

Catholic Parish of Lindfield-Killara

Diocese of Broken Bay

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 15 - 12 - 19

GAUDETE ('REJOICE') SUNDAY

This week: Is 35:1-6, 10 : James 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11
Next week: Is 7:10-14; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

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

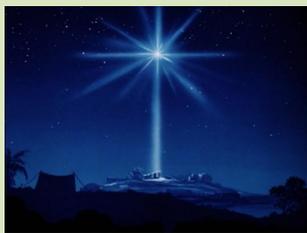
Killara: 5:30pm Christmas Vigil Mass

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 7:45am Mass (not 8:15am)

Killara 9:00am Mass (not 9:15am)

Lindfield 10:15am Mass

**NO Chinese Mass & NO evening Mass
on Christmas Day.**

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** 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.'

Food for the Soul ...

*See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth
... You too must be patient. (James 5:7b, 8a)*

ADVENT: PREPARING FOR THE SUBLIME

A couple of years ago, Robert Waller published a book that became a runaway bestseller and an immensely popular movie. Entitled, *The Bridges of Madison County*, it stirred the romantic imagination in a way that few other stories have in recent times, especially as it was played out in its film version by Clint Eastwood and Meryl Streep. The story runs this way:

A photographer for National Geographic magazine is sent out to photograph a series of old bridges in Madison county. Lost, he stops at a farmhouse to ask for directions. As chance would have it, the man of the house has just left for a cattle show. His wife is home alone and she and the photographer instantly sense a deep connection and fall violently in love. Karma, soul-mates, mysticism, whatever, they experience a rare and powerful affinity. Within hours they are in bed with each other, triggering a love-affair that leaves them both sacramentally scarred for the rest of their lives.

What the viewer of the movie or reader of this book is asked to believe is that something truly sublime has taken place, a masterpiece of love has been painted, and a noble thing worth more than life itself has just occurred. But can this be so? Can anyone paint a masterpiece in a couple of hours? Can a doctoral thesis be completed in two hours? Can sex with someone you met just two hours before be sublime?

To answer those questions, I suggest you watch another film which can be found online. It's a version of Jane Austen's, *Sense and Sensibility*, and tells the story of a young woman who has to carry a very painful tension for a long time (one that includes the same feelings found in *Bridges of Madison County*). But unlike the characters in *Bridges of Madison County*, she doesn't move quickly to resolve it. People are not in bed with each other within a couple of hours. She carries the tension for a long time, years, and then finally when it is resolved there is true sublimity. Why? Because something can only be sublime if first there has been some sublimation (and for more than two hours!).

In essence, this expresses the meaning of Advent: For something to be sublime there must first be sublimation; fasting is the necessary prelude to feasting; greatness of soul is contingent on first nobly carrying tension; great joy is not experienced if one is not first properly prepared; and what's

truly divine can only appear after a certain kind of gestation. Advent is about proper waiting.

It should therefore not to be confused with Lent. The crimson-purple of Advent is not the black-purple of Lent. The former symbolises yearning and longing, the latter repentance. The spirituality of Advent is not about repentance, but about carrying tension without prematurely resolving it so that what's born in us and in our world does not short-circuit the fullness that comes from respecting love's rhythms.

What is the connection here? How does carrying tension help lead to the sublime? It does it by helping to produce the heat required for generativity. An image might be helpful here. John of the Cross, in his book, *The Living Flame of Love*, compares our pre-advent selves to green logs that have been thrown into a fire, the fire of love. Green logs, as we know, do not immediately burst into flame. Rather, being young and full of moisture, they sizzle for a long time before they reach kindling temperature and can take into themselves the fire that is around them so as to participate in it. So too the rhythm of love: only the really mature can truly burst into flame within community. The rest of us are still too self-contained, too green, too selfish, too damp. We don't burst into flame when love surrounds us. Rather our dampness helps extinguish the communal flame.

What helps change this is precisely the tension in our lives. In carrying properly our unfulfilled desires we sizzle and slowly let go of the dampness of selfishness. In carrying tension we come to kindling temperature and are made ready for love.

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, SJ, a scientist, noticed that sometimes when you put two chemicals into a test-tube they do not automatically unite. They only merge at a higher temperature. They must first be heated to bring about unity. There's an entire anthropology and psychology of love in that image. In order to love we must first be brought to a higher psychic temperature. What brings us there? Sizzling in tension, not resolving things prematurely, not sleeping with the bride before the wedding, not trying to have the complete symphony within two hours.

The sublime has to be waited for. Only when there is first enough heat will there be unity. To give birth to what's divine requires the slow patience of gestation. In short-hand, that's the algebra of Advent.

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

Making a Joyful Sound Unto the LordPlease be part of a choir for Christmas ~

Even if you are not regularly part of our choirs, we invite you to be part of the special choir for the 10:30pm Vigil Mass for Christmas at Lindfield (and the Carols at 10pm preceding it). Please be part of making this Christmas celebration special. Rehearsal takes place on Saturday 21st December in Lindfield church from 10:30 - 12 noon, or contact Catherine Willis: (catherinecwillis@gmail.com).

CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES



are available on the seats in both our churches.

The contributions via the Christmas Offering supplements the funds raised via the First Collection for the support and upkeep of the priests of our parish and diocese. 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.

GIFTS FOR WATERLOO

Thank you to all those who generously gave Christmas Gifts to the children of Waterloo and pantry items. All gifts have now been taken to Waterloo and will be distributed shortly.

Thank you again for your support.



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*

The Season of Advent is a beautiful season of our Church year, but it can so easily become a *lost* season – lost amidst the Christmas rush, the Christmas parties and the Christmas shopping. It takes some effort to allow Advent to realise its potential in our lives as individuals and as a community.

Some ways to keep the time of Advent:

◆ **WEEKDAY MASS** provides rich fodder for reflection in the selection of Advent Scripture readings, while the Eucharist itself brings us the daily encounter with the Lord whose coming we prepare for.

◆ **PRAYER TIMES AT HOME:** as usual, over these weeks we'll print some prayer celebrations that you can use at home to keep some of this time of Advent.

◆ **THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION** provides a forum for reviewing our discipleship and preparing for a new beginning as we enter another liturgical year.

There will be a celebration of the **Second Rite of Reconciliation on Wednesday 18th 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 several priests present) & concluding with a common prayer of thanksgiving & final blessing and hymn.

MORE FOOD FOR THE SPIRIT....

FR RICHARD ROHR OFM'S MEDITATION: A RADICAL SURRENDERING

Step Three of the Twelve Steps of AA: Make a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood God.

We each have our inner program for happiness, our plans by which we can be secure, esteemed, and in control, and we are blissfully unaware that these cannot work for us for the long haul—without becoming more and more controlling ourselves. Something has to break our primary addiction, which is to our own power and unworkable programs for happiness and security.

When Jesus taught, "If anyone wants to follow me, let them renounce themselves!" (Mark 8:34; Luke 9:23), I am pretty sure that Jesus meant exactly what Bill W. means in Step Three: a radical surrendering of our will to Another whom we trust more than ourselves.

A common substitute for renouncing our own will is "the myth of heroic sacrifice." There is a love that sincerely seeks the spiritual good of others, and there is a love that seeks superiority, admiration, and control for itself, even and most especially by doing "good" and heroic things. Suicide bombers, resentful and manipulative people, and codependents are invariably sacrificial. "Codependency" is the disease of those who support and contribute to others' disease by what we call "enabling" behaviour. Sometimes the enabler is sicker than the alcoholic and does not know what to do when the alcoholic enters recovery.

Another way we avoid surrender is what Timothy

McMahan King, one of our Living School alumni, describes as "the myth of redemptive suffering." King writes:

Addiction is, by definition, a self-harming behaviour. Increasing the amount of harm, through punishment and incarceration, for those struggling with addiction is a failing strategy. . . . When our view of the cross is that God demands blood in order to redeem, it is little surprise we have a country and culture that wants to see people suffer even more before help will be provided. But when we understand a God who enters into our suffering, we see that it is that kind of grace through which we are transformed.

The absolute genius of the Twelve Steps is that it refuses to bless and reward what looks like any moral worthiness game, and it refuses to punish weakness and failure. With Gospel brilliance and insight, AA says that the starting point and, in fact, the continuing point, is not any kind of worthiness at all but in fact unworthiness! ("I am an alcoholic!") Suddenly religion loses all capacity for elitism. This is what Jesus affirmed in prostitutes and tax collectors and what Paul praised when he said, "It is when I am weak that I am strong" (2 Corinthians 12:10). When the churches forget their own Gospel message, the Holy Spirit sneaks in through the ducts and the air vents, which is what it has done in the Twelve-Step Program and other therapies.

PARISH FINANCIAL—ANOTHER UPDATE

As of the end of **November:**

- our Second Collection (which provides all the operating costs of the parish) was **\$4,595 behind** compared to the same point last year.
- Our First Collection (which provides for Frs Colin & Thomas, as well as supporting retired and sick priests of the diocese) was **\$2.155 behind** compared to the same point last year.

Please help us to maintain our income at last year's levels.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME DATES FOR 2020



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.

2020 PARISH RETREAT AT TARRAWARRA ABBEY

The retreat in 2020 will run from **Tuesday afternoon 21st April till Monday morning 27th April.**

This is a beautiful and prayerful time at a Cistercian Monastery amidst the exquisite scenery of the Yarra Valley.

Please contact Fr Colin to reserve a place.



ARE YOU MAKING YOUR WILL?

Could you consider your parish community? In recent years our parish has benefitted enormously from several bequests, large and small. The Shirley Wallace Bequest of course gave us our Parish Centre, which is now so much a part of parish life. Another bequest last year has enabled us to install solar power on Lindfield church, providing clean and cheap energy by day to the Parish Centre as well as the church.

A bequest may also be a way to commemorate a loved one.

Any bequest, large or small, can bring benefits to our parish. If you wish to do this please ensure that the bequest is made to 'The Catholic Parish of Lindfield-Killara'.

The Parish Finance Committee

Cana Christmas Stalls—Thanks for your Generosity

Thanks to everyone for your generous purchases and donations at the Cana Christmas Stalls on 30 Nov and 1 Dec. Lindfield Killara Parish raised \$1,201 with all items being sold except for four Christmas cakes. Amazing!!

Catholic Parish of Lindfield-Killara Social Justice and Youth Ministries.

CONGRATULATIONS to Olivia Kugel and David Clarke who will celebrate their marriage in Holy Family Church at Lindfield this coming Saturday 21st December at 3:30pm.



Children's Involvement in our Christmas Masses

* Calling all shepherds and angels *

* Calling all children to re-enact the Christmas Story

* Calling all children who wish to be in the Christmas choir



~ at Killara ~

We invite the children wishing to participate in the nativity play/Christmas story during Mass to come to our **PRACTICE on Friday 20th December at 4pm** at Killara church. Contact Bronwyn White on:

bgcj.white@optusnet.com.au

or Cathy Thomson on :

cathythomson7@gmail.com

* A children's choir rehearsal will also take place at Killara Church after the 9.15am Mass on **Sunday 22 December from 10.15 ~ 11am** (a morning tea will take place for parents while the children practise). All children and teenagers who would like to join the Christmas Vigil Choir are invited to attend. Contact Bernie Hallyburton if you have any questions bernie.hallyburton@gmail.com



~ 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 **Monday December 23rd at 2pm** in Lindfield church.

Preparing for Christmas —

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

There will be a celebration of the **Second Rite of Reconciliation THIS Wednesday 18th 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.

THE PRAYERS AND RESPONSES OF MASS

GLORIA:

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:

PSALM 145:6-10

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is the Lord who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free.

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan.

It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age.

At Masses at which the Psalm is sung the response is: Lord, come and save us.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

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

RESPONSES TO THE PSALM FOR WEEKDAY MASS THIS WEEK:

Mon : Teach me your ways, O Lord
Tues: Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever
Wed: Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.
Thurs: Fill me with your praise and I will sing your Glory!
Fri: Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.
Sat: Cry out with joy in the Lord, you holy ones; sing a new song to him

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

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Colin Randazzo (father of our bishop, Anthony Randazzo) and Helen McKeon (mother of Fr Jim McKeon of Chatswood parish) who both died over the last fortnight.

Recently deceased: Joan Cassidy, Edward (Ted) Hinds, Andrew Harvey, Michael K C Wong, Delia Rodriguez..

Anniversary: Henry Yee Joy

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

Anthony Ellison, Ron Burke, Nena Umali, Wolfgang Liers, Daniella Schulze, Cyril Ferriere, Alex Noble, William Wise, Lise Therese Ferriere, Ian Coffey, Maureen Hobbs, Russell Adams.

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.

MASS THIS WEDNESDAY 18TH will be the end of school year Advent Mass for our parish school and will be celebrated at **11:15am** (there will be **NO** 9:15am Mass that day). All welcome.

將臨期第三主日
 15/12/2019
讀經一 (天主要親自來拯救我們!)
 恭讀依撒意亞先知書 35:1-6,10
 荒野和不毛之地必要歡樂, 沙漠必要欣喜, 如花盛開, 盛開得有如百合, 高興得歡樂歌唱, 因為它們將獲得黎巴嫩的光華、加爾默耳和沙龍的美麗。它們將見到上主的光輝、我們天主的光輝。你們應加強癱弱的手, 堅固顫動的膝, 告訴心怯的人說:「鼓起勇氣來, 不要畏懼! 看, 你們的天主! 報復已到! 天主的報酬已到! 他要親自來拯救你們。」那時, 盲人將會看見, 聾子將要聽到; 那時, 瘸子必要跳躍如鹿, 啞吧的舌頭, 必要歡呼。上主所解救的人必要歸來, 快樂地來到熙雍; 永久的歡樂, 有如冠冕, 戴在他們頭上。他們將盡享快樂和歡喜, 再沒有憂愁和悲哀。——上主的話。(默想片刻)
答唱詠 詠146:7, 8, 9, 10
【答】: 上主, 請你來, 拯救我們。(參閱依35:4)
領: 上主為被欺壓的人辯護; 上主賜食物給飢餓的人; 上主使被囚的人, 獲得自由。**【答】**
領: 上主開啟瞎子的眼睛; 上主使僵僵的人挺身; 上主喜愛正義的人。

【答】
領: 上主保護旅客; 上主扶助孤兒寡婦; 上主迷惑惡人的道路。**【答】**
領: 願上主永遠為王! 熙雍, 你的天主萬壽無疆!
【答】
讀經二 (該堅固你們的心, 因為主的來臨已接近了。)
 恭讀聖雅各伯書 5:7-10
福音前歡呼
領/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 (你就是那要來的那一位, 或是我們還要等候另一位?)
 恭讀聖瑪竇福音 11:2-11
 那時候, 若翰在獄中聽了基督所行的, 就派遣他的門徒去問耶穌說:「你就是那要來的那一位, 或是我們還要等候另一位?」耶穌回答他們說:「你們去, 把你們所見所聞的, 報告給若翰: 瞎子看見, 跛子行走, 瘋癲病人得到潔淨, 聾子聽見, 死人復活, 窮苦的人得聞喜訊。凡不因我而絆倒的, 是有福的!」他們走了以後, 耶穌就對群眾講論若翰說:「你們出去到荒野, 是為看什麼呢? 為看隨風搖曳的蘆葦嗎? 你們出去到底是為看什麼? 為看一位穿細軟衣服的人嗎?

啊! 那穿細軟衣服的人, 是在王宮裡。你們究竟為什麼出去? 為看一位先知嗎? 是的! 我給你們說: 而且他比先知還大。關於這人, 經上記載說:『看, 我派遣我的使者在你們前面, 他要在你們前面, 預備你的道路。』「我實在告訴你們: 在婦女所生的, 沒有興起一位比洗者若翰更大的; 但在天國裡最小的, 也比他大。」——上主的話。(講道後默想片刻)
 華人天主教會 北區中心主日彌撒12時, 彌撒後午餐聚會, 歡迎各教友參加。主日學12noon牧職修女 司徒金美修女 ☎ 0419-426899中心聯絡 Gloria Cheung ☎ 0416-118089
 主日學22/12-26/1/2020假期
 2/2/2020恢復
 午餐聚會22/12-19/1/2020假期
 26/1/2020恢復
 第二十九屆家庭營 26th-28th December 2019成人組: 聖馬加利大堂周景勳神父主持, 主題《生命的飛揚》On-line Registration: ccc-inc.org.au 29/12主日彌撒周景勳神父主禮, 2:30pm, Lindfield 中心講座, 隨後晚宴與周景勳神父聚餐, 詳情報名聯絡Helen Shek
 依士活中心, 聖誕之夜彌撒24/12 星期二 8:30 pm 歲晚感恩祭
 30/12 星期一 8:30 pm Fr. Edward Chau 周景勳神父主禮

The House of Christmas
 By GK Chesterton (1874-1936)
 There fared a mother driven forth
 Out of an inn to roam;
 In the place where she was homeless
 All men are at home.
 The crazy stable close at hand,
 With shaking timber and shifting sand,
 Grew a stronger thing to abide and stand
 Than the square stones of Rome.
 For men are homesick in their homes,
 And strangers under the sun,
 And they lay on their heads in a foreign land
 Whenever the day is done.
 Here we have battle and blazing eyes,
 And chance and honour and high surprise,
 But our homes are under miraculous skies
 Where the yule tale was begun.
 A Child in a foul stable,
 Where the beasts feed and foam;
 Only where He was homeless
 Are you and I at home;
 We have hands that fashion and heads that know,
 But our hearts we lost - how long ago!
 In a place no chart nor ship can show
 Under the sky's dome.
 This world is wild as an old wives' tale,
 And strange the plain things are,
 The earth is enough and the air is enough
 For our wonder and our war;
 But our rest is as far as the fire-drake swings
 And our peace is put in impossible things
 Where clashed and thundered unthinkable wings
 Round an incredible star.
 To an open house in the evening
 Home shall men come,
 To an older place than Eden
 And a taller town than Rome.
 To the end of the way of the wandering star,
 To the things that cannot be and that are,
 To the place where God was homeless
 And all men are at home.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL—CARDS AND CALENDARS

Columban Calendars (\$10 each) are now available in both of our churches. A new range of Christmas cards are also available, \$8 for a packet of 10. Please place payment in the poor box.

JUNIOR WORDSEARCH

Lord, come and save us

J L U C L E P R O S Y X C F P
 V Z V W K V F Y Z P G O O D Z
 K Q I G T S Y L W R U Z G N D
 A B I W L R W J I O D J Z F V
 M E S S E N G E R P E N X A M
 T M V C C X A M P H A V Y R K
 D E S E R T S D I E F B H M B
 T A C O U R V O U T L P D E U
 F O G A K L K X V S P E N R J
 Y H V A L U A B L E M V I S O
 E E R X K I N G D O M Y E H H
 T S V W X J M F L E A S T A N
 I A W U A L Q Z H F O E V A C
 U L Y R S R S R N U S O E Q C
 S O N G S M C B X W F L Z T W

Try to find these words:

- deaf
- deserts
- farmers
- good
- John
- kingdom
- least
- leprosy
- messenger
- prophets
- songs
- valuable

Is 35:1-2, 5-6ab, 10
 Ps 146:6d-7ab, 7c-Bab, 10 R.v. (Is 35:4)
 Jas 5:7-10
 Mt 11:2-11

T
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D

Catholic Parish of Lindfield - Killara

Holy Family Church

corner Pacific Hwy & Highfield Rd, Lindfield

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church

corner Fiddens Wharf Rd & Charles St, Killara

Fr Colin Blayney, Parish Priest

colin@lindfieldkillara.org.au 9416 7195

Fr Thomas Alackakunnel VC, Asst Priest

thomas@lindfieldkillara.org.au; 0421 406162

Parish Office

Parish Office Hours: 9.30 am -4pm

Address: Lvl 1, 2 Highfield Road (cnr Pacific Hwy)
Lindfield NSW 2070

Postal address: PO Box 22, Lindfield NSW 2070

Phone: 9416 3702

Email: parish@lindfieldkillara.org.au

Parish Website: www.lindfieldkillara.org.au

Parish Staff

Parish Secretary:

Philita Marundan

philita@lindfieldkillara.org.au

Parish Office Coordinator

Child Protection Coordinator:

Alison Williams (M,W,Th only)

alison@lindfieldkillara.org.au

Catechist Coordinator :

Sue-Anne Sherwood

sue-anne@lindfieldkillara.org.au

Sacramental Programme Team:

Sue-Anne Sherwood (contact as above)

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 School

Holy Family School: 4 Highfield Rd, Lindfield 2070

Principal: Mr Lou Dogao Phone: 9416 7200

Email: info@holyfamily.nsw.edu.au

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

APPRECIATING & UNDERSTANDING THE SUNDAY READINGS

A clear theme that has emerged for me from the Liturgy Survey was many people's focus on the Scripture Readings as a vital part of our worship and the desire to understand them better.

As you'd appreciate the homily is not primarily a detailed Scripture commentary but an exhortation to living our discipleship drawn from the Readings. A more detailed 'study' of the readings needs to be done outside the liturgy.

To help with this I've updated a section of our parish website. If you go to 'Sacraments' → 'Scripture Readings for Sundays' you'll now find not just the links to the Readings themselves for each Sunday, but a new section which takes you to a resource containing commentaries on/background to the Readings.

I hope this will be helpful to you.

Fr Colin

What's happening in the parish ?

PARISH DIARY

DECEMBER

Wed 18th

11:15am End of year Mass for Holy Family School
7:30pm Advent Second Rite of Reconciliation (at Lindfield church)

EVERY WEEK:

PARISH PLAYGROUP 'Characters Playgroup' meets every **Wednesday** from 9.45 to 11.30am (during school terms) in the Shirley Wallace Parish Centre on the first floor of Holy Family church. Please register via Trybooking: www.trybooking.com/JYKW

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP gathers every Wednesday in 'The Basement' youth 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

EXPOSITION OF THE EUCHARIST after the 8:00am Mass on Fridays at Killara as a time for quiet prayer in the presence of the Lord.

Catechists needed for 2020

Thank you to all those that have recently signed up to be a catechist in 2020. We have had a wonderful response to our appeal for catechists! Thank you!

There are still a few classes needing a catechist:

- Wed Killara High
- Friday Lindfield Learning Village

Also: anyone available on 'Stand by' to cover illness or holidays.

TAP AND GO machines for both the First and the Second Collection are available in the main front foyer of Lindfield church.



A CHANGE TO THE DATE OF OUR MONTHLY YOUTH AND FAMILY MASSES IN 2020:

In order to avoid as many clashes with school holidays etc. as possible next year our monthly Youth and Family Mass will be at 5:30pm **on the last Sunday of each month** (so sometimes it will be the fourth Sunday, sometimes it will be the fifth Sunday—but it will always be the **last** Sunday of the month).

Therefore our first Youth and Family Mass for 2020 will be on Sunday 26th January—a great way to celebrate Australia Day!

WEEKDAY MASS THIS WEEK

Saturday		14 December	21 December
Lindfield	6:00pm	Fr Colin Blayney	Fr Colin Blayney
Killara	5:30pm	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel
Sunday		15 December	22 December
Lindfield	8:15am	Fr Colin Blayney	Fr Colin Blayney
Killara	9:15am	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel
Lindfield	10:15am	Fr Colin Blayney	Fr Colin Blayney
Lindfield	12:00pm	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel	Fr Gerard Kelly
Lindfield	6:00pm	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel	Fr Colin Blayney

	Mon.	Tues	Wed	Thu.	Fri*	Sat.
Killara	8am	8am			8am	
Lindfield	9:15		11:15 ¹	9:15	9:15	9:15

* Healing Mass for whole parish at 10am each 2nd Friday of the month at Killara except in January (no 8am Mass and no Mass at Lindfield that day).

¹ End of year Mass for Holy Family School

A home 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.

A 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



Congratulations to Year 6 at our Parish School who celebrated their Graduation Mass and other festivities last Tuesday night. We wish them well as they move on to high school.

A very practical way
you could support
your parish:

Could you advertise
here in the parish
bulletin? Please
contact the Parish
Office for details.

Morning
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last
Sunday's
9:15am
Mass at
Killara.



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