

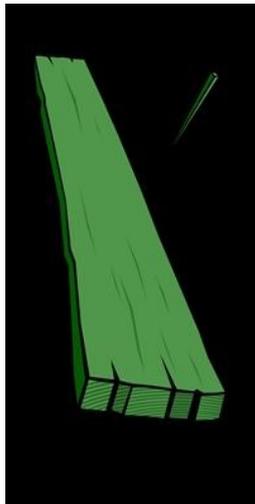


We are a welcoming Christian community which embraces all people. We support each other to grow in faith and create a loving and compassionate community. We aspire to live as Christ's witnesses of God's unconditional love.

**VERSION OF PARISH BULLETIN FOR PHONES**  
**FOR THE VERSION FOR LARGE SCREENS PLEASE CLICK THE**  
**OTHER LINK ON THE PAGE WHERE YOU ACCESSED THIS.**

**EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 27-2-22**

*This week: Sir 27:4-7 ; 1 Cor 15:54-58 ; Lk 6:39-45*  
*Next week: Dt 26:4-10 ; Rom 10:8-13 ; Lk 4:1-13*



***“Hip, hip, hypocrisy.*** That’s the theme of the Scriptures this weekend.

And it’s not the hypocrisy of ‘the hypocrites’ that they’re talking about,

of the one or ones that everyone so happily points the finger at.

**It’s the hypocrisy of each one of us,**  
of each person who points a finger other than at themselves.

Jesus challenges those who point out the splinter in another’s eye

without noticing the plank in their own.

Some may excuse themselves by saying: well that person’s sin is itself a plank, it’s so big.

That doesn’t change the fact that none of us are perfect,  
**that planks come in different shapes and sizes,**  
that we all fall short of God’s grace,  
*and that the only gaze upon the world which is worthy of a disciple*  
*is the gaze of compassion and love.*

*Fr Colin*

## *A farewell and a welcome*



As advised over recent weeks, Alison Williams will have her last day with us on our parish staff this Monday 28th. On behalf of all of us I thank Alison so much for the dedicated and professional role she has played on our team. She leaves very big shoes to fill and will be much missed by all on the staff. Thank you Alison.

At the same time we welcome Maia Schulze-Tsang, already our Sacramental Programme Coordinator, who will now take on most of Alison's previous role. Maia will bring her wonderful professional and pastoral skills, so evident in her present position, to her new and expanded role in the life of the parish. Welcome Maia to your new role.



That part of Alison's role which pertained to parish bookkeeping and financial management is now being advertised - please see page 4.

Please join me in extending an enormous thank you to Alison for the tremendous work she has done on behalf of our parish, and in welcoming Maia into her new role.

*Fr Colin*



THE SACRAMENT OF  
**RECONCILIATION**

**PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT**

TUESDAY 1ST MARCH 7-9PM  
 @ LINDFIELD CHURCH

For late enrolments contact Mrs Maia Schulze-Tsang  
[maia@lindfieldkillara.org.au](mailto:maia@lindfieldkillara.org.au)

## Keeping the time of Lent ...

### ASH WEDNESDAY

#### ~ BEGINNING LENT TOGETHER ~

Please be part of our Ash Wednesday celebrations (this **Wednesday 2nd March**) as we begin this annual season of renewal together.

Mass times will be:

<b>Killara :</b>	<b>Lindfield :</b>
8:00am	10:00am
	7:00pm

**ONLINE MASS:** The 10am Mass will also be recorded and will be available online from midday. If you will be taking part in this way have some ashes prepared and they will be blessed as part of the Mass, after which you can place them on your own forehead.



#### COVID SAFE DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES:

The Ashes will be in separate very small cardboard containers. After they are blessed we will invite you to come forward, take a container and place the Ashes on your own forehead. The containers will be recycled.

*Ash Wednesday is a day of fast for those aged between 18 and 60, and of abstinence from meat for those aged over 18.*

#### DAILY LENTEN MEDITATIONS ON YOUR PHONE

Pray with Fr Joe Tetlow, SJ, in our *Living Lent Daily* series for 2022: exploring the Examen and directing our attention to Jesus' experience of the Passion. This is a wonderful way to experience Lent during this Ignatian Year.

The daily messages include suggestions for further exploration of Lenten themes through additional online articles and prayers.

Take time each day for *Living Lent Daily*, and prepare your heart for a new appreciation of the journey to Easter.

Sign up to receive the daily messages via e-mail from Ash Wednesday, March 2, 2022, through Easter Sunday, April 17, 2022. The messages will come from the *Year in Our Church* from Loyola Press:

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/lent/living-lent-daily>

## Keeping the time of Lent ...

### *High Horses, Scapegoats and Donkeys A Lenten Odyssey*



An ONLINE Lenten retreat led by Sr  
Antonia OSB from the Benedictine Abbey  
at Jamberoo.

*“This retreat is not about entering the murky waters of a fear-based compunction. Rather it is about taking the step back to look honestly into our heart and soul and to courageously identify that which blocks our capacity to draw closer to God; it is to be prepared to feel the prick that will come with self-knowledge; and it is to come to ourselves as we really are.”*

If you wish to do the retreat privately you can take part in each session at any time of your choosing. The full cost for those participating privately is \$250 (\$125 for pensioners).

However we will also be offering the opportunity to take part in this Lenten retreat **as a parish group** (for which the Abbey will give us a per-person 50% discounted fee - ie \$125 for non-pensioners and \$62.50 for pensioners). There are 5 sessions to the retreat, spread over the weeks of Lent.

If we have sufficient numbers we could offer two weekly opportunities: Saturdays at 4:30pm or Thursdays at 7:30pm. If numbers did not permit we'd just have the Saturday option.

As Lent is fast approaching I need to know very soon as to whether we have a quorum who would like to take part as a *parish* online Lenten retreat. If you would like to do so please let me know by next Sunday 27th February (colin@lindfieldkillara.org.au; 94167195).

*In these challenging times for us as a parish community this could be a wonderful opportunity for us to ‘come together’ in prayerful reflection as we keep the time of Lent. I hope that you might be able to take part. Fr Colin*

If you wish to take part privately just go to:

<https://www.jamberooabbey.org.au/retreat/online-retreats>

## Keeping the time of Lent ...

### ROSEVILLE – LINDFIELD – KILLARA INTERCHURCH FELLOWSHIP LENTEN ECUMENICAL SERVICES



We are blessed that this year we will again be having **three Lenten Ecumenical Services** with our fellow Churches in our local area. Please be part of this wonderful opportunity to build the bridges of Christian Unity during the Lenten season of renewal:

**Tuesday 8th March 7:45pm**  
At Lindfield Uniting Church (cnr Pacific Hwy and Provincial Rd)  
Preacher: Rev. Chris Goringe

**Tuesday 22nd March 7:45pm**  
at Holy Family Catholic Church, Lindfield (**please bring a plate for supper**)  
Preacher: Rev. Yangrae Son

**Tuesday 5th April 7:45pm**  
at Roseville Uniting Church (5 Lord St, Roseville)  
Preacher: Rev. Colin Blayney

*Please be there to help build our bonds as fellow disciples of the Lord. On Tuesday 22nd March, when we are hosting, please bring a plate for supper if you can.*

### PROJECT COMPASSION

Lent is a precious opportunity not only 'to give up' but also 'to give'. Please support Caritas in its great work both home and abroad helping to create self-sustaining communities.

Boxes and sets of weekly envelopes are in our church foyers today.

**UPDATE: EASING OF RESTRICTIONS  
AND  
COMMUNITY SAFETY AT OUR MASSES**

Although the government-mandated restrictions have been eased please bear in mind:

- ◆ The new regulations suggest that it is advisable to wear a mask where physical distancing can't be maintained - so if it is possible for you please consider continuing to wear a mask for the sake of others.
- ◆ **However, for the safety of your fellow communicants and of those distributing Holy Communion, in our parish we require that everyone wears a mask when coming forward to receive Holy Communion.** When coming forward to receive Holy Communion (which will be given on the hand only) please keep your mask on, receive the Host on your hand, step well to the side and then lower your mask to receive the Host before replacing the mask and returning to your seat.
- ◆ We had planned to re-introduce congregational singing once case numbers had dropped sufficiently. However as restrictions keep being eased before stabilisation has been achieved following the previous easing, case numbers have plateaued rather than continuing to decline. For that reason we won't re-introduce congregational singing for a little while longer.
- ◆ And of course, if you are feeling even mildly unwell please don't attend.
- ◆ Our churches are well-aired and surfaces are wiped down after each Mass. We hope you can re-join us.

*Fr Colin*

**BANNS OF MARRIAGE** our prayers and best wishes go to Kaseng (John) Mok and Natalia Yang who will celebrate their marriage in Holy Family Church next weekend.

**OUR PARISH OFFICE** will **physically re-open** this week and will be open from Tuesday—Friday. All who are visiting the Parish Office are required to wear a mask for the well-being of our staff.

## A little CoVid story....

Just as I recovered from CoVid myself, I heard from my 23 year old godson that he had tested positive (no, I didn't give it to him!). He was asymptomatic after the first two days. The government regulations, having miraculously reduced the infectious period to 7 days said that there is no requirement for a positive case to have a test at the end of the 7 days if they are asymptomatic - they are just free to go out and about. My godson, being unaware of that, went and got tested again on the 7th day - **and was still positive!**

He must be pretty frustrated that he now he has another 7 days of isolation when, if he'd listened to the government, he could have been happily out and about infecting everyone he came into contact with!

Not to mention the negative effect on the economy that those extra seven days of isolation are going to cause.....  
*Fr Colin*

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for 2023



OPEN DAYS 2022

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**Tuesday 8 March  
Wednesday 4 May**

**Join us for school tours from 9am - 10.30am & 6pm - 7.30pm with Principal's address at 9.30am & 6.15pm**

- Meet with our Principal
- Take a first hand look at our learning environment
- Discover how each and every child has a unique learning experience

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### ABOUT OUR INTERNAL ROAD AT LINDFIELD

**Some good news:** thanks to some external funding a new fence and motorised gate has been installed to divide the school courtyard (near MacKillop Hall) from our internal road (visible in the photo) which thereby frees up our road for more expanded use, while the safety of the school children is ensured.

Here's quick summary of how our road can be used:

- ◆ on school days, once morning drop off is concluded (ie. after 8:50am) and not during afternoon pickup (i.e. between 2:20 & 3:15pm) there is **SHORT TERM** (15 min) parking on that section of the road which is two lanes wide (see photo below). This enables short visits to either the school or parish office. Parking must be on the left-hand side of the road as pictured) Longer term parking must be sought off-site.



- For those attending parish weekday Mass there is 30 min parking between 9:50 & 10:35am Wed.-Fri.
- ◆ on weekends, as has long been the case, parking is available on the internal road as outlined above **for senior and disabled parishioners** attending Sunday Mass.
- ◆ Please park thoughtfully to maximise the number of cars able to use this space.

## TWO WAYS THAT YOU COULD HELP US:

**T**he cloths used to sanitise the pews after Masses at Lindfield have been being sanitised and washed by a parishioner. That person is unable to do so anymore and rather than reverting to ecologically-unsuitable disposable wipes we hoped that we could find a person or roster of persons to take this on. We'd also like to introduce reusable cloths at Killara.

If you could help at either church, either by yourself or on a roster, please let Maia know at: [maia@lindfieldkillara.org.au](mailto:maia@lindfieldkillara.org.au)

**I**n just three weeks time it will be two years since we started having our parish online Masses. While I am very happy to continue these for the sake of those who are unable to come to Mass at present for health reasons, I feel that after two years I need to ask your help in improving the 'technology' - which currently consists of my iPad, me climbing up to the Stations of the Cross to position it, and that disaster of Apple technology - the blue-tooth airpod (whose repeated fall into static requires me often to re and re-record parts of the Mass, turning a 35 minute celebration at your end into a 90 minute one at my end!).

If we are to continue we need to install a professional system in the church. This would have the added benefit of making it easy in the future to live-stream such celebrations as weddings and funerals to overseas or interstate relatives even when CoVid has left us.

If you could contribute to our appeal to fund this please let me know. The dedicated system has been quoted as being in the order of \$10,000.

*Fr Colin*

## **Food for the soul**

### **WHAT IS THE EUCHARIST?**

*“Can a blind person guide a blind person?” (Lk 6:39)*

What is the Eucharist? What is supposed to happen when we gather to celebrate the ritual that Jesus gave us at the Last Supper and asked us to perpetuate until his return? Is this meant to be a family meal or a re-enactment of Jesus’ sacrificial death? Is it meant to look like the old Latin Mass or like it looks in most churches today?

There are no simple answers to these questions because there is no one theology (to the exclusion of all others) of the Eucharist, even in the New Testament. Rather, there are various theologies of the Eucharist, complementary to be sure, but each emphasising different aspects of a reality that is too rich to capture in a single concept. What is the Eucharist?

In essence, the Eucharist is a reality with these interpenetrating dimensions.

1. The Eucharist is God’s physical embrace of us. Without the Eucharist, as Andre Dubus asserts, God becomes a monologue. The Eucharist is where God touches us physically. It is the place where God is still taking on physical flesh.
2. The Eucharist is a meal we share together. The Last Supper was many things, but it was also a meal, a time of human fellowship, a celebration at table. So, too, for the Eucharist, it is many things, but it is also a table for a family to gather around, where joy can be shared and where it is safe to break down in sorrow.
3. The Eucharist is an intensification of our union with one another inside the Body of Christ. As disciples of Jesus, we, too, constitute the body of Christ. At a Eucharist, not just the bread and wine are meant to be changed into the body and blood of Christ, so too we, the people are. That is why St Augustine, when giving out Communion, would sometimes say, “Receive what you are.”
4. The Eucharist is a sacrifice. It is a making memorial (Zikkaron) of the saving event of Jesus’ death. In short, it is the Christian Passover supper. The eucharistic prayer does not just ask God to change the bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ, it also asks God to make the saving event of Jesus’ death available for us to participate within today.
5. The Eucharist is the new manna. Just as God fed his people in the desert with manna each day, so now, daily, God feeds his people with bread from heaven. (This motif is particularly strong in John’s Gospel.)
6. The Eucharist is a vigil act. Jesus told us to celebrate the Eucharist so as to wait for his return. We celebrate Eucharist as a vigil. As Gerhard Lohfink puts it, “The early apostolic communities cannot be understood outside of the matrix of intense expectation. They were

communities imminently awaiting Christ's return. They gathered in Eucharist, among other reasons, to foster and sustain this awareness, namely, that they were living in wait, waiting for Christ's return." At the Eucharist, we meet with one another in vigil to stay awake for Jesus' return.

7. The Eucharist is a washing of one another's feet. The Gospel of John does not mention bread and wine at the Last Supper; instead, where the other evangelists and St Paul highlight Jesus changing the bread and wine into his body and blood, John substitutes a basin and towel for the bread and wine. Why? Among other reasons, to teach that this kind of humble action toward one another, washing one another's feet, is one of the major meanings of the Eucharist.

8. The Eucharist is a prayer for the world, making Christ's flesh food for the life of the world. It is a prayer for God's help for the whole world. Akin to a "Quaker Silence," it brings the helplessness of the world to God and asks God to do for it what it cannot do for itself: bring about peace and justice.

9. The Eucharist is a sacrament of reconciliation and forgiveness. We go to Eucharist to have our sins forgiven, to be as sinners at table with Jesus.

10. Finally, the Eucharist is the ultimate religious ritual through which we sustain ourselves in faith, discipleship, and community. We gather for Eucharist in order to stay alive. A Eucharist gathering is analogous to an Alcoholics' Anonymous meeting. We gather because without this regular ritual gathering, our faith, discipleship, and community would eventually fall apart.

In the words of Ronald Knox, the Eucharist is our one great act of fidelity to Jesus. Truth be told, we are not ever really faithful to the Gospels; we don't love our enemies and don't turn the other cheek, but we are faithful in one major way: we keep the Eucharist going—and that single act is going to save us.

*Fr Ron Rolheiser omi,*

*The Centre for Liturgy, University of St Louis.*

PARISH DIARY ~ MARCH		
Wed. 2nd	8:00am	Meditation (online)
	11:00am	Scripture study (online)
	<u>8:00pm</u>	'The Pivotal Players' (online)
Sun. 6th	9:30am	Morning tea (online)
Tues. 8th	7:45pm	Lenten Ecumenical Service (p.3)
Wed. 9th	11:00am	School Mass ( <u>private</u> - parish Mass will be at 10am as usual)
	7:30pm	Scripture study (online)
Fri. 11th	10:00am	Healing Mass (Killara)
Sun. 13th	9:30am	Morning tea (online)
Wed. 16th	8:00am	Meditation (online)
	11:00am	Scripture study (online)
	7:30pm	'The Pivotal Players' (online)
Sun. 20th	9:30am	Morning tea (online)
Tues. 22nd	5:30pm	Youth & Family Mass
	7:45pm	Lenten Ecumenical Service (p.3)

### ***Ways you can support our parish in this challenging time***

- ◆ **DIRECT DEBIT CONTRIBUTIONS** from your bank account to our parish accounts:

**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:** (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!) 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' on the homepage of our website ([www.lindfieldkillara.org.au](http://www.lindfieldkillara.org.au)) and scroll down to 2 i.b. for the form. (or simply email Alison ([alison@lindfieldkillara.org.au](mailto:alison@lindfieldkillara.org.au)) for assistance.
- ◆ And of course the **TAP MACHINES** are available in our two churches.

**OUR NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR NOURISHING  
OUR FAITH:  
‘THE PIVOTAL PLAYERS’**



The online sessions following Bishop Robert Barron’s exploration of the Christian Creed concluded last Wednesday.

Our next series (gathering as a group online via Zoom) will be **‘THE PIVOTAL PLAYERS’** which, session by session, illumines a handful of saints, artists, mystics, and scholars who not only shaped the life of the Church but also that of wider human society.

Each session is presented by a leading expert on the life and works of the particular person. The sessions (along with the presenters) include:

**ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI:**

*Fr Raniero Cantalamessa*, Franciscan priest and preacher to the papal household

**ST THOMAS AQUINAS:**

*Dr. Matthew Levering*, renowned Catholic theologian and Thomistic scholar

**ST CATHERINE OF SIENA:**

*Fr. Paul Murray*, O.P., Dominican and spiritual master

**ST JOHN HENRY NEWMAN:**

*Fr. Ian Ker*, world's leading Newman scholar

**G.K. CHESTERTON:**

*Dale Ahlquist*, founding president of the American Chesterton Society

**MICHELANGELO:**

*Dr Anthony Esolen*, professor of Renaissance English Literature at Providence College

**Sessions are on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 7:30pm via Zoom.**

You don’t have to have Zoom on your computer or other device to participate. You next click on the login and your normal internet browser gives you access.

If you haven’t done this before (it’s very easy!) just contact Fr Colin who’d be happy to help you get started.

**If you’d like to take part and obtain the login details please contact Fr Colin: [colin@lindfieldkillara.org.au](mailto:colin@lindfieldkillara.org.au)**

## Update on Killara Development



*Despite this week's wretched weather the second Group Home house (the one nearer to the church) has also begun to rise from the ground.*

**PARISH BOOKKEEPER  
CATHOLIC PARISH OF LINDFIELD-KILLARA  
PART-TIME, 1 DAY PER WEEK**

Our Parish is seeking a Bookkeeper for our busy office. The role includes maintenance of the parish financial records using MYOB, supplier payments, processing credit card receipts, payroll and quarterly BAS. You would also be required to prepare quarterly reports for the Parish Finance Committee and an annual report for the diocese. Other aspects of the role include processing and remittance of various special appeals, entering receipt data into parish administration database and cooperating with the diocese for any internal audits/reviews. Other finance related tasks as requested.

If you have previous bookkeeping or accounting experience and this role interests you, please email a cover letter and CV to Fr Colin at [colin@lindfieldkillara.org.au](mailto:colin@lindfieldkillara.org.au)

Applications close Friday 4 March 2022.

**OUR PARISH LITURGICAL LIFE :****SUNDAY MASS****KILLARA CHURCH :**

5:30pm Vigil 9.00am

**LINDFIELD CHURCH**

6.00pm Vigil 8.30 am 10.15am

12 noon Chinese Mass (2nd &amp; 4th Sun.) 6:00pm

(For Mass online see homepage of our website:  
[www.lindfieldkillara.org.au](http://www.lindfieldkillara.org.au))**WEEKDAY MASS this week:**

Monday	8:00am	Killara
Tuesday	8:00am	Killara
Ash Wed	8:00am	Killara
	10:00am	Lindfield
	7:00pm	Lindfield
Thursday	10:00am	Lindfield
Friday	10:00am	Lindfield

**THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**Saturdays for 15 mins after Vigil Mass at Killara  
Saturdays 5.15 - 5.45pm at Lindfield**CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK****EIGHTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME***The Season of Lent begins this Wednesday 2nd March***PARKING**

As there is now reduced parking on the Coles carpark at Lindfield, in addition to the onsite parking in the church and school grounds, Lindfield Uniting Church (cnr Provincial Rd) have kindly made their grounds available to us for parking for the Vigil & Sun. 6pm Mass (they require their grounds for their own Services on Sunday mornings). Enter from Pacific Hwy. The new parish carpark at Killara will be opening soon.

**SUNDAY MASS ROSTER**

Saturday		26 Feb.	5 Mar.
Lindfield	6:00 pm	Fr Thomas	Fr Colin
Killara	5:30 pm	Fr Colin	Fr Thomas
Sunday		27 Feb.	6 Mar.
Lindfield	8:30 am	Fr Thomas	Fr Colin
Killara	9:00 am	Fr Colin	Fr Thomas
Lindfield	10:15 am	Fr Thomas	Fr Colin
Lindfield	12:00 pm	Fr Thomas	No Mass
Lindfield	6:00pm	Fr Colin	Fr Thomas

**OUR PARISH BOOK CLUB** (meets online at present)

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

For further details and the list of upcoming books go to our parish website and click on 'Groups and Ministries' → 'Adult Education'.



**Online ways to be involved.....**

- ◆ **Evening Scripture study with Fr Colin** - 2nd & 4th Wednesdays at 7:30pm
- ◆ **Daytime Scripture study with Fr Colin** - 1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 11am.
- ◆ **Parish Book Club** - on the 4th Wednesday at 10am.
- ◆ **Christian Meditation Group** meets online each Wednesday at 8am. Everyone is welcome. Contact Kay 9416 2194 Kay.Hunt@optusnet.com.au or Catherine 9415 6345 catherinecwillis@gmail.com.
- ◆ **Morning tea** - this is now taking place online each Sunday at 9:30am. A fun and relaxing get-together and chat.
- ◆ **Adult faith enrichment:** our new online programme - 'The Pivotal Players' explores the faith, the life and the witness of some key figures in the Christian present and past. 1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 7:30pm (see p.13)

If you'd like to take part in any of these just let me know  
*Fr Colin*

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**GET  
IN TOUCH  
TODAY**



Join us in prayer and welcome for:  
 Mari & Richard Cahill on the baptism of their son  
 Harry Arthur.

**Baptism**  
 THIS WEEKEND

@ Holy Family Church, Lindfield

### THE SEASON OF LENT

You'll find a number of ways that we can offer to help you in entering into the coming Season of Lent on page 3.

You can also find this information by clicking on the box (pictured below) on the homepage of our parish website ([www.lindfieldkillara.org.au](http://www.lindfieldkillara.org.au))



### 2022 ... A NEW MONTHLY CHILDREN'S MASS...

#### WITH CHILDREN'S CHOIR AND CHILDREN'S BAND...

Starting after Easter we want to start this new Mass with lots of involvement from the children

on the second Sunday of each month at the 10:15am Mass

As we work to renew our community of faith in this time when our parish has been so affected by the impact of CoVid please help us with this great initiative:



Could families with children between the ages 5 and 12 who would love to sing or know how to play an instrument please contact Reuben George from our Parish Pastoral Council at 0406136839.

We would like to start practising soon so Reuben needs to hear from you as soon as possible !

## FR RICHARD ROHR OFM'S MEDITATION WHAT IS INTIMACY?

*Father Richard Rohr shares his understanding of intimacy and what prevents us from experiencing intimacy with God and one another:*

Intimacy could be described as our capacity for closeness and tenderness toward things. It is often revealed in moments of risky self-disclosure. Intimacy lets itself out and lets the other in. It makes all love possible, and yet it also reveals our utter incapacity to love back as the other deserves. None of us can go there without letting down our walls, manifesting our deeper self to another, and allowing the flow to happen.

True human intimacy or divine intimacy is somewhat rare and very hard for all of us, but particularly for men and for all who deem themselves important people, that is, those who are trained to protect their boundaries, to take the offensive, and to avoid all signs of weakness or neediness. God seems to have begun thawing this glacial barrier by coming precisely in male form as Jesus, who exposes maleness itself as also naked, needy, and vulnerable. The transmission of the inner mystery of God continues in space and time primarily through what Jesus calls again and again “the little ones” and “the poor in spirit,” which he himself became.

I think that many of us are afraid of intimacy, of baring our deepest identity to another human or even to God. Yet people who risk intimacy are invariably happier and much more real people. They feel like they have lots of “handles” that allow others to hold onto them and that allow them to hold onto themselves. People who avoid such intimacy are imprisoned in a small and circumscribed world. Soulful intimacy is a gateway into the sacred realm of human and divine love.

*Therapists Jett Psaris and Marlana Lyons have found that our longing for intimacy can only be met when we soften the guardedness around our hearts:*

We long to love from the fullness of our undefended hearts and we long to be loved unconditionally and without reservation. . . . The dual yearning of the human heart finds its satisfaction in the struggle to know ourselves at our most vulnerable levels. The deeper we know ourselves, the deeper is our capacity to know others intimately. . . . It is our deep hunger for this level of loving that moves us beyond our resistance, fear, and shortcomings to see what is special and unique about us. It allows us to see the profound core of another and to have that core be fully seen in ourselves.

*Father Richard concludes:*

We all desire true and intimate love. This longing seems to be hardwired into our beings. We have to want very strongly to love and to be loved—or we will never go to this strange place, and we will never find our True Selves. So, God obliges and creates us in just that way, with a bottomless and endless need to be loved and to love.

## OUR CHINESE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

常年期第八主日 27.2.2022

**讀經一**（一個人沒有發言以前，不要讚美他。）

恭讀德訓篇 27:5-8

篩篩子，總留下一些渣滓；人的言談，也總有一些不乾不淨。

爐火試煉陶匠的陶器；言談試驗人的人格。

一棵樹的栽培，可由它所結的果實看出來；同樣，一個人的心意，也可從他思想後，所說的話看出來。

一個人沒有發言以前，不要讚美他，因為人的好壞，從言談中，才可見到。——上主的話。

**答唱詠** 詠92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16

【答】：上主，歌頌你的聖名，是多麼美好！（參閱詠92:2）

領：至高的上主，感謝你，歌頌你的聖名，是多麼美好；清晨傳述你的慈愛，夜間宣揚你的仁義，是多麼幸福。【答】

領：正義的人像棕櫚樹一樣茂盛，似黎巴嫩香柏一樣高聳。他們被栽植在上主的殿裡，在我們天主的庭院裡，開枝散葉。【答】

領：他們雖已年老，仍然結果，枝葉茂盛，永遠長青。可見上主是多麼公義；他是我的磐石，他處事無不公允。【答】

**讀經二**（天主賜我們因主耶穌基督獲得了勝利。）

恭讀聖保祿宗徒致格林多人前書 15:54-58

弟兄姊妹們：

幾時這可朽壞的，穿上了不可朽壞的；這可死的，穿上了不可死的，那時，就要應驗經上所記載的：「在勝利中，死亡被吞滅了。」「死亡！你的勝利在那裡？死亡！你的刺在那裡？」

死亡的刺，就是罪過；罪過的權勢，就是法律。感謝天主，他賜給了我們，因我們的主耶穌基督，所獲得的勝利。

所以，我親愛的弟兄，你們要堅定不移，在主的工程上，該時常發奮勉力，因為你們知道，你們的勤勞，在主內決不會落空。——上主的話。

**福音前歡呼**

領：亞肋路亞。

眾：亞肋路亞。

領：你們應在世人前大放光明，有如宇宙間的明星，將生命的話，顯耀出來。（斐2:15,16）

眾：亞肋路亞。

**福音**（人心裡充滿什麼，口裡就說什麼。）

恭讀聖路加福音 6:39-45

那時候，耶穌對門徒講了這個比喻：「瞎子豈能給瞎子帶路？不是兩人都跌在坑裡嗎？」

「沒有徒弟勝過師父；凡受過完備教育的，僅相似自己的師父而已。」

「怎麼，你看見你兄弟眼中的木屑，而不理會你眼中的大樑呢？你怎能對你的兄弟說：兄弟，讓我取出你眼中的木屑吧！而你竟看不見自己眼中的大樑呢？假善人啊！先取出你眼中的大樑，然後才看得清楚，以便取出你兄弟眼中的木屑。

「沒有好樹結壞果子的，也沒有壞樹結好果子的。每一棵樹的好壞，憑它的果子，就可認出來。人從荊棘上，收不到無花果；從茨藤上，也摘不到葡萄。善人從自己心中的善庫，發出善來；惡人從惡庫中，發出惡來；因為心裡充滿什麼，口裡就說什麼。」——上主的話。

\*\*\*\*\*

華人天主教會 北區中心主日彌撒12時

2月 彌撒時間 2月13日, 2月27日 正午12時 (第 2, 4 主日)

3月 彌撒時間 3月13日, 3月27日 正午12時 (第 2, 4 主日)

\*\*牧職修女 司徒金美修女 0419- 426899

\*\*北區中心聯絡 Gloria Cheung 0416-118089

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

**Recently deceased:** Lise Therese Ferriere, Gerardus Wolfers, Margaret Quinn, Marlene Clark, Fr Manoj Manuel, Margaret Ford, Ross Newcombe, Rebecca Harris, **Anniversary:** Mary Philomena Berman nee Gorton, Cecille McKinnon, Felix Romero Hurtado, Mary Klauser.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:**

Jeanette Cicutto, Morna Sutherland, Barbara McMullan,, Sally Cogle, Nicholas Sutherland, Jesse Langford, Anthony Ellison, Wolfgang Liers, Cyril Ferriere, Alex Noble, William Wise, Ian Coffey, Maureen Hobbs, Russell Adams.

**And for all affected by COVID.**