



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.

**SOLEMNITY OF THE BIRTH OF THE LORD**  
**SOLEMNITY OF THE HOLY FAMILY**

**25 - 12 - 21**  
**26 - 12 - 21**

Why is Christmas usually regarded as the principal Christian feast, whereas in fact that honour of course belongs to Easter?

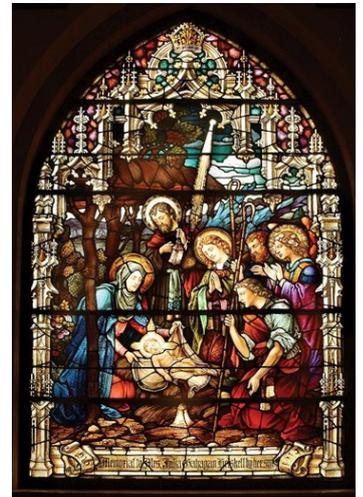
*Perhaps it's because we have 'finsellised' Christmas and made it 'nice': a feast that seems to say nothing about suffering and death, a feast that we in fact can't bear to be associated with suffering and death.*

But in fact Christmas is *all* about what it is to be human: 'The Word became flesh':

the mystery of the Incarnation, the becoming-flesh, of God says that God is to be found in all the struggles of human life: *the searching, the failing, the sinfulness, the suffering, the sickness, the dying:*

*not to take those things away, but to be present within them, and ultimately, as Easter proclaims, to transform them into life.*

Christmas isn't a 'nice' feast, but we make it so. But it *is* a joyful feast: the joyful feast that God became all that we are. *Fr Colin*



*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us*



**WELCOME**

A very warm welcome to anyone visiting our parish this Christmas. It is good to have you with us. If you have any questions or would like to know more about our community please visit our parish website at [www.lindfieldkillara.org.au](http://www.lindfieldkillara.org.au) for information on parish programmes and ministries.

We wish you a holy and happy Christmas. Please visit us again.

**NOTICE OF CHANGED WEEKDAY MASS PROGRAMME IN CHRISTMAS-NEW YEAR PERIOD**

*Our weekday Mass programme will be a little different in the week between Christmas and New Year, and also in the first few weeks of the New Year. Please watch the bulletin each week for details.*

For this coming week :

**Mon. 27<sup>th</sup> Dec** 8:00am at Killara  
**Tues. 28<sup>th</sup> Dec.** 8:00am at Killara  
**Wed. 29<sup>th</sup> Dec** No Mass  
**Thurs. 30<sup>th</sup> Dec** 10:00am at Lindfield  
**Fri. 31<sup>st</sup> Dec.** 10:00am at Lindfield  
**Sat. 1<sup>st</sup> Jan.** 11:00am at Lindfield (see below)

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

**This week: open Wednesday (29<sup>th</sup>) only.**

**NEW YEAR'S DAY: SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD**

One of the special feast days of this Christmas Season is the greatest & the most ancient of the feasts of Mary – **1<sup>st</sup> January, New Year's Day: (the solemnity of Mary as Mother of God).**

New Year's Day is the Octave Day of Christmas and celebrates Mary's role in our salvation: that it was through her acceptance of God's call and placing herself at the service of God that the Word was made flesh in and through her. As such this feast celebrates Mary as our model as she challenges us likewise to be 'mothers of God' bringing Jesus to birth in our world through our own lives.



**There will be a combined Mass on that day for the whole parish at 11:00am which will be celebrated in Holy Family Church at Lindfield.**

**CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES**

are available on the pews in both our churches.

**Ways to give:**

- ◆ cash or cheques can be placed in the envelopes and placed on the collection bowls over the next few weeks along with the normal collections.
- ◆ If you wish to contribute by credit card there are small sheets for recording credit card details inside the envelopes which can then be placed in the envelopes.
- ◆ Online contributions can be made to the First Collection account (putting 'Christmas Offering' as the reference) - see the parish website—'Supporting Parish Finances' on the homepage.



The contributions via the Christmas Offering supplements the funds raised via the First Collection for the support and upkeep of the priests of our parish and diocese. The fund it goes to depends very much on these special contributions at Christmas and Easter, without which it struggles to meet its commitments.

This diocesan fund not only provides the living allowance and household costs for the priests of the parish, but also provides funds for health care for priests and maintains priests in their retirement.

Please support the Christmas Offerings.

## Food for the soul

### GIVING BIRTH TO GOD

I did my doctoral thesis on the classical, philosophical proofs for the existence of God. The concept had always intrigued me: "Can you prove that God exists?" After researching the thought of Aquinas, Anselm, Descartes, Leibnitz, & Spinoza (all of whom assert that you can "prove" the existence of God through rational argument) what was the conclusion? Can you prove that God exists? No, at least not in a way that would compel anyone to make an act of faith on the basis of a mathematical or scientific argument.

God can't be proven in that way, albeit these "proofs" point to some important things. The existence of God can't be empirically proven because God doesn't work that way. God doesn't appear in the world as the conclusion to a mathematical equation. God—as we know through the way Christ was born—comes into our lives at the end of a gestation process.

That also describes how faith is born in our lives. God never dynamites his way into our lives with a force so powerful that we can't resist. The divine never takes us by storm. No.

God always enters the world in the same way that Jesus did on the first Christmas. God is gestated in a womb & appears as a helpless infant that has to be picked up, nurtured, and coaxed into adulthood. The presence of God in our world, at least within the dynamics of the incarnation, depends upon a certain human consent and cooperation.

For God to take on real flesh and power in the world we must first do something. What?

The answer to that lies in the way Jesus was born. Mary, Jesus' mother, shows us a certain blueprint, a pattern for how God is born into our world and how faith is born in our lives. What's the pattern?

When we look at how Mary gave birth to Jesus, we see that there are four moments in the process: 1) Impregnation by the Holy Spirit; 2) gestation of God within one's body and soul; 3) the stretching and agony of giving birth; 4) and the nurturing of an infant into adulthood.

What's implied in each of these?

Impregnation by the Holy Spirit: Mary, we are told, became pregnant by the Holy Spirit. What an extraordinary notion! This doesn't just mean that Jesus didn't have a human father, but also that Mary so let the seed of God's spirit (charity, joy, peace, patience, goodness, long-suffering, fidelity, mildness, faith, and chastity) take root in her that it

began to grow into actual flesh.

Gestation of God within one's body: As we know, pregnancy is not followed immediately by childbirth. A long, slow process first occurs, gestation. In the silent recesses of her heart and body (and surely not without the normal morning-sickness that accompanies pregnancy) an umbilical cord began to grow between Mary and that new life. Her flesh began to give physical sustenance to the life of God and this steadily grew into a child which, at a point, as in all pregnancies, demanded to be born into the world.

The agony of giving birth: Only with much groaning and stretching of the flesh can a child emerge. It's always excruciatingly painful to birth something to the outside world, to take what's precious inside & give it birth outside. Mary, despite all the over-pious treatises that would make Jesus' birth something unnatural, experienced the normal birth-pains common to all mothers. Nothing secretly gestated is born into the world without pain, Jesus included.

Nurturing an infant into adulthood: Annie Dillard once suggested that we always find God in our lives as Jesus was found in Bethlehem on Christmas: a helpless infant in the straw who must be picked up and nurtured into adulthood. "God's works are as good as we make them. That God is helpless, our baby to bear, self-abandoned on the doorstep of time, wondered at by cattle and oxen." Mary gave birth to the baby, Jesus, but what she ultimately gave the world was the adult, Christ. Like all mothers she had to spend years nursing, cajoling, teaching, and nurturing an infant into adulthood.

In that pattern, the incarnation, looking at how Mary gave birth to Christ, we are given a blueprint that invites imitation not admiration. Mary is the model of faith. What she did each of us too is called upon to do, namely, give birth to God in our lives. Christmas is for marveling at what once took place, but it's also for imitation, for continuing to give God flesh in the world.

How do you prove to anyone, yourself included, that God exists? You don't.

The object of our faith and worship doesn't appear as a compelling proof at the end of a rational experiment. God has to be gestated into the world in the same way as Mary did all those years ago at the first Christmas.

*Fr Ron Rolheiser omi,*

聖家節（慶日）27.12.2020

**讀經一**（你親生的兒子要做你的承繼人。）

恭讀創世紀 15:1-6;21:1-3

**答唱詠** 詠105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9

【答】：他是我們的天主；他永遠信守自己的盟約。（參閱詠105:7,8）

領：請感恩謝上主，呼號他的聖名；請頌在萬民中，宣揚他的功行。請頌歌頌他，詠讚他，傳述他的奇妙化工。【答】

領：請你們以他的聖名為光榮；願尋求上主的人，樂滿心中。請頌尋求上主和他的德能，要時常不斷追求他的儀容。【答】

領：天主的僕人亞巴郎的後裔，上主揀選的雅各伯的兒子！上主是我們的天主；他的統治遍及普世各處。

【答】

領：他永遠懷念著自己的盟約，直到萬代不忘自己的許諾；就是向亞巴郎所立的盟約，向依撒格所起的誓諾。【答】

**讀經二**（亞巴郎、撒辣及依撒格的信德。）

恭讀致希伯來人書 11:8,11-12,17-19

**福音前歡呼**

領：天主在古時，曾多次，並以多種方式，藉著先知，對我們的祖先說過話。但在這末期，他藉著自己的兒子，對我們說了話。天主立了他為萬有的承繼者，並藉著他，造成了宇宙。（希1:1-2）

**福音**（孩子漸漸長大，充滿智慧。）

恭讀聖路加福音 2:22,39-40

按梅瑟的法律，一滿了他們取潔的日期，耶穌的父母——若瑟和瑪利亞，便帶著孩子上耶路撒冷，去獻給上主。他們按照上主的法律，辦完了一切，便返回加里肋亞。他們的本城納匝肋。孩子漸漸長大而強壯，充滿智慧；天主的恩寵常在他身上。——上主的話。

*He was created of a mother whom He created. He was carried by hands that He formed. He cried in the manger in wordless infancy, He the Word, without whom all human eloquence is mute.*

*St Augustine*

*The idea that there's a force of love and logic behind the universe is overwhelming to start with, if you believe it. Actually, maybe even far-fetched to start with, but the idea that that same love and logic would choose to describe itself as a baby born in straw and poverty is genius, and brings me to my knees, literally. To me, as a poet, I am just in awe of that. It makes some sort of poetic sense. It's the thing that makes me a believer, though it didn't dawn on me for many years.*

*Bono*

## THE PRAYERS AND RESPONSES OF MASS

### GLORIA:

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.  
We praise you, we bless you,  
we adore you, we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world, receive our  
prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen

### MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

Save us, Saviour of the world,  
for by your Cross and Resurrection  
you have set us free.

### FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

#### PSALM 97:1-6

Sing a new song to the Lord  
for God has worked wonders.  
The Lord's right hand and holy arm  
have brought salvation.

The Lord has made known his salvation;  
has shown his justice to the nations.  
The Lord has remembered his truth and love  
for the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation of our God.  
Shout to the Lord all the earth,  
ring out your joy.

Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp,  
with the sound of music.  
With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
acclaim the King, the Lord.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia! A holy day has dawned upon us.  
Come you nations and adore the Lord. Today a  
great light has come upon the earth. Alleluia!**

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

**Recently deceased:** Brian Anthony McGrane, Shirley  
Smith, Keith Smith, Marco Lamberti, Lorraine Grace, Anna  
Asnicar, Romano Gazzoli, Margaret Nakkam, Vince Bryant.  
**Anniversary:** Mollie Curtin, Henry Yee Joy.  
**And for:** Deceased members of the Curtin, Rolfe, Hughes  
and Egan families

### THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,

*(all genuflect at the following words  
in bold)*  
**and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate  
of the Virgin Mary,  
and became man.**

For our sake he was crucified  
under Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,

and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of  
the Father.

He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father &  
the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son  
is adored and glorified,  
who has spoken through the  
prophets.

I believe in one, holy,  
catholic and apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism  
for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward  
to the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come.  
Amen

### FOR SUNDAY 27TH

#### PSALM 127:1-5

O blessed are those who fear the Lord  
and walk in God's ways!  
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.  
You will be happy and prosper.

Your wife like a fruitful vine  
in the heart of your house;  
your children like shoots of the olive,  
around your table.

Indeed thus shall be blessed  
Those who fear the Lord.  
May the Lord bless you from Zion  
all the days of your life!

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia! May the peace of Christ rule in  
your hearts, and the fullness of his message live  
within you. Alleluia!**

### PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

Trevor Swift, Morna Sutherland, Albert Yu, Barbara  
McMullan,, Sally Cogle, 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.**

**A HUGE THANK YOU** to all those who have worked so hard to make our Christmas celebrations special in the very demanding circumstances of 2021: to our Parish Office staff for all their work in coordinating the preparations for our celebrations; all those who helped to prepare our two churches for our celebrations, our musicians and singers, liturgical ministers, those who coordinated the preparations for our Children's Masses and so many more. *Fr Colin*



## HYMNS FOR CHRISTMAS & BOXING DAY MORNING MASS:

### ENTRANCE HYMN:

O come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him  
born the King of Angels:

O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord

God from God,  
Light from Light,  
here in the Virgin's womb,  
he deigns to lie;  
Son of the Father,  
Begotten, not created: **R.**

Sing choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;  
Glory to God in the highest: **R.**

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,  
Born this happy morning  
Jesus, to you be glory given;  
Word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing; **R.**

### DEDICATION OF THE GIFTS: THE FIRST NOEL

The first Nowell the angels did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in  
fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay  
keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night  
that was so deep:

**Refrain:** Noel, Noel, Noel Noel,  
born is the King of Israel.

They look-ed up and saw a star  
shining in the east beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued  
both day and night: **R.**

Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
that hath made both heaven and  
earth of nought,  
and with His blood all people  
bought: **R.**

### COMMUNION HYMN:

#### SILENT NIGHT

Silent night, Holy night,  
All is calm, all is bright.  
Round the virgin mother and child  
Holy infant so tender and mild.  
Sleep in Heavenly Peace.  
Sleep in Heavenly Peace.

Silent night, Holy night,  
Shepherds quake at the sight:  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heav'nly hosts sing Alleluia.  
Christ the Saviour is born.  
Christ the Saviour is born. .

Silent night, Holy night,  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams your holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.  
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

### RECESSIONAL HYMN: JOY TO THE WORLD

Joy to the world! The Lord has come  
Let earth receive her King  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room  
And heav'n and nature sing.  
And heav'n and nature sing  
And heav'n and heav'n and nature  
sing

Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns;  
Let us our songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills  
and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy

He rules the world with truth and  
grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love  
And wonders of His love  
And wonders, wonders of His love.

In the beginning  
was the Word;  
the Word was  
with God and  
the Word was  
God

...through him  
all things came  
to be, not one  
thing had its  
being but  
through him.

All that came to  
be had life in  
him, and that  
life was the light  
of people, a light  
that shines in the  
dark, a light that  
darkness could  
not overpower.

...The Word was  
made flesh, he  
lived among us,  
and we saw his  
glory, the glory  
that is his as the  
only Son of the  
Father, full of  
grace and truth.

...Indeed from  
his fullness we  
have, all of us  
received, grace  
in return for  
grace.

John's Gospel  
Chapter 1

Something  
which has  
existed from  
the beginning,  
that we have  
heard, and we  
have seen  
with our own  
eyes;

that we have  
watched and  
touched with  
our hands:

the Word who  
is life  
that is our  
subject.

That life was  
made visible:  
we saw it and  
we are giving  
our testimony,  
telling you of  
the eternal life  
which was  
with the  
Father and has  
been made  
visible to us.

1 John 1: 1- 2

## SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME DATES FOR 2022



As advised earlier, while retaining the proper order of the sacraments in which Confirmation precedes First Communion, Bishop Anthony Randazzo has raised the age for each sacrament by a year so that the children may be better prepared.

The letter giving all the details and dates for our Sacramental Preparation Programmes for 2022 is now available on the parish website

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

Please download the letter and note all the dates involved in the sacraments which your child will celebrate next year. We look forward to helping them prepare for these precious encounters with the Lord.

**THIS SUNDAY 26TH** is the Solemnity of the Holy Family of Nazareth, patronal feast of our Lindfield church and our Parish School.

**NEXT SUNDAY 2ND JANUARY** is the great Christmas feast of the Epiphany of the Lord.