



We are a welcoming Christian community which embraces all people.
We support each other to grow in faith and create a loving and compassionate community.
We aspire to live as Christ's witnesses of God's unconditional love.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 13 - 12 - 20 GAUDETE ('REJOICE') SUNDAY

This week: Is 61:1-2, 10-11; 1 Thess 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28
Next week: 2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14 16; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD CANDLE OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Celebrant: Lord Jesus Christ, you are our Saviour, the true light who has come into our world. We ask you to send your blessings on this community who gather around this wreath, which we honour as a remembrance of your first coming at Bethlehem, your daily coming amongst us in grace and your final coming in glory. Strengthen our hearts with the example of your love that we may receive you with joy and gladness on the day of our redemption, when you will come to reign as Universal King for ever and ever.

The third (rose-coloured) candle is lit.

Cel: Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep.

All: Come and lead us to the eternal life you promise.

Cel: Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd who knows his flock & calls each by name.

All: Come and lead us to the eternal life you promise.

Cel: Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd ready to search out & look for the lost sheep.

All: Come and lead us to the eternal life you promise.

Celebrant: During the Advent season may almighty God lead us to worship his Son and fill our hearts with joy at the coming of Jesus and lead us to life everlasting. **All: Amen.**



CHRISTMAS IN OUR PARISH



- ◆ the capacities of our facilities have increased: 132 for Killara church; 122 for Lindfield church; 220 for MacKillop Hall & annexe.
- ◆ we will ensure that the Hall is beautifully decorated for our Christmas celebrations.

OUR CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS ARE:

Christmas Eve - Children's Masses:

4:00pm in MacKillop Hall

5:30pm: TWO Masses - one in MacKillop Hall, one in Killara church

7:00pm in MacKillop Hall (we hope that families with somewhat older children would come to this Mass)

Christmas Eve - Mass of Christmas Night

10:30pm in MacKillop Hall (preceded a Service of Carols at 10pm)

(please note that if you book for the 10:30pm Mass you are also automatically booked for 10pm Carols should you wish to attend)

Christmas Day:

8:30am in MacKillop Hall

9:00am in Killara church

10:15am in MacKillop Hall

A CHANGE ! In view of the easing of restrictions **we will no longer need to live stream some of our celebrations at Lindfield to an overflow congregation at Killara**—instead there will be additional bookable seating outside MacKillop Hall in the courtyard.

Restrictions regarding **SINGING** have also been changed: it will now be possible for members of the congregation to sing **as long as they are wearing a face mask**. We of course encourage everyone to wear a mask if possible at Mass at all times, but if you wish to join in singing at Mass this will be mandatory.

BOOKING FOR CHRISTMAS MASS (bookings are essential) Online bookings for the Christmas celebrations are now open via the special hotlink box on the homepage of our parish website (www.lindfieldkillara.org.au) entitled 'Booking for Christmas Mass' please don't use the usual link box for Sunday Mass bookings).



BLAST CHRISTMAS

All kids in years K-6 invited!

Christmas Craft Day

SUN 13 Dec, 3.30-5.30pm

Find out more and book at:

<https://www.trybooking.com/BNFVD>

SPECIAL DELIVERY



Can you help deliver Christmas fliers in your neighbourhood? Find out more details and sign up to help at:

<https://www.trybooking.com/BNFVN>

SUNDAY MASS - OUR NEW PROGRAMME IN THE LIGHT OF EASED RESTRICTIONS:

KILLARA CHURCH 5:30pm Vigil
9.00am

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

LINDFIELD CHURCH 6.00pm Vigil
8.30 am
10.15am
6:00pm

WE HAVE A COVID SAFETY PLAN

Of course, if you – or anyone at home in your household – has even the mildest sign of cold or flu -like symptoms
PLEASE DO NOT ATTEND MASS.

OUR PARISH ONLINE SUNDAY MASS ALSO 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. Go to 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-iuHdFQ>

WEEKDAY MASS this week:

Monday—Tuesday 10:00am at Killara
Wednesday— Friday 10:00am at Lindfield

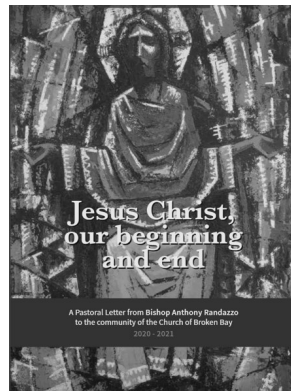
THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays for 12 mins after Vigil Mass at Killara
Saturdays 5.15 - 5.45pm at Lindfield

ADVANCE NOTICE: There will be no Sunday 6pm Mass at Lindfield on Sunday 27th December (the Sunday following Christmas Day).

CHRISTMAS ON THE PARISH WEBSITE All the times for Christmas in the parish can be found by clicking the 'Christmas' hotlink box on the homepage of our parish website.

The special link box for booking for Christmas Masses (separate to the box for booking normal Sunday Masses) can also be found there.



A PASTORAL LETTER FROM BISHOP ANTHONY RANDAZZO

Our bishop has written a pastoral letter to us all, outlining his pastoral vision and priorities for our diocese. Please take time to read it and reflect on it.

The link to download the letter can be found on the homepage of the diocesan website: www.bbcatholic.org.au . Hard copies will be sent to parishes shortly.

Can you help us ?...

- ◆ We need to hire a substantial number of extra chairs for the Masses in MacKillop Hall. **Can you help us with that cost?**
- ◆ Could you help us to set the hall up for our Christmas celebrations? Please put your name on the sheet in the church foyer today if you could help on Wednesday 23rd December for an hour at 7pm (so far I've only had two offers of help!).

Fr Colin

Advent and hope

There are two days in the Season of Advent that mark a turning point:

* The liturgical colour for today, **Gaudete Sunday**, is rose, symbolising that the light of what we're waiting and preparing for is breaking through the darkness of our searching and waiting: it's as though the light of Christmas shines through the purple of our waiting, the purple of our searching, the purple of Advent – lightening it to a rose colour. Today is a day of **hope**, reminding us that the God who was made flesh is present with us even in our searching and longing and waiting, even in the dark moments of our life.

* **The 17th of December** is a liturgical turning point in the Season of Advent. Until then Advent is focussed on the theme of preparing for the coming of the Lord, in each present moment, at the hour of our own death, and at the end of time. But from the 17th Advent focuses specifically on preparing our spirit to celebrate the birth of Jesus. We move from the first to the second Preface of Advent in our Eucharistic Prayers as it prays 'that when he comes he may find us watching...our hearts filled with wonder and praise.'

Food for the Soul.....

*He admitted and did not deny it,
but admitted, "I am not the Christ." (John 1:20)*

FEAR NOT, YOU ARE INADEQUATE

Over twenty years ago, while on a retreat, an elderly nun was assigned to me as director. She proved to be a woman of rare maturity, providing the guidance that I needed at the time. Being young and intense, I too easily made a cosmic drama and tragedy out of every ordinary desolation or setback and she challenged me with a wisdom, an earthiness, and a sense of humour that continually helped deflate my pompousness.

At one stage of the retreat, sensing my Hamlet type propensities, she gave me a little proverb: Fear not, you are inadequate!

Through the years, that little adage has come back to me, off and on, mostly at times when I have been a bit overwhelmed by my own inadequacy or have been, usually without a lot of success, trying to console somebody else. There is a deceptive depth in that little saying.

On the one hand, there is a certain consolation in it. Whether you are a parent, a teacher, a minister, a priest, an advocate for justice, or simply a friend to someone in need, there are countless times when you come face to face with your own inadequacy, when you are helpless in the face of all that you should be doing. At times like that, it is important to remember that God alone is adequate, that you are not God, and that God is more parent, teacher, minister, priest, advocate for justice, and friend than you are. Obvious as this is, it is not always evident to us, as our history of needless worry, being angry, feeling self-important, living with ulcers, and being chronically overextended give ample testimony to.

Great spiritual writers have always said this. For example, John of the Cross, in a treatise on spiritual direction, reminds directors that God is the real spiritual director and that they are only secondary instruments. That is also true for every parent, teacher, minister, priest, justice advocate, and friend. God is the real parent, the real teacher, the real minister, the real advocate for justice, and the real friend and alone is adequate for that task. We are instruments, mere instruments, albeit important ones, and, unlike God, we are not adequate to the task.

Knowing this should give us some consolation at those times when it seems that, somehow, we should be doing

better than we are. However, that consolation, expressed so well in the proverb, should never give us an excuse to slacken our efforts, be lazy, or to shirk responsibility. God may be the real parent or the real teacher or the real friend, but God, in the incarnation, has tied divine power to human hands and human effort. Hence the fact that nobody, except Jesus, is adequate to give expression to God must not however deter us from trying.

Be that as it may, this adage, the common sense faith of a very good nun, is itself a prayer. How so?

Healthy prayer functions paradoxically: on the one hand, it connects us to God and links us to divine energy. Conversely, at the same time, it dissociates us from God by making it clear to us that we are not God. Hence, a good prayer life is paradoxical too in its effect, namely, it connects us to God and thus saves us from depression even as it dissociates us from God and thereby saves us from inflation and self-righteousness. Simply put, if someone does not pray, in some way, he or she is forever falling either into depression or into infantile grandiosity, either there is a lack of connection to God or there is an over identification with God. Both have negative effects.

Thus, for example, when looks at someone like David Koresh—the Cult Davidian leader who burned to death in Waco, Texas—one sees precisely an over identification with God. There was plenty of energy, plenty of fire, but too little in the way of dissociation. He might well have meditated that little proverb on inadequacy and come to understand that he was not God.

Conversely, when we are chronically depressed (as opposed to being clinically depressed) we are too out of touch with divine energy and stand in need of more connection. Accepting our inadequacy can help bring us to prayer.

Fear not, you are inadequate! To accept the truth of that is to be make a little prayer. It is both healthily humbling and uplifting to accept the fact that we are not God and that we are not asked to try to be. When we are overly discouraged it is because we have forgotten that truth. When are overly inflated, it is for the same reason.

Fr Ron Rolheiser omi,

(from the Centre for Liturgy, The University of St Louis)

APOLOGIES that I wasn't there for the 10:15am, 11:30am or 5:30pm Youth and Family Mass last weekend. During the 8:30am Mass I became aware of a raspy throat - and while it seemed like hayfever I knew that the right thing to do was to be tested. Which I did and then duly had to isolate until I received the (negative) result. Many thanks to Fr David Strong SJ and to Fr Thomas for stepping in at short notice to cover for me.

Fr Colin

UPDATE ON OUR PARISH FINANCES

As of the end of November:

- ◆ Our First Collection revenue (which provides for Frs Colin & Thomas, and the sick and retired priests of the diocese) was **\$6884 behind compared to the same point last year.**
- ◆ Our Second Collection revenue (which provides all the operating costs of our parish, its services and its ministries) was **\$15,572 behind compared to the same point last year.**

CHRISTMAS CARDS AND COLUMBAN CALENDARS

St Vincent de Paul **cards** and Columban Calendars for 2020 are now on sale in the church foyers.

St Vincent de Paul Conference

Page 5 outlines the many alternatives for contributing to our parish during the current restrictions when we cannot pass around the collection bowl.

Advent, Waiting, and the year of Covid : A Reflection.....

Advent is colloquially known among Catholics, and even among secular folk as a time of waiting. This view has much to be said for it, but I propose that the idea of Advent as a time of waiting ought to be qualified, particularly in light of our collective and individual experiences in this unprecedented year. My experiences have taught me that there are two types of waiting: waiting in hope, and waiting in dread. The first is life-giving while the second is draining. It does not matter what you are waiting for; more important is the posture you choose to take towards your wait.

This year, my classmates and I waited to hear if the bar exam would be cancelled. After it came, we waited for over two months to receive our scores. Many of us waited to hear back on job applications. On a more serious note, I waited from three states away for news on my mother's health as she lay on a ventilator in induced paralysis in the ICU for three weeks fighting COVID-19 while I tried to study each day for the bar. My wife and I waited to hear from the specialist if her pregnancy would be complicated by unforeseen issues. Millions of unemployed people in this country have waited for relief from their suffering from a Congress that refuses to help them. Even more waited for last month's election, having staked their very identities on its outcome in one direction or the other.

Without faith, each of the above waiting periods could easily be dreadful. Waiting in dread is interminable: those who "wait" in this way will find themselves ever awaiting the next "thing," never satisfied when that which they awaited comes. After they hear their bar results or get a job, they find something else to await. It is easy to get trapped in this kind of wait. To wait in hope is different: each reading today (and throughout Advent) reflects the excitement entailed by this waiting--waiting in the knowledge that the Lord will come! These next weeks are permeated with hope and joy as we look to God's coming kingdom. This Advent then, let us strive to wait in hope and not despair, knowing that "we await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells" and that no matter how bad things look on this earth, they will come.

Nathaniel M. Fouch

Attorney and proud 2020 graduate of the University of St. Thomas School of Law

(provided by Jean Shatek of our parish from the newsletter of her alma mater in the USA)

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME DATES FOR 2021



As advised earlier, while retaining the proper order of the sacraments in which Confirmation precedes First Communion, Bishop Anthony Randazzo has raised the age for each sacrament by a year so that the children may be better prepared. As a result for next year only Confirmation will be the only sacrament offered as we make this transition.

The letter giving all the details and dates for our Sacramental Preparation Programmes for Confirmation is now available **on the parish website under 'Sacraments' → 'Children's Sacraments.'**

Please download the letter and note all the dates involved in the sacraments which your child will celebrate next year.



A SMALL CHANGE TO OUR COVID-SAFE SEATING PLAN FOR OUR TWO CHURCHES

We have changed the marking on the pews to simplify finding yourself a seat:

- every second pew will have a red X on it. Please do not sit in these pews.
- every alternate pew will have a green tick (✓) on the side end of the pew. In these pews two unrelated people may sit at either end of the pew or two or more people from the same household may sit together in the pew.



A NOTE RE WEEKDAY MASS AFTER CHRISTMAS

There will be various changes to our weekday Mass programme in the first few weeks after Christmas. Please check the bulletin each Sunday for the coming week.

2021 PARISH RETREAT AT TARRAWARRA ABBEY

Providing that the Covid situation remains under control we will be having our parish retreat at Tarrawarra Abbey The from **Tuesday afternoon 13th April till Monday morning 19th April.**

This is a beautiful and prayerful time at a Cistercian Monastery amidst the exquisite scenery of the Yarra Valley. Please contact Fr Colin to reserve a place.



Being a CATECHIST is a CALLING, **an INVITATION from God, an HONOUR!!**

We are seeking catechists who can help to fill these spots in 2021:

- Yr5 Lindfield East (9.15-10am)
- Yr 4 Lindfield (Tues 10.30-11am)
- Yr5 Beaumont Rd (Tues 11.30-12pm),
- Yr8 Killara High (Wed 10.05-11.20am)

Please contact:

rhondatbell@bigpond.com or henry@henryleung.net if you are able to help.



SCAM EMAILS ONCE AGAIN A number of parishioners have once again received emails purporting to come from me. We have not been hacked—it is a scam using a false email address. Please note that my email address is colin@lindfieldkillara.org.au Please ignore any emails purporting to come from me other than from this address—the address which was used in the recent scam emails was fathercolinblayney@gmail.com It is as easy as pie to create such an address in gmail, as our fraudster has done.

Please remember anything coming from an address other than colin@lindfieldkillara.org.au is not from me!

Fr Colin

THE PRAYERS AND RESPONSES OF MASS

We abstain from the joyful words of the Gloria during these days of Advent as we prepare our hearts and our community to celebrate once again the birth of the Lord Jesus

THE PSALM Lk 1:46-50. 53-54. R. Is. 61:10

My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
God looks on his servant in her nothingness;
henceforth all ages will call me blessed.

The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy God's name!
God's mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear God.

The Lord fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.
God protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!**

MANY WAYS TO SUPPORT PARISH FINANCES

We have four ways available for contributions to both collections:

1. **Boxes for cash** contributions are in both of our churches
2. **Tap Machines** are in both churches
3. **Direct contribution from your bank account to our parish accounts:**

1st Collection: BSB 062 784 Acct 1116 8002
(Lindfield Killara Parish Pastoral Revenue Account)

Second Collection: BSB 062 784 Acct 1116
8001

(Lindfield Killara Parish Church Account)

(in the reference section for the transfers please put your name. Also, if you have weekly envelopes please put your Envelope Number in the reference section).

4. To arrange for **regular periodic contribution via your credit card** please contact Alison:
alison@lindfieldkillara.org.au

Many thanks.

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

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

We proclaim your death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection,
until you come again.

THE SEASON OF ADVENT . . .

The Season of Advent is a beautiful season of our Church year, but it can so easily become a *lost* season – lost amidst the Christmas rush, the Christmas parties and the Christmas shopping. It takes some effort to allow Advent to realise its potential in our lives as individuals and as a community.

Some ways to keep the time of Advent:

◆ **WEEKDAY MASS** provides rich fodder for reflection in the selection of Advent Scripture readings, while the Eucharist itself brings us the daily encounter with the Lord whose coming we prepare for.

◆ **PRAYER TIMES AT HOME:** as usual, over the next few weeks we'll print some prayer celebrations that you can use at home to keep some of this time of Advent (see p.8).

◆ **THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION** provides a forum for reviewing our discipleship and preparing for a new beginning as we enter another liturgical year.

CHINESE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

將臨期第三主日 13.12.2020

讀經一 (我要萬分喜樂於上主。)

恭讀依撒意亞先知書 61:1-2,10-11

吾主上主的神臨於我身上，因為上主給我傳了油，派遣我向貧苦的人傳報喜訊，治療破碎了的心靈，向俘虜宣告自由，釋放獄中的囚徒，宣布上主恩慈的喜年。我要萬分喜樂於上主，我的心靈要歡躍於我的天主，因為他給我穿上救恩的衣服，給我披上義德的外衣，使我有如頭戴花冠的新郎，有如佩帶珍珠的新娘。正如大地怎樣產生苗芽，田園怎樣使種子發芽，吾主上主也要怎樣在萬民前，產生正義和讚揚。——上主的話

答唱詠 路1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54

【答】：我的心靈歡躍於我的天主。(參閱依61:10)

領：我的靈魂頌揚上主，我的心神歡躍於天主、我的救主，因為他垂顧了他婢女的卑微；今後萬世萬代都要稱我有福。【答】

領：因全能者在我身上，行了大事，他的名字是聖的，他的仁慈世世代代，賜與敬畏他的人。

【答】

領：他曾使飢餓者，飽饗美物，反使那富有者，空

手而去。他曾回憶起自己的仁慈，扶助了他的僕人以色列。【答】

讀經二 (天主使你們整個的神魂、靈魂和肉身，在我們的主耶穌基督來臨時，保持無瑕可指。)

恭讀聖保祿宗徒致撒洛尼人前書 5:16-24

弟兄姊妹們：

你們應當歡樂，不斷祈禱，事事感謝：這就是天主在基督耶穌內，對你們所有的旨意。不要消滅神恩，不要輕視先知之恩；但應當考驗一切：好的，應保持；各種壞的，要遠避。願賜平安的天主，親自完全聖化你們，使你們整個的神魂、靈魂和肉身，在我們的主耶穌基督來臨時，保持無瑕可指。那召叫你們的，是忠信的，他必實行。——上主的話。

福音前歡呼

領/眾：亞肋路亞。

領：上主的神臨於我身上，派遣我向貧苦的人傳報喜訊。(依61:1)

眾：亞肋路亞。

福音 (有一位站在你們中間，是你們所不認識的。)

恭讀聖若望福音 1:6-8,19-28

曾有一人，是由天主派遣來的，名叫若翰。這

人來，是為作證，為給光作證，為使眾人藉他而信。他不是那光，只是為給那光作證。

這是若翰所作的見證：當時，猶太人從耶路撒冷派遣了司祭和肋未人，到他那裡問他說：「你是誰？」，他明明承認，並沒有否認；他明認說：

「我不是默西亞。」他們又問若翰說：「那麼你是誰？你是厄里亞嗎？」他說：「我不是。」他們又

問：「你是那位先知嗎？」他回答說：「不是。」於是，他們問他說：「你究竟是誰？好叫我們答覆

那派遣我們來的人。你自己說你是誰？」若翰說：

「我是在曠野裡呼喊者的聲音：修直上主的道路！

正如依撒意亞先知所說的。」被派遣來的有些是法利塞人；他們又問若翰說：「你既不是默西亞，又

不是厄里亞，也不是那位先知，那麼，你為什麼施洗呢？」若翰答覆他們說：「我以水施洗，但有一位站在你們中間，是你們所不認識的；他在我以後

來，我卻當不起解他的鞋帶。」這些事發生於約但河對岸的伯達尼，若翰施洗的地方。——上主的話。

**華人天主教會北區中心主日彌撒12時

**牧職修女 司徒金美修女 0419- 426899

**北區中心聯絡 Gloria Cheung ☎ 0416-118089



'VIVID' COMES TO LINDFIELD ?! Our Parish Pastoral Council at its last meeting proposed that we make use of the prominent highway position of Holy Family church to proclaim our Christmas faith. Many thanks to members of

the PPC who have organised (with the kind help of one of our neighbours facing the church) for a Christmas Star to be projected on the façade of the church each evening from now until Christmas.

ARE YOU MAKING YOUR WILL?

Could you consider your parish community? In recent years our parish has benefitted enormously from several bequests, large and small. The Shirley Wallace Bequest of course gave us our Parish Centre, which has become so much a part of parish life. Another bequest enabled us to install solar power on Lindfield church, providing clean and cheap energy by day to the Parish Centre as well as the church.

A bequest may also be a way to commemorate a loved one.

Any bequest, large or small, can bring benefits to our parish. If you wish to do this please ensure that the bequest is made to 'The Catholic Parish of Lindfield-Killara'. *The Parish Finance Committee*

An Advent Reflection

*Humanity's Maker was made human,
that He, Ruler of the stars,
might nurse at His mother's breast,
that the Bread might hunger,
the Fountain thirst,
the Light sleep,
the Way be tired on its journey,
that the Truth might be accused of false witness,
the Teacher be beaten with whips,
the Foundation be suspended on wood,
that Strength might grow weak,
that the Healer might be wounded,
that Life might die.*

St Augustine (354-430)

Father & Doctor of the Church

FACE MASKS

For the good of public health we'd like to ask that you wear a face mask at Mass if at all possible. We have disposable masks available near the doors, though as keeping up that supply comes at a cost it would be helpful if you could provide your own mask.

Face masks are not recommended for young children.

A few practical points:

- Please take used masks home for disposal as it's not possible for us to safely handle a multitude of used masks in the bins.
- to ensure they're effective please make sure they cover the nostrils as well as the mouth
- when coming forward to receive Holy Communion please keep the mask on as you receive the Host; then step 1.5 metres to the side before lowering the mask to place the Host in your mouth. Many thanks.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES



are available in the foyers in both our churches.

If you wish to contribute by credit card there are small sheets for recording credit card details next to

the envelopes which can then be placed in the envelopes. Otherwise cash can be used.

The contributions via the Christmas Offering supplements the funds raised via the First Collection for the support and upkeep of the priests of our parish and diocese. The fund it goes to depends very much on these special contributions at Christmas and Easter, without which it struggles to meet its commitments.

This diocesan fund not only provides the living allowance and household costs for the priests of the parish, but also provides funds for health care for priests and maintains priests in their retirement. Please support the Christmas Offerings. The envelopes can be placed in the collection boxes in the centre of our two churches over the next few weeks.

Fr Richard Rohr ofm's Meditation: Giving Birth to Christ:

My dear friend Ronald Rolheiser omi reminds us that giving birth spiritually is a dynamic and creative process. To bring Christ into the world involves an ongoing commitment to growth, to discomfort, to love, and to surrender. It is not for the faint of heart, but it is God's invitation to all of us.

Looking at how Mary gave birth to Christ, we see that it's not something that's done in an instant. Faith, like biology, also relies on a process that has a number of distinct, organic moments. What are these moments? What is the process by which we give birth to faith in the world?

First, like Mary, we need to get pregnant by the Holy Spirit. We need to let the word take such root in us that it begins to become part of our actual flesh.

Then, like any woman who's pregnant, we have to lovingly gestate, nurture, & protect what is growing inside us until it's sufficiently strong so that it can live on its own, outside us. . . Eventually, of course, we must give birth. . . .

Birth, however, is only the beginnings of motherhood. Mary gave birth to a baby, but she had to spend years nurturing, coaxing, and cajoling that infant into adulthood. The infant in the crib at Bethlehem is not yet the Christ who preaches, heals, and dies for us. Finally, motherhood has still one more phase.

As her child grows, matures, and takes on a personality and destiny of its own, the mother, at a point, must ponder (as Mary did). She must let herself be painfully stretched in understanding, in not knowing, in carrying tension, in letting go. She must set free to be itself something that was once so fiercely hers. The pains of childbirth are often gentle compared to this second wrenching. All this is what Mary went through to give Christ to the world: Pregnancy by the Holy Spirit; gestation of that into a child inside of her; excruciating pain in birthing that to the outside; nurturing that new life into adulthood; & pondering, painfully letting go so that this new life can be its own, not hers. . . .

Our task too is to give birth to Christ. Mary is the paradigm for doing that. From her we get the pattern: Let the word of God take root and make you pregnant; gestate that by giving it the nourishing sustenance of your own life; submit to the pain that is demanded for it to be born to the outside; then spend years coaxing it from infancy to adulthood; and finally, during and after all of this, do some pondering, accept the pain of not understanding and of letting go.

Christmas isn't automatic, it can't be taken for granted. It began with Mary, but each of us is asked to make our own contribution to giving flesh to faith in the world.

Catholic Parish of Lindfield -Killara

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Fr Thomas Alackakunnel VC, Asst Priest

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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 Coordinator

Maia Schulze Tsang:

sacramental@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: Jean Rene Maurice L'Hoste (father of Monique De Lavaulx of our parish), Denton Rogers, Anne & Max Vignes, Mary Power, Marriane Lavalette, Dan Gibbons. **Anniversary:** Joan Cassidy

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

Aida Casorzo, Mark Spring, Peter Quirk, Nicholas Sutherland, Jesse Langford, Anthony Ellison, Wolfgang Liers, Cyril Ferriere, Alex Noble, William Wise, Lise Therese Ferriere, Ian Coffey, Maureen Hobbs, Russell Adams, Bishop Geoffrey Robinson.

And for all those affected by COVID-19.

OUR PARISH LOGO AND VISION STATEMENT

Through a process of consultation and discernment during 2019 - to which you all contributed - and which was abruptly interrupted by the events of 2020, our Parish Pastoral Council has devised both our parish Vision Statement and a Logo to capture the mission we believe that we have and to help focus us on it.

The Vision Statement is:

We are a welcoming Christian community which embraces all people. We support each other to grow in faith and create a loving and compassionate community.

We aspire to live as Christ's witnesses of God's unconditional love.

And our logo is:



We hope that they will both inspire us to be the Christian community God calls us to be.



YEAR 6 GRADUATION MASS Year 6 at our Parish School brought the year to a joyful conclusion with their Graduation Mass and other graduation festivities last Tuesday evening.

Fusion Christmas Party

All high school aged kids invited. Please book at: youth@lindfieldkillara.org.au or text 0437 445 347

*bring a gift (\$10/under) for a gift game

3:00-5:30pm
Sunday 13th December
Meet at Shirley Wallace

Food Games
Gift exchange*

A home celebration for Advent: Blessing of your Christmas Crib

The Christmas Crib or manger scene helps us to focus our celebration of the Word made flesh. You might like to pray this prayer at home before your Christmas crib.

Leader: As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, we pause to bless this Christmas manger scene. The practice of erecting such mangers was begun by Saint Francis of Assisi as a means to set forth the message of Christmas.

When we look upon these figures, the Christmas Gospel comes alive and we are moved to rejoice in the mystery of the Word made flesh.

Leader: Let us ask God's blessing on this Christmas manger and upon ourselves, that we who reflect on the birth of Jesus may share in the salvation he accomplished.

1. For the Church of God, as we recall the birth of Jesus, that we may always proclaim his gift of new life for all people.

R. Come, Lord, dwell with us.

2. For the world in which we live, that it may come to recognise Christ just as he was recognised and welcomed by the angels and the shepherds.

R. Come, Lord, dwell with us.

3. For our homes, that Jesus who was laid in the manger may dwell with us always.

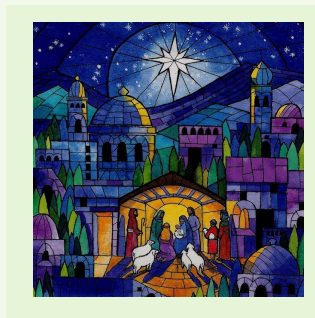
R. Come, Lord, dwell with us.

A Prayer of blessing

God of every nation and people,
from the very beginning of creation
you have made manifest your love:
when our need for a Saviour was great
you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary.
To our lives he brings joy and peace,
justice, mercy, and love.

Lord,
bless all who look upon this manger;
may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus,
and raise up our thoughts to him,
who is God-with-us and Saviour of all,
and who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All: Amen



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