



*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 IN ADVENT 17 -12 - 23 GAUDETE ('REJOICE') SUNDAY

*This week : Is 61:1-2, 10-11; 1Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28*

*Next week : 2Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38*

### LIGHTING THE THIRD CANDLE OF THE ADVENT WREATH



**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 & 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 resume singing the hymn.*

## Advent and the Sacrament of Reconciliation

As the first season of the liturgical year Advent brings with it the invitation to renewal of heart, to 'prepare the way of the Lord'.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a beautiful and gentle way of entering into that movement of the heart.

We will have our celebration of the **Second (community) Rite of Reconciliation** **this Wednesday 20th December at 7:30pm in Holy Family church.**

*Please note though that there will be no celebrations of the Sacrament of Reconciliation on the Christmas weekend itself.*



## Our Christmas Celebrations

### Fourth Sunday of Advent:

*Saturday 23rd December*

5:30pm Vigil Killara & 6:00pm Vigil at Lindfield

*Sunday 24th December*

8:30am Lindfield; 9am Killara; 10:15am Lindfield



### CELEBRATIONS OF CHRISTMAS:

#### Children's Vigil Masses:

*Sunday 24th December:*

5:30pm at Killara

6:00pm at Lindfield

#### Mass of Christmas Night:

*Sunday 24th December*

10:30pm at Lindfield

preceded by a Service of Carols at 10:00pm

#### Christmas morning:

*Monday 25th December*

8:00am at Lindfield

9:30am at Killara

10:15am at Lindfield

(no evening Mass on 25th December)



## The sacraments for the children 2024

All the details (including dates) regarding our preparation programmes and the celebrations of First Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Holy Communion in 2024 can now be found on our website at:

[www.lindfieldkillara.org.au](http://www.lindfieldkillara.org.au) → 'Sacraments' →  
'Children's Sacraments'



*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.*

## 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 (which this year coincides with today, the 3rd Sunday of Advent) 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.'



## A THOUGHT ON THE MASS OF CHRISTMAS NIGHT... .

One of the most beautiful things in the treasury of our Church is the tradition of the Mass of Christmas Night - celebrated either at Midnight itself or late in the evening on Christmas Eve.

'The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light.' Advent reminds us of something that's true of all life - that we search and look for God sometimes in darkness, sometimes full of our human uncertainties. We discover God in that darkness - we glimpse those moments of light and peace which enable us to continue on the journey.



The timing of the Mass of Christmas Night is beautiful. Our gift to God is to stay awake on this great feast till those still night hours, that time of deep darkness which symbolises the darkness in which we wait for God to enter our lives. And then the celebration of the light of God's coming is even more symbolic: light and joy break into the stillness and darkness of that night hour. It's a beautiful way to keep vigil usher in the celebration of the birth that changes the world. We do it at a time free from all the frantic preparations of Christmas Eve and before the busyness of Christmas Day itself.

Please try to come along to the beautiful celebration of the Mass of Christmas Night this Christmas - at 10:30pm in Lindfield church on Christmas Eve (preceded by a Service of Carols from 10:00pm). Mass will be concluded by 11:30pm and you can be tucked up in bed before midnight!  
Fr Colin

## Some sad news

Sadly, the time of Fr Thomas' appointment as Assistant Priest at our parish of Lindfield-Killara is soon to come to an end. Bishop Anthony is in the process of making a number of clergy appointments and has advised Fr Thomas and myself that Fr Thomas is to be appointed Assistant Priest at our Cathedral Parish at Hornsby as of 9th February.

We will of course organise a proper farewell for Thomas once the coming holiday period is over, but I'm sure I speak for all of us in thanking Fr Thomas for his presence with us and his rich ministry among us over the last seven and a half years. We are blessed that his term of appointment has been much longer than is usually the case for an Assistant Priest.

I know there will be sadness in Fr Thomas' heart too, as it is always difficult to move from the community you have loved and served. Let's hold him in our prayers that his new appointment will bring him great blessing. In the meantime we're glad that we still have Fr Thomas with us for a little while yet.

Bishop Anthony assures us that a priest will soon be appointed to assist us in our parish though there may be a gap between Fr Thomas' departure and the new appointment. If that is the case our neighbour, Chatswood parish, will assist us.  
Fr Colin



## 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*

# Food for the Spirit

“I am the voice of one crying out in the desert,  
‘make straight the way of the Lord,’ as Isaiah the prophet said.” (Gospel)

## THE MYSTICAL BODY

*I am done with great things and big plans, great institutions and big success. I am for those tiny, invisible loving human forces that work from individual to individual, creeping through the crannies of the world like so many rootlets, or like the capillary oozing of water, which, if given time, will rend the hardest monument of pride.*

This is wisdom from William James: The deep, important things that most affect us are usually not big and showy, but tiny, perhaps even imperceptible.

We see the truth of this just by looking at the human body. How little of it we see from the outside. Inside a human body are countless hidden, silent processes, all going on at once. Cells are growing and dividing, enzymes are fighting viruses, nerves are carrying messages to and fro, cancerous cells are being attacked by the immune system, even while the hair are greying, the body is digesting food, and is imperceptibly aging. Whether we are healthy or sick at a given moment depends largely on countless, silent, hidden processes.

Moreover, inside all this, there is an even more-complex web of hidden connections between these various processes. Everything is interconnected, no part does anything that doesn't affect everything else.

This is true too of any social body. Every community or society has a certain visible life that can be seen and whose overt interconnections, to an extent, can be grasped, charted, and written up into textbooks. But, just as with the human body, most of the deep things in a

community are under the surface, invisible, silent, available only through another kind of instrument, the intuitive gaze of the mystic, novelist, poet, or artist.

And all of this is even more true of the body of Christ, the community of the baptized, the sincere. Most of the important processes there are also invisible.

Like any other body, partly this body is visible—physical, historical, something that can be observed from the outside. Historical Christianity, the churches, in their concrete history, are the visible body of Christ—people, institutions, buildings, virtue and sin enfleshed in history. But the body of Christ is more than meets the physical eye, a billion times more. As in every body, countless, silent, invisible processes are going on beneath. Inside the body of Christ, as in all bodies, there are deadly viruses, an immune system, cancer-cells, and health-carrying enzymes. What's deepest inside of life is not visible to the naked eye. Thus, for example, Therese of Lisieux, with her highly-tuned mystical sense, understood her hidden life in a monastery as a part of the immune-system inside the body of Christ. Without ever leaving the small town of Lisieux she touched the lives of millions of people. That shouldn't be surprising, given that the invisible interconnections inside of a body.

It is this background too that can help give us a sense of the mystical union we have with

*Fr Ron Rolheiser omi*  
(from the Centre for Liturgy, University of St Louis)

## OUR CHINESE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

將臨期第三日 17.12.2023

### 讀經一

(我要萬分喜樂於上主。)

#### 恭讀依撒意亞先知書 61:1-2, 10-11

吾主上主的神臨於我身上，因為上主給我傳了油，派遣我向貧苦的人傳報喜訊，治療破碎了的心靈，向俘虜宣告自由，釋放獄中的囚徒，宣布上主恩慈的喜年。

我要萬分喜樂於上主，我的心靈要歡躍於我的天主，因為他給我穿上救恩的衣服，給我披上義德的外衣，使我有如頭戴花冠的新郎，有如佩帶珍珠的新娘。正如大地怎樣產生苗芽，田園怎樣使種子發芽，吾主上主也要怎樣在萬民前，產生正義和讚揚。

——上主的話。(默想片刻)

#### 答唱詠 路 1:46-50, 53-54

【答】：我的心靈歡躍於我的天主。(依61:10)

領：我的靈魂頌揚上主，我的心神歡躍於天主、我的救主，因為他垂顧了他婢女的卑微；今後萬世萬代都要稱我有福。【答】

領：因全能者在我身上，行了大事，他的名字是聖的，他的仁慈世世代代，賜與敬畏他的人。【答】

領：他曾使飢餓者，飽饗美物，反使那富有者，空手而去。他曾回憶起自己的仁慈，扶助了他的僕人以色列。【答】

### 讀經二

(天主使你們整個的神魂、靈魂和肉身，在我們的主耶穌基督來臨時，保持無瑕可指。)

#### 恭讀聖保祿宗徒致得撒洛尼人前書 5:16-24

弟兄姊妹們：你們應常歡樂，不斷祈禱，事事感謝：這就是天主在基督耶穌內，對你們所有的旨意。不要消滅神恩，不要輕視先知之恩；但應當考驗一切：好的，應保持；各種壞的，要遠避。

願賜平安的天主，親自完全聖化你們，使你們整個的神魂、靈魂和肉身，在我們的主耶穌基督來臨時，保持無瑕可指。那召叫你們的，是忠信的，他必實行。

——上主的話。(默想片刻)

### 福音前歡呼 (依61:1)

領：亞肋路亞。

眾：亞肋路亞。

領：上主的神臨於我身上，派遣我向貧苦的人傳報喜訊。

眾：亞肋路亞。

### 福音

(有一位站在你們中間，是你們所不認識的。)

#### 恭讀聖若望福音 1:6-8, 19-28

曾有一人，是由天主派遣來的，名叫若翰。這人來，是為作證，為給光作證，為使眾人藉他而信。他不是那光，只是為給那光作證。

這是若翰所作的見證：當時，猶太人從耶路撒冷派遣了司祭和肋未人，到他那裡問他說：「你是誰？」，他明明承認，並沒有否認；他明認說：「我不是默西亞。」他們又問若翰說：「那麼你是誰？你是厄里亞嗎？」他說：「我不是。」他們又問：「你是那位先知嗎？」他回答說：「不是。」於是，他們問他說：「你究竟是誰？好叫我們答覆那派遣我們來的人。你自己說你是誰？」若翰說：「我是在曠野裡呼喊者的聲音：修直上主的道路！正如依撒意亞先知所說的。」被派遣來的有些是法利塞人；他們又問若翰說：「你既不是默西亞，又不是厄里亞，也不是那位先知，那麼，你為什麼施洗呢？」若翰答覆他們說：「我以水施洗，但有一位站在你們中間，是你們所不認識的；他在我以後來，我卻當不起解他的鞋帶。」這些事發生於約旦河對岸的伯達尼，若翰施洗的地方。

——上主的話。(講道後默想片刻)

#### \*\*華人天主教會北區中心\*\*

主日彌撒正午12時

主日學12noon

彌撒後午餐聚會

#### CCC 家庭營

— 26/12 至 28/12

St. Paul International

College Moss Vale

截止報名 17/12

#### 牧職修女 司徒金美修女

0419 426 899

北區中心聯絡 Gloria Cheung

0416 118 089

#### 31/12 — 盧伯樂神父

正午12時

主禮 Lindfield彌撒

下午2時至4時半

主持成人粵語組講座 —

主題：亞巴郎的信德及愛德

詳情 CCC網頁

## Hymns for the Third Sunday in Advent

**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 thee, 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**

*From the Great O Antiphons, c.12<sup>th</sup> cent.*

**DEDICATION OF THE GIFTS: WITH A JOYFUL HEART**

**Ref:** With a joyful heart, O Lord my God, I bring all to you  
I 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.

*Copyright 1970 World Library Publications. Contributor Lucien Deiss. \**

**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.

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.

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.

*Horatius Bonar (1846)*

**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. **Refrain**

*1981 by Daniel L. Schutte, S.J., Australian Agent Word of Life. \**

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## 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.

This 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. The envelopes can be placed on the collection  
plates along with the normal collections over the next few  
weeks.



**St Vincent de Paul Society**

*good works*

St Vincent de Paul Society  
has some beautiful  
charity Christmas cards  
for sale — all proceeds go  
to supporting their good  
works throughout the  
year!



They are sold in packs of  
10 cards for **\$9.95**, and  
come in two different  
styles, one in traditional  
design, and the other in  
drawings by children.  
Each pack contains only  
one style.



To purchase, please put  
the cash into the **poor  
boxes** with the big printed  
St Vincent de Paul logos,  
close to the entries of our  
churches.



## *I have an allergy*

Sorry, I mean '**an analogy**'! Suppose someone's wedding anniversary fell on Christmas Eve. Would they be happy to combine both celebrations into one to save time, or would their anniversary and their Christmas celebration with their beloved be of equal importance to them?

This year Christmas Eve falls on the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Christmas, and Advent's fourth and final Sunday, are two distinct celebrations which each have their own special focus and purpose. In the 'busyness' of the Christmas period our challenge is not to allow God and our community to become yet another event 'to fit in'. Next weekend invites us to *both* complete our Advent preparation *and then* to enter into the celebration of the Lord's birth. *Fr Colin*

## THE PRAYERS AND RESPONSES OF MASS

We abstain from the joyful words of  
the Gloria  
during these days of Advent  
as we prepare our hearts  
and our community  
to celebrate once again the birth of  
the Lord Jesus

### THE PSALM Lk 1:46-50, 53-54

My soul glorifies the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.  
The Lord looks on his servant in her nothingness;  
henceforth all ages will call me blessed.

The Almighty works marvels for me.  
Holy the Lord's name!  
God's mercy is from age to age,  
on those who fear the Lord.

God fills the starving with good things,  
sends the rich away empty.  
The Lord protects Israel, his servant,  
remembering God's mercy.

### 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

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *(Isaiah 61:1; Luke 4:18)*

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 : THE DIGNITY OF ALL THINGS

I prayed for wonders instead of happiness, and You  
gave them to me.

—Abraham Joshua Heschel, *The Ineffable Name of  
God: Man*

*Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel (1907–1972) is known for  
his prophetic action and commitment to “radical  
amazement.” Theologian Bruce Epperly explains:*

Heschel lived out a holistic balance of delight and awe,  
radical amazement, and prophetic challenge.

At the heart of Heschel's mystical vision is the experience of  
radical amazement.... Wonder is essential to both  
spirituality and theology: “Awe is a sense for the  
transcendence.... It enables us to perceive in the world  
intimations of the divine.” [1]

Wonder leads to the experience of radical amazement at  
God's world. Created in the image of God, each of us is  
amazing. Wonder leads to spirituality and ethics. As  
Heschel noted, “Just to be is a blessing, just to live is holy.  
The moment is the marvel.” [2]

*Heschel considers the significance of a worldview of radical  
amazement:*

The world presents itself in two ways to me. The world as a  
thing I own, the world as a mystery I face. What I own is a  
trifle, what I face is sublime. I am careful not to waste what  
I own; I must learn not to miss what I face.

We manipulate what is available on the surface of the  
world; we must also stand in awe before the mystery of the  
world. We objectify Being but we also are present at Being  
in wonder, in radical amazement.

All we have is a sense of awe and radical amazement in the  
face of a mystery that staggers our ability to sense it....

Awe is more than an emotion; it is a way of understanding,  
insight into a meaning greater than ourselves. The  
beginning of awe is wonder, and the beginning of wisdom  
is awe.

Awe is an intuition for the dignity of all things, a realisation  
that things not only are what they are but also stand,  
however remotely, for something supreme. Awe is a sense  
for the mystery beyond all things. It enables us...to sense in  
small things the beginning of infinite significance, to sense  
the ultimate in the common & the simple; to feel in the rush  
of the passing the stillness of the eternal. What we cannot  
comprehend by analysis, we become aware of in awe.

Faith is not belief, an assent to a proposition; faith is  
attachment to transcendence, to the meaning beyond the  
mystery.

Knowledge is fostered by curiosity; wisdom is fostered by  
awe. Awe precedes faith; it is the root of faith. We must be  
guided by awe to be worthy of faith.

Forfeit your sense of awe, let your conceit diminish your  
ability to revere, and the universe becomes a market place  
for you. The loss of awe is the avoidance of insight. A return  
to reverence is the first prerequisite for a revival of wisdom,  
for the discovery of the world as an allusion to God.

[1] Bruce G. Epperly, *Mystics in Action: Twelve Saints for  
Today* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2020), 81; Abraham Joshua  
Heschel, *I Asked for Wonder*, ed. Samuel H. Dresner (New York:  
Crossroad Publishing, 1983, 2022), 21.

[2] Epperly, *Mystics in Action*, 81; Abraham Joshua Heschel, “To Grow in  
Wisdom,” in *The Insecurity of Freedom* (New York: Schocken Books,  
1972), 82.

## SUNDAY MASS

KILLARA CHURCH :

5:30pm Vigil 9.00am

LINDFIELD CHURCH

6.00pm Vigil 8.30 am 10.15am \*\*

12 noon Chinese Mass 6:00pm\*

\* On the 3rd Sunday of the month the Youth and Family Mass is at the earlier time of 5:30pm.

\*\* The 10:15am Mass on the 2nd & 4th Sundays is a Children's Mass, featuring our Children's Choir.

Please note that there is no Children's Mass at 10:15am on 24th Dec. and no Youth and Family Mass on 17th December (Mass will be at 6pm as usual)

### WEEKDAY MASS this week:

Mon: 8am Killara  
Tues. 8am Killara  
Wed 10am Lindfield  
Thurs.: 10am Lindfield  
Fri.: 10am Lindfield

### THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Second Rite: this Wednesday 20th at 7:30pm at Lindfield  
No celebrations of Reconciliation next weekend

### SUNDAY MASS ROSTER

Saturday		16 Dec.	23 Dec
Lindfield	6:00 pm	Fr Colin	Fr Thomas
Killara	5:30 pm	Fr Thomas	Fr Colin
Sunday		17 Dec.	24 Dec.
Lindfield	8:30 am	Fr Colin	Fr Thomas
Killara	9:00 am	Fr Thomas	Fr Colin
Lindfield	10:15 am	Fr Colin	Fr Thomas
Lindfield	12:00 pm	Fr David Ranson	No Mass
Lindfield	6:00pm	Fr Colin	see below

### OUR CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Sunday 24th 5:30pm Children's Mass Killara Fr Thomas  
Sunday 24th 6:00pm Children's Mass Lindfield Fr Colin  
Sunday 24th 10:30pm Mass of Christmas Night (preceded by Carols at 10pm): at Lindfield Fr Colin and Fr Thomas.  
Mon. 25th 8:00am Mass Lindfield Fr Colin  
Mon. 25th 9:30am Mass Killara Fr Colin  
Mon. 25th 10:15am Mass Lindfield Fr Thomas

## MINISTRY ROSTER

16 & 17 Dec.		23 & 24 Dec.	
[K] Sat 5:30pm	Reader - Barbara Meaney Server - Andrew Borzycki	[K] Sat 5:30pm	Reader - Ann McCarthy, Saliya Hapugalle Server - Mary Warren (TBC)
[L] Sat 6pm	Reader - Ken Sheridan Server - Rocco Mimmo	[L] Sat 6pm	Reader - Andrew & Sally Giles Server - Richard Murray, Mary Moran
[L] Sun 8:30am	Reader - Elizabeth Reedy, Graham Barter Server - Jenny Yu	[L] Sun 8:30am	Reader - Annabel Gunns Server - James Yu
[K] Sun 9am	Reader - Petrea Cantrall, Declan Schillert Server - Michael Dewar	[K] Sun 9am	Reader - Lauren Davis, Mary Hor Server - Garry White
[L] Sun 10:15am	Reader - Peter Hunt Server - Dominic Taranto	[L] Sun 10:15am	Reader - Grace & Sam Ford, Kate Bromby Server - Kay Hunt
[L] Sun 6pm	Reader - Paloma & Charlie Tsang Server - Chris White	[L] Sun 6pm	Reader - Jennifer Crowley, Brett Moorcroft Server - Mitchell Frater-Baird
Counter - Eric Hahn, Kathryn Dent		Counter - TBC (volunteers required)	

### DIOCESAN AWARDS NOMINATIONS

Bishop Anthony has established a Diocesan Awards Committee to consider nominations for the honours and awards to encourage aspirations and ideals of the highest standards and value of the Catholic Church.

This Committee will provide the Bishop with a consistent and transparent framework for the encouragement, evaluation, and recommendation of nominations.

The committee will discern nominations for Papal Honours, as well and Diocesan and Civil Awards.

For more information, or to begin a nomination process, please visit our website:

<https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/about/awards>

### HOW TO CONTACT US

Fr Colin Blayney, Parish Priest

[colin@lindfieldkillara.org.au](mailto:colin@lindfieldkillara.org.au) 0475 558 500

Fr Thomas Alackakunnel VC, Assistant Priest

[thomas@lindfieldkillara.org.au](mailto:thomas@lindfieldkillara.org.au); 0421 406 162

Parish Office Hours: Tue-Fri. - 9.30am - 4pm

Postal address: PO Box 22, Lindfield NSW 2070

P: 9416 3702 E: [parishoffice@lindfieldkillara.org.au](mailto:parishoffice@lindfieldkillara.org.au)

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

For all the parish team click on 'Our Parish' on the website.

Holy Family School: 4 Highfield Rd, Lindfield

E [info@holyfamily.nsw.edu.au](mailto:info@holyfamily.nsw.edu.au) Ph.7256 2141

### 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 & retired & sick clergy of the diocese): BSB 062 784 Ac 10000 1624

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

OR

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

OR

◆ PERIODIC PAYMENTS FROM YOUR CREDIT CARD: just click on the hotlink box entitled 'Supporting parish finances' on the homepage of our website ([www.lindfieldkillara.org.au](http://www.lindfieldkillara.org.au)) and scroll down to 2i.b. for the form. or simply email [accounts@lindfieldkillara.org.au](mailto: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: Patrick Haynes, Alex Newton, John Playoust, Moya Dwyer (mother of Sally Cogle), Robert Webb, Peter Rodgers, Teresita Borthwick, Johnny Alackakunnel, Gerry McCormack,

Anniversary: Frank Fiala, Henry Yee Joy.

### PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

Evina Wong, Mary Moran, Peter Tsang, Wolfgang Liers, Tanya Walsh, Jutta Mathur, Jessica Keen, Therese Playoust, Ali Crawford, Morna Sutherland, Barbara McMullen, Nicholas Sutherland, Jesse Langford, Anthony Ellison, Cyril Ferriere, Alex Noble, William Wise, Ophelia Mari Umali, Rosanna Comastri, Janette Brennan

Some of the things that won't be on for a little while....



As the year draws to a close, both our morning and evening Scripture study groups now take a recess until the beginning of February

The Children's Mass at 10:15am today is the final one for the year. Our Children's Choir and the Children's Mass will be back in February (though of course the 5:30pm Vigil at Killara and the 6pm Vigil at Lindfield on Christmas Eve evening are our Christmas Children's Masses.

There be no potluck dinner/pizza night this month on the third Sunday of the month (17th December) (and this month the Mass will be at the normal time of 6:00pm that day, rather than 5:30pm).

7

## St Vincent de Paul Society ~ Christmas Appeal ~



St Vincent de Paul  
Helps People

The final Gospel of our Church year on the recent feast of the Christ the King carried Jesus' great message 'insofar as you did it - or neglected to do it - to the least of these, you did it - or neglected to do it - to me'.

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.

You can contribute by scanning this QR code:



### FEAR PROVED WRONG



(from the website ('Coram Fratibus') of Bishop Eric Varden oco . Eric Varden is a Cistercian monk, formerly Abbot of Mt St Bernard Abbey in Leicestershire and now Bishop of Trondheim in Norway)

On the night I was born', says the indomitable Heidi Crowter (<https://www.pillaratholic.com/p/how-can-i-give-up-meet-heidi-crowter-the-woman-challenging-the-uks-down-syndrome-abortion-law>), 'my mum cried to my dad, saying "She will never get married or be a bridesmaid" — which', she adds, 'I proved wrong.' The fears an expectant mother can feel on learning, like Heidi's, that her child has Down's are legion and readily understandable. What is terrible is that our society largely just confirms them, to the point of making such a mother feel it would be cruel to give life to such a child. An alternative account is needed, like the one presented a few years ago in this [luminous video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ju-q4OnBtNU) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ju-q4OnBtNU>). It declares with great authority: 'Your Child can be happy!' The film was produced for World Down Syndrome Day, 21 March, which happens to be, too, the feast of St Benedict. His great question was and remains, 'Who is the man that wishes for life?' (Rule of St Benedict). We might add: Which is the world that does? Jérôme Lejeune, discoverer of Trisomy 21, wrote, 'The quality of a civilisation is gauged from the respect it shows its weakest members.'

### FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS FOR OUR CHURCHES

We of course want to make both our churches beautiful for our celebrations of the Lord's birth. We have made arrangements with our usual florist for special occasions to prepare the flowers - though, as you'd expect, this is quite expensive.

If you'd like to contribute towards the cost of our Christmas flower arrangements please contact the Parish Office.



### THE VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING ACT

The Voluntary Assisted Dying Act came into effect in NSW on 28th November 2023.

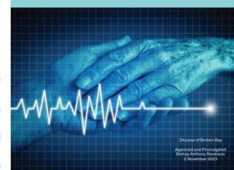
This of course involves ethical issues of grave significance for the Catholic Church which values life as a gift from God.

Our Diocese of Broken Bay has published a document which outlines the ethical issues involved and the Church's doctrinal stance, explains the details and implications of the legislation, and sets forth the pastoral guidelines which are incumbent on the Church and its Ministers to follow.

It is a valuable document to read and can be found on our parish website under 'News & Events' —> 'Voluntary Assisted Dying'.

An Interim Pastoral Guideline on Voluntary Assisted Dying

In light of the implementation of the NSW Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2022





*Soon to join our family of faith....*

We pray for our catechumens who will be baptised this coming Easter:

(from left to right) Daniel Han, Sandy Chen, Jennifer Zhao and her husband Stephen Xu



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*The Christmas luncheon in St Joseph's Hall following the December Healing Mass was a lovely occasion. Many thanks to Bronwyn White and Christine Yates for the wonderful work in preparing and serving the luncheon.*



**Henry & Gloria Cheung, Parishioners**  
326 Pacific Hwy, Lindfield  
Ph 9416 5335 Fax 9416 1538  
E [sales@universalinstruments.com.au](mailto:sales@universalinstruments.com.au)

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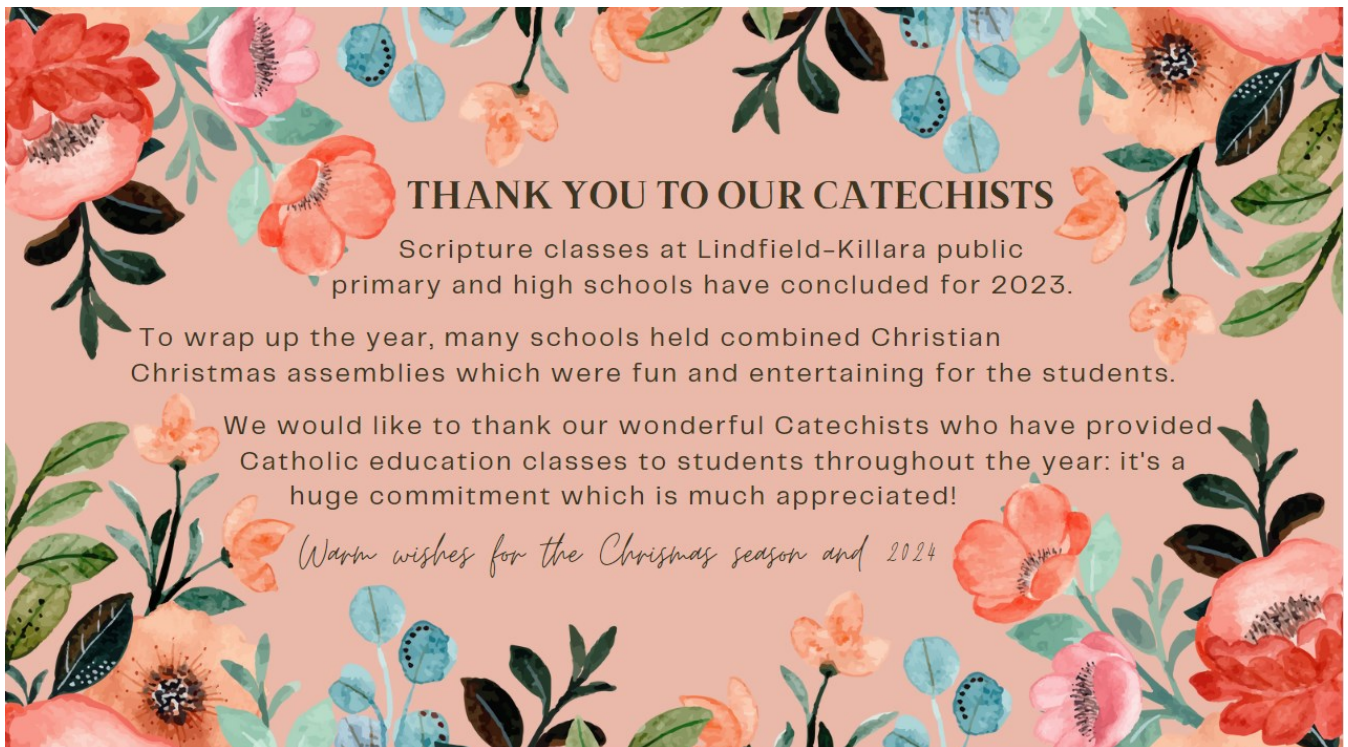
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## THANK YOU TO OUR CATECHISTS

Scripture classes at Lindfield-Killara public primary and high schools have concluded for 2023.

To wrap up the year, many schools held combined Christian Christmas assemblies which were fun and entertaining for the students.

We would like to thank our wonderful Catechists who have provided Catholic education classes to students throughout the year: it's a huge commitment which is much appreciated!

*Warm wishes for the Christmas season and 2024*