

Catholic Parish of Lindfield-Killara

Diocese of Broken Bay

THE OCTAVE DAY OF EASTER 19 – 4 – 20
SECOND SUNDAY IN THE SEASON OF EASTER
'The season of glad song has come' (Song of Songs 2:12)

This week: Acts 2:42-47; 1 Pet 1:3-9; Jn 20:19-31
Next week: Acts 2:14, 22-33; 1 Pet 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35

Dear friends,

Well, we've passed through the first few weeks of our confinement and hopefully we were nourished and given new energy last weekend by our Easter celebrations.

The challenge now for us as disciples is for the long haul as we remain restricted in our ability to move about and gather - our challenge is to continue to nurture, celebrate and live our faith—and not to let it slumber.

As you know the special section of our parish website (www.lindfieldkillara.org.au and then click on the hotlink box 'Parish Life in the Current Situation') continues to evolve and to offer a wide range of



resources to nurture your life of faith at this time. Please keep returning to it.

I particularly commend to you Resource 1 on that page - in which we provide you each week with a complete Home Liturgy to celebrate, particularly if you are part of a household. This can be nicely linked with our online Masses from the parish - celebrating the home liturgy together and then joining in the Mass for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. I've been sent some beautiful photos of families gathered at home for Sunday liturgy—a wonderful testimony to the power of our faith continuing in a time of trial. Perhaps you'd like to send me some photos of your home gatherings—we could feature one each week here in the bulletin. Another way for us to keep in touch with one another as a community.

We'll continue to provide you with articles with food for thought here in the bulletin each week. And as you'll see in these pages there are an increasing number of ways to participate in parish activities in an online way. I hope you'll join in. If you're not too savvy with online technology and are unsure of how to do this just phone or email me and we can arrange for you to be given help to become familiar with these ways of gathering.

Despite the challenges of these very different times I hope that you can also find opportunities for enrichment in this experience. God's grace is always working in unexpected—and not necessarily pleasant—ways.

Fr Colin

Are you interested

in using these challenging times as an opportunity for developing and nourishing your faith?

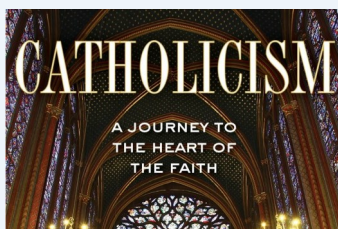
Our parish is blessed to have the resource 'Catholicism—A Journey to the heart of the Faith', a renowned faith development course coming from the legendary Fr (now Bishop) Robert Barron.

If we have sufficient numbers interested I'd be happy to run this programme online while we all perhaps have some more time and freedom to enter into it.

If you're interested please email me this week (colin@lindfieldkillara.org.au).

Let's look for graced opportunities such as these in these difficult times.

Fr Colin



BISHOP ALLOWS DOCTORS TO GIVE COMMUNION TO COVID-19 PATIENTS

A group of Italian doctors published by Avvenire, the received a bishop's daily newspaper of the permission to distribute Italian bishops' conference, Holy Communion to those "I cried with the patients. Hospitals are places of care, infected by the coronavirus. Looking for a way to provide both spiritual and physical care on Easter, six doctors caring for coronavirus patients at a hospital in Prato, located in Tuscany, presented the idea to the chaplain and subsequently received support from Bishop Giovanni Nerbini of Prato. Bishop Nerbini made the six doctors extraordinary eucharistic ministers, allowing them to give Communion to over 100 patients on Easter, according to an article

published by Avvenire, the daily newspaper of the Italian bishops' conference, "I cried with the patients. Hospitals are places of care, but we can't think of separating the body from the spirit," Filippo Risaliti, one of the doctors who distributed the Eucharist, told Avvenire. "I realized that in the fight against coronavirus, our effort is too focused on fighting the physical ills of the patients." Risaliti said the idea was inspired by Pope Francis' call for doctors and medical professionals "to play the role of intermediaries of the church for people who are suffering".

(cont'd on page 7)



**POPE FRANCIS' MESSAGE TO THE WORLD
ON EASTER SUNDAY**

Dear brothers and sisters, Happy Easter!

Today the Church's proclamation echoes throughout the world: "Jesus Christ is risen!" – "He is truly risen!".

Like a new flame this Good News springs up in the night: the night of a world already faced with epochal challenges and now oppressed by a pandemic severely testing our whole human family. In this night, the Church's voice rings out: "Christ, my hope, has arisen!" (Easter Sequence).

This is a different "contagion", a message transmitted from heart to heart – for every human heart awaits this Good News. It is the contagion of hope: "Christ, my hope, is risen!". This is no magic formula that makes problems vanish. No, the resurrection of Christ is not that. Instead, it is the victory of love over the root of evil, a victory that does not "by-pass" suffering and death, but passes through them, opening a path in the abyss, transforming evil into good: this is the unique hallmark of the power of God.

The Risen Lord is also the Crucified One, not someone else. In his glorious body he bears indelible wounds: wounds that have become windows of hope. Let us turn our gaze to him that he may heal the wounds of an afflicted humanity.

Today my thoughts turn in the first place to the many who have been directly affected by the coronavirus: the sick, those who have died & family members who mourn the loss of their loved ones, to whom, in some cases, they were unable even to bid a final farewell. May the Lord of life welcome the departed into his kingdom & grant comfort & hope to those still suffering, especially the elderly & those who are alone. May he never withdraw his consolation & help from those who are especially vulnerable, such as persons who work in nursing homes, or live in barracks & prisons. For many, this is an Easter of solitude lived amid the sorrow & hardship that the pandemic is causing, from physical suffering to economic difficulties.

This disease has not only deprived us of human closeness, but also of the possibility of receiving in person the consolation that flows from the sacraments, particularly the Eucharist and Reconciliation. In many countries, it has not been possible to approach them, but the Lord has not left us alone! United in our prayer, we are convinced that he has laid his hand upon us (cf. Ps 138:5), firmly reassuring us: Do not be afraid, "I have risen and I am with you still!" (cf. Roman Missal, Entrance Antiphon, Mass of Easter Sunday).

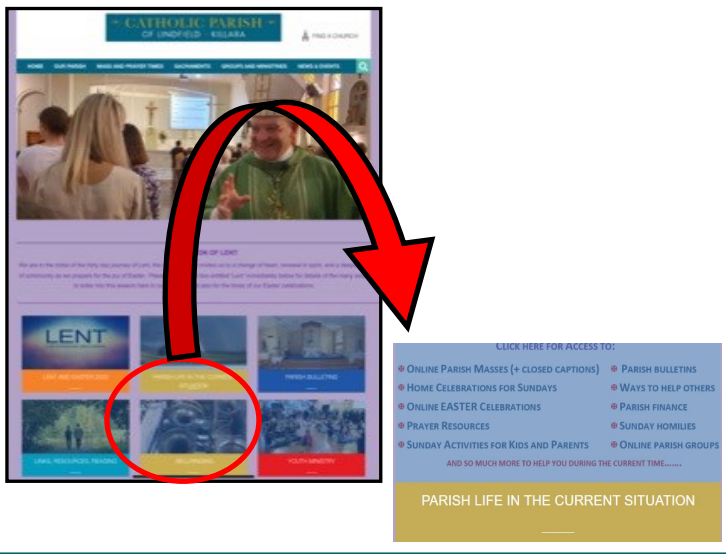
May Jesus, our Passover, grant strength and hope to doctors and nurses, who everywhere offer a witness of care and love for our neighbours, to the point of exhaustion and not infrequently at the expense of their own health. Our gratitude and affection go to them, to all who work diligently to guarantee the essential services necessary for civil society, and to the law enforcement and military personnel who in many countries have helped ease people's difficulties and sufferings.

In these weeks, the lives of millions of people have suddenly changed. For many, remaining at home has been an opportunity to reflect, to withdraw from the frenetic pace of life, stay with loved ones and enjoy their company. For many, though, this is also a time of worry about an

(continued on page 3...)

OUR PARISH LIFE ONLINE

Please keep visiting the special part of our parish website (www.lindfieldkillara.org.au) where we keep expanding the resources for you online: Mass in our parish, helps for prayer, home Sunday liturgies, helps for leading the kids through a Sunday reflection and much much more. All accessible through the hotlink box 'Parish Life in the Current Situation' on the homepage of the website:



MASS FOR ANZAC DAY

celebrated here in our parish will be available online in the usual place on our website (on our special page for the current situation in the section for 'Weekday Masses') this coming Saturday 25th April from 5:00am onwards.



(continued from page 2...): uncertain future, about jobs that are at risk and about other consequences of the current crisis. I encourage political leaders to work actively for the common good, to provide the means and resources needed to enable everyone to lead a dignified life and, when circumstances allow, to assist them in resuming their normal daily activities.

This is not a time for indifference, because the whole world is suffering and needs to be united in facing the pandemic. May the risen Jesus grant hope to all the poor, to those living on the peripheries, to refugees and the homeless. May these, the most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters living in the cities and peripheries of every part of the world, not be abandoned. Let us ensure that they do not lack basic necessities (all the more difficult to find now that many businesses are closed) such as medicine and especially the possibility of adequate health care. In light of the present circumstances, may international sanctions be relaxed, since these make it difficult for countries on which they have been imposed to provide adequate support to their citizens, and may all nations be put in a position to meet the greatest needs of the moment through the reduction, if not the forgiveness, of the debt burdening the balance sheets of the poorest nations.

This is not a time for self-centredness, because the challenge we are facing is shared by all, without distinguishing between persons. Among the many areas of the world affected by the coronavirus, I think in a special way of Europe. After the Second World War, this continent was able to rise again, thanks to a concrete spirit of solidarity that enabled it to overcome the rivalries of the past. It is more urgent than ever, especially in the present circumstances, that these rivalries do not regain force, but that all recognise themselves as part of a single family & support one another. The European Union is presently facing an epochal challenge, on which will depend not only its future but that of the whole world. Let us not lose the opportunity to give further proof of solidarity, also by turning to innovative solutions. The only alternative is the selfishness of particular interests & the temptation of a return to the past, at the risk of severely damaging the peaceful coexistence & development of future generations.

This is not a time for division. May Christ our peace enlighten all who have responsibility in conflicts, that they

may have the courage to support the appeal for an immediate global ceasefire in all corners of the world. This is not a time for continuing to manufacture and deal in arms, spending vast amounts of money that ought to be used to care for others and save lives. Rather, may this be a time for finally ending the long war that has caused such great bloodshed in beloved Syria, the conflict in Yemen and the hostilities in Iraq and in Lebanon. May this be the time when Israelis and Palestinians resume dialogue in order to find a stable and lasting solution that will allow both to live in peace. May the sufferings of the people who live in the eastern regions of Ukraine come to an end. May the terrorist attacks carried out against so many innocent people in different African countries come to an end.

This is not a time for forgetfulness. The crisis we are facing should not make us forget the many other crises that bring suffering to so many people. May the Lord of life be close to all those in Asia and Africa who are experiencing grave humanitarian crises, as in the Province of Cabo Delgado in the north of Mozambique. May he warm the hearts of the many refugees displaced because of wars, drought and famine. May he grant protection to migrants and refugees, many of them children, who are living in unbearable conditions, especially in Libya and on the border between Greece and Turkey. And I do not want to forget the island of Lesbos. In Venezuela, may he enable concrete and immediate solutions to be reached that can permit international assistance to a population suffering from the grave political, socio-economic and health situation.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Indifference, self-centredness, division and forgetfulness are not words we want to hear at this time. We want to ban these words for ever! They seem to prevail when fear and death overwhelm us, that is, when we do not let the Lord Jesus triumph in our hearts and lives. May Christ, who has already defeated death and opened for us the way to eternal salvation, dispel the darkness of our suffering humanity and lead us into the light of his glorious day, a day that knows no end.

With these thoughts, I would like to wish all of you a happy Easter.

Franciscus

FR RICHARD ROHR OFM'S MEDITATION.....

THE "BACKSIDE" OF GOD

I feel a deep solidarity with individuals throughout the world who are wrestling with health issues. In 2016, I was diagnosed with prostate cancer and underwent a complete prostatectomy. The wisdom lessons that God offered me before, during, and after the surgery were pretty much constant. The experiences were initially disempowering, sometimes scary in their immediacy, and only in hindsight were they in any way empowering. Prayer was both constant and impossible for much of this period.

About ten days after the surgery, during my attempt at some spiritual reading, I opened the Bible to an obscure passage in the Book of Exodus. Moses asks YHWH to "Show me your glory" (33:18), and YHWH shows it in a most unusual way: "I shall place you in the cleft of the rock and shield you with my hand until I have passed by. Then I shall take my hand away, and you will see my backside, but my face will not be seen" (33:22-23). In several sermons, I have used that verse to teach that our knowledge of God is indirect at best, and none of our knowledge is fully face-to-face. God is always and forever Mystery. All we see is the "backside" of God.

During that time, it was not the indirectness that hit me in this passage, but the directness! My best spiritual knowing almost always occurs after the fact, in the remembering—not seen "until God has passed by." I realised that in the moments of diagnosis, doctor's warnings, waiting, delays, and the surgery itself, I was as fragile, scared, and insecure as anybody would be. If I could stay with the full narrative all the way into and through, only afterward could I invariably see, trust, and enjoy the wonderful works of God (*mirabilia Dei*).

The foundation of faith is the ability to look at our entire salvation history and then trust that this pattern would never—could never—change! It is largely after the fact that faith is formed—and gloriously transmuted into hope for the future. Only after the fact can you see that you were being held and led during the fact. During the fact, you do not enjoy or trust your own strength at all, in fact, quite the opposite. You just cry out in various ways. Then God, for some wonderful reason, is able to fill the gap.

We're here, we're online:
and here are some ways to join in online parish gatherings.....

I. OUR PARISH CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP

Our parish has for the last few years had a weekly Christian Meditation Group. This group is now gathering **online** and invites anyone to join them for a short time of prayer **each Wednesday morning at 8am.**

The linkup takes place using Zoom – the organisers will simply send you an email which provides you with a link to click on at the appropriate time, along with a 'Meeting ID' and a password which you enter when requested. Then off you go.

If you haven't tried Christian meditation before don't worry – our lovely group will help you to get introduced to this gentle way of praying.

If you'd like to join the group please email either Kay (Kay.Hunt@optusnet.com.au) or Catherine (catherinecwillis@gmail.com)

II. OUR PARISH SCRIPTURE STUDY SESSIONS

are also taking place online—both the daytime group and the evening group. These meetings take place through the online facility of Zoom. **If you're not already in either or both of these groups and would like to be please contact Fr Colin (94167195) or email (colin@lindfieldkillara.org.au).**

- **The daytime Scripture Group** will gather online on the first & third Thursdays of each month at 11am (next meeting Thursday 7th May). We are studying St Paul's Letter to the Romans.
- **The evening Scripture study group** will next gather online on **Tuesday 28th April at 7pm.** This will be the second last of Fr Colin's introductory talks on the Scriptures—this time looking at Luke's and John's Gospels. The meeting after that will be the talk on the Book of Revelation (Apocalypse). After that we will begin our Scripture study on Luke's Gospel.

III. PARISH BOOK CLUB : This year exploring the theme of Hope.

Meeting time: Last Wednesday of Month, 10—11.20 am.

Meeting - online (see below).

Coming books:

The book for Wednesday 29 April is 'Surprised by Hope' by N T Wright.

If you'd like to be added to the email list receive details of how to take part in the online gatherings (using Zoom) and to receive updates about further online gatherings in 2020 please contact either Catherine Willis (catherinecwillis@gmail.com) or Elizabeth Reedy (elizabethreedy@msn.com).

IV.. YOUTH: And please see page 2 for details of a coming online gathering for FUSION YOUTH—our high school youth group.

IF YOU NEED HELP in learning how to take part online in any of these activities please call (9416 7195) or email (colin@lindfieldkillara.org.au) Fr Colin and he'll be happy to help you to master the technology (it's not hard at all).

We'll be looking at more ways that we can gather as a community online.

Please keep watching the bulletin and the special section of our parish website.



At this time of the year and over coming weeks the Easter Offering envelopes are normally in the churches.

The Easter Offerings are not retained personally by the priests but are a vital supplement to the First Collection income which provides for the priests of the parish and for the health care of priests across the diocese and the retirement care of older priests. This fund depends very much on the income raised by Christmas and Easter Offerings.

If you are able to make an Easter Offering donation electronically please either use the form on the page overleaf or use the overleaf details to make a direct debit from your account to our **First Collection account.** In the transfer please note that it is for 'Easter Offering'.

Many thanks.

Some notices:

♦The bulletin of course is now largely an e-edition, available on the parish website by Friday evening prior to each Sunday, and also mailed out to those who want it on the following Tuesday. If you're not on Philita's bulletin e-list and you would like to be please email her at philita@lindfieldkillara.org.au If you know of someone who is isolated and does not have internet access perhaps you could drop them a copy of the bulletin.

♦We will leave a small number of printed copies of the bulletin near one of the doors of both our churches.

♦Please don't forget that there are a number of resources for helping your children celebrate on Sundays and to reflect on the Scripture readings. These can be found in the special section of our parish website 'Parish Life in the Current Situation'.

♦The Parish Office is continuing to operate, though only one staff member is there at a time—the rest of the staff are working from home. For public health it's not possible to visit the office so please make contact by phone or email and the staff will assist you. **The Parish Office is functioning from Tues-Fri..**



TAP AND GO is accessible again. The two machines are now fixed against the glass wall of 'The Basement' at the rear of and underneath Lindfield church. Tap donations to both collections can be made at any time, night or day, by tapping against the glass.

We of course are not encouraging unnecessary excursions from your home, but if this works in with your daily exercise or your visit to the supermarket the devices are there for you.

SUPPORTING OUR PARISH FINANCIALLY AT THIS TIME

We face a great challenge at this time as a parish since most of our income comes from the weekly collections which of course are not taking place in the absence of the public celebration of Mass. Our second source of income comes from the rental of parish halls & meeting rooms—this has also ceased. We very much need your support.

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 (please email to accounts@lindfieldkillara.org.au)

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. CFW 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

復活期第二主日 (救主慈悲主日) 19.4.2020

讀經一 (凡信了的人, 常齊集一處, 一切所有皆歸公用。)

恭讀宗徒大事錄 2:42-47

弟兄們專心聽取宗徒的訓誨, 時常團聚、擘餅、祈禱。

因為宗徒顯了許多奇蹟異事, 各人都滿懷敬畏之情。凡信了的人, 常齊集一處, 一切所有, 皆歸公用。

他們把產業和財物變賣, 按照每人的需要分配。他們每天都成群結隊地前往聖殿, 也挨戶擘餅, 懷著歡樂和誠實的心, 一起進食。他們常讚頌天主, 也獲得了全民眾的愛戴; 上主天使那些得救的人, 加入會眾。——上主的話。

(默想片刻)

答唱詠 詠118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24

【答】: 請你們讚頌上主, 因為他是美善寬仁, 他的仁慈永遠常存。(詠118:1)

領: 願以色列家讚美說: 上主的仁慈永遠常存。願亞郎家讚美說: 上主的仁慈永遠常存。願敬畏上主的人讚美說: 上主的仁慈永遠常存。

【答】

領: 人雖推撞我, 叫我跌倒, 然而上主卻扶持了我。上主是我的力量與勇氣, 他常是我的救援。在義人的帳幕中, 響起了勝利的歡呼。【答】

領: 匠人棄而不用, 反而成了屋角的基石; 這是上主之所作為, 在我們眼中, 神妙莫測。這是上主所安排的一天, 我們應該為此鼓舞喜歡。【答】

讀經二 (天主藉耶穌基督由死者中的復活, 重生了我們, 為使我們獲得那充滿生命的希望。)

恭讀聖伯多祿前書 1:3-9

願我們的主耶穌基督的天主和父受讚美! 他因自己的大仁慈, 藉耶穌基督由死者中的復活, 重生了我們, 為使我們獲得那充滿生命的希望, 並獲得那為你們已存留在天上的、不腐壞、無瑕疵、不朽的產業, 因為你們原是為天主的能力所保護, 為使你們藉著信德, 而獲得那已準備好, 在最後時期出現的救

恩。

為此, 你們要歡欣踴躍; 雖然, 現在你們暫時還該在各種試探中受苦; 這是為使你們的信德, 得以精煉, 比經過火煉, 而仍易消失的黃金, 更有價值; 好使你們在耶穌基督顯現時, 堪受稱讚、光榮和尊敬。

你們雖然沒有見過他, 卻愛慕他; 雖然你們現在仍看不見他, 還是相信他, 並且以不可言傳, 和充滿光榮的喜樂, 而歡欣踴躍, 因為你們已把握住信仰的效果: 靈魂的救恩。——上主的話。

(默想片刻)

復活節讚歌 (起立)

在耶穌復活主日該誦念; 或詠唱。八日慶期內可隨意念或詠唱。

領: 各位基督徒, 請向逾越節羔羊, 獻上讚頌之祭。

眾: 羔羊贖回了羊群; 聖潔無罪的基督, 使罪人與天父和好。

領: 生命與死亡展開奇妙的決鬥, 生命的主宰, 死而復活, 永生永王。

眾: 瑪利亞, 請告訴我們, 你在路上看見了什麼?

領: 我看見永生基督的墓穴和他復活的光榮、作證的天使、頭巾和殮布。

眾: 基督、我的希望、已經復活, 他要在你們之先到达加里肋亞。

領: 我們知道, 基督確實從死者中復活。勝利的君王, 求你垂憐我們。

眾: 亞孟。亞肋路亞。

福音前歡呼

領: 亞肋路亞。

眾: 亞肋路亞。

領: 主說: 多默, 因為你看見了我, 才相信嗎? 那些沒有看見而相信的, 才是有福的! (若 20:29)

眾: 亞肋路亞。

福音 (八天以後, 耶穌來了, 站在門徒中間。)

恭讀聖若望福音 20:19-31

一周的第一天晚上, 門徒所在的地方, 因為怕猶太人, 門戶都關著; 耶穌來了, 站在中間, 對他們說: 「願你們平安!」說了這話, 便把手和肋膀指給

他們看。門徒見了主, 便喜歡起來。

耶穌又對他們說: 「願你們平安! 就如父派遣了我, 我也同樣派遣你們。」說了這話, 就向他們噓了一口氣, 說: 「你們領受聖神吧! 你們赦免誰的罪, 誰的罪就得赦免; 你們保留誰的罪, 誰的罪就被保留。」

十二人中的一個, 號稱狄摩的多默, 當耶穌來時, 卻沒有和他們在一起。其他門徒向他說: 「我們看見了主。」

但多默對他們說: 「除非我看見他手上的釘孔, 用我的指頭, 探入釘孔; 用我的手, 探入他的肋膀, 我決不信。」

八天以後, 耶穌的門徒又在屋裡, 多默也和他們在一起。門戶關著, 耶穌來了, 站在中間, 說:

「願你們平安!」然後對多默說: 「把你的指頭伸到這裡來, 看看我的手吧! 並伸過你的手來, 探入我的肋膀, 不要做無信德的人, 但要個有信德的人。」

多默回答說: 「我主! 我天主!」

耶穌對多默說: 「因為你看見了我, 才相信嗎? 那些沒有看見而相信的, 才是有福的!」

耶穌在門徒前, 還行了許多其他神蹟, 沒有記在這部書上。這些所記錄的, 是為叫你們信耶穌是默西亞, 天主子, 並使你們信的人, 賴他的名, 獲得生命。——上主的話。(講道後默想片刻)

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JUNIOR WORDSEARCH

Happy are those who have not seen me, but still believe!

Jn 20:19-29

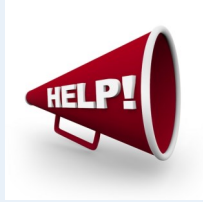
O S P I R I T H F A I T H H G
T G V T O V D O U B T I N G Q
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C O K V O W L F Q R B C G E A
R D P C W U I M E E H K B Z A
F J G R E E T E D C W G Q J F
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N K L K Q L G L L I R W S R A
M T S O J E P M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

Try to find these words:

afraid
appeared
doubting
faith
finger
forgive
greeted
receive
scars
spear
Spirit
Thomas

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PARISH FINANCE REPORT IN THE CURRENT SITUATION—AN UPDATE



As you would imagine, our parish income has been devastated in the current public health emergency—we have no weekly collections and our other source of income—rental of parish facilities—has also stopped.

Many many thanks to those who have been in touch to make arrangements for electronic giving or to increase their existing electronic giving .

If you haven't yet done this and would be able to do so please see page 5 of this bulletin or the special section of our website 'Parish Life in the Current Circumstances' and scroll down to how you can support our parish financially. Or just contact Alison directly—alison@lindfieldkillara.org.au

Fr Colin

BISHOP ALLOWS DOCTORS TO GIVE COMMUNION

(cont'd from page 1)...

He said: "We are the only ones who could do it, since only we can enter those rooms."

Dressed in protective gear, the hospital chaplain, Father Carlo Bergamaschi, accompanied the doctors distributing Communion.

The priest carried a ciborium filled with consecrated hosts, which were individually separated by gauze pads to avoid contamination.

For patients who were on respirators and unable to physically receive the Eucharist, the doctors read a prayer at their bedside.

Risaliti told Avvenire that he and the other doctors understood the suffering the patients endure due "to isolation from affection and from relatives."

He said: "They are lonely, suffering people, not only in body but also in soul."

Another doctor, Lorenzo Guarducci, said that for them, distributing Communion helped to heal "a double separation" because "one of the tragic consequences of this pandemic is isolation, of both the sick and health care workers, from everyone."

Many doctors caring for those infected by the virus have been unable to return to their homes in order to prevent infecting their loved ones. Guarducci said he had not seen his wife and children in over a month.

"For me, giving Communion to the sick was a way to fill this void; this gesture allowed me to reunite with my loved ones through the Lord," he told Avvenire. "It was one of the most beautiful experiences I have lived in my life as a man, as a Christian and as a doctor."

OUR PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL meets online *this Tuesday 21st April.*

Catholic Parish of Lindfield -Killara

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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.hfldbb.catholic.edu.au



PLEASE SUPPORT THOSE MOST IN NEED IN THE WORLD:

Let's not forget the great work of Caritas, whose principal source of funds is the annual Lenten Project Compassion Appeal. Like our own parish funds Project Compassion will suffer because no public Masses can be held.

Donations can still be made either by posting them to Caritas or by using their online donation facilities:

Online: www.caritas.org.au

Postal donations: GPO Box 9830 Sydney 2001

By Phone: 1800 024 413

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

With Easter faith we pray for Joyce Antelman, who died on Good Friday in the United States. Joyce is the mother of Jean Shatek of our parish who, as our Youth Ministry Coordinator, helped our youth present such beautiful dramatisations as part of our Good Friday online celebrations We trust that Joyce now lives in that eternal Easter for which we all long.

Recently deceased: Jean Groves, John Cashman, Julie Wright, Maria Ciong KN, Joyce Murphy, Edward Naguit, Eleanor Villenor Quema,

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

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

And for all those affected by COVID-19.

Food for the soul.....

Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed" (Jn 20:28-29)

FAITH'S DARKNESS

Why does God stay hidden? Why doesn't God reveal himself so concretely and physically that no one could doubt his existence?

I like Karl Rahner's perspective on this. God isn't hidden, he says, we just don't have the eyes to see God because our eyes aren't attuned to that kind of reality: "We are just discovering today that one cannot picture God to oneself in an image that has been carved out of the wood of the world. This experience is not the genesis of atheism, but the discovery that the world is not God."

We struggle with doubt because we can't picture God's existence, imagine God's reality, or feel God's presence in our normal ways. At a certain point, our minds, imaginations, and hearts simply run out of gas, out of room, out of feeling, and leave us dry, unable to nail down the reality of God the way we're used to nailing down most everything else. The reality of God is elusive to our conscious minds and hearts because we can't picture, imagine, or feel God in the usual way we do these things.

Why is that? Rahner's insight provides a clue: we struggle with faith because the world is not God & we can't walk around the landscape of spirit in the same way as we stroll around in this world. Why not? Precisely because God and the other world are spirit and we are being invited into a reality whose hugeness is beyond conception, whose silence is beyond language, and whose reality is beyond the physical and all that we can see, touch, taste, smell, and feel in the normal way. God is life, light, love, energy, vastness, and simplicity beyond our categories. God has a different metaphysics.

Thus, it's easy to have doubts about God's existence, and not just if we are young and still over-enthralled by the reality of this world, its stunning beauty, the promises it dangles before us, and its overpowering physical character. In a world where the physical defines everything, it can be difficult to believe in anything else.

But that struggle, ironically, also afflicts those who are mature in faith, in a more painful way, in fact. It was Jesus, after all, not some wayward youth who cried out: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me!" and who cautioned us to pray daily so as "not to be put to the test." It was this test exactly that Jesus had in mind. What is "the test"?

The classical mystics speak of two "dark nights of the soul," two painful, purifying periods of life we must all undergo. The first of these it calls "the night of the senses." This darkness, they tell us, refers to a period of painful trial which helps purify our motivation so as to make us less selfish. But these same mystics assure us that, during this first dark night, we are given consolation in our faith. God feels near. The feeling is like that of taking a bitter-tasting medicine that we know will make us better.


The second night, "the night of the spirit," is much more "the test" to which the Lord's Prayer refers. What happens here is that God seemingly disappears. All our old securities in faith dissolve and all efforts to reground ourselves through former faith-practices come up dry. God seems unreal to our heads and hearts, even as, in the depth of our being, something else is happening which belies what's happening on the surface, namely, even as our thoughts and feelings about God seem empty, we are, in our more important decisions and values, riveting ourselves ever more firmly to God and the other world. Such are the dynamics of faith. Sometimes what feels like doubt and atheism is the beginning of real belief.

Nicholas Lash, professor of Divinity at Cambridge, once made this comment about our struggle:

... We need do no more than notice that most of our contemporaries still find it "obvious" that atheism is not only possible, but widespread and that, both intellectually and ethically, it has much to commend it. This view might be plausible if being an atheist were a matter of not believing that there exists "a person without a body" who is "eternal, free, able to do anything, knows everything" and is "the proper object of human worship and obedience, the creator and sustainer of the universe." If, however, by "God" we mean the mystery, announced in Christ, breathing all things out of nothing into peace, then all things have to do with God in every move and fragment of their being, whether they notice this and suppose it to be so or not. Atheism, if it means deciding not to have anything to do with God, is thus self-contradictory and, if successful, self-destructive.

Lash isn't saying that a personal God doesn't exist, but that God's person and being are of a different order, beyond the wood of this world, and that overpowering light can feel like darkness.

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



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