

Catholic Parish of Lindfield-Killara

Diocese of Broken Bay

TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 21 - 6 - 20

This week: Jer 20:10-13; Rom 5:12-15; Mt 10:26-33
Next week: 2 Kg 4:8-11, 14-16; Rom 6:3-4, 8-11; Mt 10:37-42

‘What I say in the dark proclaim from the rooftops . . . whoever disowns me in the presence of people I will disown...’

This week’s Gospel is about having the courage (‘Do not be afraid’ are Jesus’ opening words) to admit that we’re disciples of Jesus.

Sometimes we have to do that by words, but even more often by the even more courageous act of letting people *see* that our faith means something to us, that it *shapes* us:

- ◇ for instance by being *seen* as a person who *prays*
- ◇ or by being *seen* as a person who loves and draws life from the Eucharist
- ◇ or by being *heard* when we challenge injustices or prejudice or judgementalism

We can *disown* Jesus in more subtle ways than by denying him outright – which we’re not likely to do.

We can more easily do it by our *inaction* than our action. By our *silence* rather than our words.

By not allowing our faith to be *seen*.

And thereby by not allowing God’s place in our hearts and our lives to be seen.

Fr Colin



J-Walk for young adults 18+

SUNDAY 21 JUNE, 7PM

We are meeting online!

Email us to join in or find out more

youth@lindfieldkillara.org.au

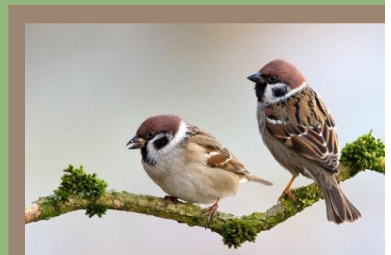
YOUTH MASS

28 JUNE, 6PM
LINDFIELD



Everyone welcome but
booking is required
due to COVID - 19*

Followed by Pizza for
Yrs 7 to 12 at Toppings
Plus



(*see notice elsewhere in
bulletin for how to book)

Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father's knowledge... So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

Matthew 10:29-31

Fusion
PIZZA
NIGHT



Pizza...yum

Join us
for Youth Mass + Pizza!
28th June, 6pm - 8pm
Pizza at Toppings Plus after
Mass. Numbers are limited...You
MUST book to attend! Email us:
youth@lindfieldkillara.org.au

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 at the very bottom 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 5:15pm. The texts needed for the time of prayer will appear on the screen.

Fr Colin

The return of Sunday Mass! Sunday Mass has returned—though public health restrictions mean that a maximum of 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

10:15am

11:30am

6:00pm Youth Mass

We will review this timetable after this current weekend depending on Mass attendance.

So that we may comply with public health restrictions it is essential **to make a booking** to attend Mass each week – however this is very simple, taking only a few seconds. You can book up to 30 minutes before each Mass. 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: ü 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.
- 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.
- The churches will be locked once Mass begins so please be on time—we are obliged to have an accurate record of who is in attendance and we must ensure that we don't exceed the maximum number permitted..

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.**

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). 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

COULD YOU BE OF SERVICE?



We're very grateful that a number of our Eucharistic Ministers are still able to take Holy Communion to the housebound. However we need another Minister to take Holy Communion to one other parishioner. If you could help please contact Fr Colin or the Parish Office **as soon as possible.**

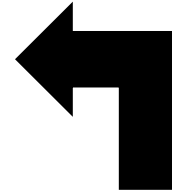
Could you tell us ... ?

During the time of public health restrictions we have been providing you with the text for a 'Home Liturgy' for each Sunday on our website.

Now that we have public Mass available again on Sundays we thought that perhaps this resource might no longer be needed, but as we've had no feedback we don't know whether the resource has been used at all anyway.

If you'd like us to continue providing this resource please let me know some time this week. We're happy to continue doing so, but if we don't hear back from you we'll assume that this particular resource is no longer needed.

Fr Colin



Just some of the 55 children and their families who have been preparing for their First Holy Communion via online Zoom sessions coordinated by our Sacramental Coordinator, Maia Schulze-Tsang.

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.

**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.

**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.

MANY THANKS ! For their great generosity to the four families in the parish who came forward to pay for the Tap and Go machines for Killara church .

The machines have been ordered but may take some weeks to arrive.

WEEKDAY MASS (it's necessary to book):

Monday and Tuesday: 10:00am at Killara
Wednesday - Friday: 10:00am at Lindfield

(though NO Mass this Wednesday)

Also: 12 noon Mass on Tuesdays at Killara with a limit of 10 people for those who are aged over 70 or who have an underlying health condition.

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 more. All accessible through the hotlink box 'Parish Life in the Current Situation' on the homepage of the website:



CLICK HERE FOR ACCESS TO:
 * ONLINE PARISH MASSES (+ CLOSED CAPTIONS) * PARISH BULLETINS
 * HOME CELEBRATIONS FOR SUNDAYS * WAYS TO HELP OTHERS
 * ONLINE EASTER CELEBRATIONS * PARISH FINANCE
 * PRAYER RESOURCES * SUNDAY HOMILIES
 * SUNDAY ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS AND PARENTS * ONLINE PARISH GROUPS
 AND SO MUCH MORE TO HELP YOU DURING THE CURRENT TIME.....
PARISH LIFE IN THE CURRENT SITUATION

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

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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

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 for a gathering for FUSION YOUTH—our high school youth group: **next Sunday 21st.**

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 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 21st. 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).

A LITTLE NOTE ABOUT THE CHANGES TO RESTRICTIONS COMING ON 1ST JULY

As you're no doubt aware from 1st July the NSW Government will be increasing the numbers who can attend church and funerals. However the caveat is that the requirement that there must be four square metres of space per person must still be observed.

Unfortunately this means there will be no increase to the permissible numbers for our two churches as the 4m² requirement means that our Killara church will still be limited to 50 people and our Lindfield church will still be limited to 45 people—both for Masses in general and for funerals.

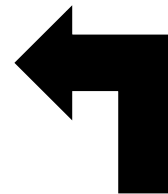
WE'RE REALLY TRYING ~ BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP TOO

As part of our need to help public safety we need welcomers for each of the ten weekend Masses we're having as we are obliged to check off those who attend for contact tracing purposes (we were challenged through the week that this is not the case - a quick visit to <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/what-you-can-and-cant-do-under-rules> and a scroll down to Places of Worship should clarify this).

It would be great to have a number of volunteers to call upon to be rostered for each weekend's Masses.

PLEASE—if you can help email asap Alison Williams (alison@lindfieldkillara.org.au) or call the Parish Office. We can only continue to have our Masses if we comply with the law.

Fr Colin



Last Wednesday morning'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 68:8-10. 14. 17. 33-35. R. V.14

It is for you that I suffer taunts,
that shame covers my face,
that I have become a stranger to my brothers,
an alien to my own mother's sons.
I burn with zeal for your house
and taunts against you fall on me.

This is my prayer to you,
my prayer for your favour.
In your great love, answer me, O God,
with your help that never fails:
Lord, answer, for your love is kind;
in your compassion, turn towards me.

The poor when they see it will be glad
and God-seeking hearts will revive;
for the Lord listens to the needy
and does not spurn his servants in their chains.
Let the heavens and the earth give God praise,
the sea and all its living creatures.

At Masses at which the Psalm is sung the response is: **Lord, in your great love, answer me.**

THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus
Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all
ages.

God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were
made.

For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
*(all bow at the following words in
bold)*

**and by the Holy Spirit was
incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.**

For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was
buried,

and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the
Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of
the Father.

He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no
end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father &
the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the
prophets.

I believe in one, holy,
catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism
for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward
to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to
come. Amen

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of Truth will bear witness to me, says the Lord, and you also will be my witnesses. Alleluia!

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION (said, not sung):

We pro-claim your Death, O Lord, and pro-
fess your Res-ur-rec-tion un-til you come a - gain.

Time's running out !



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

- At present our **Second Collection** income is **\$18, 916 behind** compared to last year.
- And our **First Collection** income is **\$8,091 behind** compared to last year.

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

常年期第十二主日 21.6.2020

讀經一（他從惡人手中，救出了窮苦人的性命。）

恭讀耶肋米亞先知書 20:10-13

耶肋米亞說：我聽到了許多人私相耳語：「驚慌四起！你們揭發，我們就必對他提出控訴。」甚至我的一切友好，都在偵察我的破綻：「也許他會中計，那我們必能制勝他，向他報復。」

但是，與我同在的上主，好像一位孔武有力的戰士，為此，迫害我的人，只有失敗，決不能制勝；由於謀事不成，必蒙受極大的恥辱，永不可磨滅的羞辱。

萬軍的上主啊！你考驗義人，洞察人的肝膽肺腑；我既然向你訴說了我的案情，願你使我見到：你對他們的報復。

你們應歌頌上主，讚揚上主，因為他從惡人手中，救出了窮苦人的性命。——上主的話。（默想片刻）

答唱詠 詠69:8-10, 14, 17, 33-35

【答】：天主，求你按你豐厚的慈愛，應允我。（詠69:14）

領：我為了你，已飽受欺凌；羞愧已經籠罩了我的面容。連我的兄弟，都以我為外賣；我母親的兒子，都拿我當客人。我對你殿宇所懷的熱忱，把我耗盡，並且那侮辱你的辱罵，都落於我身。【答】

領：上主，在這困厄的時日，我只有求救於你。天主，求你按你豐厚的慈愛，應允我；求你以你信實的救援，俯聽我。上

主，求你照你的和藹慈愛，俯允我；求你按你深厚的仁慈，眷顧我。【答】

領：卑微的人，你們要觀看，並要喜形於色。尋求天主的人，你們的心，必要興奮，因為上主常常俯聽貧苦的人；他決不會輕視他的俘虜。願上天下地，都歌頌讚美他；海洋和一切水族，都稱揚他！【答】

讀經二（恩寵決不是過犯所能相比的。）

恭讀聖保祿宗徒致羅馬人書 5:12-15

弟兄姊妹們：

就如罪惡藉著一人，進入了世界，死亡藉著罪惡，也進入了世界；這樣，死亡就殃及了眾人，因為眾人都犯了罪。

沒有法律之前，罪惡已經在世界上，雖然因為沒有法律，罪惡本應不算為罪惡。但從亞當起，直到梅瑟，死亡卻作了王，連那些沒有像亞當一樣，違法犯罪的人，也屬它權下；這亞當原是那未來亞當的預像。

但恩寵決不是過犯所能相比的，因為，如果因一人的過犯，大眾都死了，那麼，天主的恩寵，及那因耶穌基督一人的恩寵，所施與的恩惠，更要豐富地洋溢到大眾身上。——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：真理之神，必要為我作證，並且你們也要作證。（若15:26,27）

眾：亞肋路亞。

福音（你們不要害怕那殺害肉身的。）

恭讀聖瑪竇福音 10:26-33

那時候，耶穌對宗徒說：「你們不要害怕他們，因為沒有遮掩的事，將來不被揭露的；也沒有隱藏的事，將來不被知道的。我在暗中給你們所說的，你們要在光天化日之下，報告出來；你們由耳語所聽到的，要在屋頂上，張揚出去。」

「你們不要害怕那殺害肉身，而不能殺害靈魂的；但更要害怕，能使靈魂和肉身，都陷於地獄的那位。」

「兩隻麻雀，不是賣一個銅錢嗎？但沒有你們天父的許可，牠們中，連一隻也不會掉在地上。就是你們的頭髮，天父也都一一數過。所以，你們不要害怕；你們比許多麻雀，還貴重呢！」

「凡在人面前，承認我的，在我天上的父面前，也必承認他；但誰如果在人面前，否認我，在我天上的父面前，也必否認他。」——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28日正午12時

地點改為：Immaculate Heart of Mary Church Killara

Cnr Charles St and Fiddens Wharf Rd.

Killara.

FOR THE KIDS

JUNIOR WORDSEARCH

All that is hidden will be made clear

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

Try to find these words:

afraid
counted
dark
destroy
harm
head
hidden
house tops
light
secret
sparrows
whispered

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

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

Sunday 21st	On demand 7:00-9:00pm	Parish Mass online Young Adults
Wednesday 24th	8:00am 7:30pm	Meditation Group Evening Scripture Study group
Sunday 28th	On demand 6:00pm	Parish Mass online Youth Mass followed by Fusion pizza night (see p.1)

JULY

Wednesday 1st	8:00am 11:00am 7:30pm	Meditation Group Daytime Scripture Study Group Catholicism
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See page 4 for more details of each of these online activities.

FR RICHARD ROHR OFM'S REFLECTION...

INNER AND OUTER FREEDOM: FREEDOM TO LOVE

Everything is a manifestation of divine radiance. Love rushes everywhere, in everyone, in everything. —Paula D'Arcy

My friend Paula D'Arcy leads and attends retreats where people from many different backgrounds come to face their deepest grief, insecurities, and anger to find the freedom that lies on the other side. She shares one of her own experiences here:

There is a love which itself has the power to free the human heart. Many remarkable people live in testament to this love, even though they are held in jail cells and prisons, or suffer the harsh conditions imposed by poverty, [racism,] adversity, war, and occupation. The truth of this love is that, if we can be uprooted from our daily preoccupations and taken by direct experience into its presence, then a profound transformation is possible. Whoever arrives at this place looks at the world differently. The distinctions on the surface no longer exist. Here it is possible to suspend our certainties and touch something greater: the Spirit within us.

In January 2014, I met the fire of that inner heart. The outer circumstances were the ten days I spent at a retreat centre in California with thirty other men and women. . . . We were Americans, Mexicans, Israelis, Bedouins, and Palestinians. . . . We all expressed a longing for freedom, while having little idea what that meant, or might

demand. We were about to touch the fire of Spirit, embedded not only deep within our own [bodies], but in all life. I recorded our journey through those days, and this telling is excerpted from my journal. . . .

I don't want to see that how I participate in the world is often less than love, and that the environment in which we all live is the result of our sense of entitlement and greed. I don't want to know what freedom demands and what dedication to love and peace may require. Words from the poet Rumi haunt my thoughts: his saying that, in order to live in this world, you have to be truly and completely in love. . . .

Love does not come as theory. It moves in bodies, in nature, in the ground beneath us and the space between. True Love is not emotional. It is a different nature, waiting in us like a secret seed. The illusion is thinking that, by changing a system, an ideology, or our external circumstances, things will change. No; freedom is . . . realizing that this Love is not a symbol or an ideal; it is a living power. . . .

And I understood what it could mean if we met the outer world with our inner world. . . .

There is a living love that exceeds our circumstances and our conditioning. That's the truth we all must find. The profound problems of hatred, judgment, [racism,] and revenge, our jealousies and our violence, will be solved by love, and love alone.

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:

Recently deceased: Sister Sophie McGrath rsm, Anne Moss, Annabel Kelleher, 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.

*If anyone wishes to come after me,
he must deny himself
and take up his cross daily
and follow me (Lk 9:23)*

AN INVITATION TO A DEEPER VIRTUE

Perhaps the most misunderstood text in all of scripture is the one where Jesus says to us: "Unless your virtue goes deeper than that of the Scribes and the Pharisees, you will never enter into the kingdom of heaven."

We generally misunderstand that because we wrongly think that Jesus is referring to the vices of the Scribes and Pharisees, not their virtue. We look at the hypocrisy, jealousy, double-standard, and rigid legalism of the Scribes and Pharisees and easily distance ourselves from that. But it wasn't their vices that Jesus was referring to, but their virtues.

What was the virtue of the Scribes and Pharisees? In fact, they had a pretty high standard. The ten commandments, strict justice in all things, compassion for the poor, and the practice of hospitality, constituted their ideal for virtuous living. What's wrong with that? What's required beyond these?

In Jesus's view, what's wrong is that, in the end, it's still too easy. Any good person does these things, simply on the basis of decency. What's wrong is that ultimately we still give back in kind, an eye for an eye—dollar for dollar, goodness for goodness, kindness for kindness, slight for slight, hatred for hatred, murder for murder. Nothing is ever really transformed, moved beyond, redeemed, transcended, forgiven.

Simply put, if I'm living the virtue of the Scribes and Pharisees, I react this way: if you come to me and say, "I like you! You're a wonderful person," my response naturally will be in kind: "I like you too! Obviously you're a wonderful person!" What I'm doing is simply feeding your own good energy back to you. But that has a nasty underside: if you come to me and say, "I hate you! You're a charlatan and a hypocrite," my response will also be in kind: "I hate you too! Clearly you're a very petty person!" This is ultimately what "an eye for an eye" morality, strict justice, comes down to. We end up feeding back the other's energy, good or bad, and replicating the other's virtue, good or bad. That's the natural way, but it's not the Christian way.

It's precisely here where Jesus' invites us "beyond", beyond natural reaction, beyond instinct, beyond giving back in kind, beyond legal rights, beyond strict justice, beyond the need to be right, beyond even the ten commandments, beyond the virtue of the Scribes and Pharisees.

Indeed the litmus-test for Christian orthodoxy is not the creed (can you


believe this set of truths?) but this particular challenge from Jesus: can you love an enemy? Can you avoid giving back in kind? Can you move beyond your natural reactions and transform the energy that enters you from others, so as not to give back bitterness for bitterness, harsh words for harsh words, curse for curse, hatred for hatred, murder for murder? Can you rise above your sense of being wronged? Can you renounce your need to be right? Can you move beyond the itch to always have what's due you? Can you forgive, even when every feeling inside of you rebels at its unfairness? Can you take in bitterness, curses, hatred, and murder itself, and give back graciousness, blessing, love, understanding, and forgiveness? That's the root invitation inside of Christianity and it's only when we do this that we move beyond "an eye for an eye."

Admittedly, this isn't easy, either in theory or in practice. Much of what is inside of conventional wisdom, pop psychology, and contemporary spirituality, will object to the very theory of it, pointing out that carrying tension isn't healthy for us, telling us that we have a duty not to enable abusive behavior, and challenging us not to be doormats and victims, but mature persons who claim the legitimate space that's needed in order to be free, giving persons, responsible to God, others, and self, apposite to developing our innate potentials and bringing our gifts to the world. All of these objections are right, of course, though none of them negate Jesus' challenge. His invitation, cleansed from overly-simplistic interpretation, remains: don't be a victim or a doormat or an enabler of abusive behaviour, but do consider, willingly and without resentment, laying down your life for others by living this more sublime challenge.

And it's exactly on this point, to do this willingly and without resentment, that its practice grows difficult. It's not easy to do this and not grow resentful and manipulative. More commonly, we carry others' crosses—but end up being bitter about it and sending them the bill. The Scribes and Pharisees had this down to an fine art. That too was part of their virtue. Growing resentful or manipulative while serving others is a perennial danger, though, as Goethe says: "The dangers of life are many and safety is one of them."

And so the invitation of Jesus to what's higher, more sublime, more noble, remains; as does the gentle, understanding, faithful, non-threatening, non-coercive, non guilt-inducing, but persistent and uncompromising, presence of God.

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



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