

Catholic Parish of Lindfield-Killara

Diocese of Broken Bay

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT 22 – 3 – 20
LAETARE ('REJOICE') SUNDAY

This week: 1 Sam 16: 1, 6-7,10-13; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41
Next week: Ez 37:12-14; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45



*Today's Gospel passage from John is all about sight and blindness
and of course its Lenten challenge is for us to examine our own vision.*

The Pharisees, like so many religious people before and after them, claimed to know all that God was about – they claimed to *see* clearly.

But they are revealed as the blindest people of all:

They don't *see* the blind man; they only see an issue, an annoyance.
They don't even rejoice in his gift of sight.

They don't *see* Jesus. They are so determined that he can't be from God that they're blind to the works of God.

It's a *determined* blindness, a *refusal* to see, based on claiming to have all the answers.

Today's Gospel challenges us to reflect on ourselves: do we have pre-conceived ideas of where, in whom, and how God can act? Are we blind to the person in front of us who may be in fact be this day's sacrament of God? *Fr Colin*

Food for the Soul ...

*"I came into this world for judgment,
so that those who do not see might see,
and those who do see might become blind." (Jn 9:39)*

SEEING THE RESURRECTION

God never overpowers, never twists arms, never pushes your face into something so as to take away your freedom. God respects our freedom and is never a coercive force.

And nowhere is this more true than in what is revealed in the resurrection of Jesus. The Gospels assure us that, like his birth, the resurrection was physical, real, not just some alteration inside the consciousness of believers. After the resurrection, we are assured, Jesus' tomb was empty, people could touch him, he ate food with them, he was not a ghost.

But his rising from the dead was not a brute slap in the face to his critics, a non-negotiable fact that left skeptics with nothing to say. The resurrection didn't make a big splash. It was not some spectacular event that exploded into the world as the highlight on the evening news. It had the same dynamics as the incarnation itself: after he rose from the dead, Jesus was seen by some, but not by others; understood by some, but not by others. Some got his meaning and it changed their lives, others were indifferent to him, and still others understood what had happened, hardened their hearts against it, and tried to destroy its truth.

Notice how this parallels, almost perfectly, what happened at the birth of Jesus: the baby was real, not a ghost, but he was seen by some, but not by others and the event was understood by some but not by others. Some got its meaning and it changed their lives, others were indifferent and their lives went on as before, while still others (like Herod) sensed its meaning but hardened their hearts against it and tried to destroy the child.

Why the difference? What makes some see the resurrection while others do not? What lets some understand the

mystery and embrace it, while others are left in indifference or hatred?

Hugo of St Victor used to say: *love is the eye!* When we look at anything through the eyes of love, we see correctly, understand, and properly appropriate its mystery. The reverse is also true. When we look at anything through eyes that are jaded, cynical, jealous, or bitter, we will not see correctly, will not understand, and will not properly appropriate its mystery.

We see this in how the Gospel of John describes the events of Easter Sunday. Jesus has risen, but, first of all, only the person who is driven by love, Mary Magdalene goes out in search of him. The others remain as they are, locked inside their own worlds. But love seeks out its beloved and Mary Magdalene goes out, spices in hand, wanting at least to embalm his dead body. She finds his grave empty and runs back to Peter and the beloved disciple and tells them the tomb is empty. The two race off together, towards the tomb, but the disciple whom Jesus loved out-runs Peter and gets to the tomb first, but he doesn't enter, he waits for Peter (authority) to go in first.

Peter enters the empty tomb, sees the linens that had covered the body of Jesus, but does not understand. Then the beloved disciple, love, enters. He sees and he does understand. Love grasps the mystery. Love is the eye. It is what lets us see and understand the resurrection.

That is why, after the resurrection, some saw Jesus but others did not. Some understood the resurrection while others did not. Those with the eyes of love saw and understood. Those without the eyes of love either didn't see anything or were perplexed or upset by what they did see.

There are lots of ways to be blind.

I remember an Easter Sunday some years ago when I was a young graduate student in San Francisco. Easter Sunday was late that year and it was a spectacularly beautiful spring day. *...continued on page 3*



'I have carved you on the palms of my hands....'

Isaiah 49:16

Dear sisters and brothers in our parish community,

On Thursday evening I sent a letter to all the parish by email addressing the current situation in which our world finds itself. If you or anyone you know didn't receive my letter that means I mustn't have your email address in my records. Could anyone who missed out and who would like to receive my letters please let me know (colin@lindfieldkillara.org.au) their email address. Also, if you know of someone who doesn't have email access and would like to receive my letters by surface mail please also let me know.

As you would know by now, so that we as a Church may play our responsible part in safeguarding health, Bishop Anthony Randazzo, like many of the bishops, has decided that for the time being public Mass will not be celebrated. However I want to assure you that between Fr Thomas and myself Mass will be celebrated each day so that the Eucharistic sacrifice may be offered for all of you and for all who are suffering as a result of COVID - 19 at this time.

Sadly, for the good of public health, all of our parish activities and groups now enter a recess. We will however see whether we can use video conferencing so that some activities may continue - for example, our Scripture Study Groups and Book Club.

But above all I want to assure you that neither our parish nor our spiritual lives are closing down! We have set up a special page on our parish website (www.lindfieldkillara.org.au) which can be accessed from the hotlink box on the homepage to provide you with spiritual resources for your own discipleship during this time.

Our plan is also to provide you with the opportunity to share in an online way in Mass celebrated here in our own parish each Sunday via a YouTube Channel. Details of how to do that will be posted on that special page of our website.

One very significant challenge which we face as a parish is that our income is largely derived from our weekly collections - which of course won't be taking place since Mass is not being celebrated. If you're able to maintain your weekly support of the parish by electronic means that will really help us - because the bills will still be coming in, parish infrastructure will need to be maintained, insurance to be paid, parish staff salaries to be paid, and so much more. The special webpage has a link to help you to arrange this and there is also information elsewhere in this bulletin (page 5) Please don't forget your parish!

Above all, it's important that we maintain our own spiritual life at this time and draw strength from the Spirit of God dwelling within us. And to preserve time on Sunday for prayer either alone or as a household. We will provide resources for you to do this on our special section of our website. We will also continue building this page to provide links to other resources for prayer and spiritual life. Keep checking back.

And of course, as disciples, this must not become a time when we forget our neighbour. Our special webpage provides ways that you can offer very practical (and safe) support to those who may be housebound. Please check that out. You'll also find that information on page 4 of this bulletin.

The special page of our website will continue to evolve so please visit it regularly for new resources and for updates. In the Holy Spirit we remain connected as fellow members of the Body of Christ even though we may be prevented from gathering together. Let's not forget each other and be ready when these challenging days have finally passed to emerge stronger than ever as a community founded in Christ.

Be of good heart. We are held in God's loving embrace and of course in the end our journey's goal lies beyond this world. Let's all pray for one another to maintain courage, hope, and joy in the Lord. We join so many of our sisters and brothers who at different times and places in the history of our faith have been unable to partake of the precious gift of the Eucharist. In times of persecution or danger they held on to their faith and strengthened one another. May we do the same.

Fr Colin

Clarifying a few things:

- both our churches are open every day for personal prayer in the presence of our Eucharistic Lord:
Monday—Saturday: 9:15am—6:00pm
Sunday: 8:30am—7:00pm
- our Parish Office continues to serve the parish but for reasons of public health it will not be possible to physically visit the office—please make contact by phone or email.
- we will endeavour to enable some of our parish gatherings to take place by video conferencing. At the moment we're working on doing this for Scripture Study and for the Parish Book Club.
- This **Wednesday** there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in Lindfield church from 9:30am—2:30pm. In the light of official guidance for the safety of public health there will be no communal prayer during this time but you are welcome to drop into the church at any time for a special time of personal prayer.
- What about Easter? At this stage we don't know whether there will be public celebrations of the Easter liturgies—though it seems unlikely in the current situation. Rest assured that if that is the case we will provide you with an online way to share in the feast at the heart of our faith and our hope.

PROJECT COMPASSION

GO FURTHER TOGETHER



Caritas
AUSTRALIA

End poverty
Promote justice
Uphold dignity

LENT.CARITAS.ORG.AU

WEEK 4: INDIA

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT 22 MARCH 2020

Thirty-two-year-old Sakun lives in a village in central east India. She developed polio as a child and has difficulty walking. Until now Sakun, an indigenous Gond woman, has been isolated in her community, unable to earn a livelihood and without knowledge of government schemes that could help her.

Sakun lives with her sister in a rural area of Chhattisgarh, India's poorest state. Home to 26 million people, with 10 million living in poverty.

Life is hard in this region, and even harder for the state's indigenous people. Sakun belongs to the Gond tribal community which is amongst India's officially designated Scheduled Castes and Tribes. Historically disadvantaged, they suffer higher poverty rates than other parts of India.

In 2018, Sakun joined a Caritas Australia-funded program which is implemented by Caritas India and its local partner, Samarthan. Through their strategic guidance and support, Sakun learned new skills and gained important mobility.

Sakun now earns her own income and makes a small profit which goes towards her family's basic needs. She is more resilient, more confident and more independent.

With your help, Caritas Australia can help uplift vulnerable communities and support the right of indigenous peoples around the world. A brighter future women, men and their families can start today. Let's Go Further, Together.

BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH



As you know, the Catholic Church's process for someone to become a member of the Church goes by the acronym 'RCIA' (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults). Our dedicated team assists those who wish to be baptised, or those who have already been baptised in another denomination and who now wish to be part of the fellowship of the Catholic Church.

This year we are going to begin the programme **earlier for those who are not already baptised** with extra sessions focused on an introduction to Christian faith and life. Those who are already baptised in another Christian denomination would start the preparation time at the usual time of July or August.

Therefore if you or someone you know is an adult and is not baptised and would like to begin the preparation for that wonderful event could you please contact Jos Beunen (jos.beunen@gmail.com) **as soon as possible** as the preparation program will begin shortly after Easter.

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

Recently deceased: John Cashman, Julie Wright, Maria Ciong KN, Joyce Murphy, Eleanor Villenor Quema, Stephen Hunyor, James (Jim) Bradley, Joyce Cummins. **Anniversary:** George Joseph Blayney, Paula Clarkstone, Arturo L Artes., Piera Della Vedova, Dulcie O'Connor, Fiona Taylor.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

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

(continued from page 1...)

But on that particular day I was mostly blind to what was around me. I was young, homesick, alone on Easter Sunday, and nursing a huge heartache, which coloured everything I was seeing and feeling. Easter Sunday in spring, in high sunshine, but, for what I was seeing, it might as well have been midnight on Good Friday, in the dead of winter.

Lonely and nursing a heartache, I took a walk to calm my restlessness. At the entrance of a park, I saw a blind beggar holding a sign that read: it's spring and I'm blind! The irony wasn't lost on me. I was blind that day, more blind than that beggar, seeing neither spring nor the resurrection. What I was seeing were only those things that reflected what was going on inside my own heart.

Christ is risen, though we might not see him! We don't always notice spring. The miraculous doesn't force itself on us. It's there, to be seen, but whether we see or not, and what precisely we do see, depends mainly upon what's going on inside our own hearts.

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

SUPPORTING OTHERS IN THESE CHALLENGING TIMES



As disciples our challenge is to keep our eyes fixed outwards, and not to close in on ourselves at this time.

Here are some ways that we could offer practical support to others:

I. SHOPPING

Could you do the shopping for a person who is housebound by reason of age or infirmity, or who needs to self-isolate and doesn't have local family? The Parish Office would be happy to liaise this and to facilitate the payment system. The shopping can simply be left at the person's front door.

Or, if you yourself are housebound or in a situation where you need to self-isolate—do you need someone who would do your shopping?

Also, while those who are elderly are still able to order shopping online, not all are at ease with the use of computers. The Parish office can do the ordering for you.

In any of these cases please contact Alison in the Parish Office (alison@lindfieldkillara.org.au; or 94163702 during office hours) and she will help to arrange this.

2. SOMEONE TO TALK TO

Could you chat on the phone with a person who is housebound by reason of age or infirmity, or who needs to self-isolate, and doesn't have local family?

Or, if you yourself are housebound or in a situation where you need to self-isolate—do you need someone who would phone for a chat from time to time?

In either case please contact Alison in the Parish Office (alison@lindfieldkillara.org.au; or 94163702 during office hours) and she will help to arrange this.

3. SOMEONE TO PRAY WITH

Likewise if you would like someone to pray with over the phone, or if you'd be willing to do this with someone who requests it please contact Alison.

4. ANYTHING ELSE?

If you can think of any other ways the our parish can help link up people who need help and those willing to offer it please let us know.

SUPPORTING OUR PARISH FINANCIALLY AT THIS TIME

There are two ways that you can arrange to contribute to our First and Second Collections electronically (a reminder:

the First Collection provides for Frs Colin and Thomas and also provides for the fund which provides for health care for priests, and supports sick and retired clergy

the Second Collection provides for all the running costs of the parish and its services)

To contribute electronically:

A. to contribute by direct debit from your bank account our account details are:

First Collection: BSB 062 784 Acct 1116 8002 (Lindfield Killara Parish Pastoral Revenue Account)

Second Collection: BSB 062 784 Acct 1116 8001 (Lindfield Killara Parish Church Account)

B. to arrange for a recurrent charge to your credit card please return the form below to the Parish Office:

AUTHORITY FOR RECURRENT PERIODIC PAYMENT BY CREDIT CARD

I wish to use my credit card to make my regular parishioner contributions to the Catholic Parish of Lindfield-Killara (the Merchant).

I hereby authorise the Merchant to debit my Card account with the amount and at the intervals specified below. This authority shall stand, as specified, until I notify the Merchant in writing of its cancellation.

Surname: _____ Given Names: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Cardholder's signature: _____ Date: __/__/

Type of card (please circle): **MASTERCARD** **VISA**

Card Number:

□□□□ □□□□ □□□□ □□□□

Expiry date: □□ / □□

I authorise the following periodic payment(s) to be made:

- | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|
| A. FIRST COLLECTION: | Amount: \$ _____ | Each: Month / Quarterly |
| B. SECOND COLLECTION: | Amount: \$ _____ | Each: Month / Quarterly |
| C. CWF COLLECTION: | Amount: \$ _____ | Each: Tri-Annual (Aug, Nov, May) |

If you would prefer to obtain a set of Weekly Envelopes for your Second Collection contribution please complete your name and address details above and tick here

**Please return this form to the Parish Office in person or by mail or by email to
accounts@lindfieldkillara.org.au**

The information provided in this form is collected and handled in accordance with the Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay's Privacy Policy available on the website at www.dbb.org.au

四旬期第四主日 22.3.2020

讀經一 (達味受傅為以色列王。)
恭讀撒慕爾紀上 16:1,6-7,10-13
那時候，上主對撒慕爾說：
「把你的角盛滿油；我派你到白冷人葉瑟那裡，因為在他的兒子中，我已為我選定了一位君王。」

撒慕爾等人一來到，看見厄里雅布，心裡想：這一定是站在上主面前的受傅者。但上主對撒慕爾說：「你不要注意他的容貌，及他高大的身材；我拒絕要他。因為天主的看法與人不同：人看外貌，上主卻看人心。」

葉瑟就叫他的七個兒子，都來到撒慕爾面前。撒慕爾對葉瑟說：「上主沒有揀選這些人。」撒慕爾於是問葉瑟說：「孩子們都到齊了嗎？」葉瑟回答說：「還有一個最小的，他正在放羊。」

撒慕爾對葉瑟說：「快派人帶他來，因為他不來，我們決不入席。」

葉瑟於是派人把最小的兒子帶來；他是一個有血色，眉清目秀，外貌英俊的少年。

上主說：「起來，給他傅油，就是這一位。」

撒慕爾就拿起盛著油的角，在他兄弟們面前，給他傅了油。從那天起，上主的神便降臨於達味身上。——上主的話。(默想片刻)

答唱詠 詠23:1-3, 3-4, 5, 6

【答】：上主是我的牧者，我實在一無所缺。(詠23:1)

領：上主是我的牧者，我實在一無所缺。他使我躺在青綠的草場，又領我走近幽靜的水旁，還使我的心靈得到舒

暢。【答】

領：他為了自己的名號，領我踏上了正義的坦途。縱使我應走過陰森的幽谷，我不怕凶險，因你與我同在。你的牧杖和短棒，是我的安慰和舒暢。【答】

領：在我對頭面前，你為我擺設了筵席；在我的頭上傳油，使我的杯爵滿溢。【答】

領：在我一生歲月裡，幸福與慈愛常隨不離；我將住在上主的殿裡，直至悠遠的時日。

【答】

讀經二 (從死者中起來吧！基督必要光照你！)

恭讀聖保祿宗徒致厄弗所人書 5:8-14

福音前歡呼

領：基督、天主聖言，願光榮歸於你。

眾：基督、天主聖言，願光榮歸於你。

領：主說：我是世界的光；跟隨我的，決不在黑暗中行走，必有生命之光。(若8:12)

眾：基督、天主聖言，願光榮歸於你。

福音 (瞎子去了，洗了，回來就看見了。)

恭讀聖若望福音 9:1,6-9,13-17,34-38

那時候，耶穌前行時，看見了一個生來瞎眼的人。耶穌吐唾沫在地上，用唾沫和了些泥，把泥抹在瞎子的眼上，對他說：「去，到史羅亞水池裡洗洗吧！」——史羅亞解說「被派遣的」——瞎子去了，洗了，回來就看見了。

於是，鄰居和那些經常見他討飯的人，就說：「這不是那會坐在這裡討飯的人麼？」有的說：「就是這人。」有的說：「不，是另一個很相似他的人。」那人卻說：「就是我。」

他們便將那先前瞎眼的人，帶到法利塞人那裡。耶穌和泥開了他眼睛的那天，正是安息日。於是，法利塞人又盤問他怎樣看見了。那人就向法利塞人說：「他把泥抹在我的眼上，我洗了，就看見了。」

法利塞人中有的說：「這人不從天主來的，因為他不遵守安息日。」有的卻說：「一個罪人怎能行這樣的奇蹟？」他們中間便發生了紛爭。於是，他們又問瞎子說：「對於那開了你眼睛的人，你說什麼呢？」瞎子說：「他是一位先知。」

法利塞人卻向他說：「你整個人都生於罪惡之中，竟來教訓我們？」便把他趕出去了。

耶穌聽說法利塞人把他趕了出去，後來遇見了他，就給他說：「你信人子麼？」那人便回答說：「主，是誰，好使我去信他呢？」耶穌對他說：「你已看見他了，和你講話的就是！」那人於是說：「主，我信。」就俯伏朝拜了耶穌。——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，
牧職修女 司徒金美修女
0419- 426899中心聯絡 Gloria

四旬期內拜苦路 13/3, 20/3, 27/3,
3/4 星期五 8:00pm Holy Family Church 請各教友參加

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JUNIOR WORDSEARCH

I put my faith in you Jesus

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

Try to find these words:

- beggar
- blind
- eyes
- ground
- man
- mud
- one
- Pool
- see
- Siloam
- son
- wash

Jn 9:1 6-12 35-38

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

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Parish Office Coordinator

Child Protection Coordinator:

Alison Williams (M,W,Th only)

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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.hfldbb.catholic.edu.au

A MESSAGE

FROM FR RICHARD ROHR OFM ABOUT COVID-19

~ LOVE ALONE OVERCOMES FEAR ~

It is shocking to think how much the world has changed in such a brief time. Each of us has had our lives and communities disrupted. Of course, I am here in this with you. I feel that I'm in no position to tell you how to feel or how to think, but there are a few things that come to mind I will share.

A few days ago I was encouraged by the Franciscans and by the leadership team here at the CAC to self-quarantine, so I've been in my little hermitage now for three or four days. I've had years of practice, literally, how to do what we are calling "social distancing." I have a nice, large yard behind me where there are four huge, beautiful cottonwood trees, and so I walk my dog Opie every few hours.

Right now I'm trying to take in psychologically, spiritually, and personally, what is God trying to say? When I use that phrase, I'm not saying that God causes suffering to teach us good things. But God does use everything, and if God wanted us to experience global solidarity, I can't think of a better way. We all have access to this suffering, and it bypasses race, gender, religion, and nation.

We are in the midst of a highly teachable moment. There's no doubt that this period will be referred to for the rest of our lifetimes. We have a chance to go deep, and to go broad. Globally, we're in this together. Depth is being forced on us by great suffering, which as I like to say, always leads to great love.

But for God to reach us, we have to allow suffering to wound us. Now is no time for an academic solidarity with the world. Real solidarity needs to be felt and suffered. That's the real meaning of the word "suffer" – to allow someone else's pain to influence us in a real way. We need to move beyond our own personal feelings and take in the whole. This, I must say, is one of the gifts of television: we can turn it on and see how people in countries other than our own are hurting. What is going to happen to those living in isolated places or for those who don't have health care? Imagine the fragility of the most marginalised, of people in prisons, the homeless, or even the people performing necessary services, such as ambulance drivers, nurses, and doctors, risking their lives to keep society together? Our feelings of urgency and devastation are not exaggeration: they are responding to the real human situation. We're not pushing the panic button; we are the panic button. And we have to allow these feelings, and invite God's presence to hold and sustain us in a time of collective prayer and lament.

I hope this experience will force our attention outwards to the suffering of the most vulnerable. Love always means going beyond yourself to otherness. It takes two. There has to be the lover and the beloved. We must be stretched to an encounter with otherness, and only then do we know it's love. This is what we call the subject-subject relationship. Love alone overcomes fear and is the true foundation that lasts (1 Corinthians 13:13).

A PRAYER FOR LIGHT ON A DARK ROAD . . .

God of our life there are days when the burdens we carry chafe our shoulders and weigh us down: when the road seems dreary and endless, the skies grey and threatening; when our lives have no music in them, and our hearts are lonely, and our souls have lost their courage.

Flood the path with light, we beseech you, tune our hearts to brave music; give us the sense of comradeship with heroes and saints of every age; and so quicken our spirits that we may be able to encourage the souls of all who journey with us on the road of life, to your honour and glory.

From 'Short Prayers for the Long Day'

Requiescat in pace.....Rest in Peace
Dr John Cashman 28 June 1930 - 2 March 2020



John, a member of the Lindfield parish—and then Lindfield-Killara parish—for 61 years, died peacefully on March 2nd 2020. John and Therese raised five children in Lindfield, made many friends and, until recent years when health prevented it, were active members of the parish.

John Daniel Cashman was born in Forbes in 1930, the eldest son of Jack Cashman and Cecile Girot. He was educated by the Marist Brothers in Forbes, studied medicine at Sydney University and after his junior doctor years undertook further study to specialise in Radiology. It was in Sydney that he met Therese Nixon, a trained nurse originally from Inverell.


They married in 1954. John and Therese moved to Lindfield in 1958. Their five children all attended Holy Family School in the days when there were classrooms above the church and only one bell in the tower. John's parents, two brothers, his sister and her family were all members of the Parish at one time or another. John celebrated many significant events in the Holy Family Church including: three family weddings; funeral masses for his father and mother; and the funeral Mass for his sister.

John was highly regarded in his profession, being chosen as President of the College of Radiologists and awarded their medal of honour. He had a passion for tennis which he played well into his seventies, and for travel. He was a convivial host and always enjoyed a gathering of friends or family. He was grandfather to thirteen grandchildren, and great-grandfather to four. He was known for his cheerful, gentle presence, and generosity. Members of the Parish remembered his optimism and common sense.

In recent years as his health failed, John maintained his signature sense of humour, his love of food, and a deep gratitude for the good things in life. Until his health prevented it, he regularly attended morning weekday Mass. His faith, always an important aspect of his life, sustained him in difficult times particularly after the death from cancer of his eldest daughter Mary.

Several years ago reflecting on how fortunate he had been over his life John wrote: "I can't help believing there is someone up there keeping a special and benevolent eye on me."

Father Blayney celebrated a beautiful funeral Mass on March 10th at Holy Family Church. He revealed that John and Therese were the "anonymous" donors who had helped to finance the first of the improvements to the church bells. At the conclusion of Mass the bells rang out in celebration and thanks for John's life.

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