

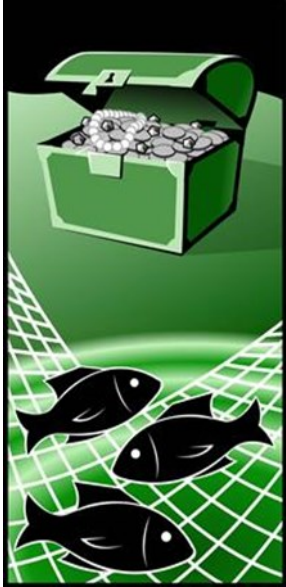
Catholic Parish of Lindfield-Killara

Diocese of Broken Bay

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

26 - 7 - 20

This week: 1 Kg 3:5, 7-12; Rom 8:28-30; Mt 13:44-52
Next week: Is 55:1-3; Rom 8:35, 37-39; Mt 14:13-21



*Today's parables of the pearl of great price and the treasure buried in the field are parables that ask how much we **value** our own discipleship, how much we value the search for the Kingdom in our lives. In the end they are parables that pose questions about our priorities, about what it is that we 'treasure', about what it is that we would give up everything to obtain.*

The person who found the treasure in the field 'went off happy', we are told, and purchased the field.

The parable also asks therefore where we find joy.

Does our discipleship bring us joy? Is it a way to life and living life more fully, or a burden?

Does our search for God lighten our hearts or weigh them down?

These parables are an invitation to see the gentle working of the Kingdom in our lives as a treasure and to make the living out of our discipleship the pearl we would do anything to own.

Fr Colin

Sunday
2 August
6-8pm

Fusion Bonfire Party

Join us for a short liturgy, pizza and games around the bonfire!

Space is limited; bookings essential
Check your email this week for details/booking information.

NOT ON OUR EMAIL LIST? Contact us today:
youth@lindfieldkillara.org.au

The joy of sharing our faith.....Week 4

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.

This weekend we conclude our belated Easter welcomes to the new members of our Church. We celebrate the baptism, confirmation and first sharing in the Eucharist of **Yuan Li and Sen Lu and their children Matthew and Ellie.**



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

A photograph of a young boy in a school uniform, smiling and sitting at a desk with books.

LET'S LIFT OUR VOICES TOGETHER

As we gather in smaller numbers at this time please help to keep our liturgy vibrant by your participation. Sometimes some of the great responses of the Mass are a little muted these days! In particular, the Memorial Acclamation after the Consecration and the Great Amen at the end of the Eucharistic Prayer are two joyful proclamations of our faith during the Eucharistic liturgy—please help to make them so.

Fr Colin

Sunday Mass! Let's gather together again!

Killara church (Celebrant: Fr Thomas)

4:00pm Vigil

5:30pm Vigil

9:00am

10:30am (no 10:30am Mass during August)

12 noon Chinese Mass (2nd & 4th Sundays)

Lindfield church (Celebrant: Fr Colin)

6:00pm Vigil

8:30am

10:15am

11:30am

Sunday evening Mass : 6:00pm

The Sunday evening Mass alternates between our two churches.

The schedule for the next month:

26th July: Killara

9th August: Killara

23rd Aug: Killara

2nd August: Lindfield

16th August: Lindfield

30th August: 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.

WE HAVE A COVID SAFETY PLAN

- ◆ we adhere to maximum number of person permitted in the church based on the four square metre rule (46 people at Lindfield and 50 at Killara)
- ◆ Green ticks on the seats indicating seating positions ensure maximum separation
- ◆ All are asked to sanitise their hands on entering & leaving
- ◆ The pews etc are sanitised after every Mass
- ◆ There is no singing as required by health regulations and no physical exchange of the sign of peace.
- ◆ All are asked to maintain 2 metre spacing when coming forward for Holy Communion (which is given on the hand only and not on the tongue).

For those who have health conditions

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.**



GREAT NEWS !

Many thanks to the **three** people who came forward and have volunteered to act as a team to coordinate our catechist ministry. What a great parish we have!

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 46 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)

THE PARISH OFFICE is operating (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.

WEEKDAY MASS (it's necessary to book):

Monday and Tuesday: 10:00am at Killara

Thursday and Friday: 10:00am at Lindfield

(there will be no Mass on Wednesdays this week and then throughout August).

ANNOUNCING A CHANGE WITH REGARD TO OUR SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMMES AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE SACRAMENTS WITH THE CHILDREN

Bishop Anthony Randazzo, after consultation with the Council of Priests, has announced a change with regard to the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation. Bishop Anthony remains deeply committed to our diocesan tradition of celebrating the sacraments in their proper order - Baptism, then Confirmation, then First Holy Communion - but feels that the children would be better placed to celebrate the sacraments if they were just a year older than at present. This affects the ages therefore at which the children will celebrate Confirmation, First Reconciliation and First Communion. From next year the children will celebrate these sacraments when they are in Years 3 and 4: they will celebrate Confirmation in Year 3 and First Holy Communion in Year 4 (with First Reconciliation coming somewhere between those two celebrations, as at present).

This of course does not affect our current group of children who have recently completed their preparation for First Holy Communion and who will, as planned, celebrate that wonderful sacrament in September this year.

Thus there will be no celebration of First Holy Communion next year as the next group coming through will firstly celebrate their Confirmation in 2021 (in Year 3) and their First Communion will follow in 2022 (when they are in Year 4).

Hopefully this change will enrich the children's experience of these precious sacraments in their lives. *Fr Colin*

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. (not taking place in August).
- ◇ **Catholicism**—a vibrant audio visual exploration of our faith on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 7:30pm (not taking place during August).
- ◇ **Parish Book Club** on the last Wednesday of the month at 10am
- ◇ **Fusion Youth** every couple of weeks on a Sunday (see p.1)
- ◇ **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.

OUR PARISH ONLINE SUNDAY 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-JIrmjUo8-juHdfQ>

(However we will no longer continue to have weekday Mass available online. Given that there is always less than twenty people present for our weekday Masses even those with an underlying health condition would be quite safe in attending weekday Mass. Alternatively our cathedral at Waitara provides weekday Mass online)

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

For the month of August the schedule is:

Saturdays 5:20—5:40pm at Lindfield

The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls. When he finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells all that he has and buys it. (Mt 13:45-46)

THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE AND ITS COST

A woman I know tells this story:

She married a man she loved but, early on in the marriage, she was too immature to responsibly carry her part of the relationship. One night she went to a party with her husband, drank too much, and left the party with another man. Eventually she sobered up and repentantly found her way home, fully expecting the marital skies to be ripped asunder with anger. But her husband though hurt and shaken by what had happened was calm, philosophical, direct.

When she walked sheepishly into the room he demanded neither an explanation nor an apology. Ultimately, what is there to say? He simply said to her: "I'm going away for a few days so that you can be alone because you need to decide who you are: are you a married woman or are you something else?" He took a three-day sabbatical from her, she cried, sorted out the question he had put to her, and now, years beyond this painful incident, she is inside a solid marriage and infinitely more aware that the pearl of great price comes precisely at a great price.

Every choice is a renunciation. Thomas Aquinas said that, and it helps explain why we struggle so painfully to make clear choices. We want the right things, but we want other things too. Yet every choice is a series of renunciations.

If I marry one person, I cannot marry anyone else; if I live in one place, I cannot live anywhere else; if I choose a certain career, that excludes many other careers; if I have this, then I cannot have that. The list could go on indefinitely. To choose one thing is to renounce others. That's the nature of choice.

In most areas of our lives we do not feel this so painfully. We choose and there isn't a lot of sting to the loss. But the area of love is more sensitive. Here we feel the sting of loss more strongly and here we often find it hard to accept the real limits of life. What are those limits? They are the limits that come with being an infinite spirit in a finite world.

We are fired into this world with a madness that comes from the gods and has us believe that we are destined to embrace the cosmos itself. We don't want just something, we want everything. That's a simple way, though a good one, of saying something that Christianity has always said, namely, that in body and soul we are meant to embrace everyone and we already hunger for that. Perhaps we

experience it most clearly in our sexuality, but the hunger is everywhere present in us. Our yearning is wide, our longing is infinite, our urge to embrace is promiscuous. We are infinite in yearning, but, in this life, we only get to meet the finite.

That's what makes love difficult. We are over-charged in our own lives. We have divine fire inside us, want everything, yearn for the whole world, and yet, at a point, have to commit to one particular person, at one particular place, and in one very particular life, with all the limits that imposes. Infinite desire limited by a finite choice, such is the nature of real life and love.

Life and love, beyond the abstract and beyond the grandiosity of our own daydreams, involve hard, painful renunciation. But it is precisely that very renunciation that helps us grow up and makes our lives real in a way that our daydreams don't.

In trying to explain some of the deeper secrets of life, Jesus gives us this parable: the kingdom of God is like a merchant in search of fine pearls. When he finds a single one of great value, he goes and sells all that he owns and buys that pearl. That, the pearl of great price, the value of love and its cost, is in essence the challenge which the young husband put to his wife when he told her to sort out the question, "are you a married woman or are you something else?"

For what are you willing to renounce other things?

What is our own pearl of great price? Are we willing to give up everything in exchange for it? Are we willing to live with its limits? Until we are clear on these questions there is forever the danger that, like the wife who left the party without her husband, we will act out in dangerous and hurtful ways.

Thoreau once said: "The youth gets together materials to build a bridge to the moon or perhaps a palace or a temple; ... at length the middle-aged man decides to build a woodshed with such materials."

So too in love and life: the child sets out to make love to the whole world and the adult eventually determines to marry a single person, in essence, to build a woodshed. But it's only in that shed where life and love are real in this world.

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

CHARITABLE WORKS FUND APPEAL



The first Charitable Works Fund Appeal for this Financial Year takes place **next weekend 1/2 August and the following weekend 8/9 August.**

The Charitable Works Fund is **100% tax deductible** and 98.25cents of every dollar goes to the following five beneficiaries:

- ◇ **CatholicCare Hospital Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care Programme** – where five Pastoral Care ministers reach over 3,000 patients, 700 families and over 180 hospital staff each year across seven hospitals in our Diocese.
- ◇ **Confraternity of Christian Doctrine** – creating and updating the curriculum and training catechists who minister to State School students across the Diocese.
- ◇ **St Lucy's School** – for primary school students with disabilities.
- ◇ **St Edmund's School** – for secondary school students with disabilities.
- ◇ **Ephpheta Centre** – serving the Catholic deaf community.

We are obliged to meet the quota set for us and so if we don't achieve that quota we have to make up the shortfall from our own parish funds – which of course doesn't help us to achieve our own financial goals.

ALTERNATIVELY, YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE ONLINE: To donate please go to: <https://www.givenow.com.au/cwf>

Please ensure that you tick our parish of Lindfield-Killara as you complete the donation online form.

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 118:57. 72. 76-77. 127-130. R. V.97

**My part, I have resolved, O Lord,
is to obey your word.
The law from your mouth means more to me
than silver and gold.**

Let your love be ready to console me
by your promise to your servant.
Let your love come to me and I shall live
for your law is my delight.

That is why I love your commands
more than finest gold.
That is why I rule my life by your precepts:
I hate false ways.

Your will is wonderful indeed;
therefore I obey it.
The unfolding of your word gives light
and teaches the simple.

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! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia!

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION (said, not sung):

Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

III. REMEMBERED

*'In memory of his death and resurrection, we offer you, Father,
this life-giving bread, this saving cup.'*

We pray these or similar words immediately after the Consecration.

The word 'memory' however is perhaps a poor translation
of the Greek word *anamnesis*.

To use the word 'memorial' of the Eucharist
could seem to imply that Jesus is dead and gone
and that we *merely* remember him.

But the Eucharistic 'remembering' is of a different kind:

in the Eucharist the 'remembering' is done *by God*,
not simply by ourselves:

and when *God* 'remembers'

then what is 'remembered' is present and powerful.

By the Spirit's power Jesus is made present in the Eucharistic gifts
and Jesus cannot be separated from his sacrifice:

it is his whole way of being: gift to the Father and gift to us.

As Jesus is made present so is his death and resurrection:
the *Father's* 'calling to mind of his death and resurrection'
makes the Easter mystery present and active amongst us:

What is remembered is made present.

**And rather than directing our gathering to the past
it asks how we will live in the present.** *Fr Colin*

常年期第十七主日 26.7.2020

讀經一 (你為自己求了智慧。)

恭讀列王紀上 3:5, 7-12

在夜間，上主於夢中顯現給撒羅滿。天主對他說：「你無論求什麼，我必賜給你。」

撒羅滿說：「上主，我的天主，現在你使你的僕人，替代我父親達味為王，但我還太年輕，不知道如何處理國事。你的僕人處身在你所選的民族中間；這是一個多得不可統計、不可勝數的大民族。為此，求你賜給你僕人一顆智慧的心，可統治你的百姓，判斷善惡；否則，誰能統治你這樣眾多的人民呢？」

因為撒羅滿求了這件事，獲得了上主的歡心。天主於是對他說：「因為你求了這件事，而沒有為你自已求長壽，也沒有為你自已求富貴，也沒有要求你敵人的性命，單單為你自已求了智慧，為能辨明正義。我必照你的話，賞賜你一顆聰明智慧的心，除你以外，前無古人，後無來者。」——上主的話 (默想片刻)

答唱詠 詠119:57,72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130

【答】：上主，我是多麼愛慕你的法律。(詠119:97)

領：上主，我說：我的福分，就是遵守你的教訓。你口中的法律，對我的益處，連金銀千萬也不能相比。【答】

領：請照你應許給你僕人的諾言，以你的仁慈來安慰我。願你的仁愛厚加於我，使我生活，因為你的法律，就是我的喜樂。【答】

領：所以，我愛慕你的誠律，遠勝各種黃金和寶玉。我遵從你的一切誠命，憎惡所有欺詐的途徑。【答】

領：你的約法確實美妙神奇，因此，我的靈魂要持守不渝。你的言語經過解釋，必會發光發亮，連知識淺薄的人，也可以通達知曉。【答】

讀經二 (天主預定我們肖似他的兒子。)

恭讀聖保祿宗徒致羅馬人書 8:28-30

弟兄姊妹們：

我們知道：天主使一切，都有助於那些愛他的人，就是使那些按他的旨意蒙召的人，獲得益處。因為他已預定：他所預選的人，要與他兒子的肖像相似，好使他兒子，在眾弟兄中作長子。

天主不但召叫了他所預定的人，而且也使他所召叫的人成義，並使成義的人，分享他的光榮。——上主的話。(默想片刻)

福音前歡呼

領：亞肋路亞。

眾：亞肋路亞。

領：父啊！天地的主宰！我稱謝你，因為你將這些事，啟示給小孩子。(參閱瑪11:25)

眾：亞肋路亞。

福音 (他賣掉他所有的一切，買了那塊地。)

恭讀聖瑪竇福音 13:44-52

那時候，耶穌對群眾說：「天國好像藏在地裡的寶貝；人找到了，就把它藏起來，高興地去賣掉他所有的一切，買了那塊地。」

「天國好像一個尋找完美珍珠的商人；他一找到一顆寶貴的珍珠，就去賣掉他所有的一切，買了那顆珍珠。」

「天國又好像撒在海裡的網，網羅各種的魚。網一滿了，人就拉上岸來，坐下，揀好的，放在器皿裡；壞的，扔在外面。在今世的終結時，也將如

此：天使要出去，把惡人由義人中分開，把他們扔在火窯裡；在那裡要有哀號和切齒。

「這一切你們都明白了嗎？」

群眾說：「是的。」

耶穌就對他們說：「為此，凡成為天國門徒的經師，就好像一個家主，從他的寶庫裡，拿出新的和舊的寶貝。」——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。歡迎各教友參加

一個月兩次彌撒，直至另行通告。

7月份第四主日彌撒時間：7月26日正午12時

8月份第二主日彌撒時間：8月9日正午12時

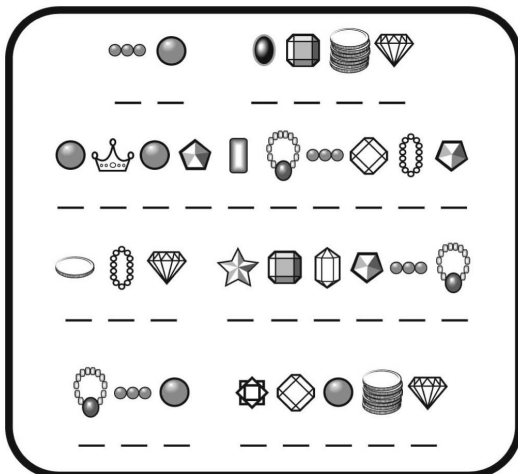
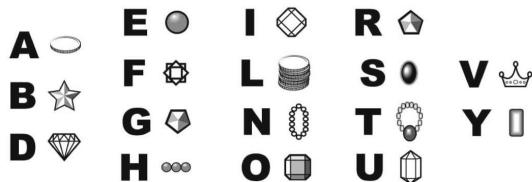
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**牧職修女 司徒金美修女 0419- 426899

**中心聯絡 Gloria Cheung ☎ 0416-118089

FOR THE KIDS

What did the man do after he found the treasure hidden in the field? Use the key below to decipher the code.



JUNIOR WORDSEARCH

Finding the hidden treasure

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

Try to find these words:

buy
 field
 find
 happy
 heaven
 hidden
 kingdom
 one
 pearl
 sell
 shop
 treasure

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A [N17ORSUA_2005_WSG.rtf]

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A NOTE ABOUT MASSES IN AUGUST

I am taking my holidays in August (not that I'll be able to go far!) which means that there will be some changes to our new Mass schedule during August. Fr David Strong SJ is kindly going to assist but even with Fr David's help there would be too many Masses for Fr Thomas to be able to celebrate them all—so for the month of August there will be no 10:30am Mass on Sundays in our Killara church and there will be no Mass on Wednesdays during August.

Fr Colin

What's happening in our online parish?

JULY

Sunday 26th	On demand	Parish Mass online
Wednesday 29th	8:00am	Meditation Group
	10:00am	Parish Book Club

AUGUST

Every Sunday	On demand	Parish Mass online
Every Wednesday	8:00am	Meditation Group
1st & 3rd Wed.	11:00am	Daytime Scripture Study Group
Last Wednesday	10:00am	Parish Book Club

THANK YOU !

We received generous offers from parishioners to pay both for the cost of the printer and for the subscription to the Fr Ron Rolheiser articles. Indeed we received so many offers of help that we were able to purchase some other needed pieces of office equipment. *Fr Colin*

FR RICHARD ROHR OFM'S REFLECTION... MARY MAGDALENE: SHE DOES NOT RUN

One of my favourite things about Cynthia Bourgeault is the way she poses questions that get right to the heart of the matter. Her brilliant scholarship comes from the fullness of her being—body, heart, and mind. Her study of Mary Magdalene is no exception, as evidenced by the questions she asks at the end of this passage. Bourgeault writes:

[After seeing the risen Christ,] Mary went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord, and this is what he said to me" (John 20:14–18).

It is on the basis of this announcement that Mary earned the traditional title of "Apostle to the Apostles." The first to witness to the resurrection, she is also the one who "commissions" the others to go and announce the good news of the resurrection. . . .

All four gospels witness to Mary Magdalene as the premiere witness to the resurrection—alone or in a group, but in all cases named by name. Given the shifting sands of oral history, the unanimity of this testimony is astounding. It suggests that among the earliest Christians the stature of Mary Magdalene is of the highest order of magnitude—more so than even the Virgin Mother (mentioned as present at the crucifixion in only one gospel and in none at the resurrection). Mary Magdalene's place of honor is so strong that even the heavy hand of a later, male-dominated ecclesiology cannot entirely dislodge it.

All four gospels insist that when all the other disciples are fleeing,

Mary Magdalene stands firm. She does not run; she does not betray or lie about her commitment; she witnesses. Hers is clearly a demonstration of either the deepest human love or the highest spiritual understanding of what Jesus was teaching, perhaps both. But why, one wonders, do the Holy Week liturgies tell and re-tell the story of Peter's threefold denial of Jesus, while the steady, unwavering witness of Magdalene is not even noticed?

How would our understanding of the Paschal Mystery change if even that one sentence that I finally heard at Vézelay was routinely included in the Good Friday and Palm Sunday Passion narratives? What if, instead of emphasising that Jesus died alone and rejected, we reinforced that one stood by him and did not leave?—for surely this other story is as deeply and truly there in the scripture as is the first. How would this change the emotional timbre of the day? How would it affect our feelings about ourselves? About the place of women in the church? About the nature of redemptive love?

And above all, why is the apostle to the apostles not herself an apostle? [1]

[1] Though it may seem like a small victory to some, I think it's significant that in 2016 Pope Francis decreed that Mary Magdalene's feast day, July 22, is "to be 'celebrated' liturgically like the rest of the apostles." See <https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2016/06/10/160610c.htm>

PUBLIC HEALTH MATTERS Let's all play our part. Remember:

- ◆ 7 out of 10 infected people have NO symptoms at all.
- ◆ Maintain 1.5 m distance from others. Check that distance on a measuring tape—because it seems no one ever does!
- ◆ Stay home if you have even the mildest symptoms.
- ◆ Practice good hand hygiene.
- ◆ Report venues, homes & events that flout regulations: 1800 333 000.

Catholic Parish of Lindfield -Killara

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

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

Please pray for the gift of eternal life for Peter Rogers who died during the week. The funeral for Peter will take place from our Killara church this week.

Rec. deceased: Judy Wade, David Davoren, Vincent Pelosi, Noleen Smith, Sr Sophie McGrath rsm, Michael O'Rourke, Roger McGrath, Anne Moss, Annabel Kelleher, Chris Pulle, Marj Steffel. **Anniversary:** Beryl Cates, Gordon Sutherland.

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.

EVEN MORE welcomes 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 **Angel Chen** and the reception into the Church of **Thomas Andersen**, all of whom were confirmed and shared with us in the Eucharist for the first time.



Above: Angel Chen, following her baptism and

Right: Thomas Andersen being received into the Church.



A very practical way you could support your parish:


Could you advertise here in the parish bulletin? Please contact the Parish Office for details.

ARE YOU OR IS SOMEONE YOU KNOW CONSIDERING BECOMING A CATHOLIC, OR WANTING TO RECONNECT WITH THEIR FAITH?

Our parish has an RCIA team to introduce people to the beliefs and the sacramental and prayer life of the Catholic community. Team members are available to accompany those new to the community or seeking to reconnect. For those unfamiliar with what the Catholic Church teaches there is a series of meetings (**probably online this year**) in which the various aspects of Catholic faith and life are presented and discussed. The program can be adapted to meet the needs of participants and aims to prepare those not already Catholic for full reception into the Church at Easter 2021.



If you are interested or would like further information please contact Jos Beunen (0427 993 982, jos.beunen@gmail.com).

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