

Catholic Parish of Lindfield-Killara

Diocese of Broken Bay

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Church, Killara
Holy Family Parish Church, Lindfield

MASS TIMES:	LINDFIELD:		KILLARA:	
	Saturday	6:00pm	Saturday Vigil:	5:30pm
	Sunday:	8:15am	Sunday:	9:15am
		10:15am		
		12:00 (Chinese Community Mass)		
		6:00pm (for both our communities)		(5:30pm on 2 nd Sun. of month)
Weekdays:				
Monday		9:15am		7:30am
Tuesday		6:00pm (with Vespers)		7:30am
Wednesday		11:15am (School Mass)		~
Thursday		9:15am		~
Friday		9:15am		8:15am
Saturday		9:15am		~

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturdays 5:00 – 5:30pm (Lindfield)

For 15 minutes after the 5:30pm Mass (Killara)

* NO 9:15 Mass at Lindfield nor 7:30am Mass at Killara on the 2nd Friday of each month

* Healing Mass on the 2nd Friday of each month at 10am at Killara

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT 16 – 12 – 18

GAUDETE ('REJOICE') SUNDAY

This week: Baruch 5:1-9; Phil 1:3-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6

Next week: Zeph 3:14-18; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD CANDLE OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Celebrant: Lord Jesus Christ, you are our Saviour, the true light who has come into our world. We ask you to send your blessings on this community who gather around this wreath, which we honour as a remembrance of your first coming at Bethlehem, your daily coming amongst us in grace and your final coming in glory. Strengthen our hearts with the example of your love that we may receive you with joy and gladness on the day of our redemption, when you will come to reign as Universal King for ever and ever.

The third (rose-coloured) candle is lit.

Cel: Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep.

All: Come and lead us to the eternal life you promise.

Cel: Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd who knows his flock & calls each by name.

All: Come and lead us to the eternal life you promise.

Cel: Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd ready to search out & look for the lost sheep.

All: Come and lead us to the eternal life you promise.

Celebrant: During the Advent season may almighty God lead us to worship his Son and fill our hearts with joy at the coming of Jesus and lead us to life everlasting. **All: Amen.**

Please join in singing one more verse of the Entrance Hymn.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Our parish, with its two churches of Immaculate Heart of Mary at Killara and Holy Family at Lindfield warmly invites you to join us for our celebrations of the Lord's birth at Christmas. Our celebrations are as follows:

CHRISTMAS EVE EVENING:

Lindfield: 6:00pm Christmas Vigil Mass

Killara: 5:30pm Christmas Vigil Mass

These are the Children's Masses.

(please note that once again the Children's Mass at Lindfield will be celebrated **in the church**, not in the hall).



A CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS GIFT TO THOSE IN NEED:

We invite the children at both Children's Masses to bring an envelope containing a donation towards the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal. We will invite the children to come forward at the time of the Presentation of the Gifts to put their envelopes in the boxes under the Christmas Tree.

Lindfield: 10:30pm Mass
(an earlier 'Midnight Mass')
preceded by Carols at 10pm.

CHRISTMAS MORNING:

Lindfield 8:00am Mass (not 8:15am)

Killara 9:30am Mass (not 9:15am)

Lindfield 10:15am Mass

NO Chinese Mass & NO evening Mass on Christmas Day.



Children's Involvement in our Christmas Masses



We invite the children to be actively involved in our Children's Christmas Vigil Mass at either Killara (5:30pm) or Lindfield (6:00pm), or in the children's choir at the 8:00am Mass on Christmas Day:

~ AT KILLARA ~

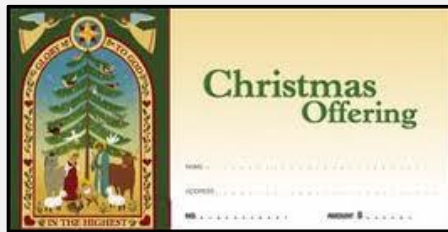
* Calling all shepherds and angels *

* Calling all older children who would like to help sing the Christmas story *

We invite the children who wish to participate in re-enacting the Christmas story during Mass to come to our **PRACTICE on Friday 21st December at 5pm** at Killara church. Contact carolannisb@hotmail.com or bgcj.white@optusnet.com.au to book your costume.

~ AT LINDFIELD ~

- For those interested in being part of the Children's Vigil Mass: nativity play, choir and readers please email Rose at: roseingham@optusnet.com.au. The rehearsal will be held on **Friday 21st December at 10:15am** in Lindfield church.



CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES

are available near the doors of both our churches.

The contributions via the Christmas Offering supplements the funds raised via the First Collection for the support and upkeep of priests. The fund it goes to depends very much on these special contributions at Christmas and Easter, without which it struggles to meet its commitments.

This diocesan fund not only provides the living allowance and household costs for the priests of the parish, but also provides funds for health care for priests and maintains priests in their retirement. Please support the Christmas Offerings.

The envelopes can be placed on either plate at Masses over the next few weeks.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS ON THE PARISH WEBSITE All the events for Advent and Christmas in the parish can be found by clicking the 'Advent and Christmas' hotlink box on the homepage of our parish website.

Preparing for Christmas – The Sacrament of Reconciliation

There will be a celebration of the **Second Rite of Reconciliation** on **Wednesday 19th December** at **7:30pm** which will be for the whole parish and will be held in Holy Family Church at Lindfield. We will have a similar celebration in Lent, on which occasion it will be held in Immaculate Heart of Mary Church at Killara.

The Second Rite of Reconciliation takes the form of a communal celebration with a short liturgy leading us into the time of individual confessions (we will have a number of priests present) & concluding with a common prayer of thanksgiving and final blessing.

2019 ALTAR SERVERS

For any children who are looking to be part of the Altar server roster at Lindfield or Killara in 2019 please contact roseingham@optusnet.com.au

Training in altar serving will be held in early 2019. Any child who has received the Sacrament of Communion is able to become a server. It is a requirement for any child interested in being involved in the liturgy leadership group in Holy Family school that they are an altar server).

A thought on the Mass of Christmas Night. . .

One of the most beautiful things in the treasury of our Church is the tradition of the Mass of Christmas Night – celebrated either at Midnight itself or late in the evening on Christmas Eve.

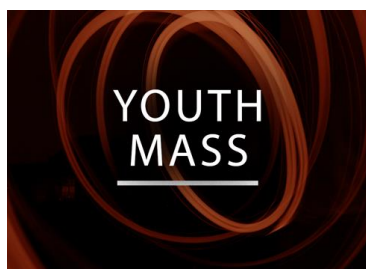
'The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light.'

Advent reminds us of something that's true of all life – that we search and look for God sometimes in darkness, sometimes full of our human uncertainties. We discover God *in* that darkness – we glimpse those moments of light and peace which enable us to continue on the journey.

The timing of the Mass of Christmas Night is beautiful. Our gift to God is to stay awake on this great feast till those still night hours, that time of deep darkness which symbolises the darkness in which we wait for God to enter our lives. And then the celebration of the light of God's coming is even more symbolic: light and joy break into the stillness and darkness of that night hour. It's a beautiful way to keep vigil and to usher in the celebration of the birth that changes the world. We do it at a time free from all the frantic preparations of Christmas Eve and before the busyness of Christmas Day itself.

Please try to come along to the beautiful celebration of the Mass of Christmas Night this Christmas – at 10:30pm in Lindfield church on Christmas Eve (preceded by a Service of Carols from 10:00pm). Mass will be concluded by 11:30pm and you can be tucked up in bed before midnight!

Fr Colin



ABOUT OUR MONTHLY YOUTH AND FAMILY MASS IN 2019

Last Sunday we celebrated our final Youth and Family Mass for this year – but don't worry, it will resume in February!



Please note however that in 2019 the monthly Youth and Family Mass at Lindfield church (followed by parish potluck dinner)

will be celebrated on the first Sunday of each month (beginning in February) rather than the second Sunday of the month.

Because of this the monthly Children's Mass at Killara will move from the first Sunday to **the second Sunday of the month** in 2019 so that we continue to have a special children's celebration twice per month.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS OVER THE CHRISTMAS – NEW YEAR PERIOD The Parish Office will be open as normal this coming week but this Friday 21st will be the last day the office day until 2nd January. From 2nd January onwards the office will be open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays only until after Australia Day.

PARISH DIARY : DECEMBER

Sun. 16th Dec.: Morning tea after the 9:15am and 10:15am Masses.

Tues. 18th December: Tarrawarra and Jamberoo retreat prayer group end of year function.

Wed. 19th Dec. 11:15am End of year Advent Mass for our Parish School (all welcome). No 9:15am Mass.

Wed. 19th Dec. 7:30pm Second Rite of Reconciliation in preparation for Christmas (in Lindfield church) (see p.3).

PARISH YOUNG ADULTS' GROUP

The final gathering for the year will be a Trivia Night **TONIGHT Sunday 16th December** immediately following the 6pm Mass, in the lounge in the Shirley Wallace Parish Centre on the first floor of Lindfield church – a relaxed gathering over a meal with discussion



Advent and hope

There are two days in the Season of Advent that mark a turning point:

* The liturgical colour for today, **Gaudete Sunday**, is rose, symbolising that the light of what we're waiting and preparing for is breaking through the darkness of our searching and waiting: it's as though the light of Christmas shines through the purple of our waiting, the purple of our searching, the purple of Advent – lightening it to a rose colour. Today is a day of **hope**, reminding us that the God who was made flesh is present with us even in our searching and longing and waiting, even in the dark moments of our life.

* **The 17th of December (which this year coincides with today, the 3rd Sunday of Advent)** is a liturgical turning point in the Season of Advent. Until then Advent is focussed on the theme of preparing for the coming of the Lord, in each present moment, at the hour of our own death, and at the end of time. But from the 17th Advent focuses specifically on preparing our spirit to celebrate the birth of Jesus. We move from the first to the second Preface of Advent in our Eucharistic Prayers as it prays 'that when he comes he may find us watching...our hearts filled with wonder and praise.'

PARKING AT LINDFIELD DURING THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS School breaks up this coming Wednesday so from Thursday onwards parking is available in the church carpark when attending daily Mass or visiting the Parish Office.

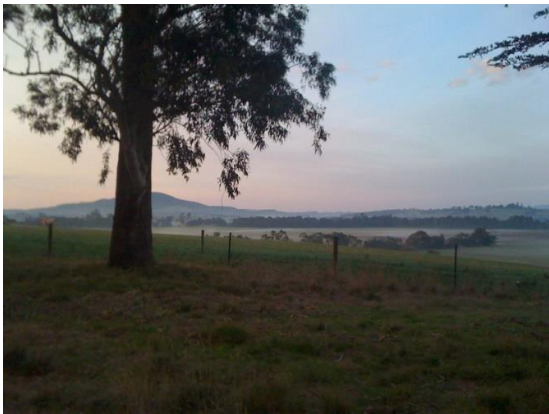
Parish Retreats in 2019

Each year we offer the opportunity for Parish Retreats at Tarrawarra Abbey, located in the beautiful Yarra Valley to the east of Melbourne, and/or at the Benedictine Abbey at Jamberoo, located on the beautiful Illawarra escarpment just two hours south of Sydney. Tarrawarra is an Abbey of Cistercian monks, and Jamberoo is an Abbey of Benedictine Nuns, and the heart of the retreat is to experience the richness of the monastic tradition in the life of our Church, and to draw on its wisdom for our own life.

In 2019 we will be offering parish retreats at both these monasteries:

A. Tarrawarra Abbey:

Arriving mid-afternoon Tuesday 30th April; retreat proper running from Wednesday 1st – Sunday 5th May; departing after breakfast on Monday 6th May.



B. Jamberoo Abbey:

We have tentative bookings for the following two options:



- a. Arrive Monday afternoon 23rd September; depart Friday morning 27th September (the week before school holidays begin)
- b. Arrive Monday afternoon 14th October; depart Friday morning 18th October (the week school returns)

We will choose the week which suits the majority of those wishing to go to Jamberoo.

You are welcome to book for both the Tarrawarra and Jamberoo retreats.



Cost:

At Tarrawarra the abbey sets no fixed fee but requests a donation. An amount of \$350-\$400 would be appropriate for the week.

At Jamberoo single rooms have a tariff of \$60 per night and the double bed rooms are \$130 per night for a couple and \$100 per night for a single.

Booking:

If you are interested in taking part in one of these retreats or just finding out more about what's involved please Fr Colin. More details can be found on the parish website under 'Groups and Ministries' → 'Parish Retreats'.

OUR PARISH PLAYGROUP celebrated its Christmas party last Wednesday and is now in recess until the first Wednesday in February.

The playgroup meets in St Brigid's Hall in the Shirley Wallace Parish Centre on Wednesday from 10:45am – 12:15pm.

Please register via Trybooking:
www.trybooking.com/JYKW
 or contact Sue-Anne for more details:
sue-anne@lindfieldkillara.org.au



Last Week's Festival of Christmas



Many thanks to all who helped to make our Festival of Christmas a wonderful community occasion: to our Principal, Lou Dogao and his school team, the children of our school for their wonderful performances during the carols concert, our food stall workers, members of the Fusion Youth Group and the young adults who helped through the day, the toilet wardens who ensured the safety of children, members of the Blast youth group who provided the 'Christmas story' during the Carols concert, and members of the parish choir who took a role in the carols concert.

And a very special thank you to Jean Shatek and Fran Grant who as always did so much to make this a wonderful occasion.

Into this world, this demented inn, in which there is absolutely no room for Him at all, Christ has come uninvited. But because He cannot be at home in it, because He is out of place in it, and yet He must be in it, His place is with those others for whom there is no room. His place is with those who do not belong, who are rejected by power because they are regarded as weak, those who are discredited, who are denied the status of persons, tortured, exterminated. With those for whom there is no room, Christ is present in this world.

Thomas Merton

THE PRAYERS AND RESPONSES OF MASS

We abstain from the joyful words of the Gloria during these days of Advent as we prepare our hearts and our community to celebrate once again the birth of the Lord Jesus

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION:

At Masses at which the Psalm is sung the response is: Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

THE PSALM Ps _Is 12:2~6 R. v.6

Truly, God is my salvation,
I trust, I shall not fear.
For the Lord is my strength, my song,
the Lord became my saviour.
With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.

Give thanks to the Lord,
give praise to God's name!
Make God's mighty deeds known to the peoples!
Declare the greatness of God's name.

Sing a psalm to the Lord
for God has done glorious deeds,
make them known to all the earth!
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit
of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good
News to the poor. Alleluia

RESPONSES TO THE PSALM FOR WEEKDAY MASS THIS WEEK:

Monday: Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

Tues: Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

Wed: Fill me with your praise and I will sing your glory!

Thursday: Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

Friday: Cry out with joy in the Lord, you holy ones; sing a new song to him.

Saturday: My heart rejoices in the Lord, my Saviour.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord,
(all bow at the following words in bold):
**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,**
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand
of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come
to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Holy Catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen

A CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP
meets in the *Meeting Room at the rear of
and under Holy Family Church* each
Wednesday from 8:40am – 9:05am
(finishing in time for 9:15am Mass).

Everyone is welcome. For further
information contact Kay at 9416 2194
Kay.Hunt@optusnet.com.au or Catherine
9415 6345 catherinecwillis@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS CARDS AND COLUMBAN CALENDARS

St Vincent de Paul **cards** and Columban
Calendars for 2019 are now on sale in the
church foyers.

St Vincent de Paul Conference

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME DATES FOR 2019



The letter giving all the details and dates for our Sacramental Preparation Programmes for First Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Holy Communion is now available **on the parish website under 'Sacraments' → 'Children's Sacraments.'**

Please download the letter and note all the dates involved in the sacraments which your child will celebrate next year.

A NOTE RE WEEKDAY MASS AFTER CHRISTMAS

There will be various changes to our weekday Mass programme in the first few weeks after Christmas. Please check the bulletin each Sunday for the coming week.

A celebration for Advent: Blessing of your Christmas Crib

The Christmas Crib or manger scene helps us to focus our celebration of the Word made flesh. You might like to pray this prayer at home before your Christmas crib.

Leader: As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, we pause to bless this Christmas manger scene. The practice of erecting such mangers was begun by Saint Francis of Assisi as a means to set forth the message of Christmas.

When we look upon these figures, the Christmas Gospel comes alive and we are moved to rejoice in the mystery of the Word made flesh.

Leader: Let us ask God's blessing on this Christmas manger and upon ourselves, that we who reflect on the birth of Jesus may share in the salvation he accomplished.

1. For the Church of God, as we recall the birth of Jesus, that we may always proclaim his gift of new life for all people.

R. Come, Lord, dwell with us.

2. For the world in which we live, that it may come to recognise Christ just as he was recognised and welcomed by the angels and the shepherds.

R. Come, Lord, dwell with us.

3. For our homes, that Jesus who was laid in the manger may dwell with us always.

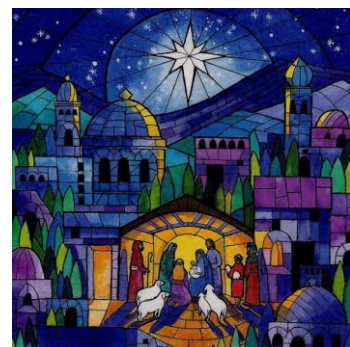
R. Come, Lord, dwell with us.

Prayer of blessing

God of every nation and people,
from the very beginning of creation
you have made manifest your love:
when our need for a Saviour was great
you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary.
To our lives he brings joy and peace,
justice, mercy, and love.

Lord,
bless all who look upon this manger;
may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus,
and raise up our thoughts to him,
who is God-with-us and Saviour of all,
and who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All: Amen



THE MARTYRS OF ALGERIA – PART 2.....*for the love of Jesus and the people*

Mgr Henri Teissier, born in Lyons, appointed Bishop of Oran by Pope Paul VI in 1972, at the age of 42, and Archbishop of Algiers between 1988 and 2008, is well placed to meditate on the difficult question of how to respond to Islamist violence and the threat it posed to all foreigners.

His own life was constantly in danger and he had to learn to live with this on a daily basis. He wrote of the need to respect the sacredness of human life and not risk it for ideological reasons. However, he continued: “But how can one renounce risking one’s life for people with whom one is in solidarity? It is so much in harmony with what we meet in the life of Jesus and with what we celebrate in the Eucharist ... We are all placed in an exceptional situation where it is necessary to run the risk of dying on account of the ties which God has given us with brothers and sisters with whom we have drawn close on account of the Gospel ... What is perhaps special to our case is that our ties of fidelity have been established with Muslims. Now that is precisely the specific vocation of our Algerian Church.”

The theme of Jesus’ sacrificial death on our behalf was central to the thinking of many, if not all, of the 19 martyrs. When confronted by the powers of darkness, Jesus did not flee in order to save his own life. This was ultimately why the 19 martyrs didn’t shake the dust off their feet and leave the country when faced with the threat of assassination. Out of love, and in the footsteps of Jesus, they wished to stand side by side with a suffering and oppressed people. And, poignantly, five of the six sisters who died were assassinated on their way to or from Mass.

The importance of the Eucharist in their thinking can be seen very clearly in the testimony of Sr Odette Prévost, a Little Sister of the Sacred Heart. In the light of the Islamist ultimatum, Mgr Teissier and her Religious superiors had asked her, and all of the other Religious, to discern whether they should stay on in Algeria, or leave. Living under the constant threat of a violent death, Sr Odette had become more aware of the Eucharist and of its meaning for her life. In her letter to her superiors, she wrote that Jesus had willingly offered his life out of love for us. She then quoted the words of the Eucharistic Prayer: “This is my Body given for you. This is my Blood, shed for many”. It was now her task, she wrote, in memory of Jesus, to make that very same sacrifice, to offer her life out of love for the Algerian people.

Pierre Claverie OP (inset), who served as the Bishop of Oran from 1981 until his death, was the last of the priests and Religious to be assassinated. Claverie grew up in Algeria and in his childhood and youth he lived in what he called a “colonial bubble”, having no Algerian friends and being oblivious to their existence. After joining the Dominican order in France he became aware that while growing up in Algiers he had never heard anyone in the Church say that he should love his Arab neighbour. This realisation left him feeling “bitter”. On his return as a Dominican friar and priest to an independent Algeria in 1967, Claverie sought to make reparation for his own indifference, and that of the European settlers, to the oppression of the Algerian people.

Claverie believed that the Church’s place and his place were to be present in places of suffering, dereliction and abandonment. He called these places of conflict and tension “the fault lines” of a suffering humanity. In a homily given less than two months before his assassination, at Prouilhe, the birthplace of the Dominican Order, he insisted that the Church must always be at the foot of the Cross, sharing the suffering of the most

(continued on page 12...)

(continued from page 11...): abandoned. “Where would the Church of Jesus Christ be, herself the Body of Christ, if she weren’t first of all there? I believe that she is dying from not being close enough to the cross of her Lord.”

In their statement announcing the beatification of the martyrs, the bishops of Algeria wrote: “They are witnesses to a fraternity which knows no frontiers, to a love which makes no distinctions.” The witness that Bishop Pierre Claverie and his 19 companions wished to give is perhaps best summed up in a little poem written by Fr Christophe Lebreton of Tibhirine in 1995, a year before he and his fellow monks were beheaded:

I ask of you today / the grace to become a -servant / and to give my life / here / as a -ransom for Peace / as a ransom for Life. / Jesus draw me into / your Joy / of crucified love.

(from an article by Martin McGee osb in last week’s edition of ‘The Tablet’.

OUR PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We are a welcoming Christian community which embraces all people.

We support each other to grow in faith
and create a loving and compassionate community.

We aspire to live as Christ’s witnesses of God’s unconditional love.

 <p>Comfort Inn North Shore</p> <p>Family owned and professionally operated motel with on-site restaurant</p> <p>Address: 1 Gatacre Avenue, Lane Cove Phone: 02 9427 0266 Email: res@cins.com.au Website: www.cins.com.au</p>	<p>RENOVATIONS & BUILDING MAINTENANCE</p> <p>CHRIS IACONO <i>Parishioner</i></p> <p>All work large and small <i>Lic 89879c Fully Insured</i> 50 years’ experience</p> <p>Mobile : 0412 256 616 Phone : 9416 36 98 chris.iacono@bigpond.com</p>	 <p>Henry & Gloria Cheung Parishioners</p> <p>Serving the Australian Construction Industry for 32 years UNIVERSAL INSTRUMENTS 326 Pacific Hwy, Lindfield NSW 2070</p> <p>Tel no. 94165335 Fax no. 94161538 E:sales@universalinstruments.com.au</p>
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Parish Staff and Contact Information

We are the one parish of Lindfield-Killara containing our two distinct but collaborating and cooperating communities centred on our two churches at Killara and Lindfield.

Holy Family Church: cnr Pacific Hwy and Highfield Rd, Lindfield
Immaculate Heart of Mary Church: cnr Fiddens Wharf Rd and Charles St, Killara
Parish Priest: Fr Colin Blayney colin@lindfieldkillara.org.au 9416 7195
Assistant Priest: Fr Thomas Alackakunnel VC thomas@lindfieldkillara.org.au 0421 406162

PARISH OFFICE:

Parish Secretary: Philita Marundan (Tues-Fri): philita@lindfieldkillara.org.au
Parish Office Coordinator and Child Protection Coordinator:

Alison Williams (Mon, Wed, Thur): alison@lindfieldkillara.org.au

Address: Level 1, 2 Highfield Road (cnr Pacific Hwy) Lindfield NSW 2070
 (Postal: PO Box 22, Lindfield NSW 2070)

Ph: 9416 3702 **Fax:** 9416 3913 **Email:** parish@lindfieldkillara.org.au

Catechist Coordinator (Primary Schools): sue-anne@lindfieldkillara.org.au
Sue-Anne Sherwood 0416 141 508

Sacramental Programme Coordinator: sue-anne@lindfieldkillara.org.au
Sue-Anne Sherwood 0416 141 508

Assistant Sacramental Programme Coordinator:
Maia Schulze Tsang maia@lindfieldkillara.org.au

Parish Priest's Secretary: Maia Schulze Tsang maia@lindfieldkillara.org.au

Parish Facilities Coordinator (volunteer): Anthony Cassidy anthony@lindfieldkillara.org.au

Youth Ministry Coordinator (volunteer): Jean Shatek youth@lindfieldkillara.org.au

Parish Primary School: Holy Family School, 4 Highfield Rd, Lindfield 2070

Ph: 9416 7200 **Fax:** 9416 9342

School Website: www.hfldbb.catholic.edu.au

Parish Website:	www.lindfieldkillara.org.au
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Saturday		15 Dec	22 Dec
Lindfield	6:00pm	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel	Fr Colin Blayney
Killara	5:30pm	Fr Colin Blayney	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel
Sunday		16Dec	23 Dec.
Lindfield	8:15am	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel	Fr Colin Blayney
Killara	9:15am	Fr Colin Blayney	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel
Lindfield	10:15am	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel	Fr Colin Blayney
Lindfield	12:00noon	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel	Fr Gerard Kelly
Lindfield	6:00pm	Fr Colin Blayney	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel

CHRISTMAS MASSES

	LINDFIELD	KILLARA
CHRISTMAS EVE EVENING:		
Children's Vigil Mass	6:00pm: Fr Colin	5:30pm: Fr Thomas
Mid-evening (early 'Midnight') Mass	10:30pm: Fr Colin	
CHRISTMAS MORNING:		
8:00am (NOT 8:15am)	Fr Colin	
9:30am (NOT 9:15am)		Fr Colin
10:15am	Fr Thomas	

CHINESE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

將臨期第三主日

16-12-2018

讀經一（上主要因你而歡躍喜樂。）

恭讀索福尼亞先知書 3:14-18

熙雍女子，你應歡樂！以色列，你應歡呼！耶路撒冷女子，你應滿心高興喜樂！上主已撤銷了對你的定案，掃除了你的仇敵。以色列的君王——上主，在你中間，你再不會遇見災禍！

在那一天，人必對耶路撒冷說：「熙雍，你不用害怕，不要雙手低垂！上主你的天主，在你中間；他是一位施救的勇士。他必為你喜不自勝；對你重溫他的愛情；且因你而歡躍喜樂，有如在慶節之日。」

我必消滅打擊你的人，使你不再受羞辱。——上主的話。

（默想片刻）

答唱詠 依 12:2-3, 4, 5-6

【答】：你們應歡呼高唱，因為以色列的聖者，在你們中間，是偉大的。（依 12:6）

領：天主是我的救援；我依靠他，決不畏懼，因為上主是我的力量，是我的歌頌；他確是我的救援。你們要愉快地從救援的泉源裡汲水。【答】

領：你們應稱頌上主，呼號他的名！將他的作為，宣告於萬

民，稱述他崇高的名字【答】

領：請歌頌上主，因為他行了顯赫的事；這事應該遍傳天下。熙雍的居民，你們應歡呼高唱，因為以色列的聖者，在你們中間，是偉大的。【答】

讀經二（主快來了！）

恭讀聖保祿宗徒致斐理伯人書 4:4-7

福音前歡呼

領：亞肋路亞。

眾：亞肋路亞。

領：上主的神臨於我身上，派遣我向貧苦的人傳報喜訊。（依 61:1）

眾：亞肋路亞。

福音（我們該做什麼呢？）

恭讀聖路加福音 3:10-18

那時候，群眾問若翰說：「那麼，我們該做什麼呢？」若翰答覆他們說：「有兩件內衣的，要分給那沒有的；有食物的，也應照樣做。」稅吏也來受洗，並問若翰說：「師父，我們該做什麼呢？」若翰向他們說：「除了規定給你們的，不要多收！」軍人也問若翰說：「我們該做什麼呢？」若翰向他們說：「不要勒索人，也不要敲詐

；對你們的糧餉，應當知足！」那時，百姓都在期待【默西亞】，為此，人人心中推想：或許若翰就是默西亞。

若翰便向眾人說：「我固然以水洗你們，但是，比我強的那一位，要來；就是解他的鞋帶，我也不配。他要以聖神和火洗你們。木已放在他手中，他要揚淨自己的禾場，把麥粒收在倉內；至於糠秕，卻要用不滅的火燒掉。」

若翰還講了許多其他勸言，給百姓傳報喜訊。——上主的話。

（講道後默想片刻）

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(continued from p.16): To celebrate an occasion is to heighten it, share it, savour it, enlarge it. We also celebrate in order to link ourselves more fully to others, to be playful, to intensify a feeling, to bring ourselves to ecstasy, and, more commonly, just to rest and unwind. But because of our incapacity to enjoy something simply we often try to create that enjoyment through excess and seek the ecstasy of heightened self-awareness in the obliteration of our consciousness.

Small wonder we often trudge home with a hangover, emptier, more tired, more alone. A hangover is an infallible sign that somewhere we missed a signpost.

But we must continue to try. Christ came and declared a wedding, a feast, a celebration, at the heart of life. He shocked people as much by the way he enjoyed his life as by the way he gave it up. In the end, he was rejected as much for his message of enjoyment as for his message of asceticism. That is still true today. We tend to read the gospels selectively so as to ignore Jesus' positive challenge to enjoy without guilt.

And in that lies our problem: Because we are never challenged religiously and in the name of Jesus, to enjoy, deeply and without guilt, the very human pleasures of our lives, our healthy, God-given, need for pleasure and enjoyment tends to go underground. We still seek pleasure and enjoyment, but now we split them off from what is religious and holy and "steal them from God" rather than enjoy them simply and religiously. That is one of the main reasons why we substitute excess for enjoyment and an obliterated consciousness for heightened awareness.

God has given us permission to enjoy life and its pleasures. That truth too needs to be a central part of our religious teaching. Pleasure is God's gift, not the forbidden fruit.

Fr Ron Rolheiser omi, Centre for Liturgy, University of St Louis

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**Lord, in Jesus your Son, you restored to us the gift of everlasting life.
Grant that life to:**

Anniversaries: Henry Yee Joy.

And for: John Burke, Ellen Burke, Patricia Burke, Mary McLean, Ken Willis, Tom Sullivan, deceased members of the Hall family.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK : Alex Noble, William Wise, Lise Therese Ferriere, Daniella Schulze, Ian Coffey, Rebecca Turner, Maureen Hobbs, Brian Couper, Russell Adams.

REFLECTING ON THIS SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURES

OUR STRUGGLE TO CELEBRATE

It's hard to celebrate properly. We want to, but we don't know how.

Mostly we celebrate badly because our idea of celebration is to overdo things. We try to celebrate by taking ordinary things (eating, drinking, singing, telling stories, playing) to excess. Celebration, for many of us, means over-eating, over-drinking, loud socialising, drunken singing, and staying at parties into the wee hours of morning, all in the hope that somehow in all that excess we will achieve celebration (whatever that means). But, for all our frenzied effort, there is precious little genuine enjoyment.

Occasionally we do succeed and genuinely celebrate. At those times we feel ourselves more deeply joined to others, widened, made larger, made more aware, made more playful, and sense more deeply the love and joy that lie at the heart of life. But that rarely happens and it never happens when we are in frenzy. Too often our celebrations are followed by a hangover (of one kind or another). Why?

The reasons for this are complex, deep, and mostly hidden from us.

Perhaps the primary reason why we find it so difficult to genuinely celebrate is that we seem to lack the capacity to simply enjoy things, to take life, pleasure, love, and enjoyment as a gift from God, pure and simple. It's not that we lack the capacity to do this, it's more that this capacity in us is generally buried under a mound of guilt. What this means is that often we cannot enjoy legitimate pleasure because somehow, however unconsciously, we sense what is articulated in the ancient myths, namely, that in enjoying pleasure we are somehow stealing something from God.

We tend to blame religion for this, but this neurosis is universal, as much outside of religious circles as inside of them. Somehow, in the name of the divine, most everyone feels guilt in pleasure.

And because of this, we tend to alternate between rebellious enjoyment ("pleasure we steal from God") and joyless duty (a dutiful life, but without genuine pleasure and enjoyment). We never seem to be able to genuinely celebrate. I say genuinely because, paradoxically, our incapacity to enjoy is the very thing that pushes us into pseudo-celebration, hedonism, and an unhealthy pursuit of pleasure.

Simply put, because we struggle to enjoy ourselves simply we pursue enjoyment too much and substitute excess for enjoyment.

And this often leads to a dangerous confusion wherein we substitute pleasure for enjoyment, excess for ecstasy, and the obliteration of consciousness for heightened awareness. The champagne-soaked athletes celebrating a major victory and the mindless frenzy of a Mardi Gras give us all the video footage we need to understand this. But excess isn't enjoyment, nor is obliterated consciousness heightened awareness. They are weak, unsatisfying substitutes.

The very purpose of celebration is to heighten and intensify the meaning of something (a birthday, a wedding, a major achievement, a victory, a graduation, the birth of a child, the beginning or ending of a year). These events demand to be shared, heightened, widened, trumpeted. We have a congenital need to celebrate and this is very healthy.

What does it mean to celebrate something?

(continued on page 15):