



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.

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE BIRTH OF THE LORD CHRISTMAS DAY

25 - 12 - 25



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

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 for information on parish programmes and ministries.

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

WEEKDAY MASS THIS WEEK

THE DAYS AFTER THE 25TH - THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS

Only Christmas and Easter have an Octave - eight days which count liturgically as One Great Day. Please try to come to weekday Mass to celebrate the great Christian feast of the Lord's birth - and after the Octave we continue with the remainder of the Christmas Season until the feast of the Epiphany on Sunday 4th January.

Fri. 26th Dec No parish Mass. 9:00am Ordinariate Mass at Killara (Feast of St Stephen)

The weekend of 27th/28th December - the Sunday within the Octave - is the celebration of the Holy Family - a feast with the rank of 'Solemnity' in our parish as it is the patronal feast of one of our two Parish Churches.

Mon. 29th Dec 8:00am at Killara (Fifth Day in the Octave)

Tues. 30th Dec. 8:00am at Killara (Sixth Day in the Octave)

Wed. 30th Dec. 10:00am at Lindfield (Seventh Day in the Octave)



One of the special feast days of this Christmas Season is the greatest and the most ancient of the feasts of Mary - 1st January, New Year's Day: (the Solemnity of Mary as Mother of God).

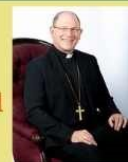
New Year's Day is the Octave Day of Christmas and celebrates Mary's role in our salvation: that it was through her acceptance of God's call and placing herself at the service of God that the Word was made flesh in and through her. As such this feast celebrates Mary as our model as she challenges us likewise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

MASS ON NEW YEAR'S DAY WILL BE AT 10:00AM IN LINDFIELD CHURCH.

BISHOP ANTHONY'S MESSAGES

Bishop Anthony has prepared two video messages addressed to us all: the first addressing the horror of the attacks at Bondi and the grief and pain of our Jewish sisters and brothers; the second his annual Christmas message.

Both can be found on our parish website (www.lindfieldkillara.org.au) under 'News and Events'.



*As we gather in worship on this day we acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which our parish is found.
We also pay our respects to Elders past and present.*

Food for the spirit: Intimate and Cosmic

If Luke insists on seeing the conception and birth of Jesus in the full sweep of Israel's history, the fourth Evangelist's perspective stretches even beyond that to the cosmic. And John does that in some of the most powerful poetry in the Bible. Let us use this brief space to explore what may be the single most influential sentence in Christian literature:

*And the Word became flesh
and made his dwelling among us
and we saw his glory
the glory as of the Father's only Son
full of grace and truth. (John 1:14).*

This morning's newspaper tells me speculations that stretch me into dimensions way beyond the peeled orange and warm coffee in front of me. First, a report on the study of the piece of Mars discovered in Antarctica twelve years ago. Scientists figure it was chipped off that planet by an asteroid collision some 4.5 billion years ago, went into orbit around the Sun during the next several billion years, and then, recently (around eleven thousand years ago), got sucked into Earth's orbit and finally landed. It bears what some think is the first evidence of life in our solar system apart from Earth. Another page carries recent conjecture about the mysterious extinction of dinosaurs 65 million years ago, after they had been around for 160 million years.

John the Evangelist knew of no such data and speculations, but his vision is every bit as cosmic as our own considerations about the story of the universe, from Big Bang to the emergence of life here on "the third rock from the sun." By the time he has reached verse 14 of his prologue, he has described the Word (the logos, the principle of order in all creation, God's sole medium of self-communication) as having brought all that is into being (galaxies, solar system, dinosaurs, and all), and then as

being the "light of humanity," as shining into the darkness (of evil), and being neither understood nor overcome by that evil. Finally, what has been proclaimed in broad, somewhat veiled terms becomes powerfully explicit in verse 14. That eternal logos became flesh in Jesus of Nazareth. The remaining phrases spell out the implications of that astounding utterance.

And made his dwelling among us. The root sense of the Greek verb here is "pitched his tent." What the wilderness tabernacle was (the portable sacred space where Israel accessed in a special way the presence of Yhwh), what its successors (the first and second stone temples of Jerusalem) were—these sacred dwellings have now been surpassed in that very function by the flesh of Jesus. The Word made flesh is now the privileged sacred space for encountering God, the very creator of space and time.

And we saw his glory. In the Hebrew Bible, *kabod* ("glory") is the physical manifestation of the mysterious presence of God. The humanity of Jesus is exactly that, in a consummate way.

Full of grace and truth. "Grace and truth" are a consecrated biblical phrase associated especially with God's covenant fidelity (as in Exod 34:6). That is, we have come to know God's covenant love in a full and final way in the humanity of Jesus of Nazareth.

What is for us a feast of all that is warm, "up close and personal," Luke and John would have us celebrate what is comprehensible only in the fullness of all history and in the vastness of all creation.

No wonder Christmas stretches us.

Dennis Hamm, SJ

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

St Vincent de Paul Society ~ Christmas Appeal ~



St Vincent de Paul
Helps People

As the feast of the Lord's birth approaches Advent invites us in a special way to look to our care for those in need. Please support the St Vincent de Paul Society Christmas Appeal. Donations \$2 and over are tax deductible.

Envelopes are available in the church foyers.

OR you can contribute by scanning
this QR code:



A HUGE THANK YOU

to all those who have worked so hard to make our Christmas celebrations special : to our Parish Office staff for all their work in coordinating the preparations for our celebrations; all those who helped to prepare our two churches for our celebrations, our musicians and singers, liturgical ministers, those who coordinated the preparations for our Children's Masses and so many more.

Fr Colin

'O come, O come, Emmanuel'.

Christmas and Hannukah see a resonance between the Jewish and the Christian soul: both pray for God's light to illumine our human darkness, both long in hope for salvation. 'O come Emmanuel'.

This year that cry is even more heart-wrenching as our Jewish sisters and brothers grieve the senseless death and injury of so many loved ones.

We may feel powerless to help, but there is one very powerful thing we can and must do - and that is to raise our voices each and every time we experience antisemitism; never to allow it pass by without taking a stand; and of course, ensuring that it finds no place in our own heart.



Fr Colin

*May light shine in the darkness
(Isaiah 60:1-3)*

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

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!

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

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

The sacraments for the children in 2026



The dates and details of our preparation
programmes for Confirmation, First
Reconciliation and First Holy Communion
are now available on our website
(www.lindfieldkillara.org.au) under
'Sacraments' —> 'Children's Sacraments'.

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

Rec. deceased: Barry Haraldson, Sister Marie Westblade, Mar-
garet O'Rourke, Janice Swanson, Marilyn O'Neill, Mary Mo-
ran, Julie Moloney, Maria Casella, John Pera, Dennis Tonitto.
Anniversary: John Michael Swan, Hans Schanz, Jeanette McIn-
erney, Margaret Ford, Stella Salvaris, Beverley Gledhill and
Henry Yee-Joy, John Quirk, Bernardita Glinoga and Zac
Ridondo. **And for:** Mollie Curtin, deceased members of the
Curtin, Rolfe, Hughes and Egan families, George Joseph
Blayney, Marion Grace Blayney, Thomas & Eileen Wade.

Please pray for those who are sick: Diana Rosewell, Genevieve
Larkin, Elvira Rodriguez, Wolfgang Liers, Tanya Walsh, Jutta
Mathur, Jessica Keen, Ali Crawford, William Wise, Janette
Brennan, Barbara and John McMullen.

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 genuflect at the 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

CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES



are available on the pews
in both our churches.

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.

Please support the Christmas Offerings. The
envelopes can be placed on the collection plates
along with the normal collections over the next few
weeks.

Ways that you can support our parish

- ◆ **BY DIRECT DEBIT CONTRIBUTIONS** from your bank account
to our parish accounts:

1st Collection: (providing for Fr Colin & sick clergy of the
diocese): BSB 062 784 Ac 10000 1624

Second Collection: (providing for all the operating costs of
the parish): BSB 062 784 Acct 10000
1623

OR

- ◆ **CREDIT CARD** : scan this code & then select
each of our two collections:

OR

- ◆ **PERIODIC PAYMENTS FROM YOUR CREDIT
CARD:** Just click on the hotlink box entitled
'Supporting parish finances' on our homepage
(www.lindfieldkillara.org.au) or email
accounts@lindfieldkillara.org.au for assistance.

- ◆ **TAP MACHINES** are available in our two churches.



What's on for the kids, youth & families in 2026?

Children's Mass



is at the 10.15am Mass on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of every month (except January). The Mass features our CHILDREN'S CHOIR for kids in primary school. If your child would like to join the choir, please contact the Parish Office and let us know

After Mass we have COG (Children of God) activities for kids, and morning tea in St Brigid's Hall above the church for all.



Youth Mass



Every Sunday at 6pm we have a Youth Mass for all. Great music and a youth choir are featured. On the third Sunday of the month following Mass we have a potluck supper - bring a dish to share and enjoy the community feel! That's dinner done and dusted by 7.30pm!

Playgroup

In 2026 our playgroup will meet on Thursday mornings from 9-10am. Join a group of parents and carers along with your pre-school child for a cuppa and a playdate for the kids.

Junior Altar Servers



Altar serving for those in year 4 and above (must have received First Holy Communion) is a wonderful way to serve God and the community, whilst building confidence and responsibility for your child. Training takes place in February; contact the Parish Office if you're interested.

Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW)

Your children will love coming to church! At the 10.15am Mass on 1st & 3rd Sundays (except in January) we will be trialling CLOW. Children leave the Mass to hear the word of the Lord in a simpler, child-friendly format, then re-join their parents for the Eucharistic liturgy.

Also: if you're interested in helping with this ministry please contact the Parish Office.

You can also find all this information and more by clicking on the hotlink box 'Involvement of our Young People' on the homepage of our parish website (www.lindfieldkillara.org.au)



COMMUNION: SILENT NIGHT

Silent night, Holy night, All is calm, all is bright.

Round the virgin mother and child

Holy infant so tender and mild.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace. Sleep in Heavenly Peace.

Silent night, Holy night, Shepherds quake at the sight:

Glories stream from heaven afar,

Heav'nly hosts sing Alleluia.

Christ the Saviour is born. Christ the Saviour is born.

Silent night, Holy night, Son of God, love's pure light

Radiant beams your holy face,

With the dawn of redeeming grace,

Jesus, Lord at thy birth. Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

RECESSIONAL

1. Joy to the world!

The Lord has come

Let earth receive her King

Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room

And heav'n and nature sing.

And heav'n and nature sing

And heav'n and heav'n

and nature sing

2. Joy to the earth!

The Saviour reigns;

Let us our songs employ;

While fields and floods,

rocks, hills and plains

Repeat the sounding joy,

Repeat the sounding joy,

Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy

3. He rules the world

with truth and grace

And makes the nations prove

The glories of His righteousness

And wonders of His love

And wonders of His love

And wonders, wonders of His love.

HYMNS FOR CHRISTMAS MORNING MASSES:

ENTRANCE:

O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him
born the King of Angels:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord

God from God, Light from Light,
here in the Virgin's womb, he deigns to lie;
Son of the Father, Begotten, not created: **R.**

Sing choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God in the highest: **R.**

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning
Jesus, to you be glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; **R.**

DEDICATION OF THE GIFTS:

Hark! the herald angels sing,
glory to the newborn King,
peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."
Hark! the herald angels sing,
glory to the newborn King.

Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold Him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, th'incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus our Emmanuel!
Hark! the herald angels sing,
glory to the newborn King!

Hail, the heav'n-born prince of peace!
Hail, the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
glory to the newborn King!

