



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.

## SOLEMNITY OF THE BIRTH OF THE LORD CHRISTMAS DAY

25 – 12 – 20

Why is Christmas usually regarded as the principal Christian feast, whereas in fact that honour of course belongs to Easter?

*Perhaps it's because we have 'tinsellised' Christmas and made it 'nice': a feast that seems to say nothing about suffering and death, a feast that we in fact can't bear to be associated with suffering and death.*

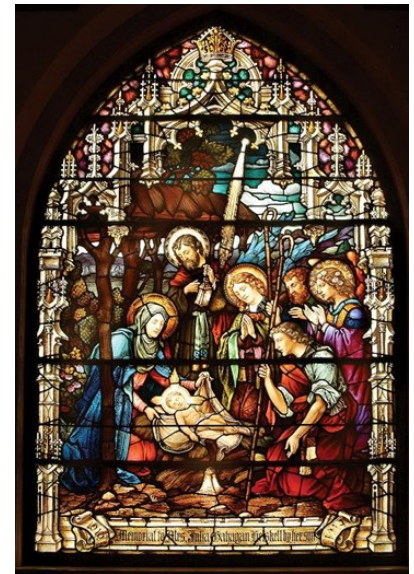
But in fact Christmas is **all** about what it is to be human: 'The Word **became flesh**':

the mystery of the Incarnation, the becoming-flesh, of God says that God is to be found in all the struggles of human life: *the searching, the failing, the sinfulness, the suffering, the sickness, the dying:*

**not to take those things away, but to be present within them, and ultimately, as Easter proclaims, to transform them into life.**

Christmas isn't a 'nice' feast, but we make it so. But it *is* a joyful feast: the joyful feast that God became all that we are.

*Fr Colin*



*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us*

### WELCOME



A very warm welcome to anyone visiting our parish this Christmas. It is good to have you with us. If you have any questions or would like to know more about our community please visit our parish website at [www.lindfieldkillara.org.au](http://www.lindfieldkillara.org.au) for information on parish programmes and ministries.

We wish you a holy and happy Christmas. Please visit us again.

### NOTICE OF CHANGED WEEKDAY MASS PROGRAMME IN CHRISTMAS-NEW YEAR PERIOD

*Our weekday Mass programme will be a little different in the week between Christmas and New Year, and also in the first few weeks of the New Year. Please watch the bulletin each week for details.*

For this coming week :

<b>Mon. 28<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	10:00am at Killara
<b>Tues. 29<sup>th</sup> Dec.</b>	10:00am at Killara
<b>Wed. 30<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	No Mass
<b>Thurs. 31<sup>st</sup> Dec</b>	10:00am at Lindfield
<b>Fri. 1<sup>st</sup> Jan</b>	10:00am at Lindfield

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Please note that the Parish Office is **CLOSED** until Tuesday 5th January.

### CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES

are available on the seats .

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 at Masses over the next few weeks.



### NEW YEAR'S DAY: SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

One of the special feast days of this Christmas Season is the greatest & the most ancient of the feasts of Mary – **1<sup>st</sup> January, New Year's Day: (the solemnity of Mary as Mother of God).**

New Year's Day is the Octave Day of Christmas and celebrates Mary's role in our salvation: that it was through her acceptance of God's call and placing herself at the service of God that the Word was made flesh in and through her. As such this feast celebrates Mary as our model as she challenges us likewise to be 'mothers of God' bringing Jesus to birth in our world through our own lives.

**There will be a combined Mass on that day for the whole parish at 10am which will be celebrated in Holy Family Church at Lindfield .**



## THE MYSTICISM OF THE CRIB

No more shall people call you "Forsaken,"  
or your land "Desolate," but you shall be called "My Delight,"

When Pablo Picasso was a young child, a huge fire broke out in the city where his family lived. A night of chaos followed with people rushing about the streets shouting, commotion, and anarchy everywhere. Later, as an adult, Picasso recalled that night and described how, through all the commotion, he sat snug inside a harness-vest on his father's chest, watching everything around him, all the turmoil, from a secure, protected space. He felt no fear at all, only wonder, as he took it all in. People were fearing for their lives, but he was snug and safe on his father's chest.

This was not without long-term effects in his life. Art critics have pointed out that, as an artist, Picasso painted from precisely that perspective—a safe perch from which he could look at bedlam and disorder while being quite secure himself.

My memories are not exactly those of Picasso, but I have a warm memory too about being a child and feeling snug and secure in a world full of cold and chaos. My memory has to do with Christmas eve and going to church and seeing in the crib at the front of the church, the baby Jesus. Our parish still has the same crib, all these years later, and when I am home at Christmas and celebrate mass in the local parish, I still see parents bringing their young children forward to the crib to look at the nativity scene.

What goes on in the mind of a child when she or he looks at the infant, Jesus, sleeping in a manger of straw, surrounded by Mary, Joseph, the shepherds and the various animals? As adults, it is easy to be cynical about Christmas cribs—a plastic doll, lying on plastic straw. The stuff of saccharine, not of mysticism. But what does go on in the mind of a child?

Partly I am guessing and vaguely I am remembering, but a child, at least one who is not yet deeply wounded by some kind of abuse, will feel, before the crib, some of the same things that Picasso felt on the night of that great fire, the security of seeing things from the perspective of being held snug on a loving parent's chest.

To a child's eyes, the Christmas crib is heaven frozen in time. All the peace promised by Isaiah's vision is there: a little baby, the prince of peace, the God of the whole universe, asleep peacefully in the straw, surrounded by a

loving mother and an attentive father and praying shepherds and animals who are too stunned by the very sight of it all to even move. To a child, the nativity scene is the snug-harness of safety on the father's chest or the mother's breast. The peace and security once felt at the mother's breast returns.

When a child sees and feels this, and any innocent heart will, that child walks away from the crib with a mystic's eye and a mystic's heart. For a time, at least, he or she will see and feel things from the perspective of the crib—where the God of the poor, the peaceful, the little and the innocent rules the world.

At the last supper, the scriptures tell us the beloved apostle rested his head on Jesus' breast, a gesture of unique friendship and intimacy. This is a mystical image that parallels what we have just been describing. When you put your head on another's breast, you have your ear just above that person's heart and are able to hear his or her heartbeat.

To see the world while hearing Christ's heartbeat. This is the real Christmas invitation. When the gospels tell us that it was the same disciple who leaned on Christ's breast who later looked into the tomb and "saw" that Christ had risen, it means much more than a simple physical registering of the fact that Jesus was no longer in the tomb. It means that the beloved disciple saw precisely as someone who is, at the same time, hearing the heartbeat of Christ. As a result, it says, he understood—with his soul.

St Bonaventure once said that God gave us three eyes: the eye of the body, a physical eye through which we see things; the eye of the mind, a capacity to see things through reasoning and thought; and the eye of the soul, a capacity to see, feel and understand the things of God.

Christmas wants us to engage the eye of the soul. It is about leaning our head on the crib, Jesus' breast, in order to hear his heartbeat and then turning our eyes out to the world to see things from that perspective.

The crib is the harness-vest on the mother's breast.

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

聖家節 (慶日) 27.12.2020

**讀經一** (你親生的兒子要做你的承繼人。)

恭讀創世紀 15:1-6;21:1-3

**答唱詠** 詠105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9

【答】：他是我們的天主；他永遠信守自己的盟約。(參閱詠105:7,8)

領：請眾感謝上主，呼號他的聖名；請眾在萬民中，宣揚他的功行。請眾歌頌他，詠讚他，傳述他的奇妙化工。【答】

領：請你們以他的聖名為光榮；願尋求上主的人，樂滿心中。請眾尋求上主和他的德能，要時常不斷追求他的儀容。【答】

領：天主的僕人亞巴郎的後裔，上主揀選的雅各伯的兒子！上主是我們的天主；他的統治遍及普世各處。【答】

領：他永遠懷念著自己的盟約，直到萬代不忘自己的許諾；就是向亞巴郎所立的盟約，向依撒格所起的誓諾。【答】

**讀經二** (亞巴郎、撒辣及依撒格的信德。)

恭讀致希伯來人書 11:8,11-12,17-19

**福音前歡呼**

領：天主在古時，曾多次，並以多種方式，藉著先知，對我們的祖先說過話。但在這末期，他藉著自己的兒子，對我們說了話。天主立了他為萬有的承繼者，並藉著他，造成了宇宙。(希1:1-2)

**福音** (孩子漸漸長大，充滿智慧。)

恭讀聖路加福音 2:22,39-40

按梅瑟的法律，一滿了他們取潔的日期，耶穌的父母——若瑟和瑪利亞，便帶著孩子上耶路撒冷，去獻給上主。他們按照上主的法律，辦完了一切，便返回加里肋亞，他們的本城納匝肋。孩子漸漸長大而強壯，充滿智慧；天主的恩寵常在他身上。——上主的話。

\*\*華人天主教會北區中心Immaculate Heart of Mary Church Killara 12月27日正午12時

\*\*牧職修女 司徒金美修女 0419- 426899

\*\*北區中心聯絡 Gloria Cheung ☎0416-118089

**He was created of a mother whom He created. He was carried by hands that He formed. He cried in the manger in wordless infancy, He the Word, without whom all human eloquence is mute.**

*St Augustine*

**The idea that there's a force of love and logic behind the universe is overwhelming to start with, if you believe it. Actually, maybe even far-fetched to start with, but the idea that that same love and logic would choose to describe itself as a baby born in straw and poverty is genius, and brings me to my knees, literally. To me, as a poet, I am just in awe of that. It makes some sort of poetic sense. It's the thing that makes me a believer, though it didn't dawn on me for many years. Bono**

## 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

### MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

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

### FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

#### PSALM 97:1-6

Sing a new song to the Lord  
for God has worked wonders.  
The Lord's right hand and holy arm  
have brought salvation.

The Lord has made known his salvation;  
has shown his justice to the nations.  
The Lord has remembered his truth and love  
for the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation of our God.  
Shout to the Lord all the earth,  
ring out your joy.

Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp,  
with the sound of music.  
With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
acclaim the King, the Lord.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia! A holy day has dawned upon us.  
Come you nations and adore the Lord. Today a  
great light has come upon the earth. Alleluia!**

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

**Recently deceased:** Eileen Mary Fahey, 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:**  
Henry Yee Joy, Jeanette McInerney

### THE NICENE CREED

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

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,

*(all bow at the following words in  
bold)*

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

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

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

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

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

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

### FOR SUNDAY 27TH

#### PSALM

127:1-5

O blessed are those who fear the Lord  
and walk in God's ways!  
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.  
You will be happy and prosper.

Your wife like a fruitful vine  
in the heart of your house;  
your children like shoots of the olive,  
around your table.

Indeed thus shall be blessed  
those who fear the Lord.  
May the Lord bless you from Zion  
all the days of your life!

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia! May the peace of Christ rule in  
your hearts, and the fullness of his message live  
within you. Alleluia!**

### PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

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.**

**A HUGE THANK YOU** to all those who have worked so hard to make our Christmas celebrations special in the very demanding circumstances of 2020: all those who helped to prepare MacKillop Hall and Killara church for our celebrations, our parish staff, our musicians and singers, liturgical ministers, those who coordinated the preparations for our Children's Masses and so many more. A very special word of thanks to Alison Williams and Jean Shatek on our parish staff for the enormous effort they put into dealing with the hammer blow which came to our booking system for Christmas Masses when the four square metre rule was re-introduced to combat the Covid outbreak—it was a truly monumental task and they worked so hard to ensure that everyone could still get a seat. *Fr Colin*



## YOUTH AT LINDFIELD KILLARA PARISH

Our Parish community would not be complete without the wonderful gifts of our youth. From birth to young adult, we aim provide opportunities for young people to enrich their faith and build a lifelong relationship with our Parish community.

The benefits a youth programme stretch way beyond simple entertainment. Youth who participate in activities and faith-based programmes learn leadership skills and how to deal with the pressure of everyday life. Our youth community provides positive peer influences in a safe setting and helps adolescents connect to networks and resources in the broader community.

Below, we've listed a few of the ways that we try to engage our youth. 2020 has been a year of great change for us. We've had lots of time to reflect on how we can best serve our young people in the parish in 2021. As we try to adapt to the new "normal", we encourage you to check our ever-changing programme by looking us up on our website: [www.lindfieldkillara.org.au](http://www.lindfieldkillara.org.au); on Facebook at *Lindfield Killara Catholic Parish*, or email us at [youth@lindfieldkillara.org.au](mailto:youth@lindfieldkillara.org.au).

**Playgroup** - Our playgroup for kids below school-age generally meets in St Brigid's Hall in the Shirley Wallace Centre (above Holy Family Church in Lindfield). In the past the group has met on Wednesdays in the mornings.

**Children's Liturgy of the Word** - During the school term children from kindy to year 6 are invited to join us for a special liturgy just for kids during the 9.15 Killara Mass and the 10.15 Lindfield Mass. Kids leave the Mass to learn about the Gospel of the day in "kids' terms" so they can better understand.

**Killara Monthly Children's Mass** - Held one Sunday per month at the 9.15am Mass at Killara, young children are invited to get involved in the Mass in a variety of ways – singing, reading, etc. Afterwards, there's morning tea in the hall.

**Youth and Family Mass** - Once a month, 5.30pm, Lindfield church (in 2021 this will be the third Sunday of the Month), our Youth & Family Mass aims to engage the older youth in our parish. Youth serve in all ministries and after Mass (when we're not in Covid restrictions!) all are invited to a potluck supper in St Brigid's Hall. Our youth choir is a special feature at this Mass!

**Sacramental Programme** - You can find all the information you need on our parish website under 'Sacraments' → 'Children's Sacraments'.

**Youth Programme for Primary Aged Kids** - After kids have completed their sacraments, we invite them to join our youth programme at the Parish. We are developing a whole new programme for kids in 2021 – so stay tuned!!! – but we aim to offer opportunities for kids to engage in their faith such as social justice activities; opportunities to engage with the elderly; learning how to ring our church bells; altar serving and other ministries in the Mass; fun, social activities and excursions.

**Youth Programme for High School Aged Youth** - The aim of our high school programme is to provide a safe place to socialise in a faith-based setting, helping them understand how faith can help them. We have offered many different activities for youth in the past and hope to broaden this in 2021. Some of our past offerings include: a career fair giving a chance for youth to learn about different careers of our parishioners; social justice and community service activities; social activities including games, sports and excursions; and speakers talking about a variety of faith-related topics.

**Young Adults (aged 18 – 25)** – A group of young adults gather once a month for dinner and discussion or reflection after the Sunday evening Mass at Lindfield. The meetings are mostly social in nature with a very relaxed vibe. Occasionally the group invites speakers in to talk about topics relevant to young adults. Dates of meetings and topics for 2021 will be published on the website.

In the beginning  
was the Word; the  
Word was with God  
and the Word was  
God

...through him all  
things came to be,  
not one thing had its  
being but through  
him.

All that came to be  
had life in him, and  
that life was the  
light of people, a  
light that shines in  
the dark, a light that  
darkness could not  
overpower.

...The Word was  
made flesh, he lived  
among us, and we  
saw his glory, the  
glory that is his as  
the only Son of the  
Father, full of grace  
and truth.

...Indeed from his  
fullness we have, all  
of us received, grace  
in return for grace.

John's Gospel  
Chapter 1

Something which  
has existed from the  
beginning, that we  
have heard, and we  
have seen with our  
own eyes;

that we have  
watched and  
touched with our  
hands:

the Word who is life  
that is our subject.

That life was made  
visible: we saw it  
and we are giving  
our testimony,  
telling you of the  
eternal life which  
was with the Father  
and has been made  
visible to us.

1 John 1: 1- 2

**THIS SUNDAY 27TH** is the Solemnity of the Holy Family of Nazareth, patronal feast of our Lindfield church and our Parish School.

**NEXT SUNDAY 3RD JANUARY** is the great Christmas feast of the Epiphany of the Lord.