

3rd St Gregory the Great



### COVID REMINDERS

**CHURCH IS CURRENTLY CLOSED DUE TO OUR STATE'S LOCKDOWN RESTRICTIONS.**

FUNERALS ARE PERMITTED WITH 10 PERSONS AND OTHER CONDITIONS APPLY.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM IS ON HOLD.

### Prayer for the current times.....

*Eternal Father, You have made the whole world stop walking for a while.*

*You have forcibly silenced the noise that we have all created around us.*

*You have made us bend our knees and ask for miracles.*

*You closed Your Churches so that we realize how dark our world is without You in it.*

*You humiliated the proud and powerful. The economy is collapsing, businesses are closing.*

*We have been very proud to think that everything we have, everything we own, have been the result of our hard work.*

*We have forgotten that it was Your grace, Your mercy, that made us who we are and has given us everything we have.*

*We are going around in circles looking for some cure for this disease, when in fact we need to humble ourselves and ask for guidance and wisdom only from You.*

*We have been living our lives as if we are here on Earth forever, as if there is no Heaven, no Purgatory, no Hell.*

*Perhaps this virus is actually Your way of purifying and cleansing our souls, bringing us back to You.*

*Today, as these words travel the internet, may all who see them join their hearts and hands in prayer, asking for forgiveness, asking for healing and protection against this virus, but above all, asking that Your Holy and Divine Will be done and not ours.*

*GOD we beg You, deliver us from all evil on Earth if it is Your will!*

*Father, You have been patiently waiting for us to turn our faces to You, to repent of our sins. We are sorry to ignore Your voice! Selfishly, sometimes we have forgotten that You are GOD!! Lord, I am not worthy to have you come into my house, but one word from you will be enough to heal me!*



*You Lord only need to say the Word and our souls will be healed.*

*We ask You for healing and deliverance in Jesus' name! By the infinite merits of his Most Sacred Heart and of the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary. Amen.*

*Pope Francis*

### Humanitarian crises unfolding in Afghanistan and Lebanon

As the situations in **Afghanistan** and **Lebanon** deteriorate, you can help to support families caught up in the crises.

In **Afghanistan**, people have been forced from their homes, with half of the population in urgent need of food, water, shelter and protection.

In **Lebanon**, the country is running out of power, water, fuel, medicine and food. Even hospitals are facing massive fuel shortages and will soon have to turn off the lights.

**Please donate to Caritas Australia so that we are able to respond to crises like these and others across the world.**

Visit [caritas.org.au/lebanon](http://caritas.org.au/lebanon) or [www.caritas.org.au/afghanistan](http://www.caritas.org.au/afghanistan) or call 1800 024 413 toll free to provide much needed support.

### SAFETY OF CHILDREN AND ALL VULNERABLE PEOPLE

*St Finbar's Parish hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and all vulnerable people as a central and fundamental responsibility for our community.*