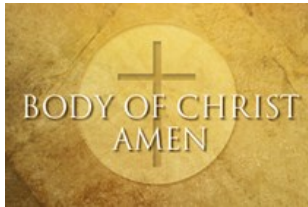


Catholic Parish of Lindfield-Killara

Diocese of Broken Bay

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST (CORPUS CHRISTI) 14—6—20

This week: Deut 8:2-3, 14-16; 1 Cor 10:16-17; Jn 6:51-58
Next week: Jer 20:10-13; Rom 5:12-15; Mt 10:26-33



Today's feast celebrates the great mystery which lies at the heart of our Christian week - the celebration of the Eucharist.

There's no coincidence about the fact that this feast comes just one week after Trinity Sunday and just two weeks after the end of the Easter Season:

because in the Eucharist we *encounter* the God who is Trinity,

and it's through the Easter mystery that we first *experience* God as Trinity:

the Father who reaches out in love to the world,

the Son who reveals the face of the Father,

the Spirit, the bond of love between the Father & the Son

who gathers us into unity and draws us, as a communion of human beings,
into the communion which is God.

The Eucharist is the very mystery of God breaking into our midst.

The Eucharist is our being drawn into the deepest inner life of God who is communion, who is Trinity.

The Eucharist is our call to live in the image and likeness of the God who created us:

as a communion, as a loving fellowship, as a Church.

Fr Colin



J-Walk for young adults 18+

OUR NEXT MEETING IS ONLINE!

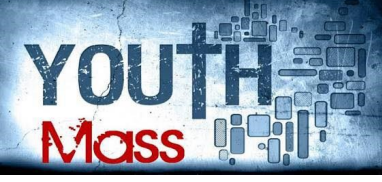
SUNDAY 14 JUNE, 7PM

Email us at youth@lindfieldkillara.org.au

or

check out the webpage:
lindfieldkillarayouth.weebly.com

Youth Masses



As you'll read on page 2, Sunday Masses return to our parish next weekend (though with a limited number of people per Mass—please read the whole article on page 2). We're delighted to say that this will include **TWO Sunday evening Youth Masses** each week—one at 5:30pm at Killara church and one at 6:00pm at our Lindfield church. **Bookings are essential for Mass** so that we may comply with public health restrictions.

While those current health restrictions prevent us from having live music at Mass, our Sunday night music team is eager to record music which will be incorporated into our Sunday evening celebrations.

We look forward to welcoming our young people back to the celebration of the Eucharist.

See you there !



WE'RE BACK AT MASS!*

.....

YOUTH MASS
5:30pm Killara
6:00pm Lindfield

***BOOKING IS REQUIRED DUE TO COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS**

See parish website 

Featuring music from the 6pm youth choir 

<https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/lindfield-killara/mass-and-prayer-times/the-return-of-sunday-and-weekday-mass-with-50-people>

Would you like to join in an online time of prayer?

I'd like to offer an opportunity for just a short time of prayer each week.

In the Church's tradition of the daily 'Prayer of the Hours' the late afternoon/early evening is time for the prayer of 'Vespers' - a time praise and intercession as the day draws to an end.

If you'd like to take **just fifteen minutes** at this time to join me in this prayer online please go the special page of our website ('Parish Life in the Current Situation') and scroll down to the Resource entitled 'Weekly Vespers' and click on it **ON WEDNESDAYS** at 4:55pm to be ready for the prayer time which will begin at 5:00pm and conclude by 5:30pm. The texts needed for the time of prayer will appear on the screen.

Fr Colin

Dear all in the parish,

The return of Sunday Mass! I'm delighted to say that we will see Sunday Mass return to our parish as of **this weekend**. We are so looking forward to gathering together again on the Lord's Day for the celebration of the Eucharist as a community of faith. The easing of government restrictions now means that 50 people may attend a Mass and so Fr Thomas and I have now introduced a weekend Mass schedule of **ten Masses each weekend** so that all may come to share in the celebration of the Eucharist. **We will also continue with the online Mass for those who cannot come to a physical celebration at this stage.**

Our new Mass schedule for the time being is:

Killara church (Celebrant: Fr Thomas)

4:00pm Vigil

5:30pm Vigil

9:00am

10:30am

5:30pm Youth Mass

Lindfield church (Celebrant: Fr Colin)

6:00pm Vigil

8:30am

10am this week, but 10:15am from next weekend

11:30am

6:00pm Youth Mass

So that we may comply with public health restrictions it will be essential **to make a booking** to attend Mass each week – however this is very simple, taking only a few seconds. Either go to the special hotlink box on the homepage of our parish website (www.lindfieldkillara.org.au) or click on this link: <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/lindfield-killara/mass-and-prayer-times/the-return-of-sunday-and-weekday-mass-with-50-people>

If you or someone you know is not comfortable with online bookings just call Philita in the Parish Office (Tues. – Fri. 9:30am-4:00pm) and she will do it for you. **You can book to come every week—there's no restriction at all on how often you can book to come to Mass.**

Your health and safety

We have made every provision to ensure that our gatherings are safe:

- the pews and other hard surfaces will be sanitised after every Mass
- we have also placed signs on the pews with a green tick like this: Please sit **DIRECTLY ON THE SIGN (they'll be sanitised as well!)**, not just anywhere on the pew. We have placed them to obtain maximum physical separation. Immediate family may of course sit together but everyone else must sit on a separate tick sign.
- Please use the hand sanitiser at the doors when entering and leaving the church.
- Holy Communion will not be given on the tongue – but on the hand only.
- There is no holy water at the church entrances and we will offer the sign of peace simply by a friendly smile and wave to those around us.
- For health and safety we won't pass round the collection bowls – however there will be two boxes clearly labelled **FIRST COLLECTION AND SECOND COLLECTION** in a prominent position in the centre of each church. We hope that after the long period of church closure you can resume your weekly giving. There are also Tap and Go machines in Lindfield church and the homepage of our website gives details about online giving.

If you – or anyone at home in your household – has even the mildest sign of a cold or other respiratory infection **PLEASE DO NOT ATTEND MASS.**

Could you lend us a hand?

To comply with the public health provisions we need a. to sanitise the public spaces of the churches after each Mass and b. to have welcomers at the door to admit those who have booked, to admit those who haven't if space permits, and to close the doors during Mass. If you can help in either or both of these ways please contact Alison in the Parish Office as soon as possible (alison@lindfieldkillara.org.au). We can only maintain our ten Sunday Masses if we have volunteer teams for these roles.

Our young people

We're very much are looking forward to seeing our young families and our young people also. You will see above that the two Sunday evening Masses are going to be – to the best of our ability in these current circumstances – Youth Masses (though of course those of every age are welcome).

Our high school youth group (Fusion) has been continuing to have activities online – and those who have been taking part are forming a great bond and having lots of fun. We hope that all of our youth will get involved - see the youth section of our parish website.

For those who have health concerns

We will have weekday Mass each day from Monday - Saturday at 10am (with up to 50 people) in one or other of our churches (see the bulletin for details – bookings also need to be made for weekday Mass). But we will also have a Mass at 12 noon on Tuesday at our Killara church **for 10 people only** – this is reserved for those over 70 or who have an underlying health condition.

In addition, we can accommodate a few people who need a greater physical distancing in the choir loft at Lindfield for Sunday or weekday Mass. This cannot be booked online – please contact the Parish Office if you wish to arrange to be seated in the choir loft.

Looking forward to seeing you

Our governments are looking forward to re-starting the economy. It falls to all of us to 're-start the Church'. We have been separated from one another physically for all too long – let's all play our part now in coming together as a community to celebrate the awesome, precious gift of the Eucharist. We can't wait to see you!

Fr Colin

ON THIS FEAST OF CORPUS CHRISTI.....

We believe in the Eucharist as the supreme sacrament, the one in which, by the power and working of the Holy Spirit, the whole unfolding of God's life and love in the world (in the incarnation, the suffering, death and rising of Jesus) is made present in the midst of the Church.

We believe that as the Church acts in the name of Jesus in celebrating the Lord's Supper ('This is my body, this is the chalice of my blood') that through the power of the Spirit Jesus is made present in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood - the same Jesus who is the revelation of the Father's love; the same Jesus who lived and died as a total gift of fidelity and love returned to the Father; the same Jesus whose sacrifice lay in his giving of himself to the Father and to his brothers and sisters even to the point of death; the same Jesus who in his Resurrection receives the gift of the Spirit fully and pours it out on his followers. As Jesus is made present in the Eucharist all of this

.....A EUCHARISTIC PROFESSION OF FAITH.....

mystery of who Jesus is is also made present. And it therefore comes to us as both gift and challenge:

- the gift of the Father's love to us - the gift of Jesus himself;
- the challenge to become what we receive, to imitate the mystery we celebrate:

to become ourselves a sacrifice of love to the Father and to our neighbour,

to become the Body of Christ, to become communion, as we share in communion: as we share in the body of Christ; to be made into a communion of love as brothers and sisters because of our sharing in the communion of love which is the Eucharist.

As the theologian Henri de Lubac said, 'The Church may make the Eucharist, but the Eucharist also makes the Church.'

Fr Colin

PLEASE IGNORE the earlier instruction regarding booking to attend Mass where it was stated that you could only book once until everyone had had a turn. Now that we have increased numbers permitted at Mass you are welcome to book as often as you would like—daily for weekday Mass, and every week for Sunday Mass.

THE PARISH OFFICE is continuing to operate (Tues.—Fri.), 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.



APPRECIATING & UNDERSTANDING THE SUNDAY READINGS

A reminder that we have a section of our parish website to provide background to help in understanding the Sunday readings. If you go to 'Sacraments' → 'Scripture Readings for Sundays' you'll now find not just the links to the Readings themselves for each Sunday, but also a section which takes you to a resource containing commentaries on/ background to the Readings.



THIS WEEK'S LETTER FROM OUR BISHOP ANTHONY RANDAZZO

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

LEND A HELPING HAND ?

- ◇ Could you join the roster as part of a team to help count our collections?
- ◇ Could you be a Eucharistic Minister to take Holy Communion to the elderly or housebound?

Please contact Alison (alison@lindfieldkillara.org.au) if you can help.

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 homepage of the website:



CLICK HERE FOR ACCESS TO:

- ✦ ONLINE PARISH MASSES (+ CLOSED CAPTIONS)
- ✦ HOME CELEBRATIONS FOR SUNDAYS
- ✦ ONLINE EASTER CELEBRATIONS
- ✦ PRAYER RESOURCES
- ✦ SUNDAY ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS AND PARENTS
- ✦ PARISH BULLETINS
- ✦ WAYS TO HELP OTHERS
- ✦ PARISH FINANCE
- ✦ SUNDAY HOMILIES
- ✦ ONLINE PARISH GROUPS

AND SO MUCH MORE TO HELP YOU DURING THE CURRENT TIME.....

PARISH LIFE IN THE CURRENT SITUATION

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Killara Saturdays 4:45—5:15pm
 Lindfield Saturdays 5:15—5:45pm

OUR CHURCHES ARE OPEN FOR PRAYER

	Killara	Lindfield
Mon.:	11am - 4pm	Closed
Tues.:	1pm - 4pm	9:30am - 4pm
Wed.:	Closed	11am - 4pm
Thur.:	10am - 4pm	11am - 4pm
Fri.:	9am - 4pm	11am - 4pm
Sat.:	10am - 4pm	1pm - 5pm
Sun.:	12:30-4:30pm	12:30-4:30pm

We're here, we're online:

& 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 gathering online and invites anyone to join them for a short time of prayer **each Wednesday at 8am.** 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. If you'd like to join in 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 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.

For June the meeting will actually take place one week later than normal and so will be on Wednesday 1st July.

The book: 'Jesus the Forgotten Feminist' by Chris Geraghty

If you'd like to be added to the email list receive details of how to take part in the online gatherings 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 14th.

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. **It's certainly not too late to join in.**

VI. YOUNG ADULTS ('J-WALK') are gathering online for a fun evening online every few weeks. Next gathering **today** Sunday 14th. See page 1.

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!).

OUR NEW MASS SCHEDULE

-WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU! -

SUNDAYS

Remember you MUST BOOK to attend (you can do that up to 30 minutes before the Mass begins—but given the limited number that can attend you'd be well-advised to do it earlier in the week) as we cannot exceed the maximum number permitted by law and we also are required to keep a record of attendance along with phone no./email address of those who attend for public health purposes for contact tracing in the event of infection. The churches will be locked once Mass begins for this reason.

Please see page 2 for the very simple process of online booking. Or just call the Parish Office if you're not able to do online bookings.

WEEKDAYS

Once again you MUST BOOK

Mon. & Tues.: Killara 10am
Wed.-Fri.: Lindfield 10am

In addition there will be a 12 noon Mass at Killara church on Tuesdays. This Mass however will be limited to ten people and is reserved for those over 70 or with an underlying health condition.

On both weekdays and weekends the churches will be opened **twenty minutes** before the coming celebration of Mass and closed again afterwards until twenty minutes before the next celebration. They will also be **closed during** the celebration of each Mass (exiting the church is of course possible at any time).

See hotlink box on our website homepage for bookings:

www.lindfieldkillara.org.au

ONLY ONE RESPONSE SO FAR....

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. Each machine costs \$500. Regrettably, if have no response this week we won't be able to proceed with this.



Last
Wednesday
evening's
Scripture
study group
gathering

THE PRAYERS AND RESPONSES OF MASS

GLORIA:

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.
Amen

PSALM Ps 147: 12-15, 19-20

O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!
Zion, praise your God!
God has strengthened the bars of your gates,
the Lord has blessed the children within you.

God has established peace on your borders,
the Lord feeds you with finest wheat.
God sends out his word to the earth
and swiftly runs his command.

The Lord makes his word known to Jacob,
to Israel his laws and decrees.
God has not dealt thus with other nations;
the Lord has not taught them his decrees.

At Masses at which the Psalm is sung the response is: Praise the Lord, Jerusalem.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord,

(all bow at the following words in bold):

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,**

suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand
of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come
to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Holy Catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia! I am the living bread from heaven,
says the Lord; whoever eats this bread will live for
ever. Alleluia!**

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION (said, not sung):

Save us, Sav-iour of the world, for by your
Cross and Res - ur - rec - tion you have set us free.

Time's running out !

We have only two more weekends until this Financial Year concludes and we have had 12 weekends with our churches closed.

- At present our **Second Collection** income is **\$21,232 behind** compared to last year.
- And our **First Collection** income is **\$9,135 behind** compared to last year.

• To add to our shortfall all those who rent our parish facilities have had to close business during lockdown (and still have not returned) and so our rental income has dropped to zero during this time leaving us \$7,199 behind compared to the same point last year in our rental income.

If you can help please contact the Parish Office for credit card donations or if you would like to make a one-off additional donation before the end of the Financial Year our account details are:

For donations to the **First Collection** (which supports Fr Colin, Fr Thomas and provides also for the healthcare of clergy and support of retired clergy):

BSB 062 784 Acct 1116 8002

For donations to the **Second Collection** (which provides all the operating revenue for the parish):

BSB 062 784 Acct 1116 8001

Please include your surname as the reference.

Fr Colin



六月十四日
基督聖體聖血節 (節日)

讀經一 (他比你祖先不認識的「瑪納」, 養育了你。)

恭讀申命紀 8:2-3, 14-16

梅瑟對人民說:「你當紀念: 上主你的天主, 使你這四十年, 在曠野中所走的路; 那是為磨難你, 試探你; 要知道你的心, 是否願意遵守他的誡命。

「他磨難了你, 使你感到飢餓, 卻以和你祖先, 所不認識的『瑪納』, 養育了你, 叫你知道: 人生活不但靠食物, 而且也靠上主親口所說的一切話。

「你不要忘記, 由埃及地, 由為奴之家, 領你出來的上主、你的天主; 是他領你經過了遼闊、可怖、有火蛇、蝎子的曠野, 經過了乾旱無水之地; 是他使水, 由堅硬的磐石, 為你流出; 是他在曠野裡, 以你祖先不認識的『瑪納』, 養育了你。」——上主的話。(默想片刻)

答唱詠 詠147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20

【答】: 耶路撒冷, 請你讚頌上主! (詠147:12)

領: 耶路撒冷, 請你讚頌上主! 熙雍, 請你讚頌你的天主! 他鞏固了你城門的橫門, 祝福你懷中的子女。【答】

領: 他使你的地界, 安靜不亂; 用最好的麥麵, 使你飽餐。他向大地發出自己的諭旨; 他的旨意便立即迅速奔傳。【答】

領: 他向雅各伯, 曉示了自己的諭旨; 他向以色列, 啟示了自己的誠律。他從未如此恩

待過其他任何民族, 也沒有向他們宣示過自己的法律。【答】

讀經二 (餅只是一個, 我們雖多, 只是一個身體。)

恭讀聖保祿宗徒致格林多人前書 10:16-17

弟兄姊妹們:

我們所祝福的那祝福之杯, 豈不是共結合於基督的血嗎? 我們所擘開的餅, 豈不是共結合於基督的身體嗎? 因為餅只是一個, 我們雖多, 只是一個身體, 因為我們眾人, 都共享這一個餅。——上主的話。

(默想片刻)

福音前歡呼

領: 亞肋路亞。

眾: 亞肋路亞。

領: 主說: 我是從天降下的、生活的食糧; 誰若吃了這食糧, 必要生活, 直到永遠。

(若6:51)

眾: 亞肋路亞。

福音 (我的肉, 是真實的食糧; 我的血, 是真實的飲料。)

恭讀聖若望福音 6:51-58

那時候, 耶穌對群眾說:「我是從天降下的、生活的食糧; 誰若吃了這食糧, 必要生活, 直到永遠。我所要賜給的食糧, 就是我的肉, 為使世界獲得生命。」

猶太人彼此爭論說:「這人怎麼能把他的肉, 賜給我們吃呢?」

耶穌向他們說:「我實實在在告訴你們: 你們若不吃人子的肉, 不喝他的血, 在你們內, 便沒有生命。誰吃我的肉, 並喝我的血, 必得永生; 在末日, 我且要叫他復活。

「因為我的肉, 是真實的食糧; 我的血, 是真實的飲料。誰吃我的肉, 並喝我的血, 便住在我內, 我也住在他內。就如那生活的父, 派遣了我, 我因父而生活; 照樣, 那吃我的人, 也要因我而生活。

「這是從天降下來的食糧。不像祖先吃了『瑪納』, 仍然死了。誰吃這食糧, 必要生活, 直到永遠。」——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

6月份彌撒時間: 6月14日及6月28日正午12時
地點改為: Immaculate Heart of Mary Church Killara

Cnr Charles St and Fiddens Wharf Rd. Killara.

牧職修女 司徒金美修女 0419- 426899

中心聯絡 Gloria Cheung ☎0416-118089

FOR THE KIDS

JUNIOR WORDSEARCH

Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever

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


Try to find these words:

arguing
blood
bread
drink
eat
eternal
flesh
heaven
live
one
son
true

The Bible & Word of Christ, Year A (CCBY-SA, 2005, 2010-11)

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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.



Enrolling now for 2021

Zoom Information Sessions
Thursday 4th June
9.30am - 10.30am and 6pm - 7pm
Register at: www.bit.ly/Holy_Family_Info_session

OUR APOLOGIES that there were no online *weekday* Masses during this week—we've been rather preoccupied preparing for the return of our Sunday Masses in the churches!. The online weekday Masses will return this coming week. And of course our online Sunday Mass continues as well.

NAPLAN Top Performing Schools in 2019

- 1) ABBOTTSLEIGH – 552.1 POINTS
- 2) ST IVES NORTH PUBLIC – 544.9 POINTS
- 3) ARTARMON PUBLIC – 542.6 POINTS
- 4) HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY – 540.6 POINTS

What's happening in our online parish?

JUNE

Saturday/Sunday	13th/14th	Parish Masses (bookings required) return to our churches—see page 2 . Online Parish Mass also remains available for those whose health or age prevents them attending Mass in person.
Sunday	14th	6:00-7:00pm Fusion Youth (see p.1) 7:00-9:00pm Young Adults (see p.1)
Wednesday	17th	8:00am Meditation Group See p. 4 11:00am Daytime Scripture Study Group See p. 4 7:30pm Catholicism - Session 4 See p.4
Wednesday	24th	8:00am Meditation Group See p. 4 7:30pm Evening Scripture Study group See p.4
Sunday	21st	On demand Parish Mass online

THE WONDERFUL JULIAN OF NORWICH PART 5

A RADICALLY OPTIMISTIC THEOLOGY

My friend Mirabai Starr is gifted with the ability to deliver the teachings of the mystics straight to our hearts. Here is what she says about Julian of Norwich:

The medieval English anchoress Julian of Norwich bequeathed us a radically optimistic theology. She had no problem admitting that human beings have a tendency to go astray. We rupture relationships, dishonour the Divine, make unfortunate choices, and try to hide our faults. And yet, Julian insists, "All will be well and all will be well and every kind of thing shall be well."

Take that in.

This assertion is meant to penetrate the fog of our despair and wake us up. . . . Julian repeats her declaration three times—most emphatically the third: All will be well and all will be well and every kind of thing shall be well. She does not ask us to . . . [relegate] everything that unfolds to the will of God, calling it perfect against all evidence to the contrary. She squarely faces the inevitability that we will miss the mark [what Julian calls "sin"] and that there is wickedness in this world. Even so, she is convinced that the nature of the Divine is loving-kindness, and she wants us to absorb this into every fibre of our being.

In her mystical masterwork *The Showings*, Julian shares that she used to obsess about sin. She couldn't figure out why God, who is all-powerful, wouldn't have eliminated our negative proclivities when he made the

world. "If he had left sin out of creation, it seemed to me, all would be well." But what God-the-Mother showed Julian in a near-death vision [during her thirteenth revelation] was that all shall be well anyway. Not in spite of our transgressions but because of them. [Or, as I like to say, we come to God, not by doing it right, but by doing it wrong. —RR]

Julian unpacks this for us [in chapter 27]. In doing so she dispenses with the whole concept of sin and replaces it with love. "I believe that sin has no substance," Julian writes, "not a particle of being." While sin itself has no existential value, it has impact. It causes pain. It is the pain that has substance.

But mercy is swiftly forthcoming. It is immediately available. Inexorable! It is frankly rude of us to doubt that all will be well. . . . "When he said these gentle words," Julian writes, speaking of God-the-Mother, "he showed me that he does not have one iota of blame for me, or for any other person. So, wouldn't it be unkind of me to blame God for my transgressions since he does not blame me?" The merciful nature of God renders the whole blame game obsolete. . . . In fact, it is when we stumble that the Divine looks most tenderly upon us. Our vulnerability is beautiful to God-the-Mother.

Fr Richard Rohr ofm (from the Centre for Liturgy, University of St Louis)

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

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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:

Recently deceased: Chris Pulle, Marj Steffel, John Yun, Jack Biviano, Joyce Antelman.

Anniversary: Cesar Aguila..

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.

The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? (1 Cor 10:16)

THE EUCHARIST AS SACRIFICE

Once upon a time there was a Rabbi. Whenever he wanted God's presence, he went to a special place in the woods, lit a fire, said some prayers, and did a dance. Then God would appear to him. When he died, his disciple did the same.

If the disciple in his turn wanted God's presence, he went to the same spot in the woods, lit the fire, and said the same prayers, but nobody had taught him the dance. It still worked. God appeared. When he died, his own disciple carried on the tradition. If he wanted God's presence, he went to the same spot in the woods and lit the fire, but he didn't know the prayers, nor the dance, but it still worked. God came. Then he died. He also had a disciple. Whenever he wanted God's presence, he too went to the same place in the woods, but nobody had taught him how to light the fire or say the prayers or do the dance, but it still worked, God appeared.

In the end, he died, but he too had a pupil. One day this pupil wanted God's presence. So he searched for the place in the woods, but couldn't find it. And he didn't know how to light the fire or say the prayers or do the dance. All he knew was how to tell the story. But it worked. He discovered that whenever he told the story of how the others had found God, God would appear.

In essence, this story explains how sacred ritual, liturgy, works. Judaism calls this "making zikkaron." Christians call it "making memorial." The idea is that a past event can be remembered, ritually recalled, in such a way that it becomes present again and can be participated in. How is this possible? We have no models in physics, metaphysics, or psychology by which to explain this. Like all ritual, it is beyond simple phenomenology. Ritual is best understood through metaphor, through story, as with the tale just told. God appears whenever certain stories get told.

This idea of making memorial can be helpful in understanding a very important aspect of the Eucharist, namely, the Eucharist as sacrifice. Among other things, the Eucharist is a memorial, a ritual re-enactment of Christ's sacrifice of himself for us. Among all the dimensions of the Eucharist, this one, sacrifice, is perhaps the least understood. How is the Eucharist a sacrifice?

A sacrifice is any act of selflessness, of self-denial, which helps someone else. For example, the mother who freely gives up her own dreams of achievement so that

her children might have her needed presence during their critical, nascent years is making a sacrifice for her children. They will mature more fully and healthily because of it. As Christians, we believe that Jesus, not unlike a loving mother, sacrificed his life for us, particularly in the way he gave himself for us in his death. Indeed we believe that we are "saved" by his death, by his sacrifice on Good Friday. But how? How can one person's death help someone else, centuries later?

Through the Eucharist.


The Eucharist, among other things, is a memorial of Jesus' sacrifice for us, of his great act of "being broken," of giving himself over in love. Properly understood, the Eucharist, as a ritual, gives us another kind of "real presence." It makes present for us the reality of Christ's dying as well as God's response to that, the resurrection, and invites us to participate in that event. What the Eucharist makes present is not an iconic Christ to be adored or even consumed, but the reality of Christ's dying and rising as an event to be participated in. But how can we participate in an event now long past in history?

Through memorial, through making zikkaron. When we ritually tell the story of Jesus' sacrifice (in the Eucharistic prayer, the very heart of liturgy) we experience the real presence of the event of Christ's dying and rising. Moreover, that reality is given to us so that we might participate in it. How? We participate in Jesus' sacrifice for us when we, like him, let ourselves be broken down; when we, like him, become selfless. The Eucharist, as sacrifice, invites us to become like the kernels of wheat that make up the bread and the clusters of grapes that make up the wine, broken down and crushed so that we can become part of communal loaf and single cup.

Occasionally when St Augustine was giving the Eucharist to a communicant, instead of saying, "The body of Christ," he would say, "receive what you are." That puts things correctly. What is supposed to happen at the Eucharist is that we, the congregation, by sacrificing the things that divide us, should become the body and blood of Christ. We, the people, are meant to be changed, to be transubstantiated.

The Eucharist, as sacrifice, asks us to become the bread of brokenness and the chalice of vulnerability.

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



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