



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.

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## TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 12 - 9 - 21 SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY

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*This week: Is 50:5-9 ; Jas 2:14-18 ; Mk 8:27-35*

*Next week: Wis 2:12, 17-20 ; Jas 3:16 - 4:3 ; Mk 9:30-37*

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*Today's Gospel is about missing the point.*

**About missing the point of what being a disciple is.**

*Peter wants Jesus to walk away from his path if the going is going to get tough.  
Jesus warns his listener that to follow him*

*is to be prepared for the same commitment,  
the same persistence,  
the same resoluteness*

*as **he** showed in not running from the consequences of what he said and did:  
namely, the Cross.*

**Discipleship is not easy.**

It doesn't always take us where we want to go.

That's what Jesus is saying in today's Gospel.

*Our choice is to follow the way of the Gospel not only when it's easy,  
even when it's not the way we would want to go.* *Fr Colin*

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### ANNOUNCING...

#### SOMETHING FOR THE CHILDREN ON SUNDAYS DURING LOCKDOWN:

#### Children's Liturgy of the Word goes online during lockdown

Starting this 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](http://www.lindfieldkillara.org.au)

**STOP PRESS:** a small change from what we said last week: 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.

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](mailto:alison@lindfieldkillara.org.au)

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

### KILLARA CAR PARK DEVELOPMENT

In the present stage of the project the old retaining wall behind the church has been removed and a new one is under construction. This will provide the basis for the new parish car park .



## 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](http://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.



## LOOKING AHEAD TO WHEN WE CAN GATHER FOR THE EUCHARIST AGAIN

As you no doubt know, the Premier announced this week that when the number of fully vaccinated people reaches 70% public worship (with certain restrictions on capacity) will resume. That landmark should arrive in mid-October.

The government has also foreshadowed that only those fully vaccinated will be able to attend. So please book in for that vaccination if you haven't as yet as we'd love to see you when Mass returns.

*Fr Colin*

## WHAT IS THE PLACE OF MARY AND THE SAINTS IN OUR FAITH?

### PART IV

#### FEASTING MARY AND THE SAINTS

Mary and the saints then, play (or should play) an important part in our life of faith - they are our models of Christian life and heroism; they are our fellow sisters and brothers in the Communion of Saints. To forget them is to run the risk of forgetting the reality of the resurrection and of forgetting the call to follow the Gospel in our own life.

So that we might not forget them we have the *feasts* of our Christian calendar. But we could ask ourselves what place this calendar has in our life. Is it up there with the calendar of sporting events or social events? Do we try to live that calendar in our lives?

In the first place of course, and before the saints days, the calendar is dominated by the great Christian *seasons*: Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter. And so firstly we have to ask ourselves whether we shape our lifestyle by these seasons or whether we forget that they're even there? Lent for instance is the great season of penance and conversion - do we live differently during Lent? Advent is supposed to be a time of thoughtful preparation and reflection on how God *comes* into our lives. Christmas and Easter are times of joyful celebration - do we allow them to be a *season* or do we confine them to the secular world's *one day* of partying?

The seasons, then, hopefully set the pattern of our year as Christians. The celebrations of Mary and the saints are those occasional days scattered throughout the year on which our thoughts can turn to the example that these, our fellow Christians, offer to us. But again these days can pass without notice if we're not careful. We need to look at which celebrations of Mary and the saints are more relevant to our own life and then to see how we can truly *celebrate* that saint and really make the day a *feast* day.

Catholics of the 'New World' seem to have lost the sense of feasting that has traditionally gone along with our tradition of faith. In Europe a saint's day could truly become a *feast* day - the religious activities flowed comfortably and easily into a market day, a dance or some other communal celebration. We need to re-claim some sense of Christian feasting so that our faith doesn't become something merely academic and remote - divorced from life. We feast secular events - the Olympics, Anzac Day, the Centenary of Federation, etc - and that's fine. But we need also to feast the events and mysteries of our faith.

*Fr Colin*

*(to be continued)*



Safeguarding Month September 2021  
Participation of Children and Young People in Catholic Communities

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>

# BITS AND PIECES ...<sup>3</sup>



Final result for the recent appeal:

**We raised \$9502 of the \$15,000 required for this appeal.**

Many thanks to you all for your contributions to this important appeal.

## SOUND QUALITY AT SOME OF OUR ONLINE MASSES

Our apologies that some of our weekday Masses have had poorer sound quality. It transpires that Apple AirPods (Bluetooth headpieces) don't communicate with the in-built video app on Apple iPads! That's cutting edge technology for you! We are now using a different (non-Apple) app for the recording and so the problem is resolved.

## CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK

### TWENTY-FOURTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

**Monday:** Memoria of St John Chrysostom

**Tuesday:** Feast of the Triumph of the Cross

**Wednesday:** Memoria of Our Lady of Sorrows

**Thursday:** Memoria of Ss Cornelius (Pope) and Cyprian (Bishop), martyrs



The latest issue of *Broken Bay News*' will not of course be a print edition.

It can be accessed online at:

[https://issuu.com/bbcatholic/docs/broken\\_bay\\_news\\_september\\_2021\\_issue\\_211](https://issuu.com/bbcatholic/docs/broken_bay_news_september_2021_issue_211)



## 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)

## 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>:



## 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 is now taking place on online (see adjacent notice)



# FOR THE KIDS

**Take up your cross and follow me**



24th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

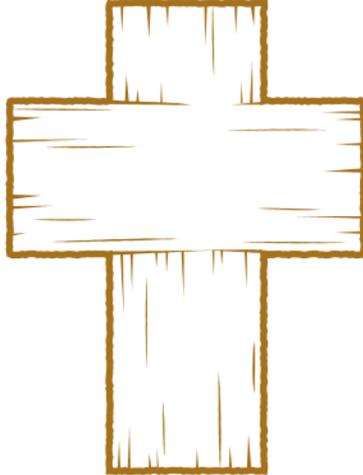
## Gospel

Mk 8:31-35

Jesus began to teach the disciples that the Son of Man was destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and to be put to death, and after three days to rise again; and he said all this quite openly. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. But, turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said to him, 'Get behind me, Satan! Because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

He called the people and his disciples to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.'

Write on the cross some of the hard things you need to do if you want to follow Jesus.



Help Jesus tell his disciples about what would soon be happening.



I must go to the city of Jerusalem...

...where people will make me suffer and I will be killed.



Draw Jesus outside the city on the day of...

Draw Jesus suffering on the cross.

Write about Jesus after he is buried.

JUNIOR WORDSEARCH  
Take up your cross and follow me

O L Q I W U G T J G R I S E  
B B F O L L O W T M K T R O  
W E X S Q F L U C O D E Y J  
F Y Q X P I L I F E X V E Y  
I E R B K N S U J N Y F K E  
S A T A N D W C V F S P Q C  
M Z X Q R F O R G E T T C P  
I C R O S S J R D R C H L G  
C L P E T E R Y N L A R T Y  
Y I H J U A D R P B H E S U  
J L H V G H J M H I E E C B  
L D I S C I P L E S O R Y L  
G I V E R J E R U S A L E M

Try to find these words:

- cross
- disciples
- find
- follow
- forget
- give
- Jerusalem
- life
- Peter
- rise
- Satan
- three

## 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](mailto:revmanasghosh@gmail.com)

## Online opportunities to gather in our parish during lockdown ...

Each week there are a variety of 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 Wednesdays at 7:30pm and 1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 11am.
- ◆ **Parish Book Club** - on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 10am.
- ◆ **Morning tea** - a group gathers for a cuppa after the 8:30am Mass each week and this is now taking place 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 just let me know and I'll let you know how to log in.

Fr Colin



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**Food for the soul**

*He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer greatly (Mt 7:36)*

**EVERY TEAR BRINGS THE MESSIAH CLOSE**

*“People are always impatient, but God is never in a hurry!”* Nikos Kazantzakis wrote those words and they highlight an important truth: We need to be patient, infinitely patient, with God. We need to let things unfold in their proper time, God’s time.

Looking at religious history through the centuries, we cannot help but be struck by the fact that God seemingly takes his time in the face of our impatience. Our scriptures are often a record of frustrated desire, of non-fulfilment, and of human impatience. It’s more the exception when God intervenes directly and decisively to resolve a particular human tension. We are always longing for a messiah to take away our pain and to avenge oppression, but mostly those prayers seem to fall on deaf ears.

And so we see in scripture the constant, painful cry: Come, Lord, come! Save us! How much longer must we wait? When, Lord, when? Why not now? We are forever impatient, but God refuses to be hurried. Why? Why is God, seemingly, so slow to act? Is God callous to our suffering? Why is God so patient, so plodding in his plan, when we’re suffering so deeply? Why is God so excruciatingly slow to act in the face of human impatience?

There’s a line in Jewish apocalyptic literature, which metaphorically, helps answer this question: *every tear brings the messiah closer!* There is, it would seem, an intrinsic connection between frustration and the possibility of a messiah being born. It seems that messiahs can only be born after a long period of human yearning. Why?

Human birth already helps answer that question. Gestation cannot be hurried and there is an organic connection between the pain a mother experiences in childbirth and the delivery of a new life. And that’s also true of Jesus’ birth. Advent is a gestation process that cannot be rushed. Tears, pain, and a long season of prayer are needed to create the conditions for the kind of pregnancy that brings forth a messiah into our world. Why? Because the real love and life can only be born when a long-suffering patience has created the correct space, the virginal womb, within which the sublime can be born. Perhaps a couple of metaphors can help us understand this.

John of the Cross, in trying to explicate how a person comes to be enflamed in altruistic love, uses the image of a log bursting into flame in a fireplace (*The Dark Night*). When a green log is placed in a fire, it doesn’t start to burn immediately. It first needs to be dried out. Thus, for a long time, it lies in the fire and sizzles, its greenness and

dampness slowly drying out. Only when it reaches kindling temperature can it ignite and burst into flame. Speaking metaphorically, before a log can burst into flame, it needs to pass through a certain advent, a certain drying out, a period of frustration and yearning. So, too, the dynamics of how real love is born in our lives. We can ignite into love only when we, selfish, green, damp logs, have sizzled sufficiently. And the fire that makes us sizzle is unfulfilled desire.

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin offers a second metaphor here when he speaks of something he calls “the raising of our psychic temperature.” In a chemistry laboratory it’s possible to place two elements in the same test tube and not get fusion. The elements remain separate, refusing to unite. It is only after they are heated to a higher temperature that they unite.

We’re no different. Often it’s only when our psychic temperature is raised sufficiently that there’s fusion, that is, it’s only when unrequited longing has raised our psychic temperature sufficiently that we can move towards reconciliation and union. Simply put, sometimes we have to be brought to a high fever through frustration and pain before we are willing to let go of our selfishness and let ourselves be drawn into community.

Thomas Halik once commented that an atheist is simply another term for someone who doesn’t have enough patience with God. He’s right. God is never in a hurry, and for good reason. Messiahs can only be born inside a particular kind of womb, namely, one within which there’s enough patience and willingness to wait so as to let things happen on God’s terms, not ours.

Hence, ideally, every tear should bring the Messiah closer. This isn’t an unfathomable mystery: every frustration should, ideally, make us more ready to love. Every tear should, ideally, make us more ready to forgive. Every heartache should, ideally, make us more ready to let go of some of our separateness. Every unfulfilled longing should, ideally, lead us into a deeper and more sincere prayer. And all of our pained impatience for a consummation that seems to forever elude us should, ideally, makes us feverish enough to burst into love’s flame.

To offer yet another image: it is with much groaning of the flesh that the life of the spirit is brought forth!

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

**PARISH LIFE AT THIS TIME** we have lots of resources available for you at this time on our website:  
[www.lindfieldkillara.org.au](http://www.lindfieldkillara.org.au)

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

**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 ([catherinewillis@gmail.com](mailto:catherinewillis@gmail.com)) or Elizabeth Reedy ([elizabethreedy@msn.com](mailto:elizabethreedy@msn.com)).

## OUR CHINESE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

常年期第二十四主日 12.9.2021

**讀經一** (我將我的背, 轉給打擊我的人。)

恭讀依撒意亞先知書 50:5-9

我主上主開啟了我的耳朵, 我並沒有違抗, 也沒有退避。我將我的背, 轉給打擊我的人; 把我的腮, 轉給扯我鬍鬚的人; 對於侮辱和唾污, 我沒有遮掩我的面。因為, 我主上主協助我, 因此, 我不怕蒙羞; 所以, 我板著臉, 像一塊燧石, 因為我知道: 我決不會受辱。那為我伸冤者, 已來到了。誰要和我爭辯, 讓我們一齊站起來吧! 誰是我的對頭, 叫他到我這裡來吧! 請看! 有我主上主扶助我, 誰還能定我的罪呢? ——上主的話。

**答唱詠** 詠116:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9

【答】: 我要在活人的地域, 在上主面前行走。(詠116:9)

領: 我傾心愛慕上主, 因他俯聽了我的祈禱; 在我呼籲他的那日, 他側耳垂聽了我。【答】

領: 死亡的圈套, 纏住了我; 陰府的羅網, 縛住了我; 艱苦和煩惱, 困住了我。我呼求了上主的聖名: 「上主, 求你拯救我的性命。」【答】

領: 上主富於憐憫和正義; 我們的天主仁愛無比。上主保護誠樸的人; 我軟弱時, 他必救助。

【答】

領: 因為他救拔了我的靈魂, 脫免死亡, 使我不再流淚, 又使我不致跌傷; 我要在活人的地域, 在上主面前行走。【答】

**讀經二** (沒有行為的信德, 是死的。)

恭讀聖雅各伯書 2:14-18

我的弟兄姊妹們:

如果有人說自己有信德, 卻沒有行為, 有什麼益處呢? 難道這信德能救他嗎? 假設有弟兄或姊妹, 赤身露體, 且缺少日用糧, 即使你們當中, 有人對他們說: 「你們平安去吧! 穿得暖暖的, 吃得飽飽的!」卻不給他們身體所必需的, 有什麼益處呢?

信德也是這樣: 若沒有行為, 本身便是死的。也許有人說: 你有信德, 我卻有行為; 把你沒有行為的信德, 指給我看, 我便會藉我的行為, 叫你看見我的信德。——上主的話。

**福音前歡呼**

領: 亞肋路亞。

眾: 亞肋路亞。

領: 我只以我們的主耶穌基督的十字架, 來誇耀, 因為藉著基督, 世界於我, 已被釘在十字架上; 我於世界, 也被釘在十字架上。(迦6:14)

眾: 亞肋路亞。

**福音** (你是默西亞.....人子必須受許多苦。)

恭讀聖馬爾谷福音 8:27-35

那時候, 耶穌和他的門徒起身, 前往斐理伯的凱撒勒雅附近的村莊。在路上, 耶穌問自己的門徒說: 「人們說我是誰?」他們回答說: 「是洗者若翰; 也有些人說, 是厄里亞; 還有些人說, 是先知中的一位。」耶穌又問他們說: 「你們說我是誰呢?」伯多祿回答說: 「你是默西亞。」耶穌就嚴禁他們, 不要向任何人談及他。

耶穌於是開始教訓門徒: 人子必須受許多苦, 被長老、司祭長和經師棄絕, 且要被殺害; 但三天以後, 必要復活。耶穌坦白地說了這番話。伯多祿便拉耶穌到一邊, 開始諫責他。耶穌卻轉過身來, 注視著自己的門徒, 責斥伯多祿說: 「撒旦, 退到我後面去! 因為你所體會的, 不是天主的事, 而是人的事。」耶穌於是召集群眾和門徒, 對他們說: 「誰若願意跟隨我, 該棄絕自己, 背起自己的十字架, 跟隨我, 因為, 誰若願意救自己的性命, 必會喪失性命; 但誰若為我和福音的原故, 喪失自己的性命, 必會救得性命。」——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

## Catholic Parish of Lindfield -Killara

Fr Colin Blayney, Parish Priest

[colin@lindfieldkillara.org.au](mailto:colin@lindfieldkillara.org.au) 9416 7195

Fr Thomas Alackakunnel VC, Asst Priest

[thomas@lindfieldkillara.org.au](mailto:thomas@lindfieldkillara.org.au); 0421 406162

### Parish Office

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

Postal address: PO Box 22, Lindfield NSW 2070

Phone: 9416 3702

Email: [parish@lindfieldkillara.org.au](mailto:parish@lindfieldkillara.org.au)

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

### Parish Staff

Parish Secretary

Philita Marundan [philita@lindfieldkillara.org.au](mailto:philita@lindfieldkillara.org.au)

Parish Office Coordinator; Child Protection Coordinator

Alison Williams (M,W,Th only)

[alison@lindfieldkillara.org.au](mailto:alison@lindfieldkillara.org.au)

Sacramental Coordinator

Maia Schulze Tsang:

[sacramental@lindfieldkillara.org.au](mailto:sacramental@lindfieldkillara.org.au)

Parish Facilities' Coordinator (volunteer)

Anthony Cassidy: [anthony@lindfieldkillara.org.au](mailto:anthony@lindfieldkillara.org.au)

Youth Ministry Coordinator (volunteer)

Jean Shatek: [youth@lindfieldkillara.org.au](mailto:youth@lindfieldkillara.org.au)

### Parish School

Holy Family School: 4 Highfield Rd, Lindfield 2070

Principal: Mr Lou Dogao Phone: 9416 7200

Email: [info@holyfamily.nsw.edu.au](mailto:info@holyfamily.nsw.edu.au)

School Website: [www.hfldbb.catholic.edu.au](http://www.hfldbb.catholic.edu.au)

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

**Recently deceased:** Fr James Duck, Fr Sean Coghlan, Anthony Wallace, Guido Zanella, Alan Tan, Fortunato Glinoga, Bayani Atangan, 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:** Marion Grace Blayney, Ronald Burke.,  
**And for:** George Joseph 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. 12th	9:00am	Online Children's Liturgy of the Word
	9:30am	Morning tea (online)
Tues. 14th	7:30pm	PPC (online)
Wed. 15th	8:00am	Meditation (online)
	11:00am	Scripture study (online)
	7:30pm	Finance Committee (online)
Sun. 19th	9:00am	Online Children's Liturgy of the Word
	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	9:00am	Online Children's Liturgy of the Word
	9:30am	Morning tea (online)

## FR RICHARD ROHR OFM'S MEDITATION: PARTICIPATING IN ORIGINAL GOODNESS

Everyone & every thing is created in the "image of God." This is the objective connection or "divine DNA" given by God equally to all creatures at the moment of their conception. The philosopher Owen Barfield (1898–1997) called this phenomenon "original participation." We could also call it original innocence, unwoundedness, or use Matthew Fox's brilliant term, "original blessing." As Genesis clearly & repeatedly states, creation is good. So how do we see & then practice this original goodness?

Paul gives us an answer. He says, "There are only three things that last: faith, hope, and love" (1 Corinthians 13:13). In Roman Catholic theology we called these three essential attitudes the "theological virtues," because they are a "participation in the very life of God." They are given freely by God, "infused" into us at our conception. In this understanding, faith, hope, and love are far more defining of the human person than the "moral virtues," which are the various good behaviors we learn as we grow older. For all of their poor formulations, Orthodox and Catholic Christianity still offer humanity a foundationally positive anthropology. We are made out of the faith, hope, and love of God—to increase faith, hope, and love in this world. If you have a negative anthropology, as some Reformers, and many cynical Catholics do, even a good theology cannot really undo it.

From the very beginning, faith, hope, and love are planted deep within our nature—indeed they are our very nature (Romans 5:5; 8:14–17). *The Christian life is simply a matter of becoming who we already are* (1 John 3:1–2; 2 Peter 1:3–4). But we have to awaken, allow, and advance this core identity by saying a conscious yes to it and drawing upon it as a reliable and Absolute Source. Again, image must become likeness. We must participate in the process!

I offer these words from Ilia Delio who draws her insights from her deep study of the Jesuit scientist Pierre Teilhard de Chardin (1881–1955):

Teilhard held that God is at the heart of cosmological and biological life, the depth and center of everything that exists. . . . Our nature is already endowed with grace, and thus our task is to be attentive to that which is within and that which is without—mind and heart—so that we may contribute to building up the world in love. Every action can be sacred action if [it] is rooted in love, and in this way, both Christians and non-Christians can participate in the emerging body of Christ. . . .

Our lives have meaning and purpose. . . . We either help build this world up in love or tear it apart. Either way, we bear the responsibility for the world's future, and thus we bear responsibility for God's life as well.

In other words, we *matter*. We simply have to choose to trust reality, which is to finally trust both ourselves and God. They must work as one.

## Three ways that you can support our parish

### 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](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.

## 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).

## '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](http://www.bbcatholic.org.au) for full details



**Plenary Council**  
Listen to what the Spirit is saying...

### 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/>

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/](http://WWW.CCRESS.ORG.AU/LEARNING-FROM-HOME-SRE-LESSONS/)



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### REPORT

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