



*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.*

*We are committed to
being a Child-Safe
Community*

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 23 - 8 - 26

*This week: Is 22:19-23, Rom 11:33-36, Mt 16:13-20
Next week: Jer 20:7-9, Rom 12:1-2, Mt 16:21-27*



*'The question posed by Jesus to his disciples in today's Gospel has reverberated not only over that Palestinian countryside but down through the centuries since:
'Who do you say I am?'*

People will answer that question through the experience of Jesus that they have *through his disciples*, and not just through who we are individually but especially through who we are communally - as a parish, as a Church.

Do they see a group of people who love one another?

*Do they truly see a **community**?*

Do they see a group of people who bring energy and life to their worship?

Do they see a group of people who want to build God's Kingdom, not their own?

Do they see a group of people with a missionary, outgoing, outlook; or a community focussed only on itself?

Do they see a group of people who pray?

Do they see a group of people with a passion for social justice?

'Who do you say I am?' We can't overestimate the influence we have on how the world will answer that question through the type of community we work to make ourselves be?

Fr Colin



*Early Enrolments Open
for Confirmation
Programme will
run through
Term 4
this year*

Scan me



*See QR Code for
more info or click
here*



CatholicCare
DIOCESE OF BROKEN BAY

DIOCESAN HOMELESSNESS FUNDRAISER
Thank you for your generosity

Our Memorial Walls



Ordering Memorial Plaques:

If you would like to order one or more Memorial Plaques for either church, please contact the Parish Office. You can also find out more about the plaques and download the forms required for ordering the plaques by visiting our parish website and going to 'Our Parish' → 'Memorial Walls'.

Orders need to be in by 1st October.

Any new plaques will be blessed as part of one of the below-mentioned Masses.

A Mass is celebrated each November for those whose names are on the Memorial Walls.

The dates for the Masses this year are:

** at Killara - at the 5:30pm Vigil Mass on Saturday 14th November*

** at Lindfield - at the 10:15am Mass on Sunday 8th November*



Join a Brekky
van team
We need more
young adults!



Email today!

parishoffice@lindfieldkillara.org.au

THE MAJOR RELIC OF ST CARLO ACUTIS



The major relic of St Carlo Acutis is coming to the
Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay!

It will be welcomed into Our Lady of Dolours Church,
Chatswood on Thursday, 3 September with Solemn
Vespers at 6:00pm.

Young Adults Events at Chatswood

Join young adults (aged 18+) from around the Diocese for an
evening of fellowship, prayer and formation at Chatswood, as
we reflect on St Carlo Acutis' life and devotion to the Eucharist.

The event will feature food, praise and worship music, an
inspiring talk and the opportunity for veneration of the major
relic of St Carlo.

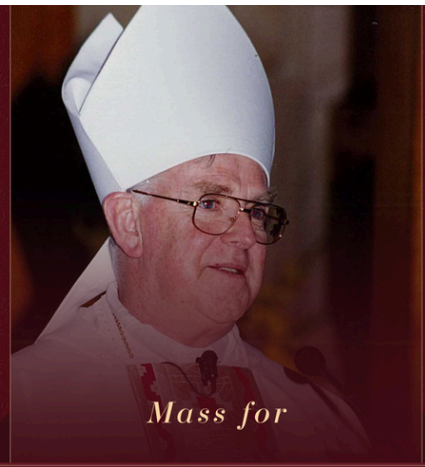
Date: Friday, 4 September 2026

Time: 6.30pm – 9.00pm

Location: Our Lady of Dolours Church, Chatswood

Enquiries: mission@bbcatholic.org.au or [Book Now!](#)

We apologise for the last
minute cancellation of our
Weekday Masses last week.
Please know our Weekday
Masses will resume this
week.



Mass for

BISHOP DAVID WALKER'S

30th Episcopal Anniversary

OUR LADY OF DOLOURS,
CHATSWOOD

THURSDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2026
7.00PM

Hospitality following Mass. All Welcome.



CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF
BROKEN BAY



Parish retreats at Tarrawarra Abbey next year

At present we have two options:

1. Mon. 5th Apr. – Sun. 11th Apr.
2. Mon. 12th Apr. – Sun. 18th Apr.
(the second option coincides with school
holidays).

If you would like to book in, or just
find out more, please contact Fr Colin
as soon as possible.



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

SPIRITUALITY AND STEADINESS

Something in us is dissatisfied with the ordinary. There's something in the ordinary that can have us think that predictable routines, domestic rhythms, and commitment to duty can weigh us down, swallow us up, and anchor us outside the more rewarding waters of passion, romance, creativity, dance, and celebration.

We often vilify the ordinary. I remember a young woman, a student of mine, who shared in class that her greatest fear in life was to succumb to the ordinary, "to end up content, a little housewife and mother, happily doing laundry commercials!"

If you're an artist or have an artistic temperament, you're prone to this kind of feeling. That's one of the propensities of an artist. Doris Lessing, for example, once made the comment that George Eliot could have been a better writer "if she hadn't been so moral." What Lessing is suggesting is that Eliot kept herself too anchored in the ordinary, too safe, too secure, too far from the edges.

Kathleen Norris, in her biographical work *The Virgin of Bennington*, shares how as a young writer she fell victim to this kind of ideology: "Artists, I believed were much too serious to live sane and normal lives. Driven by inexorable forces in an uncaring world, they were destined for an inevitable, sometimes deadly, but always ennobling wrestle with gloom and doom."

An ennobling wrestle with gloom and doom! That does have a seductive sound to it, particularly for those of us who fancy ourselves as artistic, intellectual, or spiritual. That's why on a given day any of us can feel a certain condescending pity for those who achieve simple happiness. Easy for them, we think, but they're selling themselves short! That's the artist inside of us speaking. You've never seen an artist doing a laundry commercial!

Don't get me wrong. Not all of this is bad. Jesus, himself, said that we do not live by bread alone. No artist needs that explained. He or she knows that safe routine, dram duty, and a mortgage that's been paid, alone do not necessarily make for heaven. We need bread, but we also need beauty, color, and celebration.

Doris Lessing, who was a great artist, joined the communist party as a young woman but later left it after she'd matured. Why did she leave? One phrase says it all. She left the communist party, she says, "because they didn't believe in color!"

Life, Jesus assures us, is not meant to be lived in black and white, that is, as simply an endless cycle of rising, showering, going off to work, responsibly doing a job, coming home, having supper, getting things set for the next day, and then going back to bed.

And yet, there is much to be said for that seemingly dram routine. The rhythm of the ordinary is, in the end, the deepest wellspring from which to draw joy and meaning. Kathleen Norris, after telling us about her youthful temptation to side-step the ordinary to engage in the more ennobling battle with gloom and doom, shares how a wonderful mentor, Betty Kray, helped steer her clear of that pitfall. Kray encouraged her to write out of her joy as well as her gloom and to "dismiss the romance of insanity as a sham." As Norris puts it: "She tried hard to convince me of what her friends who had been institutionalized for madness knew all too well: that the clean simple appreciation of ordinary, daily things is a treasure like none on earth."

Sometimes a different mentor teaches us this. When we regain our health and energy after having been ill, off work, and out of our normal routines and rhythms, nothing is as sweet as returning to the ordinary – our work, our routine, the normal stuff of everyday life. Only after it has been taken away and then given back, do we realize that the clean, simple appreciation of daily things is the ultimate treasure.

Artists, though, are still partially right. The ordinary can weigh us down, and keep us outside the deeper waters of creativity, of romance, of color, and of the wildness that lets us dance. But, that being admitted, anchors and weight also have a positive function. They keep us from being swept away. They anchor our sanity. They keep us steady. The rhythm of the ordinary is perhaps the most powerful anchor of all to hold us in sanity.

Paul Simon, in a 1970s song entitled, *An American Tune*, sings about coping with confusion, mistakes, betrayal, and other events that shatter our innocence. And he ends that rather sad ballad quite peacefully with the words: "Still tomorrow's gonna be another working day, and I'm trying to get some rest. That's all I'm trying, is to get some rest."

Obedience to that imperative helps anchor our sanity. There's much to be said about being a contented, ordinary person, anchored in the rhythms of the ordinary, trying at the end of the workday to get some rest.

Fr Ron Rolheiser omi



COMPASSION

OPEN MORNING
TUESDAY 25 AUGUST 9AM - 11AM
www.mercychatswood.nsw.edu.au

BE YOUR BEST SELF

Mercy Catholic College Chatswood
Register today and see why Mercy girls thrive

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50th Anniversary
2026 LINDFIELD
Art Show & FAIR
18- 20TH SEPTEMBER

The 50th Anniversary of the LASF begins with the **Opening Night Party - 7PM Friday 18th September**, featuring displays from spectacular Australian artists, champagne on arrival and a live performance by 'Accent Strings' string trio!

Proceeds support P&F endeavours for the beautiful children at Holy Family School. **Let the magic begin!**

GET TICKETS
HERE



SCAN ME!



ENTRANCE HYMN: FATHER WE PRAISE YOU

Refrain:

Father, we praise You,
We your trusting people;
Father, we thank You,
Ruler and Creator,
Giver of all our joy.

Now to your altar, in answer to your call,
We come to give thanks to you and praise you.

Send forth the light of your truth to be our guide
And show us the way to our eternal home.

*Richard Connolly ©1971, Willow Publishing**

DEDICATION OF THE GIFTS: FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH

For the beauty of the earth
For the glory of the skies
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies

Refrain: Christ our God, to you we raise
This our sacrifice of praise

For the beauty of the hour
Of the day and of the night
Hill and vale and tree and flow'r
Sun and Moon and stars of light. *Refrain*

For the joy of human love
Brother, sister, parent, child
Friends on earth and friends above
Pleasures pure and undefiled, *Refrain*

For each perfect gift divine
To our race so freely given
Joys bestowed by love's design,
Flow'rs of earth and fruits of heav'n *Refrain*

*Public Domain – Music: adapt. by David Evans ('E. Arthur') (1874-1949).
Text: Folliott Pierpoint (1835-1917)*

COMMUNION HYMN: JESUS, YOUR LIGHT

Jesus, your light is shining within us,
Let not my doubts and darkness speak to me.
Jesus, your light is shining within in us.
Let my heart always welcome your love.



Jacques Berthier ©1995 Taizé

RECESSIONAL HYMN: GLORY AND PRAISE TO OUR GOD

Refrain: Glory and praise to our God, who alone gives light to our days. Many are the blessings God bears to those who trust in His ways.

1.We, the daughters and sons of God who built the valleys and plains, praise the wonders our God has done in ev'ry heart that sings.

2.In his wisdom God strengthens us, like gold that's tested in fire. Though the power of sin prevails, our God is there to save.

*Dan Schutte ©1976, OCP.**

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Hymns for the Children's Mass

ENTRANCE HYMN : WE ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST

Chorus: We are the body of Christ,
called to the table, called to the feast,
oh, we are the family of Christ,
called to reach out, people of peace.

1. We are the hands of Christ reaching out and lifting our lives, caring for others, and healing our world, hands joined in prayer, living God's Word. (Chorus)

2. We are the voice of Christ calling for justice, doing what's right, lifting our voices, making our praise heard, voices together, proclaiming God's Word. (Chorus)

3. We are the heart of Christ strong in our faith, gentle in heart, one at the table, one in our God's love, hearts joined together, in Christ we are one. (Chorus)

*Andrew Chinn ©2012, OCP***

DEDICATION OF THE GIFTS : THESE HANDS

Chorus: These hands, this heart, this voice, my God.
These hands, this heart, this voice, my God.

With these hands I pray to you,
with these hands I work for you.
With these hands I show my love for you. (Chorus)

With this voice I speak to you, with this voice I sing to you.
With this voice I share my love for you. (Chorus)

With this heart I share your love,
with this heart I feel your love.
With this heart I live my love for you. (Chorus)

*Andrew Chinn ©2000, Andrew Chinn***

COMMUNION : HERE I AM LORD

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard My people's cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin My hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear My light to them? Whom shall I send?

Chorus: Here I am Lord. Is it I Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night. I will go Lord,
if You lead me, I will hold Your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne My people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak My word to them. Whom shall I send? (Chorus)

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give My life to them. Whom shall I send? (Chorus)

*Dan Schutte ©1981, OCP.**

RECESSIONAL : HEARTS ON FIRE

We gather as one people, called to share this mystery.
We bring our joys, our hopes, our dreams.
We are the rich and lonely, we are the poor and strong.
We come to share this moment,
gathering here, singing one song.

Chorus: With our hearts on fire with the love of Jesus,
hearts on fire, let's spread the word.
Hearts on fire, feel the spirit blazing hearts on fire,
called to live the good news in this land.
Settings hearts on fire, with our hearts on fire,
setting hearts on fire.

We long to live in freedom, we yearn for unity.
We dream of justice, joy and peace.
Spirit fill us with your power, Jesus help us live your call.
O creator give us wisdom
so we will be good news for all. (Chorus)

We are the voice of Jesus, we are his heart and hands.
We are his body in our land. Stand up, live the story,
to all the world proclaim. Go out to all creation,
lighting the fire, fanning the flames. (Chorus)

*Michael Mangano ©1999, Litmus Productions***

The Prayers and Responses of Mass

THE 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.

THE PSALM

Ps 137:1-3.6. 8. R. v. 8

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth.
Before the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple.

I thank you for your faithfulness and love
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul.

The Lord is high yet looks on the lowly
and the haughty God knows from afar.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands.

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 & 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 & the dead
& his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds
from the Father and 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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! You are Peter, the rock on which I
will build my Church; the gates of hell will not hold
out against it.
Alleluia!

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,
we proclaim your Death, O Lord,
until you come again.

FR RICHARD ROHR OFM'S MEDITATION: HOPE IS A DISCIPLINE

Organiser and activist Mariame Kaba reflects on hope as a discipline.

For me, hope doesn't preclude feeling sadness or frustration or anger or any other emotion that makes total sense. Hope isn't an emotion, you know? Hope is not optimism....

The idea of hope being a discipline is something I heard from a nun many years ago who was talking about it in conjunction with making sure we were of the world and in the world. Living in the afterlife already in the present was kind of a form of escape, but it was really, really important for us to live in the world and be of the world. The hope that she was talking about was this grounded hope that was practiced every day....

I bowed down to that. I heard that many years ago, and then I felt the sense of, "Oh my God. That speaks to me as a philosophy of living, that hope is a discipline and that we have to practice it every single day." Because in the world we live in, it's easy to feel a sense of hopelessness, that everything is all bad all the time, that nothing is going to change ever.... I understand why people feel that way. I just choose differently. I choose to think a different way, and I choose to act in a different way. I choose to trust people until they prove themselves untrustworthy.

Jim Wallis, who people know as a liberal Evangelical ... talks about the fact that hope is really believing in spite of the evidence and watching the evidence change. And that, to me, makes total sense. I believe ultimately that we're going to win, because I believe there are more people who want justice, real justice, than there are those who are working against that.

Kaba describes how short-term thinking prevents us from accessing hope:

I take a long view, understanding full well that I'm just a tiny, little part of a story that already has a huge antecedent and has something that is going to come after that. I'm definitely not going to be even close to around for seeing the end of it. That also puts me in the right frame of mind: that ... [what] I'm doing is actually pretty insignificant in world history, but if it's significant to one or two people, I feel good about that....

I talk to a lot of young organisers.... I'm always telling them—"Your timeline is not the timeline on which movements occur. Your timeline is incidental. Your timeline is only for yourself to mark your growth and your living." But that's a fraction of the living that's going to be done by the universe and that has already been done by the universe. When you understand that then it's a freedom, in my opinion, to actually be able to do the work that's necessary as you see it and to contribute in the ways that you see fit.

Killara Church
5:30pm Vigil
9.00am*

Lindfield Church
8.30am 10.15am**
12noon Chinese Mass
6:00pm Youth Mass***

* Morning Tea follows 9am Mass at Killara on the 1st Sunday.
** 10:15am Mass on the 2nd & 4th Sundays is a Children's Mass, with Children's Choir, and is followed by morning tea.
*** Parish Pot Luck dinner follows 6pm Mass on the 3rd Sunday

Weekday Mass this week

TWENTY-FIRST WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

Mon. 8am Killara - St Bartholomew
Tues. 8am Killara
Wed. 10am Lindfield
Thur. 10am Lindfield - St Monica
Fri. 10am Lindfield - St Augustine

The Ordinarie of Our Lady of the Southern Cross
(gathering in our church at Killara):

Mass Wednesday 6pm (preceded by Exposition from 5pm)
Thursday 9am Friday 9am Sunday 12 noon
Evensong 4th Sunday of the month 4pm

Sunday Mass Roster

SATURDAY Killara 5:30PM	22 August Fr Stephen	29 August Fr Hien
SUNDAY Lindfield 8:30AM Killara 9:00AM Lindfield 10:15AM Lindfield 12:00PM Lindfield 6:00PM	23 August Fr Anselam Fr Stephen Fr Anselam Fr Hien Fr Anselam	30 August Fr Anselam Fr Wehrle Fr Anselam Fr Kelly Fr Anselam

How to contact us

Fr Colin Blayney PP VF, Parish Priest
0475 558 500 colin@lindfieldkillara.org.au
Fr Setefano Mataele SM, Assistant Priest
0422 790897 setefano@lindfieldkillara.org.au

Parish Office Hours: Tue-Fri. - 9.30am - 4pm
Postal address: PO Box 22, Lindfield NSW 2070
P: 9416 3702 **E:** parishoffice@lindfieldkillara.org.au
Parish Website: www.lindfieldkillara.org.au

Fr Stephen Hill, Priest-in-residence
(voice only) 0474 303 261 fr.stephen@me.com

For all of our staff click on 'Our Parish' on the website.

Holy Family School: 4 Highfield Rd, Lindfield
E info@holyfamily.nsw.edu.au **Ph.** 7256 2141

Ways that you can support our parish

1. Direct debit contributions from your bank A/C:

1st Collection:
(providing for the priests of the parish & sick clergy):
BSB 062 784 Ac 10000 1624

2nd Collection:
(providing for all the operating costs of the parish):
BSB 062 784 Ac 10000 1623



2. Credit card: Scan the code & then select each of our two collections

3. 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.

4. The Tap Machines are available in our two churches.

AUGUST

Online Meditation Group every Wednesday 8:00-8:30am.

Wed 26th 10am Book Club

SEPTEMBER

Thurs 3rd 8.45am Playgroup

Fri 11th 10am Healing Mass - Killara

Sun 13th 10.15am Children's Mass followed by morn. tea

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

5:00-5:15pm Saturdays at Killara

Our Chinese Catholic Community

常年期第二十一主日 23.8.2026
中文主日彌撒正午12時

讀經一 (我要將達味家室的鑰匙放在他肩
上。)

恭讀依撒意亞先知書22:19-23
上主對宮廷長舍布納說:「我要革除你的職務,撤去你的地位。到那天,我要傳召希耳克雅的儿子厄里雅金,做我的僕人。我要把你的朝衣,給他穿上;把你的玉帶,給他束腰;將你的管治權,交在他手中。他將作耶路撒冷居民,及猶大家族的慈父。」

「我要將達味家室的鑰匙,放在他肩;他開了,沒有人能關;他關了,沒有人能開。我要堅定他,有如釘在硬地裡的木樁;他將成為自己家族榮譽的寶座。」——上主的話。

答唱詠 詠138:1-2, 2-3, 6, 8

【答】: 上主,你的仁慈永遠常存;求你不要放棄你的作品。(詠138:8)
領: 上主,我要全心稱謝你,因為你俯聽了我懇切的祈禱。我要在眾神前歌頌你,向你的聖所伏地致敬。【答】
領: 我要頌揚你的聖名,因為你信實而又慈愛。我幾時呼號你,你就俯允我,並增加我的力量。【答】
領: 上主尊高無比,卻垂顧弱小;驕傲的人,在他面前,無所遁形。上主,你的仁慈永遠常存,求你不要放棄你的作品。【答】

讀經二 (萬物都出於他,依賴他,而歸於他。)

恭讀聖保祿宗徒致羅馬人書 11:33-36
啊,天主的富裕、智慧和知識,是多麼高深!他的判斷,是多麼不可測量!他的道路,是多麼不可探索!有誰曾知道上主的心意?或者,有誰曾當過他的顧問?或者,有誰曾先施恩於他,而希望他還報呢?因為萬物都出於他,依賴他,而歸於他。願光榮歸於他,至於永世!阿們。——上主的話。

福音前歡呼

領: 亞肋路亞。

眾: 亞肋路亞。

領: 主說: 你是伯多祿 (磐石); 我要在這磐石上,建立我的教會;陰間的門,決不能戰勝她。(參閱瑪 16:18)

眾: 亞肋路亞。

福音 (你是伯多祿 (磐石); 我要在這磐石上,建立我的教會。)

恭讀聖瑪竇福音 16:13-20

那時候,耶穌來到了斐理伯的凱撒勒雅境內,就問門徒說:「人們說人子是誰?」門徒說:「有人說是洗者若翰;有人說是厄里亞;也有人說是耶肋米亞,或者先知中的一位。」

耶穌對他們說:「你們說我是誰?」

西滿伯多祿回答說:「你是默西亞,永生天主之子。」

耶穌回答他說:「約納的兒子西滿,你是有福的,因為不是肉和血啟示了你,而是我在天之父。我再給你說:你是伯多祿 (磐石); 我要在這磐石上,建立我的教會;陰間的門,決不能戰勝她。我要將天國的鑰匙交給你;凡你在地上所束縛的,在天上也要被束縛;凡你在地上所釋放的,在天上也要被釋放。」耶穌於是嚴禁門徒,不要對任何人說他是默西亞。——上主的話。

彌撒後,請各教友參加午餐聚會
Sunday School主日學 12:00 (中英雙語)
**牧職修女司徒金美修女 ☎0419-426899
**北區中心聯絡 Gloria Cheung ☎0416-118089

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

Recently deceased: Ronald Swanson, John Collins, Nora Moelle, David Lyons, Rodelio Pascual, Sarah Sherwood, Maureen Hathaway, Dawn Sasseen, Janet Farel, Elvira Rodriguez. **Anniversary:** Kevin Cavanagh, Nora Kelliher, Joan Reynolds, Ellen Lee, Faye Bartlett, Norma Campbell, John Pera and Mary Kane

Please pray for those who are sick: Carol Marriott, Noreen O'Sullivan, Margaret Doherty, Fr Clem Hill, Helen Tisdell, Tony Plottel, Elizabeth Wales, Diana Rosewell, Genevieve Larkin, Wolfgang Liers, Tanya Walsh, Jutta Mathur, Jessica Keen, Ali Crawford, William Wise, Janette Brennan, Barbara and John McMullen.

Living the Gospel in Times of Social Division

Social Justice Statement #2, August 2026

A message from Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB,

PRESIDENT of the AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

Living the **Gospel**
in Times of Social Division

We are living through an era of heightened community tension and a growing normalisation of abusive behaviour, incendiary language and violence. In such moments of tension, the temptation is to retreat into trenches of suspicion or to treat those who differ in their views as opponents rather than as people.

The Gospel offers a different path. It calls us back to Jesus Christ, who meets division not with hostility but with mercy; not with the logic of 'us and them' but with the costly love that heal and transforms.

Living the Gospel in these times is not a private devotion. It is a public witness that human dignity is not negotiable, that truth matters and that peace is more than the absence of conflict - it is the fruit of justice, reconciliation and communion. In Australia, the strain on social cohesion has been made painfully visible by a disturbing rise in antisemitism. Jewish communities have reported unprecedented levels of abuse, intimidation, vandalism and, in the case of the Bondi Beach attack, shocking deadly violence. It has left many to feel unsafe in places that should be secure, such as schools, synagogues, streets and public events.

Such hatred is an affront to God.

Catholics stand in solidarity with our Jewish brothers and sisters. We must unequivocally denounce antisemitism and work to rebuild trust, safety and mutual respect in our communities. Indeed, both tolerance and respect for people of all religions, cultures and ethnicities are the essential foundations for such a rebuilding.

How are we to live the Gospel in these times?

First, by remaining close to Christ in prayer and the sacraments, allowing the Lord to convert our hearts before we seek to change the world. Second, by practising a "culture of encounter": listening before reacting, seeking to understand the fears and hopes of others and choosing relationship over caricature. Third, by exercising restraint in what we say - especially online - rejecting gossip, slander, dehumanising labels and the sharing of unverified claims. Christians must be known as people who speak truthfully, argue respectfully and never delight in humiliation. Fourth, by concrete acts of compassion and justice...In these practical ways we become "salt" and "light" (Matthew 5:13-16).



Become the Salt and the Light - Eight ways you can make a difference

- | | |
|---|---|
| Practice encounter | Reach out to those in the community who are marginalised; creating lasting relationships for the sake of community harmony. |
| Exercise restraint in what you say | Refrain from offensive words and intentionally hurting others. Be measured and kind to develop respectful relationships. |
| Welcome Migrants & refugees | We have become a Church of many cultures and languages. We are all the richer for this. It is something worth celebrating. Participate! |
| Reconciliation! | We cannot be a truly a just and inclusive society without reconciling with our Aboriginal ancestors. |
| Overcome your racism | Racism, in all its forms is incompatible with the dignity of the human person and must be firmly challenged and eliminated from our society. |
| "Converse in the Spirit" | Learn to listen attentively to others who have different experiences and views from you; this is how to have "Conversations in the Spirit." |
| Help build community | A civil society is important, i.e. spaces that aren't government or the free market. Commercially mediated relationships, especially in the digital realm, are crowding out the space for a parish community, where we learn to 'live together well'. |
| Promote safety online | Become informed about social media- its abuses and misuses and speak up for change in this area. |

Download the ENTIRE Social Justice statement at: <https://www.catholic.au/s/article/Social-Justice-Statements>



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Children's Liturgy of the Word!

Sunday 30th August

At the 10.15 Mass
for all primary school children



**Children's Liturgy helps children reflect on the Sunday
Gospel reading in an age-appropriate way.**

**The children are 'sent forth' at the start of mass, and go to
their own space within the church.**

**There, under the supervision of two adults,
they learn about the teachings of Jesus.**

**They return to the church and their parents before the
'Liturgy of the Eucharist' begins.**



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LINDFIELD**

OPEN DAY

FRIDAY 28 AUGUST 2026

9:00am - 10:30am

A SCHOOL WHERE EVERY CHILD SHINES.

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Principal and
take a first hand
look at our
learning
environment



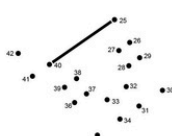
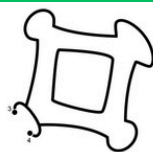
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