



*Holy Family Church
2 Highfield Rd, Lindfield*

CATHOLIC PARISH *of Lindfield- Killara*



*Immaculate Heart of Mary Church
76A Fiddens Wharf Rd, Killara*

Thursday 19th March 2020

Dear sisters and brothers in our parish community,

We are certainly living through a challenging situation which no doubt brings great anxiety to many. Be of good heart however - the many measures which are being undertaken and causing life to be so different have as their purpose the slowing of infection so that our health system can remain robust and be available to support those most in need. It's incumbent upon us all to help in this good work - to maintain social distancing for the good of our neighbour, to avoid unnecessary activities, and to practise good hygiene - above all, hand hygiene. A silver lining in this cloud may be that we slow down a little, read more books, spend more time with family.

So that we may play our responsible part in all this as the Church, Bishop Anthony Randazzo, like many of the bishops in Australia and in other parts of the world, has decided that for the time being **public Mass will not be celebrated**. This means that effective immediately there will be no public weekday or Sunday Mass in our parishes. However, between Fr Thomas and myself Mass will be celebrated each day so that the Eucharistic sacrifice may be offered for all at this time.

Likewise, most of our parish activities and groups will also enter a recess. We will however see whether we can use video conferencing so that some activities may continue - for example, our Scripture Study Groups and Book Club.

But above all I want to assure you that neither our parish nor our spiritual lives are closing down! We have set up a special page of our parish website (www.lindfieldkillara.org.au) which is accessible via a hotlink box on the homepage entitled '**Parish Life in the Current Situation**' (<https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/lindfield-killara/news-events/parish-life-in-the-current-situation>). We will use this page of our parish website to provide you with spiritual resources for your own discipleship during this time. Our churches will both remain open during the daytime for personal prayer and our Parish Office will continue to function – although out concern for health it will not be possible to physically visit the office but contact can be made by phone and email and we will get back to you.

Our plan is also **to provide you with the opportunity to share in an online way in Mass celebrated here in our own parish each Sunday via a YouTube Channel**. Details of how to do that will be posted on the above-mentioned page of our website by the end of the week.

One very significant challenge which we face as a parish is that our income is largely derived from our weekly collections – which of course won't be taking place since Mass is not being celebrated. If you're able to maintain your weekly support of the parish by electronic means that will really help us – because the bills will still be coming in, parish infrastructure will need to be maintained, insurance to be paid, parish staff salaries to be paid, and so much more. The website page I have mentioned will provide with the details of how to make weekly or scheduled contributions to our First and Second Collections.

Web: www.lindfieldkillara.org.au

Parish Office: PO Box 22 Lindfield NSW 2070

Ph. 02 9416 3702

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Email: parish@lindfieldkillara.org.au



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Above all, it's important that we maintain our own spiritual life at this time and draw strength from the Spirit of God dwelling within us. And that we preserve time on Sunday for prayer either alone or as a household. We will provide resources for you to do this on that webpage also. We will also continue building that page to provide links to other resources for prayer and spiritual life. Keep checking back.

Our parish bulletin will continue to be produced, though largely as an online version. You can access it in the usual way on the parish website by the Friday afternoon each week. We will also print a small number of copies which will be left in our churches.

And of course, as disciples, this must not become a time when we forget our neighbour. We will shortly be posting on the webpage ways that you can offer very practical (and safe) support to those who may be housebound.

The website page will continue to evolve so please visit it regularly for new resources and for updates. In the Holy Spirit we remain connected as fellow members of the Body of Christ even though we may be prevented from gathering together. Let's not forget each other and be ready when these challenging days have finally passed to emerge stronger than ever as a community founded in Christ.

Be of good heart. We are held in God's loving embrace and of course in the end our journey's goal lies beyond this world. Let's all pray for one another to maintain courage, hope, and joy in the Lord. We join so many of our sisters and brothers who at different times and places in the history of our faith have been unable to partake of the precious gift of the Eucharist. In times of persecution or danger they held on to their faith and strengthened one another. May we do the same.

And please keep checking our website page so that we can keep in touch with you and provide with food for the spiritual journey in these challenging times.

Fr Colin

on behalf of Fr Thomas and all the parish staff

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