

Catholic Parish of Lindfield-Killara

Diocese of Broken Bay

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Church, Killara
Holy Family Parish Church, Lindfield

MASS TIMES:	LINDFIELD:		KILLARA:	
	Saturday	6:00pm	Saturday Vigil:	5:30pm
	Sunday:	8:15am 10:15am 12:00 (Chinese Community Mass) 6:00pm (for both our communities) (5:30pm on 2 nd Sun. of month)	Sunday:	9:15am
Weekdays:				
	Monday	9:15am		7:30am
	Tuesday	No Mass		7:30am
	Wednesday	9:15am		~
	Thursday	9:15am		~
	Friday	9:15am		7:30am
	Saturday	9:15am		~

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturdays 5:00 – 5:30pm (Lindfield)

For 15 minutes after the 5:30pm Mass (Killara)

* NO 9:15 Mass at Lindfield nor 7:30am Mass at Killara on the 2nd Friday of each month

* Healing Mass on the 2nd Friday of each month at 10am at Killara

THIRTY-FOURTH AND LAST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 25 – 11 – 18
SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING

This week: Dan 7:13-14; Apoc 1:5-8; Jn 18:33-37

Next week: Dan Jer 33:14-16; 1 Thess 3:12-4:2; Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

With the Solemnity of Christ the King the Church year draws to a close. Next Sunday is the First Sunday of Advent and the beginning of a new liturgical year.

As such it invites us to new beginnings, to revitalisation and renewal in our faith,
in our spiritual life.

Advent, however, can be the lost season, buried amidst the swirl of pre-Christmas preparations and festivities.

Our challenge is to try to re-claim some of this coming season of new beginnings and to arrive at Christmas not simply exhausted by shopping and parties, but also ready to celebrate the beginnings of our salvation.

*And please enter into the **ecumenical** dimension of our Christmas preparations – our own local Heraldng Advent Ecumenical Liturgy this Tuesday 27th November (see page 3). Please be there – this is a celebration which can help to truly make Advent a time of new beginnings.*

Fr Colin

FR RICHARD ROHR'S MEDITATION:

DEATH AND RESURRECTION: THE ILLUSION OF SEPARATION

Hopefully we begin life as “holy innocents” in the Garden, with a conscious connection to Being. The gaze of loving, caring parents can mirror us as the beloved and gives us a primal experience of life as union. But sooner or later we all have to leave the Garden. We can't stay there. We begin the process of individuation, which includes at least four major splits, ways of forgetting our inherent oneness & creating an illusion of separation.

The first split is very understandable. We split ourselves from other selves. We see mum and dad and other family members over there, and we're over here. We start looking out at life with ourselves as the centre point. It's the beginning of egocentricity. My ego is the centre; what *I* like, what *I* want, what *I* need is what matters. Please know that the ego is not bad; it is just not all. The development of a healthy, strong ego is important to human growth.

The second split divides life from death. It comes when we first experience the death of someone we know, perhaps a beloved pet or grandparent. The ego begins differentiating those who are alive and those who are gone. We may then spend our whole life trying to avoid any kind of death, including anything that's negative, uncomfortable, difficult, unfamiliar, dangerous, or demanding. But at some point, we'll discover that life and death, negative and positive, are part of the same unavoidable reality. Everything is living and dying simultaneously.

The third split separates mind from body and soul. In the West, we typically give the mind priority and come to identify strongly with our thoughts. As Descartes said, “I think, therefore I am.” By the age of seven most of us “think we are our thinking” and it's our thinking that largely defines us. This is the lie that meditation helps us unravel.

The fourth split is the acceptable self from the unacceptable self. We split from our shadow self and pretend to be our idealised self, or what others say we should be. The shadow self contains not only the qualities of which we're ashamed but also the positive and beautiful traits we've forgotten or fear (our “golden” shadow, as some call it).

Splitting is a coping mechanism, a way of surviving. But as we grow, find healing for trauma, and develop mature emotional and spiritual practices, we become able to incorporate that which we have denied and from which we've split. Each of these four illusions must—and will—be overcome, either in this world, in our last days and hours, or afterward. That is “resurrection”!

Each of these splits from reality makes any experience of God or our True Self largely impossible. Spiritual practices and the process of dying are both about overcoming these four splits. Kathleen Dowling Singh observed:

The Path of Return involves the healing of previously created dualities [or splits]—in reverse order. . . The mental ego is humbly and disturbingly divested of its false sense of being and stripped of its illusions. The sense of self, quite often kicking and screaming, begins its return to the underlying Ground of Being, its own Essential Nature. [1]

[1] Kathleen Dowling Singh, *The Grace in Dying: A Message of Hope, Comfort, and Spiritual Transformation* (HarperOne: 2000), 73, 75.

YOUTH@LINDFIELD KILLARA PARISH

SUNDAY 2 DECEMBER

Fusion Christmas Celebration

6pm Mass

7-9pm Party

Bring a plate to share

Bring a small gift (under \$10) for gift exchange.

All High School students invited.

Special invitation to year 6 students to join us!



FRIDAY 7 DECEMBER

Festival of Christmas YOUTH Cake Stall

The annual **FUSION Cake Stall** with the yummiest cakes, cookies, slice and other desserts at the Festival of Christmas. Proceeds go towards the youth programmes at our Parish. Start baking! Bring your donations to the Parish Meeting room on Friday, 7 December from 8.30am onwards.



Fusion Youth at Lindfield Killara



youth.fusion



youth@lindfieldkillara.org.au



ECUMENICAL SERVICE AS WE PREPARE FOR ADVENT

The next gathering of our Roseville-Lindfield-Killara Interchurch Fellowship will be our

Heralding Advent Interchurch Service

THIS Tuesday 27th November at 7:45pm

at Roseville Uniting Church (Lord St)

with Fr Colin Blayney as the preacher

A collection will be taken up in support of Act for Peace.

Supper will follow the celebration.



JOIN US AT THE FESTIVAL!

- ❖ Delicious **gourmet food stalls** to feed the family
- ❖ **Carols Under the Stars** concert
- ❖ **Fabulous cakes, coffee and desserts** available
- ❖ **Parish Christmas Drinks** (after the concert) above the church in the Shirley Wallace Parish Centre. **So that parents can also come there will be a supervised DVD for children in MacKillop Hall until 9pm.**
- ❖ And best of all, a chance to celebrate our faith together in a warm, community atmosphere.

Can you HELP? Please contact the Parish Office or youth@lindfieldkillara.org.au if you can:

- **Make a curry:** Use your own recipe or we can provide one!
- **Bake a cake/cookies/slice:** The Fusion Youth Cake Stall is back this year & we need lots of items to sell. All funds raised at the stall help us run the youth programmes each year. We'll be handing out boxes, along with instructions on where to deliver.
- **Donations of wine for the Christmas drinks after the concert**
- **Helpers to clean up at the end of the evening**

A note on care for the children: our parish and school have been working together to ensure the safety of children on the evening. For the children's safety we cannot have children unsupervised on the site, so after the concert please note that children may either be:

- in the company of their parents in the Shirley Wallace Centre above the church (children will not be permitted to leave unless in the company of their parents)
- or at the supervised DVD showing in MacKillop Hall (children will not be permitted to leave except in the company of their parents).

PARISH DIARY : NOV – DEC.

Tuesday 27th Nov. 7:45pm Our local Heralding Advent Ecumenical Service – at Roseville Uniting Church.

Friday 30th November: Monthly gathering of the new Dads' Club.

Sun. 2nd Dec. Monthly Children's Mass at 9:15am at Killara, followed by morning tea.

Morning tea after **10:15am** Mass at Lindfield.

Tues. 4th Dec.: PPC, Parish Finance Committee & School Board end of year dinner.

Fri. 7th Dec.: our joint parish and school 'Festival of Christmas, featuring food stalls and a carols concert (see page 4).

Sun. 9th Dec: Monthly Youth and Children's Mass at 5:30pm followed by parish potluck dinner.

Tues 11th Dec.: Catechists' end of year Mass and luncheon.

Wed. 12th Dec. 6pm Year 6 Graduation Mass.

Wed. 19th Dec. 11:15am End of year Advent Mass for our Parish School.

Wed. 19th Dec. 7:30pm Second Rite of Reconciliation in preparation for Christmas (in Lindfield church).

PARISH DADS' CLUB

The next gathering will be ***THIS* Friday 30th November at 7:00pm** in the Shirley Wallace Parish Centre about Lindfield church. If you're a Dad and would like to be kept in the loop regarding activities please contact Michael Willet(willetm@gmail.com) and give him your email address.



PARISH YOUNG ADULTS' GROUP

The next gathering takes place ***today* Sunday 25th November** immediately following the 6pm Mass, in the lounge in the Shirley Wallace Parish Centre on the first floor of Lindfield church – a relaxed gathering over a meal with discussion



PLAYGROUP CHRISTMAS PARTY

Save the date!
Christmas Party

with jumping castle and a Father Christmas visit.
Please come join us **Wednesday 12th December.**
Contact Sue-Anne:

sue-anne@lindfieldkillara.org.au

A CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP

meets in the *Meeting Room at the rear of and under Holy Family Church* each **Wednesday from 8:40am – 9:05am** (finishing in time for 9:15am Mass).

Everyone is welcome. For further information contact Kay at 9416 2194 Kay.Hunt@optusnet.com.au or Catherine 9415 6345 catherinecwillis@gmail.com

CHARITABLE WORKS FUND APPEAL



		<u>Amount req'd:</u>
Received from August appeal	\$12,608.25	\$15,000.00
Received from this appeal:	\$15,563.45	\$15,000.00
<u>Shortfall:</u>	<u>\$ 1828.30</u>	

Thank you all for your contributions.

APPEAL FOR PRESBYTERY REPAIRS



Estimated cost of works	\$90,000
Received last weekend	\$ 8,642.45

Many thanks for your generous contributions. Envelopes are still available on the pews if you have not yet been able to contribute.

2020 Plenary Council update:

From this week's diocesan mailout:

In wonderful news, it has been confirmed that the Diocese of Broken Bay has registered the fourth highest number of responses to the Plenary Council in Australia and is the highest responding diocese in Australia in proportion to the number of parishes. Thank you for your generous support throughout.



Celebrating Christmas - Making a Joyful Sound Unto the Lord ~ Please be part of a choir for Christmas ~

Even if you are not regularly part of our choirs, we invite you to be part of the special choir for the 10:30pm Vigil Mass for Christmas at Lindfield (and the Carols at 10pm preceding it). Please be part of making this Christmas celebration special.

Rehearsals take place on Saturdays 8th, 15th and 22nd December in Lindfield church from 10:00 ~ 11:30am, or contact Catherine Willis (catherinecwillis@gmail.com).

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

A reminder that there is a time of Exposition of the Eucharist following the 7:30am Mass on Fridays at Killara as a time for quiet prayer in the Lord's presence.

FOOD FOR THE SOUL



And this word: *You shall not be overcome*, was said very loudly and clearly, for assuredness and comfort against all tribulations that may come. For God did not say: *You shall not be tormented, you shall not be troubled, you shall not be grieved*; but God said: *You shall not be overcome*.

“And what has happened to my faith? Something surprising and hard to describe: it has not meandered on as if nothing were wrong, nor has it been wonderfully strengthened and deepened; nor has it gone out of the window. In fact it is not that anything has happened *to it* at all, but more than that I have discovered more *about it*. There are times when I cry, with Psalm 130, out of the depths, because the depths are the only place left to cry from; and when I have exhausted all the *Angst* of the shallows, there, after all, in the depths is that small seed of faith – not *my* faith – which God seems to have planted there. Never has it seemed less true when people say, ‘Oh, you must have so much faith’: it is not much, and it is not mine: it is just there.”



*from “What kind of angel?” by John Hadley in The Tablet, 25th June 1994
(writing on his experience of living with a long-term debilitating illness)*



DEATH, BE NOT PROUD

John Donne 1573 – 1632 Dean of St Paul’s Cathedral, London

Death, be not proud, though some have called thee
Mighty and dreadful, for thou art not so;
For those whom thou think'st thou dost overthrow
Die not, poor Death, nor yet canst thou kill me.
From rest and sleep, which but thy pictures be,
Much pleasure; then from thee much more must flow,
And soonest our best men with thee do go,
Rest of their bones, and soul's delivery.
Thou art slave to fate, chance, kings, and desperate men,
And dost with poison, war, and sickness dwell,
And poppy or charms can make us sleep as well
And better than thy stroke; why swell'st thou then?
One short sleep past, we wake eternally
And death shall be no more; Death, thou shalt die.

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:

THE PSALM Ps 92:1~2. 5. R.v.1

The Lord is king, with majesty enrobed;
the Lord has robed himself with might,
the Lord has girded himself with power.

The world you made firm, not to be
moved;
your throne has stood firm from of old.
From all eternity, O Lord, you are.

Truly your decrees are to be trusted.
Holiness is fitting to your house,
O Lord, until the end of time.

*At Masses at which the Psalm
is sung the response is: The
Lord is king; he is robed in
majesty*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed is
he who inherits the kingdom
of David our Father;
blessed is he who comes in
the name of the Lord.
Alleluia

RESPONSES TO THE PSALM FOR WEEKDAY MASS THIS WEEK:

Monday: Lord, this is the people that
longs to see your face.

Tues: The Lord comes to judge the
earth.

Wed: Great and wonderful are all
your works.
Lord, mighty God.

Thursday: Blessed are they who are
called to the wedding feast of the
Lamb.

Friday: Their message goes out
through all the earth.

Saturday: Maranatha! Come, Lord
Jesus!

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



MANY THANKS to the generous Lindfield–Killara parish community for the many baked goods, donations and enthusiastic purchases of yummy treats at our bake sale last weekend. With your amazing support we ended up raising \$1500 which has gone directly towards Catholic Mission's work with education in Myanmar.

Vera, Stuart, William and Matthew

NEXT SUNDAY is the First Sunday in Advent, the beginning of a new Church Year, and an invitation to us all to a new beginning in our Christian discipleship.

Readings for Sundays will be from Year C
and for Weekdays from Year 1.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME DATES FOR 2019



The letter giving all the details and dates for our Sacramental Preparation Programmes for First Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Holy Communion 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.

Please note: there was one error in the document (the date for the celebration for First Reconciliation) – if you downloaded the letter before Wednesday in this last week please download it again. The correct version has been on the website since last Wednesday.

GIFTS FOR WATERLOO

For many years our Parish, through the St Vincent de Paul Society, has provided Christmas gifts for children in the Waterloo area.

The pressures of daily life are a constant grind for the sick, or those living on very low incomes.

Please help us again to brighten their hearts by taking a tag from the Christmas tree and buying a suitable gift. Each tag shows the age and gender of a child for whom we hope to provide a gift.



There is also a box near the tree if you wish to donate some Christmas goodies for our friends at Waterloo.

To assist distribution will you please return your gift to either of our churches by Sunday 9th December.

Peace and Joy to you all.

COLUMBAN CALENDARS

Columban Calendars for 2019 are now on sale for \$10 each. As usual the calendars feature reproductions of many masterpieces and they make a handy small gift to family and friends. Please place your purchase money in the Poor Box. *St Vincent de Paul Conference*

OUR PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

As you will recall, earlier this year in a number of forums (including at Sunday Mass) we consulted you, our community, about the issues you considered most important as we move forward as a Christian community.

Since then the Parish Pastoral Council analysed those responses to identify the ones that stood out as most important to the community.

These issue were then shared with several groups who were asked to produce a draft Mission Statement which captured those central issues which came from our community consultation.

Finally, the PPC met to discuss those various drafts and from them to produce a Mission Statement which we believed best expressed what our community had put forward.

That Mission Statement will be formally launched on the Third Sunday of Advent. In 2019 we will work together to find ways to allow that statement to shape who we are, what we do, and how we move into the future as the Catholic Parish of Lindfield-Killara.

The Mission 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.

Fr Colin



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RENOVATIONS & BUILDING MAINTENANCE

CHRIS IACONO
Parishioner

All work large and small
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Phone : 9416 36 98

chris.iacono@bigpond.com

**Henry & Gloria
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Our wonderful catechists



Last Sunday the following Catechists from our parish were honoured for their service to our parish and the children in our State Schools:

~ Michael Berman	5 years
~ Ellisser Chan	5 years
~ Evelyne Jones	5 years
~ Maria Fei	10 years
~ Sue-Anne Sherwood	10 years
~ Anne Horsley	15 years
~ John Quirk	30 years

What a wonderful gift of faith they, and all our Catechists, share with the children. If you could consider becoming a Catechist or a catechist helper we have the following needs:

- Tues Yr 5 Lindfield East – 9:15-10am
- Tues Yr 6 Beaumont Rd – 11:30-12noon
- Wed Yr 7/8 Killara High School 8:50-10am or 10:05-11:15am

Please contact our Catechist Coordinator, Sue-Anne Sherwood:

sue-anne@lindfieldkillara.org.au; 0416 141 508

Parish Staff and Contact Information

We are the one parish of Lindfield-Killara containing our two distinct but collaborating and cooperating communities centred on our two churches at Killara and Lindfield.

Holy Family Church:

cnr Pacific Hwy and Highfield Rd, Lindfield

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church:

cnr Fiddens Wharf Rd and Charles St, Killara

Parish Priest: Fr Colin Blayney

colin@lindfieldkillara.org.au 9416 7195

Assistant Priest: Fr Thomas Alackakunnel VC thomas@lindfieldkillara.org.au 0421 406162

PARISH OFFICE:

Parish Secretary: Philita Marundan (Tues-Fri): philita@lindfieldkillara.org.au

Parish Office Coordinator and Child Protection Coordinator:

Alison Williams (Mon, Wed, Thur): alison@lindfieldkillara.org.au

Address: Level 1, 2 Highfield Road (cnr Pacific Hwy) Lindfield NSW 2070
(Postal: PO Box 22, Lindfield NSW 2070)

Ph: 9416 3702 **Fax:** 9416 3913 **Email:** parish@lindfieldkillara.org.au

Parish Office Hours: Monday to Friday 9:30am-1:00pm and 1:30pm-4:00pm

Catechist Coordinator (Primary Schools):

Sue-Anne Sherwood sue-anne@lindfieldkillara.org.au
0416 141 508

Sacramental Programme Coordinator:

Sue-Anne Sherwood sue-anne@lindfieldkillara.org.au
0416 141 508

Assistant Sacramental Programme Coordinator:

Maia Schulze Tsang maia@lindfieldkillara.org.au

Parish Priest's Secretary: Maia Schulze Tsang

maia@lindfieldkillara.org.au

Parish Facilities Coordinator (volunteer): Anthony Cassidy anthony@lindfieldkillara.org.au

Youth Ministry Coordinator (volunteer): Jean Shatek youth@lindfieldkillara.org.au

Parish Primary School: Holy Family School, 4 Highfield Rd, Lindfield 2070

Ph: 9416 7200 **Fax:** 9416 9342

Principal: Mr Lou Dogao

Email: info@holyfamily.nsw.edu.au

School Website: www.hfldbb.catholic.edu.au

Parish Website:	www.lindfieldkillara.org.au
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Saturday		24 Nov	1 Dec
Lindfield	6:00pm	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel
Killara	5:30pm	Fr Colin Blayney	Fr Colin Blayney
Sunday		25 Nov	2 Dec.
Lindfield	8:15am	Fr Colin Blayney	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel
Killara	9:15am	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel	Fr Colin Blayney
Lindfield	10:15am	Fr Colin Blayney	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel
Lindfield	12:00noon	Fr Gerard Kelly	Fr Lucas Leung
Lindfield	6:00pm	Fr Colin Blayney	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel

CHINESE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

我們的主、耶穌基督、普世君王
(節日)

常年期最後主日

22-11-2018

讀經一 (他的王權是永遠的王權。)

恭讀達尼爾先知書 7:13-14

我在夜間的神視中觀望：看見一位相似人子者，乘著天上的雲彩而來，走向萬古常存者，便立即被引到萬古常存者面前。萬古常存者便賜給那相似人子者，統治權、尊榮和國度。各民族、各邦國及各種語言的人民，都要事奉那相似人子者；他的王權是永遠的王權，永存不替；他的國度永不滅亡。——上主的話。(默想片刻)

答唱詠 詠 93:1, 1-2, 5

【答】：上主為王，以尊威作衣冠。
(詠 93:1)

領：上主為王，以尊威作衣冠；上主身穿德能，腰束大權。

【答】

領：他奠定了大地塵寰；大地塵寰不再搖撼。你的寶座，由太初即已建立；你的存在，從亙古即已開始。【答】

領：上主，你的約言，萬分信實可靠；你的殿宇永遠應享神聖。

【答】

讀經二 (地上萬王的元首，使我們成為國度，成為司祭，以事奉他的天主和父。) 恭讀默示錄 1:5-8

福音前歡呼

領：亞肋路亞。

眾：亞肋路亞。

領：奉上主之名而來的，應受讚頌！那要來的、我們祖先達味之國，應受讚頌！(谷 11:9,10)

眾：亞肋路亞。

福音 (你說的是，我是君王。)

恭讀聖若望福音 18:33-37

那時候，比拉多對耶穌說：「你是猶太人的君王嗎？」

耶穌回答說：「這話是你自己說的，或是別人論及我，而對你說的？」

比拉多答說：「莫非我是猶太人？你的民族和司祭長，把你交給我，你做了什麼？」

耶穌回答說：「我的國不屬於這世界；如果我的國屬於這世界，我的臣民早已反抗了，使我不至於被交給猶太人；但是，我的國不是這世界的。」

於是，比拉多對耶穌說：「那麼，你就是君王了？」

耶穌回答說：「你說的是，我是君王。我為此而生，我也為此而來到世界上，為給真理作證；凡屬於真理的，必聽從我的聲音。」——上主的話。(講道後默想片刻)

華人天主教會 北區中心,

主日彌撒 12 時, 彌撒後, 午餐聚會. 餐費成人\$6 小童\$4

牧職修女 司徒金美修女

聯絡 ☎ 0419- 426899

中心聯絡 Gloria Cheung

聯絡 ☎ 0416-118089

Sunday School 主日學 12noon

Parish Meeting Room

25/11午餐北區中心舉行11月及12月生日會及結婚記念慶祝會

2018- 28th家庭營

26-28 December 三天營/日營

St. Paul International

College, Moss Vale

粵語組主講: Sr. Laura

Watt, spc

www.ccc-inc.org.au

Friday 7th December

Joint celebration of our

Parish and our Parish School

Food stalls: 4:30 – 6:00pm

Carols concert: 6:00 – 7:15pm

Food continues after the Carols

堂區聖誕歌頌唱晚會將在

12 月 7 日(星期五)舉行

時間: 4:30pm 開始售賣食物

6:00pm 頌唱聖誕歌

今年我們設有中國食物攤位，

需要大家繼續的支持

1) 參加晚會，支持購買食物。

收入全數撥歸堂區

2) 贊助購買食材

3) 參與實際攤位義務工作

贊助/參與工作聯絡 Gloria/Kitty

盼望屆時見到你。


Mike O'Shea
Parishioner
Trusted Senior Sales Consultant for
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(continued from p.16): ideal and, more importantly, I do not ask God to exempt me from the human condition. My life is meaningful precisely when I sense God's presence in the midst of my suffering, sicknesses, loneliness, and pain. My faith should never pressure me to ask God to exempt me from these. Why should I be spared the human condition? Rather my faith should allow me to stand inside of every reality in my life, positive and negative, and see some meaning in it.

"Is my life meaningful?" When I ask the question this way the perspective is very different. Now my happiness will no longer depend upon my never getting sick, or upon my not getting lonely, or upon my never being misunderstood, or upon my never making wrong choices, or on somehow being exempt from death's shadow. Life can be frustrating and still be very meaningful. We can be lonely, sick, sorrowful about wrong choices, over-worked and unappreciated, staring old age and death in the face and still experience deep meaning. Happiness will be a by-product of that.

Are my symbols working? Is my faith deep enough so that every corner of my experience, no matter how painful, makes some sense in a higher plan? Is God with me as I walk through both health and sickness, joy and sorrow, friendship and loneliness, success and failure, youth and aging? Does my life have a meaning?

The question about happiness comes after that question.

Fr Ron Rolheiser omi, Centre for Liturgy, University of St Louis

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REFLECTING ON THIS SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURES

*Jesus answered, "You say I am a king.
For this I was born and for this I came into the world,
to testify to the truth."*

HAPPINESS AND MEANING

"Are you happy?" How would you honestly answer that? My suspicion is that, for most of us, this would be a painful question which, given our fantasy of what happiness should be, we would tend to answer in the negative: "No, I don't think I'm happy. I would like to be, but there are too many limitations and frustrations in my life which block happiness."

"Are you happy?" To stare that question square in the face can make you more unhappy. A torturous self-scrutiny can result from it. What this suggests is that perhaps it is not a good question to ask in the first place. To ask myself: "Am I happy?" is to confuse things and to begin to demand things from life and from God that are not realistic.

For a Christian, there is a better question. The essential question should not be, "Am I happy"? but rather, "Is my life meaningful?" That is a different question, one which can help purify our perspective on things.

What God has promised us in Christ is not, as is unfortunately so often preached and believed, a life free from pain, sickness, loneliness, oppression, and death. The preacher who tells you that you will have less pain in life if you take Jesus seriously is not in touch with the gospel. What the incarnation promises is not that Christ will do away with our pain, but that God will be with us in that pain. That is something quite different. In fact, one can go further and say the opposite: If you take the gospel seriously, you will probably have more pain in your life because you will be a more sensitive person.

To take the gospel seriously is not to be given immunity from the human condition. No. For the Christian, as for everyone else, there will be the same sicknesses, the same cold lonely seasons, the same painful frustrations, the same choices that are regretted, and the same bitter losses. Like everyone else, too, eventually we will have to face death. Faith in God does not, in this world, save one from pain, misunderstanding, loneliness, and death. Faith does not offer a life free of pain. What God does promise is to be with us in that pain. That is why our Saviour's name is Emmanuel, a name which means God-is-with-us.

To have faith in God is to have God with you. This, as Avery Dulles once so aptly put it, does not give you a ladder to crawl out of the human condition, but a drill to burrow into the heart of it:

Jesus enables us to believe that human life, with all its contradictions, is the place where God is preeminently found. Unlike every other mythology, the myth of the Incarnation gives us strength to face up to the harsh realities of our fragmented world, to feel and to transmit the touch of God's reconciling love. The Incarnation does not provide us with a ladder by which to escape from the ambiguities of this life and scale the heights of heaven. Rather it enables us to burrow deep into the heart of the planet earth and find it shimmering with divinity.

For the Christian, then, the important question is not: "Am I happy?" but "Is my life meaningful?" By asking the latter question rather than the former one, I do not torture myself with some unattainable romantic

(continued on page 15):