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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 FULL VERSION PLEASE CLICK THE OTHER LINK
ON THE PAGE WHERE YOU ACCESSED THIS VERSION

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 5-9-21
FATHERS' DAY

This week: Is. 35: 4-7; Jm 2: 1—5; Mk 7: 31-37
Next week: Is 50:5-9 ; Jas 2:14-18 ; Mk 8:27-35

'Ephphatha'. 'Be opened' :

the words of Jesus as he restores the hearing of the
man in today's Gospel.

Those same words were spoken to each one of us
at our own baptism - and so they remind us of an
essential part of our calling as disciples:

to be opened, to be open.

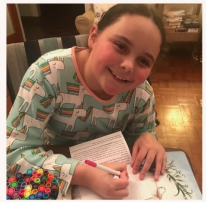
In fact however Christians are often known for
their lack of openness, for rigidity, for being
unwilling to be surprised by God and challenged
by God.

*The ministry of Jesus was a litany of such
surprises: sinners embraced and welcomed;
religious authorities challenged and criticised; the
poor and outcast declared as blessed.*

Today's Gospel asks us whether as disciples we are
faithful to that baptismal calling: are we 'opened',
are we open – **open-hearted and open-minded?**
Do we have the breadth of vision and depth of
love revealed in the Jesus, the Word of God made
flesh amongst us?

Fr Colin

BLESSINGS TO ALL OF OUR FATHERS!



Thanks to the many young families who delivered Father's Day cards this week to our "more senior" fathers in the Parish.

Lots of care and effort was put in, as many of the children added their own personal messages or drawings to make each card special. After decorating the cards, they delivered them by hand to parishioners living in their neighbourhood.



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.



THANK YOU so much for your continued financial support of the parish during these challenging days.

Our First Collection (which provides for Fr Thomas and myself as well as the sick & retired priests of the diocese has maintained its level at pre-Covid levels : an extraordinary result. Thank you!

Thank you too for your ongoing Second Collection contributions (which pays all the running costs of the parish) - though that income has fallen significantly. We are however being assisted by the government grants available at this time. *Fr Colin*

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

MARY

Catholics of course have always had a very special place in their faith for Mary. In the first place we must be clear that Mary is *one of the saints* - the cathedral in the archdiocese of Sydney is after all *Saint* Mary's Cathedral. Mary is one of us, a human being created by God. Like the saints she is in no way a competitor with God. But like the saints she is one that we *venerate, imitate and invoke*. She is also seen in our tradition as pre-eminent among the saints because of her special relationship to Jesus and her part in God's plan of salvation.

We *venerate* Mary because she responded to God's call: at the Annunciation she received a perplexing call from God that she did not fully understand and yet she said 'yes' and became the mother of Jesus. We therefore *imitate* Mary - through her 'yes' she became the mother of Jesus and brought him into the world. We likewise are called to say 'yes' to God in the many ways God calls us to respond and so likewise to become 'mothers of God', bringing God to birth in our world today. We *invoke* Mary like all the saints because she is our fellow disciple in the communion of saints - and a special one at that: the mother of our Lord - and so we can ask her to pray *for* us. Mary cannot answer our prayers. That belongs to God alone. But like any member of the communion of saints she can hear our prayers and intercede for us: and she is not just *any* member of the communion of saints!

A number of the Church's doctrines are associated with the person of Mary (such as the Assumption, the Immaculate Conception). Shouldn't *doctrine* be about God and not about one of God's creatures? Indeed that's so. And that's what is the case in these doctrines - they point to what *God* has done in Mary and what God wants to do in us. The Assumption reminds us that the resurrection of Jesus is something in which we all, like Mary, will share: Mary stands as an exemplar of the whole human race - a sign of hope. Each feast of Mary is a celebration of what God can do in a human being who responds to God's call - each feast of Mary therefore is a challenge asking us whether we respond to that aspect of God's grace. *Fr Colin*
(to be continued)

OUR MONTHLY HEALING MASS



cannot of course be celebrated publicly this month but will be available on our Youtube channel online **this Friday 10th September**. The Mass will include a blessing for all those who are frail or sick.



Many thanks for your donations to 'Pastoral Works Broken Bay' (the new name for CWF).

We raised \$8792 of the \$15,000 required for this appeal.

If you would still like to contribute please scan the QR code below.



Donations are 100% tax deductible.

Food for the soul

*He ordered them not to tell anyone. but the more he ordered them not to, the more they proclaimed it
(Mt 7:36)*

REPENT

“Repent and believe in the good news!”

These are the first words out of Jesus’ mouth in Mark’s gospel and they are meant as a summary of the entire gospel. But what do these words mean?

In English, the word “repent” is often misunderstood. It seems to imply that we have already done something wrong, regret it, and now commit ourselves to live in a new way. Repentance, understood in this way, means to live beyond a sinful past.

Biblically, this is not quite what is meant. In the gospels, the particular word used for repentance is *metanoia*. Literally this means to do an about face, to turn around, to face in an entirely new direction.

But what direction?

Robert Barron, then a young theologian out of Chicago, offered a simple, yet profound, understanding of this. In his view, within each of us there are two souls, a little soul (a *pusilla anima*) and a great soul (a *magna anima*). On any given day we tend to identify more with one or the other of these and we are a very different person depending upon which soul is reigning within us.

Thus, if I take my identity from my little soul I will inevitably feel bitter and angry. It is here, in the *pusilla anima*, where I am petty, afraid, aware of my hurts, and constantly nursing the sense of having been cheated and short-changed. In my little soul, I am paranoid and defensive. When I relate to life through it, I am short-sighted, impatient, despairing, and constantly looking for compensation.

But I also have within me a great soul. When I let it reign, I become a different person altogether. I am relating out of my great soul at those moments when I am overwhelmed by compassion, when everyone is brother or sister to me, when I want to give of myself without concern of cost, when I am able to carry the tensions of life without a breakdown in my chastity, when I would willingly die for others, and when my arms and my heart would want nothing other than to embrace the whole world and everyone in it.

All of us, I am sure, have had ample experience of both, identifying with the great soul and with the petty soul inside us. Sometimes we operate out of one, sometimes out of the other.

When Jesus asks us to “repent,” to do *metanoia*, what he is asking is that we cease identifying ourselves with the little soul and instead begin to live out of our other soul, the *magna anima*. The very etymology of the word *metanoia* implies this. It takes its root in two

Greek words: *meta*—beyond; and *nous*—mind. Literally, *metanoia* means to move beyond our present mindset, beyond our present way of seeing things.

When one looks at the miracles of Jesus, it is interesting to see that so many of them are connected to opening up or otherwise healing someone's eyes, ears, or tongue. These miracles, of course, always have more than a physical significance. Eyes are opened in order to see more deeply and spiritually; ears are opened in order to hear things more compassionately; and tongues are loosened in order to praise God more freely and to speak words of reconciliation and love to each other. To put it metaphorically, what Jesus is doing in these miracles is attaching the eyes, ears, and tongue to the great soul so that what a person is now seeing, hearing, and speaking is not bitterness, hurt, and pettiness but rather compassion, gratitude, and praise.

Many of us are familiar with a famous passage in Thomas Merton within which he describes a revelation he had one day while standing on the corner of Fourth and Walnut in Louisville. Among complete strangers in the middle of a shopping district on a very ordinary day, Merton had the sense that his eyes, ears, and tongue were all at once attached to a bigger soul:

I was suddenly overwhelmed with the realisation that I loved all of those people, that they were mine, and I, theirs, that we could not be alien to one another even though we were total strangers. It was like waking from a dream of separateness.

*... Then it was as if I suddenly saw the secret beauty of their hearts, the depths of their hearts, where neither sin, nor desire, nor self-knowledge, can reach the core of their reality, the person that each one is in God's eyes. If only we could all see each other that way all the time! There would be no more war, no more hatred, no more cruelty, no more greed. I suppose that the big problem would be that we would all fall down and worship each other.**

To repent is let the great soul, the image and likeness of God, reign within us so that, like Merton on the corner of Fourth and Walnut, we are so overwhelmed with compassion that indeed we do turn and face in a completely new direction.

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

OUR DETAILS HAVE CHANGED I..

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)



THIS WEDNESDAY is the Feast of the Birth of Our Lady. Online Mass will be available as usual.

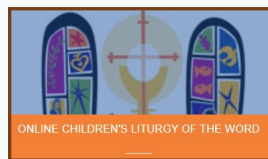
ANNOUNCING...

SOMETHING FOR THE CHILDREN ON SUNDAYS DURING LOCKDOWN: Children's Liturgy of the Word goes online during lockdown

Starting next Sunday 12th September we will have a short, engaging and fun Children's Liturgy of the Word each Sunday at 9:00am via Zoom.

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

- there'll be prayer, readings, a very short homily for children by Fr Colin, song, and maybe even dancing !



To take part just click on the special hotlink box (pictured here) on the homepage of our parish website

(www.lindfieldkillara.org.au).

If you wish, after the Children's Liturgy of the Word session is finished you can go to our online parish Mass and scroll ahead to the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

If your children would like to take a turn at reading the Scripture passage please let Alison know: alison@lindfieldkillara.org.au

Hope you can join in next Sunday at 9:00am !

Fr Colin

Three ways that you can support our parish financially

1. What's NOT happening:

- with no public Mass we have no collections, no Tap Machines, and no rent for our parish halls and meeting areas which are normally rented.

2. What CAN happen:

- ◆ **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)

Please note that these are NEW account numbers)

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



meets (online at present) on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 10:00am. The book for Wednesday 22nd September is *Brand Luther* by Andrew Pettegree.

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

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

Grant that life to:

Recently deceased: Fr Sean Coghlan, Anthony Wallace, Fr Paul Purcell, Tom Van Dijk, Charles Pak, Norma Campbell, Alvin Marundan, Carlos De Leon, John (Jack) O'Leary, Frank Breslin, Nancy Brady, Ruth Peel, David and Carline Miller, Veronica Fitzgerald, James O'Connor.

Anniversary: Ronald Burke, Marion Grace Blayney.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

Albert Yu, Shirley Smith, Barbara McMullan,, Sally Cogle, Trevor Bailey, 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 ~ SEPTEMBER

Sun. 5th	9:30am	Morning tea (online)
Wed. 8th	8:00am	Meditation (online)
Sun. 12th	9:30am	Morning tea (online)
Tues. 14th	7:30pm	PFC (online)
Wed. 15th	8:00am	Meditation (online)
	11:00am	Scripture study (online)
	7:30pm	Finance Committee (online)
Sun. 19th	9:30am	Morning tea (online)
Tues. 21st	6:00pm	Tarrawarra group (online)
Wed. 22nd	8:00am	Meditation (online)
	7:30pm	Scripture group (online)
Sun. 26th	9:30am	Morning tea (online)

**FR RICHARD ROHR OFM'S MEDITATION:
THE COSMOS REVEALS GOD'S GREAT LOVE**

Brian McLaren grew up, as I did, in a very religious home, where "our story" was defined by strict religious obligations, with clear insiders and outsiders. However, a mystical experience in nature opened Brian up to God's Great Story. He writes:

I grew up in a religious home. A full-dose, hard-core, shaken-together-and-my-cup-runneeth-over, conservative, Bible-believing, Evangelical, fundamentalist Christian home. . . . Holidays and Sundays were just the spiritual appetizers. For the main course, there was also church every Sunday night. And there was a Wednesday night prayer meeting too. . . . Some neighbourhood buddies . . . invited me on a weekend retreat with the youth group from their Southern Baptist church. And that's where spirituality snuck up and crashed upon me like an unexpected wave at the beach. The retreat leader sent us off on Saturday afternoon for an hour of silence during which we were supposed to pray. I climbed a tree—being a back-to-nature guy—only to discover that my perch was along an ant superhighway and that mosquitoes also liked the shade of that particular tree. But eventually, between swatting and scratching, I actually prayed. My prayer went something like this: "Dear God, before I die, I hope you will let me see the most beautiful sights, hear the most beautiful sounds, and feel the most beautiful feelings that life has to offer." . .

In spite of my sincerity, absolutely nothing happened. . . . After supper,] a few friends & I snuck away to a hillside & found ourselves sitting under one of those sparkling autumn night skies. I walked several paces away from my friends & lay back in the grass, fingers interlocked behind my head, looking up, feeling strangely quiet & at peace. Something began to happen.

I had this feeling of being seen. Known. Named. Loved. By a Someone bigger than the sky that expanded above me. Young science geek that I was, I pictured myself lying on a little hill on a little continent on a little planet in a little solar system on the rim of a modest galaxy in a sea of billions of galaxies, & I felt that the great big Creator of the whole shebang was somehow noticing little, tiny me. It was as if the whole sky were an eye, & all space were a heart, & I was being targeted as a focal point for attention & love. And the oddest thing happened as this realisation sank in. I began to laugh. I wasn't guffawing, but I was laughing, at first gently, but eventually almost uncontrollably. Profound laughter surged from within me.

It wasn't a reactive laughter, the kind that erupts when you hear a good joke or see somebody do something ridiculous. It was more like an overflowing laughter, as if all that space I had been feeling opening up inside me was gradually filling up with pure happiness, and once it reached the rim, it spilled over in incandescent joy. "God loves me! Me! God! At this moment! I can feel it!"

Online opportunities to gather ...

Each week there are many ways to gather using Zoom (if you are unfamiliar with Zoom just give Fr Colin a call on 94167195. It's very simple).

- ◆ **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 and chat.
- ◆ **Adult faith enrichment:** our current online series is Robert Barron's 'The Creed'.

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*



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ARE YOU HOME SCHOOLING
AT THE MOMENT?

MAKE TIME FOR GOD



Age appropriate resources developed in collaboration by
all the dioceses of NSW for students from Kindy to Yr 12.

WWW.CCRESS.ORG.AU/LEARNING-FROM-HOME-SRE-LESSONS/

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.
- ◆ **Online Catechesis** for students in State Schools is available—see elsewhere in this bulletin.
- ◆ Children's Liturgy of the Word will soon be taking place on online (see notice on p.7)



ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

~ DELAYED WINTER APPEAL ~



As you can imagine there is a great call on the services of St Vincent de Paul at the moment. The Winter (now Spring!) Appeal by our parish Conference of SVdP is now open

Contributions are tax deductible.

To contribute please scan this QR code or just go to <https://my.fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au/fundraise-your-way/vinnies-appeal>:





September has become **Safeguarding Awareness month**, where each week, our diocese promotes messages and resources to raise awareness of Safeguarding within our Diocese. This year's theme is *Participation of Children and Young People in our Catholic Communities*. A schedule of weekly initiatives is available:


<https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/our-faith/safeguarding/safeguarding-month-2021>

We are also conducting our annual **Liturgy of Lament** (online) on Thursday 9 September at 7.00pm. Through prayer and reflection, we acknowledge the trauma of abuse victims, survivors and their families, the failures of the Catholic Church to protect, believe and respond justly to children and vulnerable adults and an expression of commitment to ensure the ongoing protection and safety of children and vulnerable adults.

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).



International Day of Peace



To celebrate this day
you are invited
to join an online

Interfaith Prayer Service

On Tuesday 21 September 2021 at 2pm on Zoom
<https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/96010303812>

Occasional address: Rev. Simon Hansford, the Moderator of the Uniting Church in Australia NSW & ACT Synod.

Religious leaders from Aboriginal, Bahai, Brahmakumaris, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Islamic, Jain, Jewish, Mandaean, Sikh, Sufi and Zoroastrian communities will offer prayers for peace. There will be opportunity to light a candle for Peace during the service. So please keep a candle and matchbox ready.

For further information contact **Rev. Dr. Manas Ghosh**
on 0429 892 548 or email: revmanasghosh@gmail.com

For the Kids A reminder:

During lockdown, we will provide two alternative videos of our online parish Mass on our Youtube channel, one with the homily intended for older youth and adults, the other with a special and shorter homily directed towards younger children..

PARISH LIFE AT THIS TIME we have lots of resources available for you at this time on our website:
www.lindfieldkillara.org.au

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.

RECEIPTS If you require a receipt for your 2020-21 CWF contributions please email Alison: alison@lindfieldkillara.org.au

Lindfield Dental Practice
Adj Assoc Prof Peter Chung



Open: Mon - Sat
P: 9416 5000

Suite 1, 345 Pacific Hwy
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'BAY CONNECTS'

Our diocese announces an online programme of regular activities commencing on 30th August, to converse, reflect and connect spiritually online with our communities

Mondays @ 7:30-8:45pm
via Zoom - **THE CHOSEN MONDAY** - Join us as we go through the first season of The Chosen, viewing one episode every Monday, breaking open some themes and coming to know Jesus in a fresh new way.

Tuesdays @ 7:00-7:30pm
via Instagram Live (@cybbaus) - **TUESDAY NIGHT LIGHTS** - A place for the community to come together for prayer and to praise God from the setting of your home. All youth, young adults, singles and families, parishioners and clergy are invited.

Wednesdays @ 7:00-7:30pm via Zoom - **HUMPDAY HANGOUT W/ BR BERNARD** - Our jolly friar Br. Bernard Mary will host the session with time for prayer, 'Banger' of the week, casual chat and an entertaining selection of activities.

Fridays @ 7:00-8:00pm
via Zoom - **FORMATION FRIDAYS** - An opportunity to get some simple Catholic formation on various aspects of the faith, from the basics to the hot topics, featuring a different guest speaker each week, followed by some time for questions/discussion.

Visit
www.bbcatholic.org.au
for full details

OUR CHINESE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

常年期第二十三主日 5.9.2021

讀經一(聾人, 將要聽到; 啞吧的舌頭, 必要歡呼。)

恭讀依撒意亞先知書 35:4-7

你們要告訴心怯的人說:「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, 聾人將要聽到; 那時, 瘸子必要跳躍如鹿, 啞吧的舌頭, 必要歡呼。因為, 曠野裡, 將流出大水; 沙漠中, 將湧出江河; 火熱的沙地, 將變為池沼; 乾旱的地帶, 將變為水源。——上主的話。

答唱詠 詠146:7, 8-9, 9-10

【答】: 我的靈魂, 你要讚美上主。(詠146:1)

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; 上主使僵傻的人挺身; 上主喜愛正義的人; 上主保護旅客。【答】

領: 上主扶助孤兒寡婦; 上主迷惑惡人的道路。願上主永遠為王! 熙雍, 你的天主萬壽無疆! 【答】

讀經二(天主不是選了世俗視為貧窮的人, 使他們繼承所預許的國嗎?)

恭讀聖雅各伯書 2:1-5

我的弟兄姊妹們:

你們既信仰我們已受光榮的主耶穌基督, 就不該以貌取人。如果有一個人, 戴著金戒指, 穿著華麗的衣服, 進入你們的會堂, 同時, 一個衣服骯髒的窮人, 也進來, 你們就專注那穿華麗衣服的人, 且對他說:「請坐在這邊最好的位置!」而對那窮人說:「你站在那邊!」或說:「你坐在我的腳凳下邊!」這樣, 你們豈不是以偏私的標準, 來歧視人嗎? 我親愛的弟兄姊妹們, 請聽! 天主不是選了世俗視為貧窮的人, 使他們富於信德, 並繼承天主向愛他的人, 所預許的國嗎?——上主的話。

福音前歡呼

領: 亞肋路亞。

眾: 亞肋路亞。

領: 耶穌宣講天國的福音, 治好民間各種疾病。(參閱瑪4:23)

眾: 亞肋路亞。

福音(他使聾人聽見, 叫啞吧說話。)

恭讀聖馬爾谷福音 7:31-37

那時候, 耶穌從提洛地區出來, 經過漆冬, 走向加里肋亞海, 到了十城區的中心地帶。有人帶來一個又聾又啞的人, 求耶穌給他覆手。耶穌便帶這人離開群眾, 來到一邊, 把手指放進他的耳朵, 並用唾沫, 抹他的舌頭, 然後望天歎息, 向他說:「厄法達」就是說:「開了吧!」這人的耳朵就立刻開了, 舌結也解了, 說話也清楚了。耶穌於是囑咐群眾, 不要告訴任何人; 但他越囑咐他們, 他們便越發宣傳。眾人都不勝驚奇, 說:「他所做的一切都好: 使聾人聽見, 叫啞吧說話。」——上主的話。

**華人天主教會北區中心 Lindfield Holy Family Church

每月第二及第四主日舉行彌撒聖祭, 正午12時,

**牧職修女 司徒金美修女 0419- 426899

**北區中心聯絡 Gloria Cheung ☎ 0416-118089



First Plenary Council Assembly Moving Fully Online

At long last, starting 3rd October, the Catholic Church in Australia will gather for the first Assembly of the Plenary Council. Due to the current climate the format of the assembly has evolved from a large gathering, to smaller hubs and now to a fully online gathering with one person per device. While not ideal, and not what we had hoped, the national team will continue to assist and support the members and delegates so that they may participate as effectively as possible.

While many may question why we are proceeding with the Plenary Council at this time; the desire to fulfil Christ's mission, no matter how difficult the circumstances may be, is part of the thinking in moving ahead. It is precisely the challenges that people are now facing, the isolation and disconnect, that we are hoping the Church will be able to address. Please continue to pray for the Plenary Council, the members and delegates as they prepare to fulfil their role in the coming months.

You can keep abreast of all the latest news, access the *Instrumentum Laboris* and sign up to the Plenary Council Newsletter by heading to the National website: <http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/>

We're all in this together....

REPORT

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