



*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.*



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 14 - 12 -25 GAUDETE ('REJOICE') SUNDAY

This week: Is 35:1-6,10, James 5:7-10, Mt 11:2-11

Next week: Is 7:10-14, Rom 1:1-7, Mt 1:18-24

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD (ROSE-COLOURED) CANDLE



Celebrant: Lord Jesus Christ, you are our Saviour, the true light who has come into our world. We ask you to send your blessings on this community who gather around this wreath, which we honour as a remembrance of your first coming at Bethlehem, your daily coming amongst us in grace and your final coming in glory. Strengthen our hearts with the example of your love that we may receive you with joy and gladness on the day of our redemption, when you will come to reign as Universal King for ever and ever.

The third (rose-coloured) candle is lit.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep.

All: Come and lead us to the eternal life you promise.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd who knows his flock & calls each by name.

All: Come and lead us to the eternal life you promise.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd ready to search out and look for the lost sheep.

All: Come and lead us to the eternal life you promise.

Celebrant: During the Advent season may almighty God lead us to worship his Son and fill our hearts with joy at the coming of Jesus and lead us to life everlasting. All: Amen.

Please join in singing the remaining verse of the hymn on page 4.

Our combined Parish and School 'Carols and Cuisine' evening last Friday week....



Many thanks to all the wonderful families who prepared the exciting range of international food to enjoy.



We are indebted to our parish staff team - Maia, Michelle & Jean - without whom the foodfest couldn't have happened.



Our Christmas Celebrations



CELEBRATIONS OF CHRISTMAS:

Children's Vigil Masses:

Wednesday 24th December:

5:30pm at Killara

6:00pm at Lindfield

Mass of Christmas Night:

Wednesday 24th December

10:30pm at Lindfield

preceded by a Service of Carols at 10:00pm

Christmas morning:

Thursday 25th December

8:00am at Lindfield

9:30am at Killara

10:15am at Lindfield

(no evening Mass on 25th December)



And of course huge thanks and congratulations to our parish school - for their organisation, to Mrs Nash and the wonderful performances by the children, to our Principal, Mrs Pauline Dinale and her team for their dedication to fostering of our parish and school bond.



REMEMBER: JUST ONE SATURDAY EVENING VIGIL

MASS FROM NOW ON:

A reminder that we now have a single Vigil Mass at 5:30pm on Saturdays - at our Killara church.

There is no longer a 6pm Vigil Mass at Lindfield.



A QUICK WORD ON OUR PARISH FINANCES BEFORE WE ALL DISPERSE ON HOLIDAYS AFTER CHRISTMAS



With the holiday season upon us we just wanted to gently point out that the parish financial needs don't take a holiday! Staff salaries, property insurance and maintenance, utilities and much more still make their call on our income.

So, just a little request to consider using the various electronic means (see page 6) available to continue supporting our parish while you're away.

Thank you all for your support of our parish.

And if you're going on holidays have a wonderful (and safe) time.



St Vincent de Paul Society ~ Christmas Appeal ~



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 QUICK RECAP ON RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION FROM THE CHALICE:

- remember *you don't have to* receive from the chalice. Our Catholic faith is that the whole Christ is present under the form of both the consecrated bread and the consecrated wine.
- we have noticed that some are coming and just lifting the lip of the chalice to the lips *but not drinking*. We ask that you please do not do this - remember you are not obliged to receive from the chalice but if you do choose to come to the chalice please *drink* (a small amount) from the chalice.
- the Church does not permit intinction - that is, dipping the Host into the chalice. The only way to receive from the chalice is to *drink* from it.



A Service of Prayer to pray at home during Advent. . .

Blessing of the Christmas Crib in your home



The Christmas Crib or manger scene helps us to focus our celebration of the Word made flesh. You might like to pray this prayer at home before your Christmas crib.

Leader: As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, we pause to bless this Christmas manger scene. The practice of erecting such mangers was begun by Saint Francis of Assisi as a means to set forth the message of Christmas.

When we look upon these figures, the Christmas Gospel comes alive and we are moved to rejoice in the mystery of the Word made flesh. So let us ask God's blessing on this Christmas manger and upon ourselves, that we who reflect on the birth of Jesus may share in the salvation he accomplished.

1. For the Church of God, as we recall the birth of Jesus, that we may always proclaim his gift of new life for all people. **R.** Come, Lord, dwell with us.
2. For the world in which we live, that it may come to recognise Christ just as he was recognised and welcomed by the angels and the shepherds. **R.** Come, Lord, dwell with us.
3. For our homes, that Jesus who was laid in the manger may dwell with us always. **R.**

Prayer of blessing

*God of every nation and people,
from the very beginning of creation you have made manifest your love:
when our need for a Saviour was great
you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary.
To our lives he brings joy and peace, justice, mercy, and love.*

*Lord, bless all who look upon this manger;
may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus,
and raise up our thoughts to him, who is God-with-us and Saviour of all,
and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. All: Amen*

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.... Concluding the series on St John Henry Newman....

Part VI: Newman and Ecclesiology

Many of the problems which he treated with wisdom – although he himself was frequently misunderstood and misinterpreted in his own time – were the subjects of the discussion and study of the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council, as for example the question of ecumenism, the relationship between Christianity and the world, the emphasis on the role of the laity in the Church and the relationship of the Church to non-Christian religions. Not only this Council but also the present time can be considered in a special way as Newman's hour, in which, with confidence in divine providence, he placed his great hopes & expectations. ^[1]
Pope St Paul VI

Newman believed passionately that the Catholic church "is the infallible oracle of truth" and wholeheartedly accepted all her teachings.^[2] Yet for much of his Catholic career he found himself suspected of heresy in Rome. He knew from personal experience that the Church was both the bride of Christ and a human institution, vulnerable like all organisations, to misinformation, misunderstanding, and injustice. Yet he counselled himself and others to practise patience. Truth was a process, what was amiss in the present would be rectified in God's good time. As he put it, another pope, another Council would "trim the boat"^[3].

In 1877 he wrote his last great work, a reflection on the nature and function of the Church, in a preface to the re-issue of his Anglican work, *Lectures on the Prophetic Office of the Church*. He called this publication *The Via Media of the Anglican Church* (Vol. I). In it he identified three functions or "offices" in the Church, based on the three spiritual offices of Christ – Prophet (or teacher), Priest (or sanctifier), and King (or ruler).

Many theologians had discussed these offices, usually associating all three offices with the Pope and hierarchy. Newman, by contrast, allocated each to different groups within the Church. The 'prophetic' or teaching role he associated with theologians, the 'priestly' or sanctifying role with ordinary believers and their priests, and the 'royal' or ruling role he associated with the Pope and Roman Curia.

All three functions were vital for the life of the

Church, whose healthy functioning depended on their harmonious cooperation. The people's devotion gave life and warmth to the Church, theological reflection clarified truth and prevented error, and Church authority curbed superstitious excess on the one hand, and rationalistic deviance from the truth on the other. But each office was prone to its own peculiar temptations, and so in real life, the three offices exist in tension: popular piety could be impatient of the dry abstraction of theological correctness and of hierarchic control, theologians could complain of restriction of freedom of thought and be dismissive of "mere" piety, and Church authorities could place too high a value on conformity for its own sake and thereby stifle true devotion or legitimate theological exploration. Newman's 1877 preface profitably explores how such tensions, while serious, do not undermine or go beyond God's providential ordering of the Church. His view thus helps believers to understand more deeply the life and tensions of the church, calls the offices of the church "to find room for the claims of the other two",^[4] and overall supports ongoing faith and commitment.

A generation ago, the theologian Cardinal Avery Dulles commented on the brilliance of Newman's analysis, which he thought had yet to be absorbed into the Church's self-awareness. With the Church's recent focus on the *sensus fidelium* and synodality, to become a place of encounter and dialogue, recognising the variety of needs and charisms that coexist within the one Church, sometimes in apparent conflict, Newman's insights have found their moment.

^[1] "Address of Paul VI to the Participants in the Cardinal Newman Academic Symposium" (7 April 1975), in *L'Osservatore Romano* (English Edition), 17 April 1975, 368.

^[2] Newman, *Grammar of Assent*, 153.

^[3] Newman to Alfred Plummer (3 April 1871), *The Letters and Diaries of John Henry Newman*, Volume XXV, ed. C. S. Dessain and T. Gornall (Clarendon Press, 1973), 310.

^[4] John Henry Newman, *The Via Media of the Anglican Church*, Vol. I (Longmans, Green, and Co., 1911), xli.

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.

Parish Seniors Social group

The final gathering for this year is on this Friday 19th at 11:00am in the Shirley Wallace Parish Centre above Holy Family Church.

School will be finished - plenty of on-site parking.

Say it with flowers !



As you know we always arrange for special & beautiful flower arrangements for our two churches for the celebrations of the Lord's birth at Christmas.

But as we're sure you also know, flowers aren't cheap. And all the more so for church-sized arrangements.

If you could make a contribution towards the cost please either drop your donation to the office or transfer it to Lindfield-Killara Church A/c at: BSB 062 784 Ac 10000 1623

Please put 'Christmas Flowers' as the reference.

ENTRANCE: O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Key of David come
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make sure the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. *Refrain*

The third candle is lit.

We join in singing one more verse of the hymn:

O come, O day-spring, come and cheer
our spirits by your advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night
and deaths dark shadows put to flight. *Refrain*

Public Domain – Text: John Neale (1818-66). Music: adapt. by Thomas Helmore (1811-90)

DEDICATION OF THE GIFTS: WITH A JOYFUL HEART

Refrain: With a joyful heart, O Lord my God, I bring
all to you

1. Behold, O Lord, this bread
which we now carry to your altar.
This bread will become your body.

2 Behold, O Lord, this wine;
accept and bless it for our gladness.
This wine will become your blood.

3 We come to you, O Lord;
we bring the gifts that you have made,
the gifts we return to you.

Lucien Deiss ©1970, World Library Publications*

COMMUNION: I HEARD THE VOICE OF JESUS SAY

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“Come unto me and rest.
Lay down, O weary one,
lay down your head upon my breast.”
I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn, and sad.
I found in him a resting place, and he has made me glad.

2.I heard the voice of Jesus say, “Behold, I freely give
the living water, thirsty one;
stoop down and drink and live.”
I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream.
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in him.

3.I heard the voice of Jesus say, “I am the dawning light.
Look unto me, your morn shall rise,
and all your day be bright.”
I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun,
and in that light of life I'll walk
till trav'ling days are done.

Public Domain – Text: Horatius Bonar 1846; Tune: Kingsfold old English folksong 1893

RECESSIONAL: CITY OF GOD

Awake from your slumber, Arise from your sleep;
A new day is dawning For all those who weep
The people in darkness have seen a great light
The Lord of our longing has conquered the night.

Refrain: Let us build the city of God.
May our tears be turned into dancing.
For the Lord our light and our love
Has turned the night into day

We are sons of the morning, we are daughters of day
The One who has loved us has brightened our way
The Lord of all kindness has called us to be
A light for his people to set their hearts free. **R.**

Dan Schutte ©1981, OCP.*

Hymns for the Children's Mass

ENTRANCE: O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

PLEASE SEE THE LYRICS ABOVE

DEDICATION OF THE GIFTS: OPEN MY EYES LORD

Open my eyes Lord,
Help me to see your Face.
Open Eyes Lord,
Help me to see.

Open my ears Lord
Help me to hear your voice.
Open my ears Lord
Help me to hear.

Open my heart Lord
Help me to love like you.
Open my heart Lord
Help me to love.

I live within you
Deep in your heart, O Lord.
I live within you
Rest now in me.



Jesse Manibusan ©1988, OCP.**

COMMUNION: THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD

[Chorus] The Spirit of the Lord be upon me
The Spirit of the Lord show the way
The Spirit of the Lord give some grace
The Spirit of the Lord rest in me.

1. Grant me wisdom to know God's plan
To be your heart and your hands
That I may understand your truth within
O Spirit rest in me, rest in me. **[Chorus]**

2. Help me to choose what is right and just
May I know your holy will
To have the courage to follow you
O Spirit rests in me, rest in me. **[Chorus]**

3. May I seek knowledge through the word of God
To know the Son and Lord
And in that knowing, reverence you Lord
O Spirit rest in me, rest in me **[Chorus]**

4. Grant me the gift to see your majesty
With wonder and with awe
May I be worthy of the gifts you bring
O Spirit rest in me, rest in me **[Chorus]**

A. Chinn, J. Mitchell ©2012, Butterfly Music**

RECESSIONAL: RAINBOW

Red and orange, yellow and green
Blue and indigo and violet and me:
Side by side, together we grow,
Underneath God's beautiful rainbow.

Red is for your spirit of love:
Seven gifts from God above.
Orange for the warmth of your sun
Shining down on everyone.

Yellow is the colour of faith
The light of Christ in every day.
Green is for the life you give:
A call to grow, a way to live.

Blue is for the sky and sea
Gifts from God for you and me
Indigo is in between:
A colour of God's gentle peace.

Violet calls us all to forgive
Together we grow, together we live
Side by side and hand in hand
Together we grow, together we can.

Andrew Chinn ©2004, Butterfly Music**

*We abstain from the joyful
words of the Gloria as we
prepare our hearts to
celebrate the Lord's birth at
Christmas.*

THE PSALM

PS 145:6-10

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is the Lord who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free.

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan.

It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age.

THE APOSTLES CREED

I believe in 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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection,
until you come again..

FR RICHARD ROHR OFM'S MEDITATION:
COURAGEOUS VULNERABILITY

*I am a Christian because of women who said yes.
—Rachel Held Evans, Wholehearted Faith*

Public theologian Rachel Held Evans (1981–2019)
reflects on how Mary's yes was pivotal to the
Incarnation.

I am more aware than ever of the startling and
profound reality that I am a Christian not because of
anything I've done but because a teenage girl living in
occupied Palestine at one of the most dangerous
moments in history said yes—yes to God, yes to a
wholehearted call she could not possibly understand,
yes to vulnerability in the face of societal judgment,
yes to the considerable risk of pregnancy and
childbirth... yes to a vision for herself and her little
boy of a mission that would bring down rulers and lift
up the humble, that would turn away the rich and fill
the hungry with good things, that would scatter the
proud and gather the lowly [see Luke 1:51–53], yes to
a life that came with no guarantee of her safety or her
son's.

By becoming human, God encourages us to honour the
vulnerability of our own lives:

It is nearly impossible to believe: God shrinking down
to the size of a zygote, implanted in the soft lining of a
woman's womb.... God inching down the birth canal
and entering this world covered in blood, perhaps into

the steady, waiting arms of a midwife. God crying out
in hunger. God reaching for his mother's breasts. God
totally relaxed, eyes closed, his chubby little arms
raised over his head in a posture of complete trust.
God resting in his mother's lap....

I cannot entirely make sense of the storyline: God
trusted God's very self, totally and completely and in
full bodily form, to the care of a woman. God needed
women for survival. Before Jesus fed us with the
bread and the wine, the body and the blood, Jesus
himself needed to be fed, by a woman. He needed a
woman to say: "This is my body, given for you."...

To understand Mary's humanity and her central role
in Jesus's story is to remind ourselves of the true
miracle of the Incarnation—and that is the core
Christian conviction that God is with us, plain old
ordinary us. God is with us in our fears and in our
pain, in our morning sickness and in our ear
infections, in our refugee crises and in our endurance
of Empire, in smelly barns and unimpressive
backwater towns, in the labor pains of a new mother
and in the cries of a tiny infant. In all these things,
God is with us—and God is for us. And through Mary's
example, God invites us to take the risk of love—even
though it undoubtedly opens us up to the possibility
of getting hurt, being scared, and feeling
disappointed.

DON'T FORGET WEEKDAY MASS IN THIS SEASON OF NEW BEGINNINGS!

An opportunity to be nourished by the daily Scriptures and to draw closer to the
Lord in the Eucharist.

*A reminder that at Lindfield you can double park amongst the teachers in the church grounds, or park on
the internal road (we'll now keep the Highfield Rd gate at the top of the road open until after Mass).*



Killara Church

5:30pm Vigil
9.00am*

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

Weekday Mass this week Third Week of Advent

Mon. 8am Killara
Tues. 8am Killara
Wed. **9am** Lindfield (School Mass)
Thur. 10am Lindfield
Fri. 10am Lindfield

The Ordinariate 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

Lindfield Church

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

DECEMBER

Sun 14. 10:15am Children's Mass
Wed 17. 9:00am School Mass celebrating Advent
7:00pm Advent Second Rite of Reconciliation
Fri 19. 11:00am Senior's Social Group

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays 5:00-5:15pm at Killara

SCHOOL MASS Mass at Lindfield this coming Wednesday will be at 9:00am and will be an Advent School Mass concluding the school year. All are welcome.

Sunday Mass Roster

SATURDAY	13 DEC.	20 DEC.
Killara 5:30PM	Fr Colin	Fr Hien
SUNDAY	14 DEC.	21 DEC.
Lindfield 8:30AM	Fr Colin	Fr Colin
Killara 9:00AM	Fr Anselam	Fr Stephen
Lindfield 10:15AM	Fr Colin	Fr Colin
Lindfield 12:00PM	Fr Anselam	Fr Hien
Lindfield 6:00PM	Fr Colin	Fr Colin

How to contact us

Fr Colin Blayney PP VF, Parish Priest
0475 558 500 colin@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@holyschool.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 & retired & 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.



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

Recently deceased: Barry Haraldson, Janice Swanson, Marilyn O'Neill, Mary Moran, Gerard Say, Nicola ("Nick") Arena, Julie Moloney, Jenny Tesoriero, Maria Casella, John Pera, Dennis Tonitto, Sinead Walsh.

Anniversary: John Michael Swan, Hans Schanz, Jeanette McInerney, Margaret Ford, Kevin Surplice, Partrick Haynes, Stella Salvaris, Beverley Gledhill and Henry Yee-Joy.

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.

Our Chinese Catholic Community

將臨期第三主日 14.12.2025
中文主日彌撒正午12時
讀經一 (天主親自來拯救我們!)
恭讀依撒意亞先知書 35:1-6,10
荒野和不毛之地必要歡樂, 沙漠必要欣喜, 如花盛開, 盛開得有如百合, 高興得歡樂歌唱, 因為它們將獲得黎巴嫩的光華、加爾默耳和沙龍的美麗。它們將見到上主的榮耀、我們天主的光輝。你們應加強瘦弱的手, 堅固顫動的膝, 告訴心怯的人說: 「鼓起勇氣來, 不要畏懼! 看, 你們的天主! 報復已到! 天主的報酬已到! 他要親自來拯救你們。」
那時, 盲人將會看見, 聾子將要聽到; 那時, 瘸子必要跳躍如鹿, 啞吧的舌頭, 必要歡呼。上主所解救的人必要歸來, 快樂地來到熙雍; 永久的歡樂, 有如冠冕, 戴在他們頭上。他們將盡享快樂和歡喜, 再沒有憂愁和悲哀。——上主的話。
答唱詠 詠146:7,8,9,10
【答】: 上主, 請你來, 拯救我們。(參閱依35:4)
領: 上主為被欺壓的人辯護; 上主賜食物給飢餓的人; 上主使被囚的人, 獲得自由。【答】
領: 上主開啟瞎子的眼睛; 上主使瘸腿的人挺身; 上主喜愛正義的人。【答】
領: 上主保護旅客; 上主扶助孤兒寡婦; 上主迷惑惡人的道路。【答】
領: 願上主永遠為王! 熙雍, 你的天主萬壽無疆! 【答】

讀經二 (該堅固你們的心, 因為主的來臨已接近了。)
恭讀聖雅各伯書 5:7-10
弟兄姊妹們:
直到主的來臨, 你們應該忍耐。看, 農夫多麼忍耐, 期待田地裡寶貴的出產, 直到獲得時雨和晚雨。
你們也該忍耐, 堅固你們的心, 因為主的來臨已接近

弟兄們, 不要彼此抱怨, 免得你們受審判; 看, 審判者已站在門前。弟兄們, 應以那些曾因上主之名講話的先知們, 作為受苦和忍耐的模範。你們也該忍耐, 堅固你們的心, 因為主的來臨接近了。——上主的話。

福音前歡呼
領: 上主的神臨於我身上, 派遣我向貧苦的人傳報喜訊。(依61:1)
福音 (你就是要來的那一位, 或是我們還要等候另一位?)
恭讀聖瑪竇福音 11:2-11
那時候, 若翰在獄中聽了基督所行的, 就派遣他的門徒去問耶穌說: 「你就是要來的那一位, 或是我們還要等候另一位?」
耶穌回答他們說: 「你們去, 把你們所見所聞的, 報告給若翰: 瞎子看見, 跛子行走, 痲瘋病人得到潔淨, 聾子聽見, 死人復活, 窮苦的人得聞喜訊。凡不因我而絆倒的, 是有福的!」
他們走了以後, 耶穌就對群眾講論若翰說: 「你們出去到荒野, 是為什麼呢? 為看隨風搖曳的蘆葦嗎? 你們出去到底是為什麼? 為看一位穿細軟衣服的人嗎? 啊! 那穿細軟衣服的人, 是在王宮裡。你們究竟為什麼出去? 為看一位先知嗎? 是的! 我給你們說: 而且他比先知還大。關於這人, 經上記載說: 『看, 我派遣我的使者在你的面前, 他要在你前面, 預備你的道路。』」
「我實在告訴你們: 在婦女所生的, 沒有興起一位比洗者若翰更大的; 但在天國裡最小的, 也比他大。」——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

Some thoughts for Advent

Last weekend I was only able to share my homily at one of our Masses and so I thought I'd offer it this week as a reflection of what this holy season is about. Fr Colin

The Gospel this weekend (*last weekend*) contains the very familiar Advent theme of a voice crying in the wilderness, with its call to prepare the way of the Lord.

That word 'wilderness' is full of Old Testament connotations: but it particularly conjures up the image of the wandering of the people of Israel in the wilderness, led by Moses, wandering for forty years. And so the 'wilderness' in the Scriptures conjures up a journey with an uncertain and unreached destination. It's the image of a journey, you might say, which involves far more journeying than arriving.

And that is very much an Advent theme. There are two quite special moments in our Church year: the Season of Advent, in which we find ourselves; and Holy Saturday, that pause between Good Friday & Easter Sunday. Often, both those times of our Church year can tend to be a bit overlooked, overshadowed by the great feasts for which they prepare. But both of them actually have their own very important message which is very often lost.

Christmas and Easter are both about glory, about life, about triumph. *But that's not always our experience here in this life.* Advent, and Holy Saturday, on the other hand are about waiting, about not-being-there yet, about being a bit lost. *And that is a familiar part of our own experience.*

Too often Christian spirituality has been portrayed as being about "getting there", achieving perfection, knowing what it's all about, being right, and doing right.

But that's not the message of Advent, with its themes of waiting, searching, of being on a journey whose

destination is neither clear, nor achieved. And that's what discipleship is really like, that's what life is really like, that's what the journey of faith is really like. We don't always know the answers, we don't always get it right, we're not perfect, or anything like it; we make plenty of mistakes our faith can know more questions than answers, we can have much more of a sense of searching, than of finding.

And Advent's message is that that's okay that that's normal. The voice cries in the wilderness; not in a well-planned city, or a neat and tidy church building.

So Advent's call to us can be to look again with fresh eyes at our own journey of faith and to be kind to ourselves.

Advent says that we don't have to give ourselves marks, high scores, only when we see the way clearly, only when we get things right, only when we know where we're going, and when we get there. Advent invites us to give ourselves a big tick just for searching, simply because of the longing in our hearts which keeps us on the search for God, just because we're trying, even though we're not always succeeding.

Advent is a gentle season which invites us to be gentle with ourselves, and to accept that it's the image of wandering in the wilderness, full of thirsting and longing, that's a more faithful image of life's journey, than the image of a motorway that's clearly sign posted and has a smooth and even surface.

Fr Colin

Youth News



Children's Liturgy of the Word

We would like to offer Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) starting in February of 2026.

CLOW will run at the 10.15am Mass on Sundays that *don't have a Children's Mass*, i.e. on the 1st, 3rd and when applicable, the 5th Sunday of the month. All primary school children are invited to attend.

We are currently looking for **volunteers** to help deliver the Liturgy of the Word to the children. No experience needed! We are happy to provide training.

Please sign up here if you are interested in helping with this important ministry.



ADVENT AND HOPE

There are two days in the Season of Advent that mark a turning point:

* The liturgical colour for today, Gaudete Sunday, is rose, symbolising that the light of what we're waiting and preparing for is breaking through the darkness of our searching and waiting: it's as though the light of Christmas shines through the purple of our waiting, the purple of our searching, the purple of Advent - lightening it to a rose colour. Today is a day of hope, reminding us that the God who was made flesh is present with us even in our searching and longing and waiting, even in the dark moments of our life.

* The 17th of December is a liturgical turning point in the Season of Advent. Until then Advent is focussed on the theme of preparing for the coming of the Lord, in each present moment, at the hour of our own death, and at the end of time. But from the 17th Advent focuses specifically on preparing our spirit to celebrate the birth of Jesus. We move from the first to the second Preface of Advent in our Eucharistic Prayer as it prays 'that when he comes he may find us watching...our hearts filled with wonder and praise.'



Mike O'Shea
Parishioner

Trusted Senior Sales Consultant for over 20 years. Mazda Artarmon is a family owned business for more than 40 years.

Please mention this ad for the VIP Special.

☎ 0401 220 878

✉ michaelo@artarmonmazda.com.au

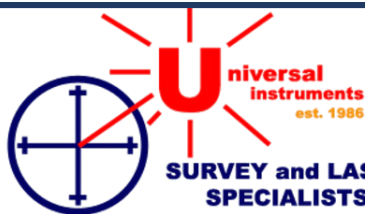
**RENOVATIONS & BUILDING
MAINTENANCE**
CHRIS IACONO

Parishioner
All work large and small

Lic 89879c
Fully Insured

50 years experience
0412 256 616

chris.iacono@bigpond.com



Henry & Gloria Cheung,
Parishioners

**SURVEY and LASER
SPECIALISTS**

326 Pacific Highway, LINDFIELD

Ph: (02) 9416 5335 Fax: (02) 9416 1538

Email: sales@universalinstruments.com.au

Website: www.universalinstruments.com.au

**COULD YOU
ADVERTISE
HERE
AND SUPPORT
OUR PARISH?**

**LAWYER
GROUPS**

Parishioner

Vanessa Robichaux

Conveyancing Lawyers

"Experienced and reliable conveyancing services for buying or selling property. Trust our expertise - contact us today."

☎ 0403456529

✉ Vanessa@lawyergroups.com.au



Lindfield Dental Practice Dr Peter Chung
Suite 1. 345 Pacific Hwy, Lindfield (Next to
Lindfield Medical Practice) P : 9416 5000

**COULD YOU
ADVERTISE
HERE
AND SUPPORT
OUR PARISH?**

**The CANA FARMS stall
is back!**



Sponsored by:



**All money goes to
support the works
of CANA FARMS!**

Cana's mission is to care & support those people who suffer from illness, addiction and homelessness and are struggling to integrate into the community. The Farm offers a safe place to belong in a positive community.

Just in time for Christmas!!!



Stalls will be at both
churches after every Mass
6/7 December
13/14 December



jams & chutneys
oils and vinegars
candles
hampers
tote bags
and more...

cash & credit cards accepted



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

Click on this
hotlink box on
the homepage of
our parish
website for all
the information
on Advent and
Christmas in our
parish.

THE SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION

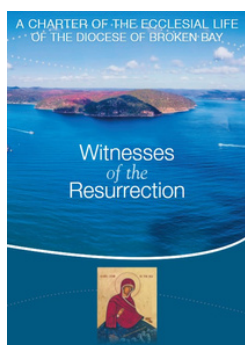
As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, a reminder that we have our celebration of the Second (Communal) Rite of Reconciliation **this coming Wednesday 17th at 7:00pm** in Holy Family Church.



Reconciliation

Gifts for children in Waterloo

BIG Thank You to all those who
generously donated toys and
presents for the children in
Waterloo.



BISHOP ANTHONY'S 'CHARTER OF THE LIFE OF OUR DIOCESE'

To stir our reflections as we look ahead to the Diocesan Synod in 2027 Bishop Anthony has offered this short booklet, which concludes with questions for reflection. If you missed getting one you can find it here: <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/about/bishop/2025-diocesan-charter>

From time to time here in the bulletin we'll print one of the questions for reflection that Bishop Anthony has put forward at the end of the booklet. Please ponder the question through the week - and even better discuss it with a fellow parishioner.

This week's question: 'Do we recognise and live out our shared dignity and mission as baptised members of the Body of Christ, contributing our gifts for the good of the whole Church?'