



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 – 22

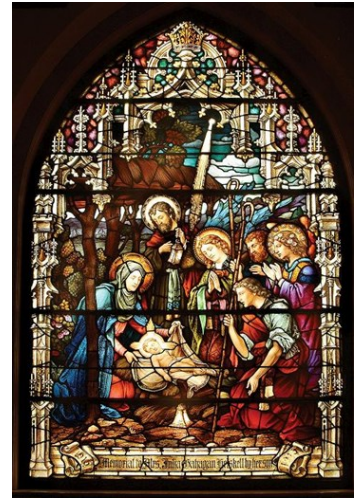
Why is Christmas usually regarded as the principal Christian feast, whereas in fact that honour of course belongs to Easter?

*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 for information on parish programmes and ministries.

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

WEEKDAY MASS THIS WEEK

Mon. 26 th Dec	10:00am at Killara (<i>Feast of St Stephen</i>)
Tues. 27 th Dec.	10:00am at Killara (<i>Feast, St John, apostle</i>)
Wed. 28 th Dec	No Mass
Thurs. 29 th Dec	10:00am at Lindfield
Fri. 30 th Dec.	10:00am at Lindfield (<i>Feast, Holy Family</i>)

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

This week: open Thursday (29th) only.

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 – **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.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES

are available **on the pews** in both our churches.

Ways to give:

- ♦ **cash or cheques**
can be placed in the envelopes and placed on the collection bowls over the next few weeks along with the normal collections.



- ♦ If you wish to contribute by **credit card or online** please scan this code, select '**First Collection**' and put '**Christmas Offering**' as the reference..



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.

Food for the soul

AN INVITATION INSIDE OF CHRISTMAS

We fight too much about Christmas, arguing about its meaning.

For some, Christmas is for the children, a feast where we let their delight and freshness challenge our cynicism, where the very sentiments we often disdain as adults are meant to soften our hearts, Scrooge converted by the innocence of children.

For others, it's the opposite: we insist rather that Christmas is an adult feast, something kids don't ultimately understand, something that celebrates the greatest intellectual mystery of all time, God taking on flesh to bring justice to the earth.

And so some of us send Christmas greetings urging delight, celebration, gifts, lights, and joyous song, while some of us send more stark greetings that say: "May the peace of Christ disturb you!" What is Christmas? Hardened shepherds and power-prone kings finally bending knees and hearts before a helpless baby or a harsh, non-negotiable challenge to clean up our pampered self-centered lives and build some justice in this world?

Christmas is about all of these things, and more. Like a diamond turning in the sun, it gives off many sparkles. Christmas is about the monumental challenge to reform our lives, our adult lives, and become women and men of justice; but it is also about a baby being born, innocent and powerless in the straw, whose vulnerability is God's invitation and judgment. It is too, as Karl Rahner once said, God giving us permission to be happy. Thus, Christmas is a both something to be delighted in and a peace that should disturb us, something for children and for adults.

What Christmas invites us all to, children and adults alike, is have our hearts softened and tempered by the crib, to let the vulnerability manifested in the way Jesus was born bring us back to a time before hardness of heart, to a place beyond pseudo-sophistication, cynicism, bitterness, wound, selfishness, and greed. Christmas is meant not just to renew our faith and hope, but also to renew our innocence.

The American educator, Allan Bloom, writing from a purely secular perspective, casts light on this in a little story he shares in his famed book, *The Closing of the American Mind*. He tells how, as a young man taking his first university classes, a professor introduced his course in this way: looking at his young, 19-20 year-old students, the professor said: "you come here from your small-town, parochial backgrounds and I am going to bathe you in great truth—and set you free." Bloom, even at 19, wasn't impressed. He writes that this professor reminded him of a

little boy who had solemnly informed him when he was seven years old that there was no Santa Claus or Easter Bunny. But, Bloom adds, "he wasn't bathing me in any great truth, he was showing off."

Bloom comments that what he learned from that professor was to forever teach in the opposite way. He, Bloom, would start his classes with words to this effect: "You come here having experienced so many things. You've seen so much of life that I'm going to try to teach you how to believe in Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny again—and then maybe you will have a chance again to be happy!"

This, properly nuanced, captures one of the invitations inside of Christmas. The Christmas crib invites us back to our innocence, though not to the pre-sophisticated naiveté of a child, but to the post-sophisticated and post-cynical joy and innocence of a truly mature adult, to a second-naiveté, a post-liberal, post-bitter, post-wounded, and post-hard-hearted place.

One of my professors in Louvain used to flag this little slogan: If you ask a naive child if she believes in Santa and the Easter Bunny, she will say yes. If you ask a bright child if she believes in Santa and the Easter Bunny, she will say no. But if you ask even a brighter child if she believes in Santa and the Easter Bunny, she will smile slyly and then say yes.

Christmas is about much deeper things than Santa, and the birth of Jesus is not just some delightful fairy tale meant to warm the heart. We measure time by this event. Christmas is about God being born physically and historically into this world and, among many other things, we have some stunning lessons to learn from the manner in which this happened.

As virtually all of our iconography around Christmas makes clear, God is born, not as some superstar whose earthly power, beauty, and muscle dwarf us. No. God is born as helpless, vulnerable, thoroughly under-whelming baby who looks out at us quietly even as we look back at him and he judges us in that way that vulnerability judges false strength, forever, transparency judges lies, generosity judges selfishness, innocence judges over-sophistication, and a baby, gently and helplessly and disarmingly, calls forth what's best in us.

Christmas is meant to bring us back to the crib so that our hearts can feel that freshness that wants to make us start living over again.

Fr Ron Rolheiser omi,

(節日) 當日感恩祭 25.12.2022

讀經一(大地四極看見了我們天主的救恩。)

恭讀依撒意亞先知書 52:7-10

答唱詠 詠98:1; 2-3, 3-4, 5-6

【答】：全球看見了我們天主的救恩。(詠98:3)

領：請眾向上主高唱新歌，因為他行了奇事。他的右手和他的聖臂，為他獲得了勝利。【答】

領：上主已經宣布了自己的救恩，將自己的正義，。他記起了自己的良善和信實，即向以色列家族廣施的寬仁。【答】

領：全球看見了我們天主的救恩。普世大地，請向上主歌舞，請踴躍，請歡樂，請彈琴演奏。【答】

領：彈著豎琴，向上主讚頌；彈著豎琴，伴著絃韻。吹起喇叭，響起號角，在上主君王面前謳歌。【答】

讀經二(天主藉聖子對我們說了話。)

恭讀致希伯來人書 1:1-6

福音前歡呼

領：幸福的日子有如曙光，照耀我們。萬民，請來朝拜上主，因為今天真光照臨普世。

福音(聖言成了血肉，寄居在我們中間。)

恭讀聖若望福音 1:1-5,9-14

在起初已有聖言，聖言與天主同在，聖言就是天主。

聖言在起初，就與天主同在。萬物是藉著他而造成的；凡受造的，沒有一樣不是由他而造成的。在他口有生命，這生命是人的光。光在黑暗中照耀，黑暗決勝不過他。那照亮每人的真光，正在進入這世界；他已在世界上，世界原是藉他造成的；但世界卻不認識他。他來到了自己的地方，自己的人卻沒有接受他。但是，凡接受他的，他給他們，即給那些信他名字的人權能，好成為天主的子女。他們不是由精血，也不是由肉慾，也不是由男慾，而是由天主生的。於是，聖言成了血肉，寄居在我們中間；我們見了他的光榮，正如父獨生者的光榮，滿溢恩寵和真理。——上主的話。

(華人天主教會聖誕主日彌撒只在依士活中心舉行)

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

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.

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 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,

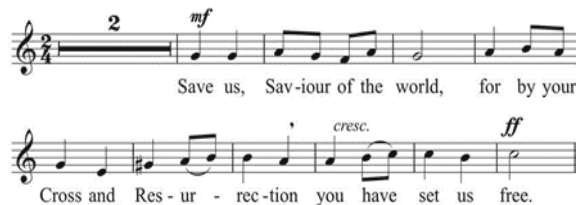
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of
the Father.

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

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION



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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!**

Ways that you can support our parish

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

1st Collection: (providing for Frs Colin & Thomas & also for retired & sick clergy of the diocese):

BSB 062 784 Acct 10000 1624

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

OR

- ♦ **CREDIT CARD CONTRIBUTIONS:** s then select each of our two parish

OR

- ♦ **YOU CAN ARRANGE FOR PERIODIC P YOUR CREDIT CARD:** just click on the hotlink box entitled 'Supporting parish finances' on the homepage of our website (www.lindfieldkillara.org.au) and scroll down to **2i.b. for the form.** (or simply email accounts@lindfieldkillara.org.au for assistance.
- ♦ **TAP MACHINES** are available in our two churches.



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

Recently deceased: Kevin Surplice, John McNicol, Eric Cannell, Robert Agus Heru Herlambang, Judy Ingham..

Anniversary: Henry Yee Joy, Robert de Lorenzo, Mollie Curtin.

And for: deceased members of the Curtin, Rolfe, Hughes and Egan families. John Quirk.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

Jessica Keen, Therese Playoust, Ali Crawford, Mark Spring, Jeanette Cicutto, Morna Sutherland, Barbara McMullen, Nicholas Sutherland, Jesse Langford, Anthony Ellison, Cyril Ferriere, Alex Noble, William Wise, Russell Adams, Opheilia Mari and Nena Umali, Rosanna Comastri.

And for all affected by COVID.

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*



4 HYMNS FOR CHRISTMAS MORNING MASS:

ENTRANCE HYMN:

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.**

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: JOY TO THE WORLD

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

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

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.

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!

COMMUNION:

SILENT NIGHT

Silent night, Holy night,
All is calm, all is bright.
Round the virgin mother
and child
Holy infant so tender

youth@LK
faith growth service

Our youth program is rebuilding
and ready for action in 2023! To
find out more scan the QR code
below or write to us on email.

**For youth from
age 5-25**

Social Justice & Service
Opportunities for High
School Students

We have many different
opportunities for students to
complete their community
service with our Parish. Please
contact us to find out more!

CHILDREN'S MASS
FEATURING THE LINDFIELD
KILLARA CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Second Sunday of month
10.15 am in Lindfield
A child friendly service featuring our
children's choir and age-appropriate
liturgy. Following Mass everyone is
invited to attend morning tea.

**youth &
family
MASS**

THIRD SUNDAY of month
5.30pm in Lindfield
The Mass features contemporary
music and a welcoming
atmosphere for people of all ages.
Every Mass is followed by a potluck
supper.

Young Adults
Before Covid, our young adult group
met once a month for supper,
discussion and friendship. We are keen
to get this group going again. If you or
someone you know is 18-25 is
interested in meeting other Catholics
in this age group, please contact us.

EMAIL: YOUTH@LINDFIELDKILLARA.ORG.AU

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME DATES FOR 2023



The letter giving all the details
and dates for our Sacramental
Preparation Programmes for
2023 is now available on the
parish website at :

[www.lindfieldkillara.org.au/
sacraments](http://www.lindfieldkillara.org.au/sacraments)

NEXT SUNDAY 1ST JANUARY is the
Octave Day of Christmas, the Solemnity
of Mary, Mother of God.