

Catholic Parish of Lindfield-Killara

Diocese of Broken Bay

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 12 - 7 - 20

This week: Is 55:10-11; Rom 8:18-23; Mt 13:1-23
Next week: Wis 12:13, 16-19; Rom 8:26-27; Mt 13:24-43

“You will listen, but not understand, you will see, but not perceive.”



Today's parable of the sowing of the seeds is a challenge to us to really reassess how open we are to hear what God is saying to us, to see what God is putting before us.

And the point of the parable of course is to be open to what **God** puts before us: not what we would *like* God to put before us. And the key is to ask **how** it is that we need to listen to what God is saying, and to see what God is putting before us.

The answer to that has to be by looking around us at the people and events in our lives, to read in them what God is calling us to do.

And so, in the end, today's Scriptures are asking us to be open to the unexpected ways that God comes to us, calls to us, speaks to us; open to the unexpected, unwanted people in whom God is calling out for our attention.

The question is whether we will listen and perceive, and meet God and live in God, in all those people and events, and even those places within ourselves where we may not want to look and where we may not want to listen.

Fr Colin



J-Walk for young adults 18+

SUNDAY 19 JULY, 7PM

We are meeting online!

Email us to join in or find out more

youth@lindfieldkillara.org.au

FUSION SCAVENGER HUNT

SUNDAY
19 JULY 1PM

MEET IN
LINDFIELD
CHURCH CAR
PARK



For more info contact us on: youth@lindfieldkillara.org.au

ENROLMENTS FOR 2021 AT HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PARISH SCHOOL are open. To learn more about our wonderful learning community visit our school website (www.hfldbb.catholic.edu.au) or Facebook page and register for one of our Virtual Open Day Sessions or contact the School Office, 9416 7200, for more information or to book a private school tour.

**Zoom Information Sessions
FOR 2021 ENROLMENTS**

THURSDAY 30 JULY 2020
9:15am - 10:30am OR 6:00pm - 7:00pm

[Click here to register](#)



Sunday Mass!

Killara church (Celebrant: Fr Thomas)

4:00pm Vigil
5:30pm Vigil
9:00am
10:30am
12 noon Chinese Mass (2nd & 4th Sundays)

Lindfield church (Celebrant: Fr Colin)

6:00pm Vigil
8:30am
10:15am
11:30am

Sunday evening Mass: due to very low attendance at the 5:30pm Sunday evening Mass at Killara we will revert to having just one Sunday evening Mass—at 6:00pm. **However we will alternate the venue between Killara and Lindfield churches.** This won't be hard to remember since when you book online it tells you the venue for each Mass you book for. The Sunday 6pm Mass this weekend 12th July will be at Killara and next weekend 19th July it will be at Lindfield.

BOOKING

The current public health restrictions require us to keep numbers to the limit imposed by the four square metre per person rule (50 people for Killara church and 45 for Lindfield.

So it's necessary to **make a booking** to attend Mass each week – however this is very simple, taking only a few seconds. You can book up to 1 hour 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>

Or call the Parish Office and we'll book 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.

"COLLECTIONS"

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 soon at Killara also) and the homepage of our website gives details about online giving.

Of course, 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 have two special options for you :

- ◆ We have a Mass at 12 noon on Tuesday at our Killara church **for 10 people only** – so there is not a large number of people present and everyone can sit widely apart.
- ◆ In addition, at each Mass we can accommodate either one person or one couple who need a greater physical distancing **in the choir loft** at Lindfield for Sunday or weekday Mass. There will be nobody else in the choir loft with you. **Please contact the Parish Office to book a spot in the choir loft.**



Are you passionate about the Gospel?

Do you want to ensure that the precious gift of our faith is shared with the next generation?

As of last week, as you would have read, we were nearly \$25,000 behind on our Second Collection income. And at present we have no Coordinator of our Catechist ministry in the State Schools and it's unlikely that in the foreseeable future we will have the financial resources to employ one.

However all need not be lost. If we could form a team of two or three volunteers to share in that coordinating role we can continue to offer this vital ministry to nourish and guide the faith of young people. But without a Coordinating team we simply can't continue to send catechists into the schools. We're okay for Term 3 as the diocese is assisting us but after that it's up to us.

To be a member of the Coordinating Team :

- ◆ you don't need to be a Catechist and go into the schools—we will have a link catechist for each school to act as a liaison with the school.
- ◆ the role is to coordinate the roster to ensure classes are covered, assist catechists with their diocesan registration and State registration, advertise for new catechists when the need arises, ensure the Catechists have their resources, etc.

WE NEED YOU ! Sue-Anne Sherwood has built this ministry up in our parish to be a leader in its field in the diocese. We need to continue the great work Sue-Anne did and ensure our Catechist ministry can continue.

If you would be willing to be part of a team of two or three people to coordinate this ministry in our parish please contact me (9416 7195; colin@lindfieldkillara.org.au) as soon as possible.

Fr Colin



A LITTLE NOTE ABOUT

THE CHANGES TO RESTRICTIONS WHICH WERE INTRODUCED ON 1ST JULY

As you're no doubt aware, from 1st July the NSW Government increased 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.

PARISH BOOK CLUB

Meets ONLINE on the last Wednesday of the month:

Next meeting: Wed. 29th July 10:00-11:30am

Book: *The Spare Room* by Helen Garner

Want to take part? Please contact Catherine Willis (catherinewillis@gmail.com) or Elizabeth Reedy (elizabethreedy@msn.com)

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DON'T FORGET THE ONLINE WAYS TO SHARE IN PARISH LIFE....

- ◇ **Christian Meditation Group** at 8am on Wednesdays
- ◇ **Daytime Scripture Study Group** with Fr Colin on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 11am
- ◇ **Evening Scripture Study Group** with Fr Colin on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 7:30pm.
- ◇ **Catholicism**—a vibrant audio visual exploration of our faith on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 7:30pm.
- ◇ **Parish Book Club** on the last Wednesday of the month at 10am
- ◇ **Fusion Youth** every couple of weeks on a Sunday night
- ◇ **Young Adults** every couple of weeks on a Sunday night.

If you'd like to join in any of these online activities just contact Fr Colin or the Parish Office. And if you're not used to using Zoom just contact Fr Colin (94167195; colin@lindfieldkillara.org.au) and he'll be happy to help you.

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.

NEW SETS OF WEEKLY ENVELOPES for the new Financial Year are available at the rear of both our churches. Please collect your set. If they are not at the back of the church you attend this weekend they may be at our other church—just call Philita and we'll make sure they're where you want them to be next weekend.

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION Unfortunately with the time lost this year due to the lockdown, and the on-going limitations imposed by the coronavirus, we will not be able to have the celebration of Confirmation this year in our diocese. In due course Bishop Anthony will let us know the arrangements for 2021.

OUR PARISH ONLINE MASS ON YOUTUBE CONTINUES TO BE AVAILABLE EACH WEEK

Even though the public celebration of Sunday Mass has resumed we are also continuing to have our online celebration of Mass because we know that there are many who at this time cannot resume coming to Mass either for reason of age or underlying health condition.

To access our online parish Mass just go to the homepage of our parish website (www.lindfieldkillara.org.au) and click on the hotlink box entitled 'Parish Life in the Current Situation' and scroll down to Resource 3 ('Video of Sunday Mass') - or just paste this link into your browser: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCekBUTq-JlrmjUo8-juHdFQ>

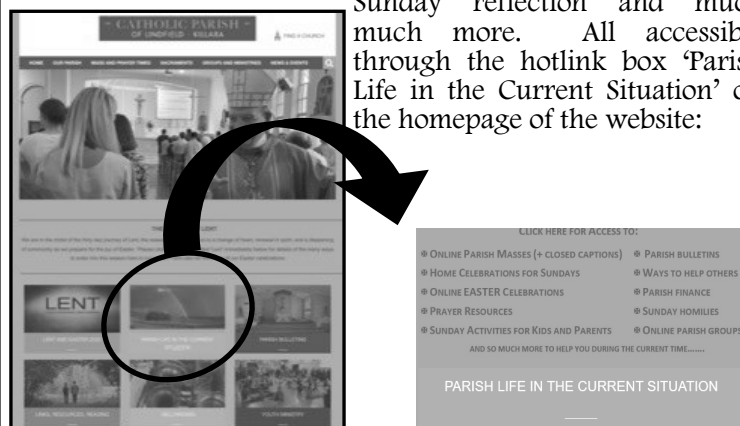
WEEKDAY MASS (it's necessary to book):

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

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



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

A sower went out to sow ... (Mt 13:3b)

THE ABUNDANCE OF GOD AS AN INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

The sun is extraordinarily generous, giving huge parts of itself away every second.

Scientists tell us that every second, inside the sun, the equivalent of 4 million elephants are being transformed into light, an irretrievable, one-time gift. The sun is giving itself away. If this generosity should halt, all energy would eventually lose its source and everything would die and become inert. We, and everything on our planet, live because of the generosity of the sun.

In this generosity, the sun reflects the abundance of God, a largesse that invites us to also be generous, to have big-hearts, to risk more in giving ourselves away in self-sacrifice, to witness to God's abundance.

But this isn't easy. Instinctually we move more naturally to self-preservation and security. By nature we fear and we horde. Because of this, whether we are poor or not, we tend to work out of a sense of scarcity, fearing always that we don't have enough, that there isn't enough, and that we need to be careful in what we give away, that we can't afford to be too generous.

But God belies this, as does nature. God is prodigal, abundant, generous, and wasteful beyond our small fears and imaginations. Nature too is stunningly overwhelming and prodigal. The scope of our universe, even just in so far as we know it, is almost unimaginable. So too is the abundance and prodigal character of God.

We see this, for instance, in the biblical parable of the Sower: The Sower, God, whom Jesus describes, is not a calculating person who sows his grain carefully and discriminately only into worthy soil. This Sower scatters seeds indiscriminately everywhere: on the road, in the bushes, in the rocks, into barren soil, as well as into good soil. He has, it seems, unlimited seeds and so he works from a generous sense of abundance rather than from a guarded sense of scarcity. We see that same abundance in the parable of the vineyard owner, where the owner, God, gives a full day's wage to everybody, whether they worked the full day or not. God, we are told, has limitless wealth and is not stingy in giving it out.

God is equally as prodigal and generous in forgiveness, as we see, in the gospels. In the parable of the Father who forgives the prodigal son we see a person who can forgive out of a richness that dwarfs dignity and calculated cost to self. And we see this same largesse in Jesus himself as he forgives both those who executed him and those who

abandoned him during his execution.

God, from everything we can see, is so rich in love and mercy that he can afford to be wasteful, over-generous, non-calculating, non-discriminating, incredibly risk-taking, and big-hearted beyond our imaginations.

And that's the invitation: to have a sense of God's abundance so as to risk always a bigger heart and generosity beyond the instinctual fear that has us believe that, because things seem scarce, we need to be more calculating.

The Gospel of Luke has one of the strongest social justice messages in all of scripture (every sixth line is a direct challenge for justice for the poor) and yet, in Luke's Gospel, Jesus, while warning about the danger of wealth, does not condemn the rich or riches. Rather he makes a distinction between the generous rich and the miserly rich. The former are good because they radiate and incarnate God's abundance and generosity while the latter are bad because they belie God's abundance, generosity, and huge heart.

Jesus assures us that the measure we measure out is the measure that we ourselves will receive in return. In essence, that says that the air we breathe out will be the air we re-inhale. That isn't just true ecologically. It is a broad truth for life in general. If we breathe out miserliness, we will re-inhale miserliness; if we breathe out pettiness, we will breathe in pettiness; if we breathe out bitterness, then bitterness will be the air that surrounds us; and if we breathe out a sense of scarcity that makes us calculate and be fearful, then calculation and fearfulness will be the air we re-inhale. But, if aware of God's abundance, we breathe out generosity and forgiveness, we will breathe in the air of generosity and forgiveness. We re-inhale what we exhale.

I have never met a truly generous man or woman who didn't say that, always, he or she received more in return than he or she gave out. And I have never met a truly big-hearted man or woman who lived out of a sense of scarcity. To be generous and big-hearted we have to first trust in God's abundance and generosity.

From that abundance we get a sun that is generous and a universe that is too huge and prodigal to be imagined. That's a challenge not just to the mind and the imagination, but especially to the heart—for it to become huge and generous.

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

FINAL COLLECTION RESULT FOR THE 2019— 2020 FINANCIAL YEAR

We ended the year **\$23,082 behind** on the Second Collection compared to the end of the last Financial Year and **\$1,658 behind** on the First Collection.

Please help us to begin this new Financial Year on a strong footing:

- ◆ Boxes for contributions to the First & Second Collections are in the centre of each of our churches
- ◆ Tap machines are at the rear of Lindfield church (and will soon be available at Killara church)
- ◆ The website (www.lindfieldkillara.org.au) has details of how to contribute by direct debit or credit card (click on the hotlink box about parish contributions on the homepage). Or just contact Alison: alison@lindfieldkillara.org.au

The joy of sharing our faith.....Week 2

Our very large group of travellers on the RCIA journey have had to wait a long time to become part of our family of faith due to the lockdown which prevented the public celebration of Easter, and indeed Mass in general. We are delighted that over these July weekends we will be celebrating the welcome of all our catechumens and candidates at various Masses celebrated in our two churches (public health restrictions prevent us having one combined celebration unfortunately).

This weekend we celebrate the baptism, confirmation and first sharing in the Eucharist of Kai-Xin Li and her sons Xin Xin Tan and Loren Tan, and of Madeleine Saville.



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

THE PSALM PS 64:10-14.

**You care for the earth, give it water,
you fill it with riches.
Your river in heaven brims over
to provide its grain.**

**And thus you provide for the earth;
you drench its furrows,
you level it, soften it with showers,
you bless its growth.**

**You crown the year with your goodness.
Abundance flows in your steps,
in the pastures of the wilderness it flows.**

**The hills are girded with joy,
the meadows covered with flocks,
the valleys are decked with wheat.
They shout for joy, yes, they sing.**

At Masses at which the Psalm is sung the response is:
The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

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! The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; all who come to him will live for ever. Alleluia!

ME-

♩=60 *mf*
We pro-claim your Death, O Lord, and pro-
cresc. *ff*
fess your Res-ur-rec-tion un-til you come a - gain.

GIFT

*'Let your Spirit come upon these gifts
so that they may become for us
the body and blood of Christ.'*

In every Eucharist Prayer we call upon the Holy Spirit to be the great 'doer of what we do':
the Eucharist isn't simply something *we* do: it's *gift*, the gift of God, the action of God.

We can so easily turn Mass into something that suits *us*:
it must be on at the time we like to go to it,
it must be celebrated in the style we like it to be celebrated in,
it needs to go for the length of time we like it to go for.

And that's all about *us*. All about *me*.
But those words of every Eucharistic Prayer remind us
that the Eucharist is *gift*: the gift of the action of the Holy Spirit,
transforming our gifts of bread and wine into the body and blood of Jesus,
transforming *us* into the Body of Christ..

Do we treat the Eucharist as something to suit us, or as *gift*:
the gift, *and the challenge*, of the Holy Spirit.

常年期第十五主日 12.7.2020

讀經一 (雨水使種子生長萌芽。)

恭讀依撒意亞先知書 55:10-11

上主說：「譬如雨和雪從天降下，不再返回原處，只有灌溉田地，使之生長萌芽，償還播種者種子，供給吃飯者食糧；同樣，從我口中發出的言語，也不能空空地回到我這裡來；反之，它必實行我的旨意，完成我派遣它的使命。」——上主的話。

(默想片刻)

答唱詠 詠65:10, 11, 12-13, 14

【答】：落在好地裡的種子，結出百倍的果實。

(路8:8)

領：天主，你眷顧大地，普降甘霖，使大地豐收。

天主的河水洋溢，為人們準備五穀。【答】

領：你灌溉了田畦，又犁平了土壤，使雨鬆軟土壤，祝福植物生長。【答】

領：你的慈惠，使年歲豐收；你的腳步，常滴流油脂。

曠野的牧場，豐滿外溢，漫山遍野，充滿了歡喜。【答】

領：羊群遮蔽了牧場，山谷蓋滿了食糧，一切在歡呼歌唱。【答】

讀經二 (受造之物，都等待天主子女的顯揚。)

恭讀聖保祿宗徒致羅馬人書 8:18-23

弟兄姊妹們：

我實在以為：現時的苦楚，與將來在我們身上，要顯示的光榮，是不能較量的。凡受造之物，都熱切地等待天主子女的顯揚，因為，受造之物，被屈伏在敗壞的狀態之下，並不是出於自願，而是出於使它屈伏的那位的決意；但受造之物，仍懷有希望，脫離敗壞的控制，得享天主子女的光榮自由。

因為我們知道，直到現在，一切受造之物，都一同歎息，同受產痛；不但是萬物，就是連我們已蒙受聖神初果的人，也在自己心中歎息，等待著義子期望的實現，即我們肉身的救贖。——上主的

話。

(默想片刻)

福音前歡呼

領：亞肋路亞。

眾：亞肋路亞。

領：天主的話是種子；基督是撒種者；所有來到他那裡的人，將生活到永遠。

眾：亞肋路亞。

福音 (有個撒種的人，出去撒種。)

恭讀聖瑪竇福音 13:1-23

在那一天，耶穌從家裡出來，坐在海邊；有許多群眾，集合到他面前。耶穌只好上船，坐下；群眾都站在岸上。耶穌就用比喻，給他們講論了許多事，說：

「看，有個撒種的，出去撒種。他撒種的時候，有的落在路旁；飛鳥來，把種子吃了。

「有的落在石頭地裡，那裡沒有多少土壤；因為土壤不深，雖然很快發了芽，但太陽一出來，就被曬焦，又因為沒有根，就枯乾了。

「有的落在荊棘中；荊棘長起來，便把它們窒息了。

「有的落在好地裡，就結了果實：有一百倍的，有六十倍的，有三十倍的。

「有耳的，聽吧！」

門徒來問耶穌說：「為什麼你用比喻，對他們講話？」

耶穌回答門徒說：「因為天國的奧妙，是給你們知道，而不是給他們知道。因為凡有的，還要給他，使他富足；但是，凡沒有的，連他所有的，也要由他奪去。為此，我用比喻，對他們講話；因為他們看是看，卻看不見；聽是聽，卻聽不見，也不瞭解；這樣在他們身上，正應驗了依撒意亞的預言，說：

「『你們聽是聽，但不瞭解；看是看，但不明白。因為這百姓的心，遲鈍了，耳朵難以聽見。他們閉了眼睛，免得眼睛看見，耳朵聽見，心裡瞭解而轉變，使我醫好他們。』

「但你們的眼睛，是有福的，因為看得見；你

們的耳朵，是有福的，因為聽得見。我實在告訴你們：有許多先知和義人，希望看見你們所看見的，而沒有看到；希望聽見你們所聽見的，而沒聽到。

「那麼，你們聽這撒種者的比喻吧！凡聽天國的話，而不瞭解的，那惡者就來，把撒在他心裡的奪去；這是指那撒在路旁的。

「那撒在石頭地裡的，即是指人聽了天國的話，立刻高興接受；但在心裡沒有根，不能持久，一旦為這話發生了艱難和迫害，就立刻跌倒了。

「那撒在荊棘中的，即是指人聽了天國的話，卻有世俗的焦慮，和財富的迷惑，把話蒙住了，結不出果實。

「那撒在好地裡的，即是指那聽了天國的話，而瞭解的人；他當然結出果實，有結一百倍的，有結六十倍的，有結三十倍的。」——上主的話。

(講道後默想片刻)

華人天主教會 北區中心主日彌撒暫定每月第二及第四主日。一個月兩次彌撒，直至另行通告。

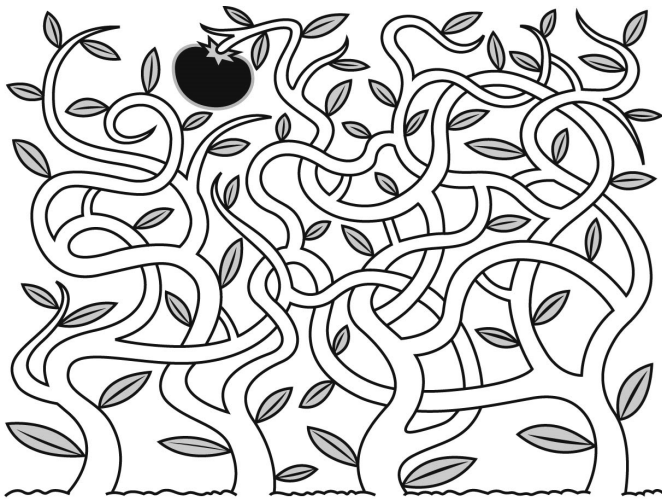
7月份彌撒時間：7月12日及7月26日正午12時
地點改為：Immaculate Heart of Mary Church Killara
Cnr Charles St and Fiddens Wharf Rd. Killara.
歡迎各教友參加

牧職修女 司徒金美修女 0419- 426899

中心聯絡 Gloria Cheung ☎ 0416-118089

FOR THE KIDS

MT 13:1-9



Which of these four plants is the one bearing fruit?

Try to find these words:

birds
boat
crowd
farmer
Galilee
Lake
road
shore
soil
stories
sun
teach

JUNIOR WORDSEARCH

The seed fell on good ground

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

What's happening in our online parish?

JULY

Sunday 12th	On demand	Parish Mass online
Wednesday 15th	8:00am	Meditation Group
	11:00am	Daytime Scripture Study Group
	7:30pm	Catholicism .
Sunday 19th	On demand	Parish Mass online
Wednesday 22nd	8:00am	Meditation Group
	7:30pm	Evening Scripture Study Group
Sunday 26th	On demand	Parish Mass online
Wednesday 29th	8:00am	Meditation Group
	10am	Parish Book Club

FR RICHARD ROHR OFM'S REFLECTION...

WISDOM IN TIMES OF CRISIS: SUSTAINED IN GOD'S LOVE

In the light of eternity, we're here for a very short time, really. We're here for one thing, ultimately: to learn how to love, because God is love. Love is our origin, love is our ground, and love is our destiny. — James Finley

CAC faculty member James Finley offers a contemplative practice to help us experience the love of God even in the midst of chaos. Living out of that love transforms both ourselves and the world.

What is the practice that matters now? A practice is any act habitually entered into with our whole heart that takes us to the deeper place. Some of these practices, we might not think of as prayer and meditation: tending the roses, a long, slow walk to no place in particular, a quiet moment at day's end, being vulnerable in the presence of that person in whose presence we're taken to the deeper place, the pause between two lines of a poem. There are these acts that reground us in the depth dimensions of our life that matter most; so if we're faithful to our practice, our practice will be faithful to us. . . .

In this contemplative practice, sit and renew your awareness that you're sitting in the presence of God all about you and within you. As you inhale, inhale God's silent "I love you," in which God is being poured out and utterly given away to you as the miracle of your very life. Then when you exhale, exhale yourself in love: "I love you." And

so, we are breathing [along with God], "I love you. *I love you.* I love you. I love you." From the reciprocity of love, destiny is fulfilled, and the foundations of suffering are healed.

As we sit this way, suffering arises. The suffering then might be our anxiety and concerns today, for ourselves, for our loved ones, for the world. As we sit in the midst of the arising of the anxiety, when we inhale, we inhale this love of God loving us through and through, anxiety and all, finding no hindrance in our anxiety, loving us so unexplainably forever. Then when we exhale, we exhale ourselves in love, anxiety and all, to the love that loves us. This requires gentle perseverance, because anxiety arises again. It doesn't automatically go away. We sit with it, we lean into it again, and we hold fast to this love that sustains us in the midst of things. It is in this way, little by little, that we come to understand the insubstantiality of everything but love. Love and love alone has the authority to name who we are.

This practice, then, experientially grounds us in this love wisdom. This love wisdom—grounded in practice—empowers us to go out and share this with other people in the circumstances in which we find ourselves.

From James Finley, "Practice That Grounds Us in the Sustaining Love of God," *Wisdom in Times of Crisis* (Center for Action and Contemplation: 2020), faculty presentation (April 26, 2020), YouTube video, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-A16N4hKouQ>.

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Email: info@holyfamily.nsw.edu.au

School Website: www.hflddb.catholic.edu.au

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

Recently deceased: Vincent Pelosi, Noleen Smith (sister of Bishop David Walker), Sister Sophie McGrath rsm, Michael O'Rourke, Roger McGrath, Anne Moss, Annabel Kelleher, Chris Pulle, Marj Steffel, John Yun, Jack Biviano, Joyce Antelman. **Anniversary:** Raymond Jones, Edgar and Berta Montano. **And for:** Marion

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.

Welcome to the family !


After the long wait due to the cancellation of public celebrations of the liturgy at Easter our catechumens and candidates are at last being welcomed into the life of our Church. Last weekend we celebrated the baptism of **Rita Chen**, and the reception into the Church of the entire Hearne family - **Andrew and Linda and their children Caleb, Olivia and Isabella**.



Below: The 55 children and their families who have been preparing for their First Holy Communion gathered online for a Mass celebrated by Fr Colin in which he explained the various parts of the Eucharistic celebration. This is the **third and final** of three photos which capture the whole group.

Please keep the children and their families in your prayers as they await their First Holy Communion. They still have a little while to wait as we catch up on all our missed sacramental celebrations. They first have to each celebrate their First Reconciliation (which was also postponed due to the lockdown). And we also have to have separate celebrations to welcome all our RCIA candidates who have been patiently waiting since Easter to be welcomed in the Church.



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