

Catholic Parish of Lindfield-Killara

Diocese of Broken Bay

PENTECOST SUNDAY 31 – 5 – 20

THE FINAL DAY OF THE EASTER SEASON

'The season of glad song has come' (Song of Songs 2:12)

This week: Acts 2:1-11; 1 Cor 12:3-7, 12-13; Jn 20:19-23
Next week: Ex 34:4-6, 8-9; 2 Cor 13:11-13; Jn 3:16-18

An end and a beginning . . .

Today with the celebration of Pentecost the Easter Season draws to a close. This great Easter feast of Pentecost stands as the second greatest day in our Church year after Easter Sunday itself, outranking by far even Christmas itself.

Pentecost is often looked at as just a feast day standing by itself. But it's not. It is an **Easter** day, intimately bound up with Easter itself. Pentecost celebrates that what happens at Easter belongs also to us – that the Spirit poured out by the Father on Jesus, raising him to life, is poured out on us.



And the Spirit is the Spirit of **unity**. As the Spirit is the bond of love uniting Father and Son in the Trinity, so the Spirit unites us, brings us into one body. For that reason Pentecost is often called 'the birthday of the Church' for the Church is born, the Christian community is born, in the great outpouring of the Holy Spirit. For that reason too the week leading up to Pentecost is observed as '*The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity*'. This is a day which invites us to participate in the great unifying work of the Holy Spirit 'who builds the body of Christ'. A Pentecost people is an ecumenical people.



Fr Colin

A letter from Fr Colin

Masses with 50 ?

Well, I'm sure you all know by now that on *Thursday* evening the NSW Government announced that effective *Monday* (ie three days later) the number who can attend a church Service would increase to 50.

I have to say that I found that announcement extremely frustrating. In a public health emergency forward planning is a crucial element. That announcement brings with it a moral pressure and an expectation as to its immediate implementation. But life is not so simple, as I'm sure you understand. We have to work out how we allocate the 50 seating spaces so as to maintain the 1.5m separation between participants and install appropriate seating signage; we have to set up and maintain a revised booking system to ensure that the maximum number is not exceeded; and most importantly we have to ensure the appropriate sanitisation of our two churches after *every* celebration. We have already been doing that since Masses with ten people became possible, but there is a world of difference between sanitising ten pews and fifty pews, and between doing that once a day and perhaps four or more times a day. And there is also the question of how we *afford* that level of sanitisation given the decline in our parish income.

Online!

**Pentecost
Sunday
Youth Liturgy
&
Sunday Social**

**Sun 31st May
5.30pm-7pm**

Use this link to join in:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84835691272>

Featuring
the 6pm
Youth Mass
Choir!

A circular photograph showing two young women standing together and smiling. The woman on the left is wearing a white shirt and dark pants, and the woman on the right is wearing a denim jacket over a light-colored top.

Well, there, I've had my rant! Which I think is entirely justified! I hope you all know that we have been working hard to sustain and nourish the life of our parish and so we of course welcome this new possibility for our life as a parish community. We just need *some time* however to ensure we implement it in the best and the safest way. To that end our parish **won't** be implementing this till the week after this coming one so that we can think this through properly and be well-prepared.

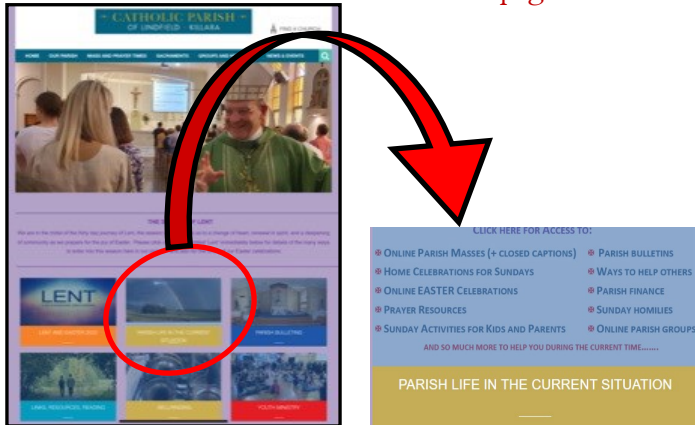
During this coming week therefore we will maintain our new 'Masses with ten people' and next Sunday there will just be the online Mass as usual. However by next week's bulletin we can then announce our new Mass arrangements commencing Monday 8th June. It is likely that we will offer a range of possibilities in the course of each week so that we can provide opportunities for those with need to take greater care of their health to be able to attend (eg we may continue to have some days on which we still have Mass limited to ten people for the sake of those in such a health situation).

Fr Thomas and I look forward to seeing you and celebrating the Eucharist with you in even greater numbers. Just give us a week to get ready and make sure it's safe for everybody.

Fr Colin

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:



THIS WEEK'S LETTER FROM OUR BISHOP ANTHONY RANDAZZO



Bishop Anthony's letter for this week of Easter can be found via the link box on the special page for the current situation on our website.

Fr Colin's recent email letter to the parish is also available there—if you didn't receive it please let Fr Colin know your email address.

Enrolments for 2021 at Holy Family Catholic School are open.

To find out more about our wonderful learning community you can register for one of our **Virtual Open Day Sessions** using the address below or visit our school website or Facebook page and click on the link. Contact the School Office, 9416 7200, to **book a private school tour** (outside school hours).



UPDATE ON OUR PARISH FINANCES

Compared to the same point last year the situation with our parish income is:

- First Collection** \$11, 630 less than last year.
- Second Collection:** \$21,500 less than last year.

Information on how to contribute electronically can be found via the hotlink box on the homepage of our parish website (www.lindfieldkillara.org.au).

Also the tap machines are available in Lindfield church.

And in both our churches there are now two boxes available whenever Mass is celebrated for contributions to the two collections (we won't be passing the plates around for health reasons).

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..**

CONGRATULATIONS to John and Leah Quirk of our parish who celebrated their 67th anniversary of marriage yesterday!

OUR CHURCHES

ARE ONCE AGAIN OPEN FOR PRAYER

Following the NSW Government's announcing of the first phase of the easing of restrictions our churches can now be re-opened for personal prayer—though the restriction remains in force of maintaining a distance of a minimum of 1.5 metres from other people. Hand sanitiser will be available in the foyer—please use it upon entering and leaving the church.

The opening hours for our churches will be:

	Killara	Lindfield
Mon.:	11am - 4pm	Closed
Tues.:	11am - 4pm	1 - 4pm
Wed.:	Closed	1pm - 4pm
Thur.:	11am - 4pm	9:45am - 4pm
Fri.:	9am - 4pm	11am - 4pm
Sat.:	1pm - 4pm	1pm - 4pm
Sun.:	11am - 4pm	11am - 4pm

Come to Mass!



On page 1 you'll find information about the forthcoming increase in numbers able to attend Mass to 50. However, as you'll read there, this won't be taking effect in our parish until the week beginning Monday 8th June.

We hope that you will take the opportunity now already available to come to the actual physical celebration of the Eucharist in each of our churches, to gather with (a small part of) our community and to share in the precious gift of Holy Communion **in groups of 10**. We are making these available from Mon-Sat.

So that we may comply with the restriction of a maximum of ten people it is necessary to make a booking to attend Mass. **To do this please go the special hoflink box on the homepage of our parish website. Please be sure to read all the instructions before booking.**

This week our Masses will be: **Mon:** 10am at Killara; **Tues** - 10am at Killara; 12 noon at Lindfield; **Wed:** 10am and 12:30pm at Lindfield; **Thur:** 10am at Killara and 7:00pm at Lindfield; **Fri:** 10am at Lindfield; 7pm at Killara; **Sat:** 10am & 12 noon at Killara.

Keeping in mind the restriction that four square metres at a minimum should be kept for each person, we will mark the pews which are able to be used for Mass to ensure maximum separation of those participating. Hand sanitiser will be provided at the doors for use upon entry and departure.

There will of course be no physical sharing of the Sign of Peace at Mass and in our parish Holy Communion will not be given on the tongue—this is a conscientious decision by Fr Thomas and myself for the sake of our own health and the health of the community.

There will also be boxes available in the church for contributions to the First and Second Collection & at Lindfield the Tap & Go machines will also be available.

It's wonderful that we can at least from time to time now come together as smaller parts of our community to celebrate the Eucharist together. Fr Thomas and I look forward to being with you at these precious gatherings.

Details re the introduction of Masses with 50 people, including Masses on Sundays, will be available in next week's bulletin. See page 1 also. *Fr Colin*

GETTING TO KNOW THE WONDERFUL JULIAN OF NORWICH

....PART 3

GOD IS OUR TRUE MOTHER

In Chp 54 of Julian's Showings, we find what I consider the best description I have read of the union of the soul inside of the Trinity. Julian writes, "[God] makes no distinction in love between the blessed soul of Christ & the least soul that will be saved." [1] God can only see Christ in us, it seems, because we are the extended Body of Christ in space & time. Christ is what God sees & cannot not love & draw us back into the Divine Dance of Love. Julian continues:

And I saw no difference between God and our substance, but, as it were, all God; and still my understanding accepted that our substance is in God, that is to say that God is God, and our substance is a creature in God. For the almighty truth of the Trinity is our Father, for he made us and keeps us in him. And the deep wisdom of the Trinity is our Mother, in whom we are enclosed. And the high goodness of the Trinity is our Lord, and in him we are enclosed and he in us. [emphasis mine —RR]. [2]

Describing God as both mother and father was quite daring in Julian's time. She called Jesus our "true Mother" from whom we receive our beginning, our true being, protection, and love. Even in terms of gender, mystics tend to be expansive. In chapter 59 she reflects:

Our high Father almighty God, who is Being, he knew us and loved us from before-any-time. Of which knowing, in his full marvelous deep Charity, by the foreseeing endless counsel of all the blessed Trinity, he willed that

the second Person should become our Mother, our Brother, and our Saviour.

Whereof it follows that as truly as God is our Father, so truly is God our Mother. Our Father wills, our Mother works, our good Lord the Holy Ghost confirms. And therefore it belongs to us to love our God, in whom we have our being . . . for in these three is all our life. . . .

And therein is a forth-spreading, by the same grace, of a length and breadth, of a height and a deepness without end [see Ephesians 3:18–19]. And all is one love. [3]

After spending years contemplating her visions, Julian finishes her text with this confident description of God's meaning:

So I was taught that love is our Lord's meaning. And I saw very certainly in this and in everything that before God made us [God] loved us, which love was never abated and never will be. And in this love . . . [God] made all things profitable to us, and in this love our life is everlasting. . . . In this love we have our beginning, and all this shall we see in God without end. [4]

(to be continued)

[1] Julian of Norwich, *The Fourteenth Revelation*, ch. 54 (Long Text), Julian of Norwich: Showings, trans. Edmund Colledge and James Walsh (Paulist Press: 1978), 285.

[2] *Ibid.*

[3] *The Fourteenth Revelation*, ch. 59 (Long Text). See *The Revelations of Divine Love of Julian of Norwich*, trans. James Walsh (Harper and Brothers: 1961), 162.

[4] *The Sixteenth Revelation*, ch. 86 (Long Text), Colledge and Walsh, 342–343.

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

These linkups take 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.

I. OUR PARISH CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP is now gathering **online** and invites anyone to join them for a short time of prayer **each Wednesday at 8am.**

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. 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 HAS CHANGED FROM THURSDAYS TO WEDNESDAYS: it now gathers online on the first & third **Wednesdays** of each month at 11am. We are just about to begin reading the Letter to the Ephesians..
- The evening Scripture study group gathers online on the second & fourth Wednesdays of each month at 7:30pm and is studying Luke's Gospel

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

Meeting time: Last Wednesday of Month, 10:00—11.20 am.

If you'd like to be added to the email list receive details of how to take part in the online gatherings 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 1 for details of an another online gathering for FUSION YOUTH—our high school youth group—**today** Sunday 31st May.

V. CATHOLICISM: A FAITH DEVELOPMENT COURSE a renowned audio-visual faith development course coming from the legendary Fr (now Bishop) Robert Barron on the **first and third Wednesdays** of the month at **7:30pm** via Zoom . If you'd like to join in our parish online sessions contact Fr Colin for details.

VI. YOUNG ADULTS ('J~WALK') are gathering online for a fun evening online every few weeks.

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

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 arrange to have someone call please call 9416 3702 Monday-Sunday (leave a message if the phone isn't answered and we'll get back to you)

or email alison@lindfieldkillara.org.au



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.**

NEXT SUNDAY is the Solemnity of the Most Blessed Trinity ('Trinity Sunday'), celebrated always on the first Sunday following the end of the Easter Season since it is in the Easter mystery that the mystery of God as Trinity is revealed and experienced: the Father who reaches out in love as the Word becomes flesh and their mutual love—the Holy Spirit—is poured out on the world.

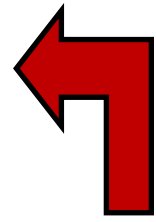
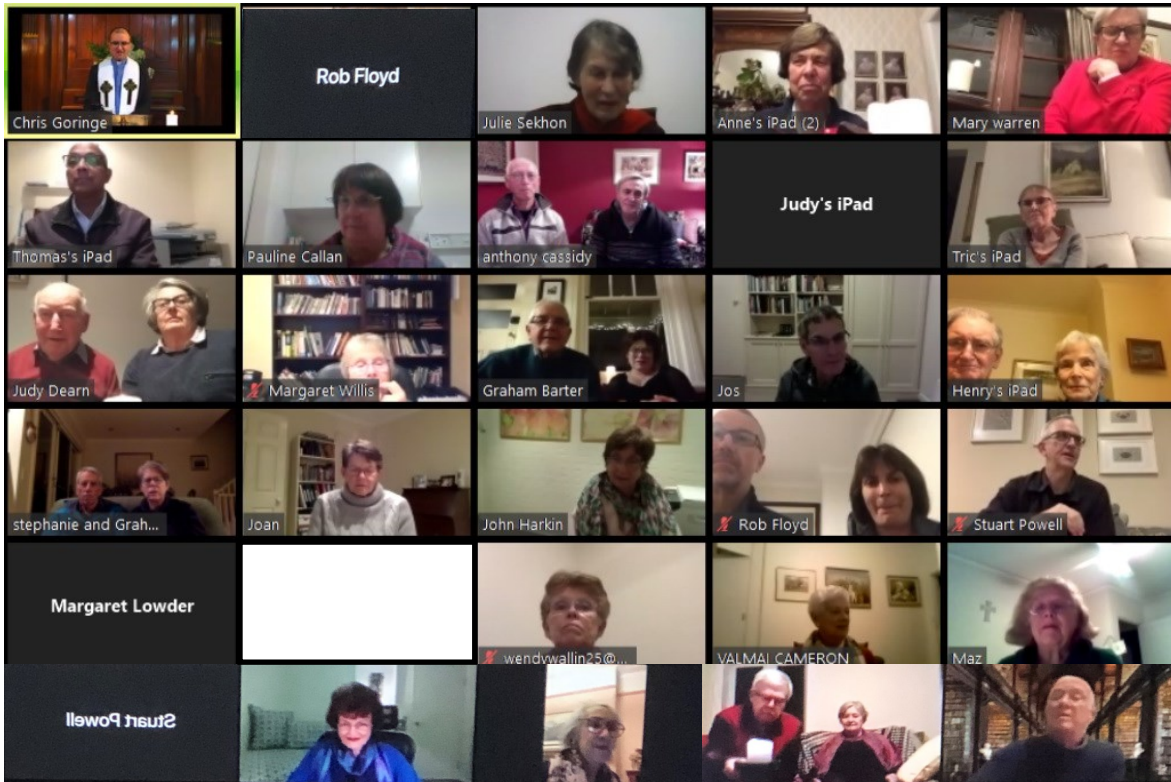


ANOTHER REQUEST

It has been a great help to us as a parish during this time when our income is severely reduced that a number of parishioners have responded to our recent appeals to cover the cost of various resources we've needed to purchase in these challenging times.

As people's use of cash is reducing in the new circumstances in which we find ourselves the time has come to provide 'Tap and Go' machines in our Killara church also. There is however a substantial start-up cost in buying the two devices. If you could help us with that please contact Fr Colin or the Parish Office.

Some of this week's parish online gatherings on Zoom



ECUMENICAL SERVICE
We had a really meaningful Ecumenical Service last Tuesday with great thanks to Rev. Chris Goringe from Roseville Uniting Church who pulled it all together.



OUR EVENING SCRIPTURE STUDY GROUP gathered on Wednesday evening as we began our exploration of Luke's Gospel.



KILLARA DEVELOPMENT APPROVAL GRANTED

Well after so much hard work by members of our parish the Development Approval for our Killara Development was granted the week before last - so it's full steam ahead. Thanks are especially due to McGregor Grant, who chaired the original Killara Development Committee, and to the other members of that committee, with special thanks to Kylie O'Connor for her tireless work on this project and to our Parish Facilities' Coordinator, Anthony Cassidy, for all that he has done to steer this project to this stage.

Group Homes Australia will shortly begin the works to construct the two dwellings. We should see work underway in the next couple of months. There is no income coming to the parish until the dwellings are occupied—perhaps a year away—but after that our parish finances will receive a much needed and very substantial boost from the rent received—and of course the land itself—and ultimately the houses themselves at the end of the lease term—remain the property of the parish.

五月三十一日
五旬節主日 (節日)

讀經一 (眾人都充滿了聖神, 說起外方話來。)
恭讀宗徒大事錄 2:1-11

五旬節一到, 門徒及眾人都聚集一處。忽然, 從天上來了一陣響聲, 好像暴風颳來, 充滿了他們所在的全座房屋。有些散開好像火的舌頭, 停留在他們每人頭上, 他們都充滿了聖神, 照聖神賜給他們的話, 說起外方話來。

那時, 居住在耶路撒冷的, 有從天下各國來的虔誠猶太人。這聲音一響, 就聚集了許多人, 都倉皇失措, 因為人人都聽見他們說各人的方言。

他們驚訝奇怪地說:「看, 這些說話的, 不都是加里肋亞人嗎? 怎麼我們每人聽見他們說我們出生地的方言呢? 我們中有帕提雅人、瑪待人、厄藍人和居住在美索不達米亞、猶太及卡帕多細雅、本都並亞細亞、夫黎基雅和旁非里雅、埃及、並靠近基勒乃的利比亞一帶的人, 以及僑居的羅馬人、猶太人和皈依猶太教的人、克里特人和阿拉伯人。怎麼我們都聽見他們用我們的話, 講論天主的奇事呢?」——上主的話。

(默想片刻)

答唱詠 詠104:1,24, 29-30, 31,34

【答】: 上主, 請你嘔氣, 使大地更新。(參閱詠104:30)

領: 我的靈魂, 請頌讚上主! 上主, 我的天主, 你偉大無比。上主, 你的化工, 何其繁浩; 你創造的萬物, 充滿大地。【答】

領: 你若停止牠們的呼吸, 牠們就要死去, 歸於原來的灰土。你一嘔氣, 萬物化生; 你使大地, 更新復興。【答】

領: 願上主的光榮, 永世無窮; 願上主喜愛自己的化工! 願我的祈禱蒙上主喜悅; 我將常在上主內歡樂。【答】

讀經二 (我們都因一個聖神受了洗, 成為一個身體。)

恭讀聖保祿宗徒致格林多人前書 12:3-7,12-13
弟兄姊妹們:

除非受聖感動, 沒有一個人能說:「耶穌是主」。

神恩雖有區別, 卻是同一聖神所賜; 職分雖有區別, 卻是同一的主所賜; 功效雖有區別, 卻是同一的天主, 在一切人身上, 行一切事。聖神顯示在每人身上雖有不同, 但全是為人的好處。

就如身體只是一個, 卻有許多肢體; 身體所有的肢體雖多, 仍是一個身體; 基督也是這樣。因為我們眾人, 不論是猶太人, 或是希臘人, 或是為奴的, 或是自主的, 都因一個聖神受了洗, 成為一個身體, 又都為一個聖神所滋潤。——上主的話。

(默想片刻)

五旬節讚歌

聖神, 請你降臨, 從高天放射你的光芒。
窮人的慈父, 請你降臨! 恩寵的施主, 請你降臨!
心靈的真光, 請你降臨!
你是良善的施慰者; 你是心靈甘飴的賓客; 你是甜蜜的涼蔭。

在勞苦中, 你是憩息; 在酷熱裡, 你是清風; 在悲痛時, 你是慰藉。

你是萬福的真光, 求你充滿你信眾的心靈深處。
沒有你的助佑, 人便一無所有, 一無是處。

求你洗淨我們的污穢, 灌溉我們的乾枯, 醫治我們的創傷。

求你軟化頑固的心, 溫暖冷酷的心, 引導迷途的人。

求你將七種神恩, 賜給你的信眾。

求你賜我們修德的能力, 善生福終, 永享天福。
亞孟。

福音前歡呼

領: 亞肋路亞。

眾: 亞肋路亞。

領: 聖神, 請你降臨, 充滿你信徒的心; 在他們心內, 燃起你的愛火。

眾: 亞肋路亞。

福音 (就如父派遣了我, 我也同樣派遣你們, 你們領受聖神吧!)

恭讀聖若望福音 20:19-23

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。」——上主的話。(講道後默想片刻)

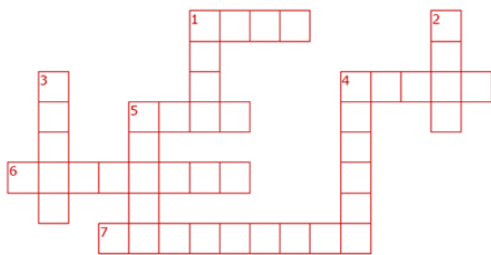
華人天主教會 北區中心主日彌撒12時-牧職
修女 司徒金美修女 0419- 426899
中心聯絡 Gloria Cheung ☎0416-118089

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The Day of Pentecost

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Acts 2:4 (NIV)

Based on Acts 2:1-21



ACROSS

1. A destructive burning
4. Something that can be heard
5. Something that is pure and good, such as God's Word
6. Means of communication used by the people of a particular country
7. The day the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles

DOWN

1. Make something to be full
2. Blowing air, especially that which would move the leaves on a tree
3. To say words, to use the voice
4. A being that cannot be seen, like a ghost
5. A building which people live in

FILL	HOUSE	SPEAK	WIND	LANGUAGE
SOUND	SPIRIT	PENTECOST	HOLY	FIRE

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PENTECOST SUNDAY

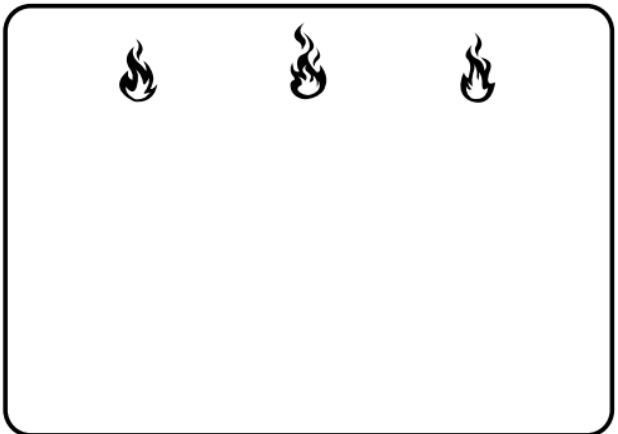
Jn 20:19-23
My name is

We are filled with the Holy Spirit

When Jesus appeared to his disciples he gave them the gift of the Holy Spirit. Draw a flame above the head of each of the disciples below.



Draw a picture of three people you know who are filled with the Holy Spirit - it could even be yourself!



What's happening in our online parish?

MAY

Sunday 31st On demand Parish Mass online (Pentecost)
6:00-7:00pm Fusion (high school) Youth (see p.1)

JUNE

Tuesday 2nd 7:30pm Parish Pastoral Council

Wednesday 3rd 8:00am Meditation Group
See p. 4

11:00am Daytime Scripture Study Group
See p. 4

7:30pm Catholicism ~ Session 3
See p.4

Sunday 7th On demand Parish Mass online (Trinity Sunday)

Wednesday 10th 8:00am Meditation Group
See p. 4

7:30pm Evening Scripture Study group
See p.4

Do you know someone who has a child with a Disability?

St Lucy's School is a Catholic school dedicated to students with disabilities. We are a community enriched by difference; inspiring learning for a life of purpose. We provide intensive instruction in: literacy, numeracy, social and emotional learning and independence skills in a dynamic and creative environment across Primary and now High School.



ST LUCY'S SCHOOL ENROLLING NOW FOR 2021



Please contact the School Registrar for a tour at enrolment@stlucys.nsw.edu.au or 02 8355 3157

JOY | COMMUNITY | COURAGE | TRUTH

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

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

Please pray for the gift of eternal life for Marj Steffel of the Killara community in our parish who died during the week. The Funeral Mass for Marj will be celebrated at Killara this week but as numbers are restricted to 50 please contact the family if you are wishing to attend to check whether spaces are still available.

Recently deceased: John Yun, Jack Biviano (brother of Mary Lo Ricco of our parish), Angela Ying Fung Yim, Patrick Fitzpatrick, Joyce Antelman, Jean Groves, John Cashman, Julie Wright, Maria Ciong KN, Joyce Murphy, Eleanor Villenor Quema, **And for:** Sylvia Dobbie.

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.

'And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim (Acts 2:4)

THE LANGUAGE OF THE SPIRIT

Lorenzo Rosebaugh, a Missionary Oblate of Mary Immaculate (OMI), was shot to death as he was driving with a number of his fellow missionaries to a community meeting in Guatemala.

The real motive behind his killing may never be known. On the surface, it appeared to be nothing more than a violent robbery, but given the circumstances of Lorenzo's life and his life-long fight on behalf of justice for the poor, everyone, myself no exception, wants to believe that his being shot was more than a question of being at the wrong place at the wrong time. Too many things suggest that this was more than an accident. If nothing else, his death by gunshot is somehow symbolic: Lorenzo wasn't meant to die of old age in a comfortable bed.

I first met Lorenzo at our mother-house at Aix-en-Provence in France years ago. He had just returned from a long missionary stint in Latin America where, among other things, he had lived on the streets of Recife with its poor for several years, without roof or fixed address. A serious illness drove him back to the USA and his Oblate community sent him on a sabbatical to France. He arrived there unable to speak any French whatsoever.

Yet, when I met him, less than a month after his arrival, he was sitting on the steps of the church which is attached to our community residence with a dozen street-people gathered round him. They were sharing food and cigarettes and some kind of conversation. It looked like a picnic in the park.

There is nothing exceptional about this except that Lorenzo couldn't speak a word of French and the people gathered round him couldn't speak English, Portuguese, or Spanish (his languages). Yet they clearly seemed to be communicating with each other, and deeply, in a way that would trigger envy to an outsider, and Lorenzo was their focal point.

How? How can we speak to each other beyond communicating in the ordinary languages that we know? When the Evangelist, Luke, describes the first Pentecost, he tells us that, after receiving the Holy Spirit, the first followers of Jesus came out into public and began speaking and, everyone, absolutely everyone, no matter their ethnicity or language, heard the disciples' words as if they were in their own language. The old barriers of native language no longer blocked hearing or understanding. The language given by the spirit transcended ethnicity

and native tongue.

It is too easy for us to simply write this off as a miracle, an exceptional foundational intervention by God which helped found the church. That may also be true, but there is another point to this: language functions at different levels.

At its most obvious level, language depends upon the spoken word and that word is always in a particular language, e.g., French, English, Spanish, Chinese. At this level words have a relative power, but they can also deceive and lie. Words don't always accurately mirror the heart. Moreover, they invariably fail us just when we need them most, especially in depth situations where tragedy, death, and betrayal render us mute.

But we have other languages besides these. Beyond the spoken word there is body language. Our bodies speak louder and more honestly than do our words. Through our bodies, through its gestures and the nuances of its countenance, we speak more deeply and more truly than we do with our words.

And we have still yet a deeper language: more deeply than through the body, we speak through the spirit, through the language of the Holy Spirit, a language that transcends the spoken word and the language of our bodies.

What is the language of the spirit?

The Holy Spirit is not just a person inside the Trinity, hopelessly abstract and beyond our conception. Scripture tells us that the Holy Spirit is the very concrete, conceivable, and tangible insides of charity, joy, peace, patience, goodness, longsuffering, fidelity, gentleness, and chastity. These speak through us more loudly and clearly, either in their presence or their absence, than do all our words and gestures.

In the end we are not fooled by each other. We hear beyond spoken words, bodily gestures, and beyond what we explicitly intend to say to each other. The heart reads the heart and the spirit recognizes itself wherever it sees itself as manifest. Thus many of us talk passionately about our love for the poor, but the poor do not hear us, understand us, or gather round us, even when our diction is perfect in their native tongue.

While working in Latin America, Lorenzo Rosebaugh spoke only broken Spanish and broken Portuguese. Yet the poor there heard him and perfectly understood what he was saying. He spoke no French at all and still he was able to sit on the steps of a church in France and gather round him the street-people there who spoke only French—and they understood him clearly, as in their mother-tongue.

Such is the language of Pentecost.

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



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