

Catholic Parish of Lindfield-Killara

Diocese of Broken Bay

THIRDSUNDAY OF EASTER **26 – 4 – 20**
'The season of glad song has come' (Song of Songs 2:12)

This week: Acts 2:14, 22-33 1 Peter 1:17-21 Luke 24:13-35
Next week: Acts 2:14,36-41 1 Peter 2:20b-25 John 10:1-10

The story of the encounter with the risen Jesus on the road to Emmaus is one of the most well-known incidents in the Gospels. It's relevance to us is that it's a story of meeting Jesus *on the road*, on the journey:

like the disciples we can just be walking along life's journey, perhaps even downcast—certainly a possibility in this current situation—unaware of the Lord who is walking on the same road.



The Emmaus story is about recognising that the stranger, the unexpected person, the un-looked for experience, the un-anticipated happening may be the place where Jesus enters our life today.

The story climaxes with the disciples recognising Jesus 'at the breaking of the bread' – for them, like us, the Eucharist was the great point of familiarity with Jesus, of being at home with him, of recognising his presence – so that we can move out from the eucharistic table and recognise him 'on the road'.

Fr Colin

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

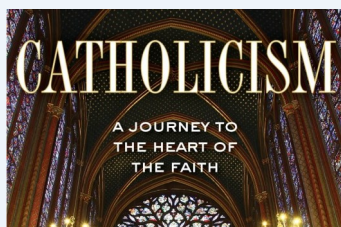
Our parish is blessed to have the resource 'Catholicism—A Journey to the heart of the Faith', a renowned faith development course coming from the legendary Fr (now Bishop) Robert Barron.

We are going to run this programme with its rich video input in an online way. The first session will be on **Wednesday 6th May at 7:30pm**, and then fortnightly after that.

If you're interested please email me (colin@lindfieldkillara.org.au) and I'll send you the login details for the sessions.

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

Fr Colin



Would you like to gather for a chat and a cuppa with fellow parishioners?

We can't do that physically of course but we can do it online.



Starting **this** Sunday 26th April there will be online morning tea **each Sunday at 10:30am** using Zoom. (If you can't picture what that would be like have a look at the photo of the PFC meeting on page 7).

To join in just put this link in your internet browser (and don't pay any attention to the conspiracy theorists who distrust Zoom!):

<https://zoom.us/j/93474637065?pwd=R2hHLOtvZ2xPRUdhS3hER3pDNEFKZz09>

(or just go to the special part of our website ('Parish Life in the Current Situation'), scroll down to Resource 11 and click on the link).

and if requested enter the following Meeting ID and password:

Meeting ID: 934 7463 7065 Password: 611969

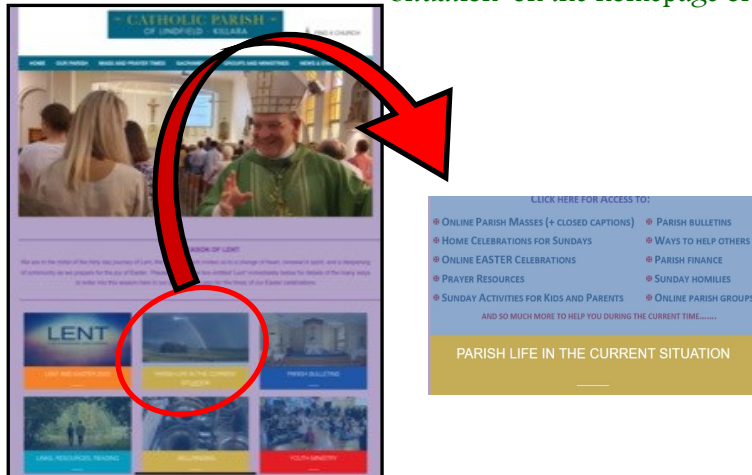
Make a cuppa, settle into your lounge or garden, and have a catchup with fellow parishioners for half an hour.

Fr Colin

Stories from our community ...

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:



For the first two weeks, my family watched Fr Colin's Mass on Youtube and found the familiarity of seeing our priest and our church, in uncertain times, very comforting. I found myself yearning to receive Communion. Then for Palm Sunday, we had a Zoom call with my brother's family and made palm crosses together with their small children and watched a Youtube Children's Mass from Singapore with songs with actions and a homily directed at the children specifically (used 'share screen' in Zoom). Thank you to our priests for keeping us in their prayers and for making it possible to still 'attend' Mass and be spiritually connected and involved.

My favourite line out of all the online feel good messages going around 'Preach the gospel where ever you are. Use words only when necessary.'

Regards, Sue-Anne



To all of our Parish Youth and their families,

Many people seeking asylum in our city are now desperately in need of food, money and shelter, as a result of job losses and closure of services due to Covid-19. The Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS) is desperately seeking grocery items for asylum seekers, refugees and others in need.

Youth@Lindfield Killara along with Two Hands is organising a collection of groceries for JRS.

Sunday, 26 April between 10am and 2pm.

3 Highfield Road, Lindfield

There will be a box sitting in the driveway where you can safely leave your donation.

Donations will be taken directly to JRS.

The items below are most needed right now but other food items will be accepted.

PLEASE, NO fresh food. Only food with a shelf life accepted. Thanks.

Basmati rice	Biscuits/muesli bars	Deodorant
Tinned tuna	Oats	soap
Tinned red kidney beans	Cereal	Toothpaste & toothbrush
Tinned lentils	Nappies (Large size)	Razors & shaving cream
Tinned chickpeas	Long-life milk	Shampoo
Tinned fruit	Cooking oil	Sanitary pads

If you can't drop off but would like to contribute, Alex Mowbray, a youth from our Parish, has volunteered to drive around and pick up goods left outside your front door. Please email us on youth@lindfieldkillara.org.au and let us know your address if you need pick up services. Items will be picked up on Sunday afternoon.

Our Parish community has been very generous in the past. Please join us in this community action, no matter how small your contribution may be.

Many thanks!

Youth@Lindfield Killara and Two Hands, Community Service and Social Justice
Lindfield Killara Catholic Parish

PARISH YOUTH GROUPS ARE MEETING ONLINE!



Fusion Sunday Social Online!

JOIN US
FOR SOME FUN
ONLINE
ACTIVITIES
AND GAMES!

YEARS 7-12
INVITED

SUNDAY 26TH APRIL
6 - 7:30PM



Register online for the Zoom link
<https://lindfieldkillarayouth.weebly.com/contact.html>

BLAST ONLINE CHALLENGES for kids in years 3-6!



1 Register



You **MUST** register to participate (name & email):
<https://lindfieldkillarayouth.weebly.com/contact.html>
Please write "BLAST" in comment area

2 Download the App



Download "Padlet" application. The app is free.
Download app here: <https://padlet.com/>

3 Get password



Once you register we'll send you the password for our
Padlet page. NOTE: the page is private so please don't
share the password with anyone not in BLAST.

4 Post your Challenge photo!



Complete your Challenge and post your work!
A winner will be announced for each Challenge with a
prize for every winner!

QUESTIONS? Email: youth@lindfieldkillara.org.au



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

HOPE AND SUFFERING

When we try to live in solidarity with the pain of the world—and do not spend our lives running from it—we will encounter various forms of “crucifixion.” Pain is physical or emotional discomfort, but suffering often comes from our resistance to that pain.

The soul must walk through such suffering to go higher, further, deeper, or longer. The saints variously called such suffering deaths, nights, darkness, unknowing, spiritual trials, or just doubt itself.

Necessary suffering allows us to grow, but “in secret” (Mark 4:26–29), which is an amazingly common concept, both in the teachings of Jesus and of many of the mystics. Such growth must largely be hidden because God alone can see it and steer it for our good. If we try too hard to understand it, we will stop the process or steer it in the wrong direction.

It seems there is a cruciform shape to reality with cross purposes, paradoxes, and conflicting intentions everywhere. Jesus hangs right there amid them, not even perfectly balancing them, but just holding them (see Ephesians 2:13–22). This deserves a major “Wow!” because mere philosophy or even proper theology would never have come to this conclusion.

The virtue of hope, with great irony, is the fruit of a learned capacity to suffer wisely, calmly, and generously. The ego demands successes to survive; the soul needs only meaning to thrive. Somehow hope provides its own kind of meaning, in a most mysterious way.

The Gospel gives our suffering both personal and cosmic meaning by connecting our pain to the pain of others and, finally, by connecting us to the very pain of God. Did you ever think of God as suffering? Most people don't—but Jesus came to change all of that.

Any form of contemplation is a gradual sinking into this divine fullness where hope lives. Contemplation is living in a unified field that produces in people a deep, largely non-rational, yet calmly certain hope, which is always a surprise.

A life of inner union, a contemplative life, is practicing for heaven now. God allows us to bring “on earth what is in heaven” (Matthew 6:10) every time we can allow, receive, and forgive the conflicts of the moment. Such acceptance allows us to sit in some degree of contentment—despite all the warring evidence.

God alone, it seems to me, can hold together all the seeming opposites and contradictions of life. In and with God, we can do the same. But we are not the Doer.

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 **this 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: Please see page 3 for details of an online gathering for FUSION YOUTH—our high school youth group—THIS WEEKEND, and for details of fun online activities for BLAST (Years 3-6).

V. SUNDAY MORNING TEA ONLINE: starts TODAY 26th April - see p.1.

VI. CATHOLICISM: A FAITH DEVELOPMENT COURSE a renowned audio-visual faith development course coming from the legendary Fr (now Bishop) Robert Barron. If you'd like to join in our parish online sessions see page 1 for details.

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 of our parish online gatherings on Zoom ...



PRAYER, WINE AND CHEESE Those who have attended parish retreats at Tarrawarra or Jamberoo Abbey gather once each month for an evening which begins with prayer and is followed by a meal together. In our new circumstances the group gathered on Zoom (pictured) last Wednesday night, beginning as always with a time of prayer and followed by convivial wine and cheese for an hour or two afterwards.



OUR PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL met online via Zoom last Tuesday evening. It was a fruitful meeting yielding a number of pastoral initiatives for outreach during these difficult times.

FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION PROGRAMME



Although we don't know when we will be able to gather again to celebrate Mass in the church, we thought it would be good to offer the preparation programme for First Communion now as a way of helping you as parents to help your children remained connected and engaged with their faith.

Also, because of the current circumstances and the financial hardship being experienced by many we will not charge the usual fee which covers the cost of providing the programme on this occasion.

Our Sacramental Programme Coordinator, Maia Schultze-Tsang, will run this programme in an online way and groups will gather as usual for the sessions of the programme—though this time doing that in an online way using Zoom.

Details of the programme and how to enrol will appear on our parish website (www.lindfieldkillara.org.au) by this coming Friday. Click on 'Sacraments' and then on 'Children's Sacraments.'

WOULD YOU LIKE A CHAT?

Things can get stressful or lonely during the current social restrictions.

We have a number of parishioners who are happy to phone and have a chat.

If you'd like to have someone call please either leave a message at the Parish Office (9416 3702) or email parish@lindfieldkillara.org.au



復活期第三主日 26.4.2020

讀經一 (基督不能被死亡控制。)

恭讀宗徒大事錄 2:14,22-33

五旬節那天，伯多祿那十一位宗徒站起來，高聲向群眾說：「猶太人，及所有居住在耶路撒冷的人！請你們留意，側耳靜聽我的話！諸位以色列人！請聽這些話：

「納匝肋人耶穌是天主用德能、奇蹟和徵兆——即天主藉他在你們當中所行的，一如你們所知道的——給你們證明了。他照天主已定的計劃和預知，被交付了。你們藉著不法者的手，釘他在十字架上，殺死了他。天主卻解除了他死亡的苦痛，使他復活了，因為他不可能受死亡的控制，因為達味指著他說：『我常將上主置於我眼前；我決不動搖，因他在我右邊。因此，我心歡樂，我口歌唱，連我的肉身，也要安息於希望之中，因為你決不會將我的靈魂，遺棄在陰府，也不會讓你的聖者，見到腐朽。你要將生命的道路，指示給我，使我在你面前，獲得圓滿的喜樂。』

「諸位仁人弟兄！容許我坦白對你們講論聖祖達味的事吧！他死了，也埋葬了。他的墳墓，直到今天，還在我們這裡。他既是先知，也知道天主曾以誓詞，對他起了誓，要從他的子嗣中，選立一位來承繼他的王位。他既預先看見了，就論及默西亞的復活，說：『他沒有被遺棄在陰府，他的肉身也沒有見到腐朽。』這位耶穌，天主使他復活了；我們都是他的見證人。他被舉揚到天主的右邊，由父領受了所應許的聖神。你們現今所見所聞的，就是他所傾注的聖神。」——上主的話。(默想片刻)

答唱詠 詠16:1-2,5, 7-8, 9-10, 11

【答】：上主，請你將生命的道路指示給我。(詠16:11)

領：天主，求你保佑我，因為我只投靠你。我對天主說：「唯有你是我的上主，唯有你是我的幸福。」上主，你是我的產業，是我的杯爵，有你為我守著。【答】

領：我要讚頌引導我的上主；我心連夜間也向我督促。我常將上主置於我的眼前，我決不動

搖，因他在我右邊。【答】

領：因此，我心高興，我靈喜歡，連我的肉軀，也無憂安眠。因為你絕不會將我遺棄在陰府，也絕不會讓你的聖者見到腐朽。

【答】

領：請你將生命的道路，指示給我；唯有在你面前，才有圓滿的喜悅；永遠在你右邊，也就是我的福樂。【答】

讀經二 (你們是用無玷羔羊——基督的寶血，救贖出來的。)

恭讀聖伯多祿前書 1:17-21

親愛的諸位：

你們既稱呼那不看情面，而只按每人的行為，施行審判的天主為父，就該懷著敬畏的心，度過你們這旅居的時期。該知道：你們不是用能朽壞的金銀等物，而是用寶血，即無玷無瑕羔羊——基督的寶血，由你們祖傳的虛妄生活中，被贖出來的。

基督固然是創世以前，就被預定了的，但在最末的時期，為了你們才出現，為使你們因著他，而相信那使他由死者中復活，並賜他光榮的天主；這樣，你們的信德和望德，都同歸於天主。——上主的話。(默想片刻)

福音前歡呼

領：亞肋路亞。

眾：亞肋路亞。

領：主、耶穌，請你給我們講解聖經，好使我們的心，在你講話時，也火熱起來。(參閱路24:32)

眾：亞肋路亞。

福音 (在擘餅時，門徒認出耶穌來。)

恭讀聖路加福音 24:13-35

就在一周的第一天，耶穌的門徒中，有兩個人，往一個村莊去，村名厄瑪烏，離耶路撒冷約六十『斯塔狄』。他們彼此談論所發生的一切事。正談話討論的時候，耶穌親自走近他們，與他們同行。他們的眼睛卻被蒙蔽住了，以致認不出耶穌來。耶穌對他們說：「你們走路，彼此談論的是些什麼事？」他們就站住，面帶愁容。

一個名叫克羅帕的，回答耶穌說：「在耶路撒冷作客的，獨有你不知道這幾天在那裡所發生的事嗎？」

耶穌問他們說：「什麼事？」

他們回答說：「就是有關納匝肋人耶穌的事。他本是一位先知，在天主及眾百姓前，行事說話都有權力。我們的司祭長及首領，竟解送了他，判了他死罪，釘他在十字架上。我們原指望他就是那要拯救以色列的。可是……此外還有：這些事發生到今天，已是第三天了。我們中有幾個婦女，驚嚇了我們；她們清早到了墳墓那裡，沒有看見耶穌的遺體，回來說她們見了天使顯現，天使說耶穌復活了。我們中也有幾個，到過墳墓那裡，所遇見的事，如同婦女們所說的一樣，但是，沒有看見耶穌。」

耶穌於是對他們說：「唉！無知的人哪！為信先知們所說的一切話，你們的心竟這是這般遲鈍！默西亞不是必須受這些苦難，才進入他的光榮嗎？」耶穌於是從梅瑟及眾先知開始，把全部經書論及他的話，都給他們解釋了。

當他們走近他們要去的村莊時，耶穌裝作還要前行。他們強留他說：「請同我們一起住下吧！因為快到晚上，天已垂暮了。」耶穌就進去，同他們住下。

當耶穌與他們坐下吃飯的時候，就拿起餅來，祝福了，擘開，遞給他們。他們的眼睛開了，這才認出耶穌來；但耶穌卻由他們眼前隱沒了。他們就彼此說：「當他在路上與我們談話，給我們講解聖經的時候，我們的心不是火熱的嗎？」

他們於是立即動身，返回耶路撒冷，遇見那十一位門徒，及同他們一起的人，正聚在一起，彼此談論說：「主真復活了，並顯現給西滿！」兩人就把在路上的事，及在分餅時，他們怎樣認出了耶穌，述說了一遍。——上主的話。(講道後默想)

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

Cheung ☎0416-118089主日彌撒

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JUNIOR WORDSEARCH

They knew it was Jesus when he broke bread

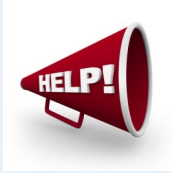
GR 2015.10.25

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

Try to find these words:

- angels
- bread
- Cleopas
- disappear
- eat
- Emmaus
- house
- Jerusalem
- Messiah
- Scriptures
- suffer
- three

PARISH FINANCE REPORT IN THE CURRENT SITUATION—AN UPDATE



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

For this last week our First Collection income was \$747 less than a comparable week before the current restrictions and our Second Collection income was \$1379 less.

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 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

What's happening in our online parish?

APRIL

Sunday 26th	On demand 10:30am	Parish Mass online Online morning tea See page 1
	6:00pm	Fusion—High school youth See p. 3
Tuesday 28th	7:00pm	Evening Scripture Study Gp See p. 4
Wednesday 29th	8:00am	Meditation Group See p. 4
Wednesday 29th	10:00am	Parish Book Group See p.4

MAY

Sunday 3rd	On demand 10:30am	Parish Mass online Online morning tea See page 1
Wednesday 6th	7:30pm	'Catholicism' Session 1 See p. 1
Thursday 7th	11:00am	Daytime Scripture Study Gp See p. 4

Catholic Parish of Lindfield -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: Tue-Fri 9.30 am -4pm

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

Sacramental Programme Team:

Maia Schulze

Tsangsacramental@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.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:

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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 Angela Ying Fung Yim whose funeral took place from our parish last week.

Recently deceased: Patrick Fitzpatrick, Joyce Antelman, Jean Groves, John Cashman, Julie Wright, Maria Ciong KN, Joyce Murphy, Eleanor Villenor Quema,

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.

And for all those affected by COVID-19.

Then they said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?" (Lk 24:32)

LIVING BEYOND OUR CRUCIFIXIONS

Every dream eventually gets crucified.

How? By time, circumstance, jealousy, and that curious, perverse dictate, somehow innate within the order of things, the one insuring that there is always someone or something that cannot leave well enough alone, but, for reasons of its own, must hunt down and strike what is good. The good will always be envied, hated, pursued, smudged, killed. That's true even of dreams. Something there is that needs a crucifixion. Every body of Christ inevitably suffers the same fate as Jesus. There's no smooth ride for what's whole, good, true, or beautiful.

But that's only half the equation, the bad half. What's also true, what the resurrection teaches, is that, while nothing that is of God can avoid crucifixion, no body of Christ ever stays in the tomb for long either. God always rolls back the stone and, soon enough, new life bursts forth and we see why that original life had to be crucified. ("Wasn't it necessary that the Christ should so have to suffer and die?") Resurrection follows crucifixion. Every crucified body will rise again.

But where do we meet the resurrection? Where does the resurrected Christ meet us?

Scripture is subtle, but clear. Where can we expect to meet the resurrected Christ after a crucifixion? The gospel tell us that, on the morning of the resurrection, the women-followers of Jesus, the midwives of hope, set out for the tomb of Jesus, carrying spices, intending to anoint and embalm a dead body. Well-intentioned, but misguided, what they find is not a dead body, but by an empty tomb and an angel challenging them with these words: "Why are you looking for the living among the dead? Go instead into Galilee and you will find him there!"

Go instead into Galilee.

What a curious expression! What is Galilee? Why go back? In the post-resurrection accounts of the gospels, Galilee is not simply a physical geography. It is, first of all, a place in the heart. Galilee is the dream, the road of discipleship that they had once walked with Jesus, and that place and time when their hearts had most burned with hope and enthusiasm. And now, just when they feel that this all is dead, that their faith is only fantasy, they are told to go back to the place where it all began: "Go back to Galilee. He will meet you there!"

And they do go back, to Galilee, to that special place in their hearts, to the dream,

to their discipleship. Sure enough, Jesus appears to them there. He doesn't appear exactly as they remember him, nor as often as they would like him to, but he does appear as more than a ghost or a mere idea. The Christ that appears to them after the resurrection no longer fits their original expectation, but he is physical enough to eat fish in their presence, real enough to be touched as a human being, and powerful enough to change their lives forever.

Ultimately that is what the resurrection challenges us to do, to go back to Galilee, to return to the dream, the hope, and the discipleship that had once inflamed us but that now is crucified.


This too is what it means to "be on the road to Emmaus." In Luke's gospel (Lk 24:13), we are told that on the day of the resurrection two disciples were walking away from Jerusalem towards Emmaus, their faces downcast. That single line contains an entire spirituality. For Luke, Jerusalem, like Galilee for the other gospel writers, means the dream, the hope, the kingdom, the centre from which all is to begin and where ultimately all is to culminate. And the disciples are "walking away" from this, away from the dream, towards Emmaus. Emmaus was a Roman Spa—a Las Vegas and Monte Carlo of human consolation. Their dream has been crucified and the disciples, discouraged and hope-emptied, are walking away from it, towards human consolation, muttering: "But we had hoped!" They never get to Emmaus. Jesus appears to them on the road, reshapes their hope in the light of the crucifixion, and turns them back towards Jerusalem.

One of the essential messages of Easter is this: whenever we are discouraged in our faith, whenever our hopes seem to be crucified, we need to go back to Galilee and Jerusalem, that is, to the dream, to the road of discipleship that we had embarked upon before everything went wrong. The temptation, of course, is, whenever we feel this way, whenever the kingdom doesn't seem to work, the temptation is to abandon discipleship for human consolation, to set out instead for Emmaus, for the consolation of Las Vegas and Monte Carlo.

But, as we already know, we never quite get to Emmaus. In one guise or another, Christ always meets us on the road, burns holes in our hearts, explains the latest crucifixion to us, and sends us back—to Galilee and to our abandoned discipleship.

Once there, it all makes sense again.

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



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