



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.

**VERSION OF PARISH BULLETIN
FOR PHONES**

**FOR THE VERSION FOR LARGE SCREENS PLEASE CLICK
THE OTHER LINK ON THE PAGE WHERE YOU
ACCESSED THIS VERSION**

28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 10-10- 21

***This week:** Wis 7:7-11 ; Heb 4:12-13 ; Mk 10:17-30
Next week: Is 53:10-11 ; Heb 4:14-16 ; Mk 10:35-45*

The rich young man is called by Jesus to give up his possessions.

And so are we.

But possessions come in many forms – whatever 'possesses' us is a possession:



*it might be an attitude that we don't want to change,
a resentment that we don't want to let go of,
a judgement we believe in more deeply than in love,
our own sense of being right.*

Possessions become a problem when **they own us,**

rather than the other way around.

*Today's Gospel challenges us to face the reality of what **possesses us** and to choose whether we can let it go.*

Fr Colin

**OUR COMING RETURN TO THE GREAT GIFT
OF THE EUCHARIST :
AN UPDATE**



After our long separation from the Eucharist and from one another as a community the day draws nearer to both separations coming to an end.

Here's an outline of the next steps on the journey :

◆ Weekday Mass will resume on Monday 25th October and so our first gathering for the Sunday Eucharist will be on the weekend of **30th-31st October. Hurrah! We're so looking forward to seeing you!** *(though a caveat—this date is predicated on when 80% vaccination is achieved—if that were to be delayed then the return of Sunday (and weekday) Mass could be one week later than advised here).*

From then until the end of November the capacity of our churches will be set by the one person per four square metres rule and so to ensure that we have space for everyone the weekend Masses at Lindfield over those five weeks will be in MacKillop Hall adjacent to the church. Masses at Killara will of course be in the church.

There will be no need to book for Mass.

During that five week period the public health order requires:

- that masks be worn in church
- that everyone 'signs in' using either a QR code. **It is no longer legal to write your name and details on a sheet. If you do not have a smart phone please see page 12 for details for obtaining a personal QR code.**
- that everyone sanitises their hands upon entry

During this period singing will not be permitted, though we will of course ensure that music is provided at our celebrations as we have done in the past.

Regrettably, the NSW government has decided not to require proof of vaccination to attend Mass during this period.

Please note that the parish will no longer provide face masks since this has come at a considerable cost, and also because everyone now carries face masks because of their widespread requirement. Please don't forget to bring your face mask with you to Mass.

from **this Monday 11th October our two churches will re-open for private prayer.** The hours of opening are given on page 2. During this initial period anyone visiting the church must wear a mask, sanitise their hands and check in with the QR code. Weddings and funerals with up to 50 people attending may take place, though all must be fully vaccinated.

- ◆ as of **Monday 25th October** weekday Masses will resume being celebrated (on weekdays the Masses at Lindfield will be in the church).
- ◆ the celebration of **baptism** will also resume once the 80% target is reached. If you would like to organise the baptism of your child for November or December please contact Alison (alison@lindfieldkillara.org.au)
- ◆ we won't resume our non-liturgical face to face gatherings for a little while yet. Thus our various online parish groups will continue meeting in that forum at this stage until the end of the year.
- ◆ **from 1st December onwards** most restrictions will be eased or reduced and so:
 - singing will return to our celebrations
 - our capacity will increase to one person per two square metres (the same as before we went into lockdown) and so we'll have plenty of space. Sunday Masses at Lindfield return to the church.

Let's work together to re-build, renew and re-create our community of faith.

Fr Colin

Mass during this lockdown

We continue to provide our parish Mass online via Youtube both on weekdays and Sundays.

Just go to our parish website:

(www.lindfieldkillara.org.au) and click on the box 'Online Mass'.

The page also provides a link to a booklet with the prayers, readings and hymns for the Mass. A text copy of the Sunday homily is also available.



FAQS AS OUR PARISH EMERGES FROM LOCKDOWN

◆ How many can now attend a funeral?

Despite the precipitate decision to double the number able to attend a funeral as of this Monday to 100, this number is subject to the one person per four square metre rule at present. Hence the number permissible in our Killara church will be 66 and at Lindfield 62. It is currently anticipated that we will move to the one person per two square metre rule as of the beginning of December.

In the first stage of the easing of restrictions these numbers are predicated on all people attending being fully vaccinated. If an unvaccinated person attends the permissible number drops to 10.

◆ Will our Parish Office be opening?

Not at present. Our Parish Secretary, Philita, has been on leave without pay due to our reduced income (however supported by the government's disaster payment scheme) and will only return to work at the beginning of November. All our other parish staff continue to work, between office and home as they wish at this stage. Hence the physical office will have no set opening hours until at least the 80% vaccination rate is reached.

However our parish staff are still working for our parish, albeit remotely. The contact email addresses for all can be found in the staff directory in this bulletin and on the website.

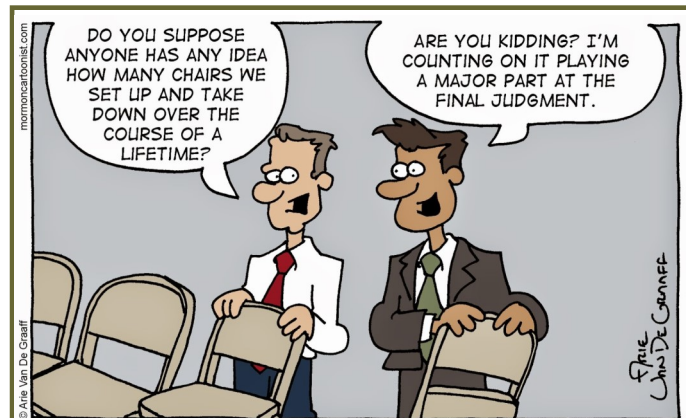
◆ Will our online Masses be continuing?

Our online *weekday* Masses will be discontinued once public *weekday* Masses resume. However our **Sunday** online Mass **will continue** - as it has since the advent of CoVid - for the sake of those who by reason of age or health are still unable to come to a public gathering. However, we hope that unless you are in that situation you will indeed come to our public celebrations of Mass where we can be together as a community of faith and share in the Eucharist in Holy Communion.

◆ What about Children's Liturgy of the Word?

Our *online* Children's Liturgy of the Word will come to and end once our public Sunday Masses resume (for dates see p.1). We are just clarifying whether we can immediately begin to hold 'live' Children's Liturgy of the Word as soon as Mass resumes. We'll let you know here in the bulletin next weekend.

Fr Colin



CAN YOU HELP US?

As you'll read on page 1, to ensure that we have sufficient total seating across our parish once public Mass resumes, the Masses at Lindfield will be celebrated in MacKillop Hall between the time public Mass resumes and when our capacity increases to one person per two square metres on 1st December.

This means we need teams rostered for about four weeks to set the chairs up in MacKillop Hall at 5pm each Saturday afternoon. **Remember it's only for the first four or five weeks.**

As we emerge from our long isolation from one another I hope we could have a robust response to this appeal. If you'd be happy to take a turn could you email me (colin@lindfieldkillara.org.au) as soon as possible.

Fr Colin

THE PLENARY COUNCIL



Two excellent short presentations: which are worth watching:

- Fr Frank Brennan SJ gave an incisive interview about the Plenary Council and the issues facing the Church. It only runs for 11 minutes and is challenging and thought-provoking: <https://www.skynews.com.au/australia-news/father-frank-brennan-discusses-the-plenary-council/video/455ff56dcb4d9ef9dfa8cc315eac7f6c>

- Rev. Prof. Richard Lennan gave a very good ten minute presentation to the Council which can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SBOIPnTFyiw>

OUR TWO CHURCHES RE~OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER



As advised on page 2 our churches re-open for private prayer as of **this Monday 11th October for those who are fully vaccinated only** (weekday Mass does not resume until 25th October however). The hours of opening THIS WEEK will be:

	Killara	Lindfield
Mon.:	9am - 4pm	10am - 4pm
Tues.:	9am - 4pm	10am - 4pm
Wed.:	Closed	Closed
Thurs.:	9am - 4pm	10am - 4pm
Fri.:	9am - 4pm	10am - 4pm
Sat.:	9am - 4pm	1pm - 4pm
Sun.:	9am - 4pm	10am - 4pm

Please note that even when visiting the church by yourself the Public Health Order requires that you:

- ◆ sign in via the QR code (please note as per page 2 that it is no longer legal to sign in by writing your name and details. If you don't have a smartphone then we've provided details of how you can get your own QR code. However this itself has to be scanned by the parish and since we will have no-one on duty except when Mass is on it will not be possible to drop into the church for prayer unless you have the ability to scan our QR code).
- ◆ sanitise your hands
- ◆ wear a mask (please note that masks are no longer provided in the church, so please bring your own)

THE PARISH OFFICE is physically closed at this time. For office enquiries please contact Alison via email on Monday, Wednesday or Thursday.

Do you need to drop something off to the office?

There is a letter slot in the side door (on the Pacific Hwy side) of Holy Family church which leads into a locked box. Parish staff check this regularly.

THE PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT for the 2020-21 Financial Year appeared in last weekend's bulletin. It is available permanently, along with the reports from the previous seven years, on our website under **Our Parish** → **'Parish Finances'**.

**FOR THE CHILDREN ON SUNDAYS DURING
LOCKDOWN:**

Children's Liturgy of the Word goes online

We now have a short, engaging and fun Children's Liturgy of the Word each Sunday at 9:00am via Zoom (it's even on during school holidays).

It goes for around 20 minutes and is a chance for the kids to have an enjoyable time of prayer and reflection based on the Sunday Scriptures -

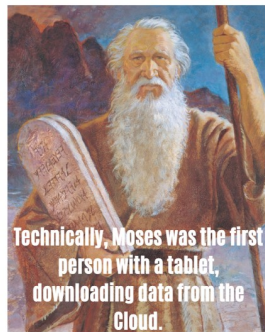


To take part just click on the special hotlink box (pictured here) on the homepage of our parish website: www.lindfieldkillara.org.au

Please note: for child protection purposes families just need to register for each session via Trybooking—an email will follow giving you the Zoom login details. Just click the button on the webpage mentioned above to register and receive the link.

Hope you can join in at 9:00am ! *Fr Colin*

BEST OF LUCK  TO ALL OF
OUR STUDENTS RETURNING
TO SCHOOL FOR TERM 4...



Technically, Moses was the first person with a tablet, downloading data from the Cloud.

YOU ARE IN OUR
THOUGHTS AND
PRAYERS... 

youth@LK
faith growth service

CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK

TWENTY-EIGHTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

Monday: Memoria of Pope St John XXIII

Friday: Memoria of St Teresa of Avila

THREE NEW PRIESTS FOR OUR DIOCESE TO BE ORDAINED !



From left to right, Sam French, Aldrin Valdehueza and Roger Delmonte, will be ordained priests by our Bishop, Most Rev. Anthony Randazzo, on Monday 18th October at 11:30am at our Cathedral of Our Lady of the Rosary at Waitara.

Due to CoVid restrictions the Ordination Mass will be livestreamed. Go to www.bbcatholic.org.au/ordination to join in.

In lieu of holidays....

Like many of you, I don't see myself getting holidays this year. I'd actually booked them to start this Monday! But after this long period of our community being separated from one another and the Eucharist, I don't want to disappear just as we re-assemble! On top of which the next few weeks will see us with lots to do as we prepare for re-opening.

So what I plan to do to at least preserve my sanity is take some 'bits and pieces' of respite in lieu of a holiday in these last few weeks before our parish life resumes: a few days off, a few days back at it, etc etc.

For that reason, for just these last few weeks I won't commit myself to providing online weekday Mass on the days I normally do so. Fr Thomas will celebrate Mass for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday but Thursday and Friday may be a bit more 'pot luck' - if I can, the Mass will be on our channel but you would just have to look and see. However, I will certainly still be celebrating our online Sunday Mass. Replies to emails may also be a bit hit and miss so if it's urgent please contact either Fr Thomas or Alison.

I hope you understand. Soon, we'll be back together and parish life will begin to get back into its stride.

Fr Colin

**WHAT IS THE PLACE OF MARY
AND THE SAINTS IN OUR FAITH?
PART VIII**

Local celebrations

In addition to the pattern of feasts outlined above we should note that local communities may also have their own celebrations which assume a particular importance in that community. One type of celebration stands out: *the celebration of the patron saint*. The celebration of the patron saint of a parish is obviously one of the most important days in the life of a parish community. This is the day of that member of the Communion of Saints which this community has been given to be their particular model and example. The day of the patron saint is observed as a Solemnity within the parish, regardless of the rank of the feast on the universal calendar of the Church. Thus, the celebration of the Immaculate Heart of Mary is only an Optional Memoria on the universal calendar. But in our parish it is a Solemnity and should be observed with all the liturgical trappings of a Sunday. The Holy Family is a Feast on the universal calendar of the Church but has the rank of a Solemnity in our parish.

Conclusion

Hopefully all that has preceded can give some insight into our Christian tradition of 'feasting' - for it is the Gospel (literally 'Good News') that we claim to follow. The celebrations of Mary and the saints remind us that our belief in the resurrection leads to our belief in the Communion of Saints - that death does not break up the Christian community, but that rather the Church on earth and the Church in heaven are *one* communion, one community, of love. The celebrations of Mary and the other saints are joyful because we look to inspiration from their lives and support in our journey from their prayers.

Each of us also has to find a place in our hearts and our homes for our mother and brothers and sisters in the Communion of Saints; each of us has to find those celebrations which touch our hearts and speak to our lives, **and then to celebrate them**. As one of the Prefaces for celebrations of the saints prays: '*This great company of witnesses spurs us on to victory*'. May we keep company with this great company, and allow them to help us to live the Gospel which they followed so well.

Fr Colin (this concludes this series)

<p>Lindfield Dental Practice Adj Assoc Prof Peter Chung</p>  <p>Open: Mon - Sat P: 9416 5000</p> <p>Suite 1, 345 Pacific Hwy (Scholastic Bldg)</p>	 <p>Universal Instruments est. 1988</p> <p>SURVEY and LASER SPECIALISTS</p> <p>Henry & Gloria Cheung, Parishioners 326 Pacific Hwy, Lindfield Ph 9416 5335 Fax 9416 1538 E sales@universalinstruments.com.au</p>
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<p>RENOVATIONS & BUILDING MAINTENANCE</p> <p>CHRIS IACONO</p> <p><i>Parishioner</i></p> <p>All work large and small <i>Lic 89879c Fully Insured</i> 50 years experience</p> <p>M: 0412 256 616 E: chris.iacono@bigpond.com</p>
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THE COLES DEVELOPMENT, BALFOUR LANE AND CARPARKING

Don't be perturbed if you've seen that the entry to our Lindfield site via Balfour Lane has been closed—this was done with our permission and utilised lockdown for Coles to complete electrical and drainage works. It will re-open before public Mass resumes.

There will of course be reduced parking on the outdoor Coles carpark and ultimately no parking there at all during the main construction phase which begins next year.

However I'm pleased to say that our sisters and brothers at Lindfield Uniting Church (just up the road on the corner of Provincial Rd) are very happy for our parishioners to park on their site **for the Saturday and Sunday evening Masses** when parking is not available on the Coles site. Entry is from Pacific Highway. Unfortunately, as you would understand, the Uniting Church congregation requires their on-site parking on Sunday mornings.

This is a wonderful ecumenical gesture reflecting the beautiful relationship we have with our local Uniting Church communities at Lindfield, Killara and Roseville.

There will also still be ample parking on our own Lindfield site: the main carpark, parking for the frail or disabled on our internal road, and the school playground will also be open for parking for all Masses.

Fr Colin

Food for the soul

“You are lacking in one thing. Go sell what you have, and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” (Mk 10:21)

JESUS' WAY OF WISDOM

Jesus states that he is the way that leads to life. What is this Jesus way?

Among other things, it is the way of wisdom, the way of pondering. The way of Jesus is the way of standing amid all delight, joy, contradiction, ambiguity, division, and complexity with a heart and a faith big enough to somehow hold it all. Jesus' way is the way of holding things.

Part of this can be understood by looking at its opposite. The opposite of the way of wisdom, scripture tells us, the way of holding things, is the way of amazement. Time and time again, the crowds following Jesus are described as being amazed at what he says and does. Always they are chided for it: “don't be amazed!” Jesus says. Amazement is not what Jesus wants and it is never something that does us good.

Why? Is it not good to be amazed? Yes, amazement can be good, if it is the act of a child where amazement is wonder, *agnosis*, a stunning of the intellect into silence and a sense of its own limits. That is good, but that is rarely true in adults. For us, normally amazement is not wonder, but cheerleading, and invariably we end up hating what formerly amazed us. The same persons who were amazed at Jesus and who tried to make him King would, not long afterwards, shout: “Crucify him!” What we are amazed at we will eventually try to crucify, as every celebrity soon learns. Amazement is the opposite of wisdom.

If amazement is bad, and the opposite of wisdom, what is good and what is wisdom?

Pondering and helplessness, these are wisdom. We see an example of this in Mary, Jesus' mother. She is never amazed. When others are amazed she goes off and instead, silently, ponders things in her heart.

This is also true of the disciples of Jesus, though only on occasion. Normally, like the crowds, they are amazed and need some prodding. This Jesus tries to provide. One such example happens after Jesus' exchange with the rich young man.

Jesus asks him to give up everything and follow him, but the young man is unable to do so. He goes away sad. Jesus then turns to his disciples and says: “I tell you that it is harder for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven than for a camel to go through the eye of a needle.” How do the disciples react?

They are not amazed. There are no wows, no cheerleading, no congratulating Jesus on how wonderful he is. No. They are stunned: “If that is the case, then who can go to heaven?” Paraphrased that

might read: "If that is the case, then we are all in deep trouble!" Jesus' answer brings them face to face with their own helplessness, their poverty, their limits, and to the searing realisation that they do not really have things figured out, as they think they have. And that paralysis is good since it forces them to wonder, to again take on the helplessness of the child.

When we are amazed, we are not wise and we hold nothing together. In amazement, we fall prey to every kind of superficiality, novelty, trick, and one-sided ideology. Amazement is the unrecognised face of fundamentalism, the antithesis of wisdom. The way of amazement is the way of fundamentalism, the way of letting one piece, or person, be the whole.

And the way of amazement is everywhere: we look at our sports heroes, our rock stars, and all kinds of other pop celebrities and we say: "Wow. Be my King! Be my Queen!" Soon enough we also say: "Crucify him! Crucify her!"

We take a first course in something (psychology, theology, liturgy, adult education, feminism, ecology, whatever) and emerge from that initial classroom starry-eyed, newly angry at the world, devoid of compassion; in brief, amazed. We begin then to crucify a whole lot of people and things. Small wonder Alexander Pope, the poet, once suggested "a little learning is a dangerous thing." It too easily leads to the way of amazement.

The way of wisdom is the way of pondering, the way of holding every kind of pain, suffering, delight, and contradiction long enough until it transforms you, gestates compassion within you, and brings you to your knees in a thousand surrenders.

You and I are wise and we walk the way of Jesus, even when we are so stunned by it all that, in wonder, we ask: "If that is the case, who then can be saved?"

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

ABOUT SIGNING IN WHEN ATTENDING MASS

It is no longer legal to sign in on a sheet as an alternative to using a QR code.

If you do not have a smart phone you will need to obtain a personal QR code. These can be applied for online at <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/create-covid-19-check-card>

The parish will be required to obtain a scanner for each church which can read the card.

Three ways that you can support our parish

- ◆ **DIRECT DEBIT CONTRIBUTIONS** from your bank account to our parish accounts can be made as follows:

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

BSB 062 784 Acct 10000 1624

(Lindfield-Killara Parish Pastoral Revenue A/c)

Second Collection: (providing for all the operating costs of the parish)

BSB 062 784 Acct 10000 1623

(Lindfield Killara Parish Church Account)

OR



- ◆ **YOU CAN HAVE A TAP MACHINE AT HOME (ALMOST!)**

In lieu of our tap machines which are unavailable at this time, **credit card contributions** can be made by scanning this code and then selecting each of our two parish collections:

OR

- ◆ **YOU CAN ARRANGE FOR PERIODIC PAYMENTS FROM YOUR CREDIT CARD:**

just click on the hotlink box entitled 'Supporting parish finances during the public health restrictions' on the homepage of our website (www.lindfieldkillara.org.au) and scroll down to 2 i.b. for the form. (or simply email Alison (alison@lindfieldkillara.org.au) for assistance.



Our PARISH BOOK GROUP

gathers each month on the fourth Wednesday at 10am (online at present) for a lively discussion of that month's book. The next two books are:

Oct.: *A Month in the Country* by J.L. Carr

Nov.: *The Shattering of Loneliness* by Eric Varden

If you'd like to join in please contact Catherine Willis (catherinecwillis@gmail.com) or Elizabeth Reedy (elizabethreedy@msn.com).

REFLECTIONS ON THE EUCHARIST AS WE PREPARE TO GATHER AGAIN PART IV

A Missioning and Commissioning:

The word 'Mass' is, when you stop and look at it, a seemingly strange word for the celebration of the Eucharist. Where does the word 'Mass' come from? It doesn't look anything like the words 'Eucharist, Communion, Supper, or anything like that.

In fact it comes from the final words of the celebration of the Eucharist in the old Latin rite: 'Ite **Missa** est', which is often translated 'Go ('ite'), the Mass ('missa') is ('est') ended (there's no word meaning 'ended' in the Latin phrase!). And it begs the point to render 'missa' as 'Mass' since the word 'Mass' was in fact derived from 'missa'!

So what does this ancient phrase actually say? Properly translated it says '**Go, it is sent**' ('missa' meaning 'sent'). Well, *what* is sent? What is sent is everything that we have celebrated: the mystery of Jesus present amongst us, the communion and fellowship that it brings about us who share in the Eucharist, the sacrifice, the self-giving unto death of Jesus that gives birth to the Resurrection - all of this great mystery which is made present in, and celebrated in, the Eucharist is now SENT OUT into the world.

But HOW is it *sent* ('missa')? There's only one possible answer - in **us**, through **us**, who have participated in, shared in the Eucharist. This mystery of God's gracious self-giving is sent out **in us**.

As the Dominican, Fr Timothy Radcliffe, put it, the whole point of going to Mass is to be sent away. To take what we have been privileged to share in and to play our part in it touching the world around us.

This is the extraordinary thing - our uniquely Catholic word for the Eucharistic celebration (Mass) says that its whole purpose is to mission us, to commission us (both words of course also being derived from the Latin 'missa'). Pope Francis constantly reminds us that there's no point to our discipleship, to the Church, if we're not missionary, if we don't evangelise, if we don't bear the Good News we've been privileged to share in to the world around us. And the Eucharist, the high point of the Christian life, naturally both gives us that commission AND the grace to do it.

'I'm going to Mass.' Do we stop to think that what we're saying is 'I'm going to be missioned, I'm going to be commissioned, I'm going to be sent out'?

Can we bring this aspect of the Eucharist - our being called and empowered for mission - to our prayer this week as the day for our re-assembly draws nearer?

Fr Colin

OUR DETAILS HAVE CHANGED !..

For those who wish to make direct contributions from your bank account to the parish bank accounts **please note that our account numbers have changed.** The new details are:

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

BSB 062 784 Acct 10000 1624

(Lindfield-Killara Parish Pastoral Revenue A/c)

Second Collection: (providing for all the operating costs of the parish)

BSB 062 784 Acct 10000 1623

(Lindfield Killara Parish Church Account)

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

Recently deceased: Margaret Nakkan, Vince Bryant, Maureen Delaney, Fr James Duck, Anthony Wallace, Guido Zanella, Alan Tan, Fortunato Glinoga, Bayani Atangan, Tom Van Dijk, Charles Pak, Norma Campbell, Alvin Marundan, Carlos De Leon, Frank Breslin, Nancy Brady.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

Albert Yu, Shirley Smith, Barbara McMullan,, Sally Cougle, Nicholas Sutherland, Jesse Langford, Anthony Ellison, Wolfgang Liers, Cyril Ferriere, Alex Noble, William Wise, Lise Therese Ferriere, Ian Coffey, Maureen Hobbs, Russell Adams.

And for all affected by COVID.

PARISH DIARY OCTOBER

Sun. 3rd	9:00am	Online CLOW
	9:30am	Morning tea (online)
Wed. 6th	8:00am	Meditation (online)
	11:00am	Scripture study (online)
Sun. 10th	9:00am	Online Children's Liturgy of the Word
	9:30am	Morning tea (online)
Mon. 11th	CHURCHES RE-OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER	
Wed. 13th	8:00am	Meditation (online)
	7:30pm	Scripture study (online)
Sun. 17th	9:00am	Online Children's Liturgy of the Word
	9:30am	Morning tea (online)
Wed. 20th	8:00am	Meditation (online)
	11:00am	Scripture study (online)
	7:30pm	The Creed (online)
Mon. 25th	WEEKDAY MASS RESUMES (SEE P.1)	
Wed. 27th	8:00am	Meditation (online)
	7:30pm	Scripture study (online)
Sun 31st	SUNDAY MASS RESUMES (SEE P.1)	

**FR RICHARD ROHR OFM'S MEDITATION:
SEEING THINGS AS THEY TRULY ARE**

Richard continues exploring Francis of Assisi's insights, pointing us beyond the "bird bath" spirituality for which Francis is too often known.

Francis of Assisi knew that the finite manifests the infinite, and the physical is the doorway to the spiritual. If we can accept this foundational principle we call "incarnation," then all we need is right here and right now - in this world. ***This*** is the way to ***that***! Heaven includes earth and earth includes heaven. There are not sacred and profane things, places, and moments. There are only sacred and desecrated things, places, and moments - and it is *we alone* who desecrate them by our lack of insight and reverence. It is one sacred universe, and we are all a part of it. In terms of a spiritual vision, we really cannot get any better or simpler than that.

Franciscan spirituality emphasises a real equivalence & mutuality between the one who sees & what can be seen. *What you see is what you are.* There is a symbiosis between the mind & heart of the seer & what they pay attention to. Francis had a unique ability to call others—animals, plants, and elements—"brother" and "sister" because he himself was a little brother. He granted other beings and things mutuality, subjectivity, "personhood," and dignity because he first honoured his own dignity as a son of God. The world of things was a transparent two-way mirror for him, which some of us would call a fully "sacramental" universe.

As Franciscan sister Ilia Delio explains:

Francis came to realise that it is Christ who sanctifies creation and transforms it into the sacrament of God. The intimate link between creation and Incarnation revealed to Francis that the whole of creation is the place to encounter God. As his eyes opened to the holiness of creation, he came to see that there is nothing trivial or worthless. Rather, all created things point beyond themselves to their Creator. . . .

[The Franciscan scholar] Bonaventure [c.1217–1274] describes the contemplative vision of Francis as "contuition," that is, seeing things for what they truly are in God. In his *Major Legend*, [Bonaventure] writes:

In beautiful things he [Francis] contuited Beauty itself and through the footprints impressed in things he followed his Beloved everywhere, out of them all making for himself a ladder through which he could climb up to lay hold of him who is utterly desirable. . . . He savoured in each and every creature - as in so many rivulets - that fontal Goodness, and . . . sweetly encouraged them to praise the Lord. [1]

These footprints of God impressed on the things of creation enabled Francis to find God wherever he went in the world, and finding God in the things of creation

led him to the embrace of Jesus Christ, for Christ is the Word of God made visible in the world. [2]

[1] Bonaventure, The Life of Blessed Francis, chap. 9, in Francis of Assisi: Early Documents, vol. 2, The Founder, eds. Regis J. Armstrong, J. A. Wayne Hellmann, and William J. Short (New City Press: 2000), 596–597.


[2] Ilia Delio, A Franciscan View of Creation: Learning to Live in a Sacramental World, The Franciscan Heritage Series, vol. 2 (The Franciscan Institute: 2003), 15–16.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

- ◆ During lockdown we are providing two alternative versions of Sunday Mass on YouTube - one of which has a homily directed at the younger children.
- ◆ There is a youth page in each edition of the parish bulletin.
- ◆ Children’s Liturgy of the Word is now taking place on online (see notice elsewhere in bulletin)



Can we help ? If you would like a phone call and chat from time to time please let us know. Just contact Fr Colin (9416 7195) or Fr Thomas (0421 406162).



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GET
IN TOUCH
TODAY

Online opportunities to gather ...

- ◆ **Scripture study with Fr Colin** ~ 2nd & 4th Wed. at 7:30pm and 1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 11am.
- ◆ **Parish Book Club** ~ 4th Wed. of month at 10am.
- ◆ **Morning tea** ~ a group gathers for a cuppa and chat online each Sunday at 9:30am. A fun and relaxing get-together.
- ◆ **Adult faith enrichment:** our current online series is Robert Barron's 'The Creed' ~ on the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 7:30pm.

If you'd like to take part in any of these let me know and I'll let you know how to log in. *Fr Colin*

Me coming out of lockdown with all the stupid stuff I ordered online

