Catholic Parish of Tindfield-Killara Diocese of Broken Bay

Holy Family Parish Church, Lindfield Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Church, Killara

> LINDFIELD: **KILLARA:**

Saturday Vigil: 5:30pm MASS TIMES: Saturday 6:00pm

Sunday: 8:15am Sunday: 9:15am

10:15am

12:00 (Chinese Community Mass)

6:00pm (for both our communities) (5:30pm on 2nd Sun. of month)

Weekdays:

Monday 9:15am 8:15am (school holidays) 8:15am (school holidays) Tuesday 6:00pm

Wednesday 9:15am Thursday 9:15am

Friday 9:15am 8:15am (school holidays) *

Saturday 9:15am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturdays 5:00 – 5:30pm (Lindfield)

For 15 minutes after the 5:30pm Mass (Killara)

NO 9:15 Mass at Lindfield nor 7:30am Mass at Killara on the 2nd Friday of each month

Healing Mass on the 2nd Friday of each month at 10am at Killara

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 15 - 7 - 18

This week: Amos 7:12-15; Eph 1:3-14; Mk 6:7-13 Next week: Jer 23:1~6; Eph 2:13~18; Mk 6:30~34

The prophet Amos finds that his religious leaders want no prophets near them: 'Go away seer...we want no more prophesying in Bethel: this is the royal sanctuary, the national temple.'

It's a powerful lesson of how organised religion can become utterly closed to God, secure in its own positions and its own power, refusing to hear the unexpected, unwanted, and challenging messages that come from prophetic voices.

The Bible is full of stories like this:

God's message rejected because the established religion had 'tamed'

set the rules for God, decided what God did and did not want – and all justified as being the work and command of God.

This reading, and so many others like it, ask whether we are open to letting God be God, open to letting *God* set the rules,

open to the surprises and challenges that God lays before us, both individually and as a Church.

> Or whether God will be kept on our leash, well and truly tamed, a mere reflection of our own prejudices and biases.

FR RICHARD ROHR'S MEDITATION: ROOTS OF LIBERATION

One of the great themes of the Bible, beginning with the Hebrew Scriptures and continued by Jesus and Paul, is "the preferential option for the poor." I call it "the bias toward the bottom." The Hebrew people's exodus out of slavery, and YHWH's complete identification with them, is the pattern of our universal spiritual journey to liberation.

Moses, himself a man at "the bottom" (a murderer on the run, caring for his father-in-law's sheep), first encounters God in an ordinary bush that "burns" without being consumed (Exodus 3:2). Moses' experience is both external and interior, earth-based and transcendent: "Take off your shoes, this is holy ground," he hears (3:5). Awestruck and fully present, Moses is able to perceive God's surprising call: "I have heard the groaning of my people in Egypt. You, Moses, are to go confront the Pharaoh and tell him to let my people go" (3:9~10).

Here we have the perfect integration of action and contemplation. First, the contemplative experience comes—the burning bush. Immediately it has social, economic, and political implications. There is no authentic God experience that does not situate you in the world in a different way. You see things differently, and you have the security to be free from your usual loyalties: privilege, position, group, and economy. Yet this transformation has costly consequences. Moses had to leave Pharaoh's palace to ask new questions and become the liberator of his people.

The Exodus story is the root of all liberation theology, which Jesus then teaches and fully exemplifies (see Luke 4:18~19). It is obvious that he is primarily a healer of the poor and powerless. Liberation theology focuses on freeing people from religious, political, social, and economic oppression (i.e., what Pope John Paul II called "structural sin" and "institutional evil"). [1] It goes beyond just trying to free individuals from their own naughty behaviours, which many people identify as the only meaning of sin. In our individualistic society, structural sin is accepted as good and necessary on the corporate or national level. Large companies, churches, and governments get away with and are even applauded for killing (war), greed, vanity, pride, and ambition. The capital sins are rewarded at the corporate level but shamed at the individual level. This is our conflicted Christian morality!

Instead of legitimating the status quo, liberation theology tries to read history and the Bible not from the side of the powerful, but from the side of the pain. Its beginning point is not sin management, but "Where is the suffering?"

The world tends to define poverty and riches simply in terms of economics. But poverty has many faces—weakness, dependence, and many forms of humiliation. Essentially, poverty is a lack of means to accomplish what one desires or needs, be it lack of money, relationships, influence, power, intellectual ability, physical strength, freedom, or dignity.

God hears the cry of the poor. And we, created in God's image and likeness, must do the same to be like God.

[1] Pope John Paul II's encyclical Sollicitudo Rei Socialis (On Social Concern, December 30, 1987) presents his thoughts in detail: http://w2.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_30121987_sollicitudo-rei-socialis.html.



TAXATION RECEIPTS This year taxation receipts will be **emailed** to those who request them. If you require a receipt please email Alison at **accounts@lindfieldkillara.org.au** Receipts will be emailed out in the last week of July.

If you don't have internet access & require a printed receipt please contact the Parish Office.

SOME CHANGES TO OFFICE HOURS DURING THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS:

Wednesday 18th July: Parish Office CLOSED

Farewell to Bishop Peter



As you know, sadly we have lost Bishop Peter Comensoli as our bishop with his appointment as the new Archbishop of Melbourne. Our congratulations to Peter on this great vote of confidence placed in him by Pope Francis.

Archbishop-Elect Peter has brought the warmth of his presence, his love of people and his strong leadership to us in the short three and a half years he has been our bishop. He will be greatly missed and the people of Melbourne have been greatly blessed.

Archbishop-Elect Peter has recorded a farewell message to us as the people of Broken Bay and you can view it at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DFaYRD2OBkc

We also have the chance to farewell and thank him with his final and farewell Mass in the diocese on **Sunday 22md July** at **2pm** in our Cathedral at Waitara (23 Yardley Ave).

His installation as Archbishop of Melbourne will take place on 1st August in St Patrick's Cathedral in Melbourne. Until then Archbishop-Elect Peter is Apostolic Administrator of our diocese, though most of his duties will be assumed by the Administrator-Delegate – our former Vicar-General Fr David Ranson (the office of Vicar-General itself dissolves until our new bishop is appointed). After 1st August the Diocesan College of Consultors will meet to elect a priest to be Diocesan Administrator, who will lead the diocese until our new bishop is appointed. That process is likely to take some time, perhaps twelve months at least.

Please keep Archbishop-Elect Peter in your prayers as he prepares to take on this challenging ministry. Fr Colin

PARISH DIARY: JULY-AUGUST

Sun. 15th July: Morning tea after 9:15am and 10:15am Mass

Sunday 5th Aug.: Morning tea after 9:15am and 10:15am Mass.

Children's Mass at 9:15am at Killara.

Tuesday 7th August: Enrolment for First Holy Communion opens.

Friday 10th Aug.: Monthly Healing Mass and morning tea at 10am at Killara.

Sunday 12th Aug.: Monthly Youth and Children's Mass at 5:30pm at Lindfield followed by dinner in St Brigid's Hall.

Wed. 15th Aug: Solemnity of the Assumption of Our Lady (Holy Day of Obligation)

LINDARA MARKET

Saturday 4th August, 8am~1pm Following date: 1 December 2018

Come along & bag a bargain, on good quality, near-new & vintage jewellery, books, home-wares, home-made cakes & jams, & much more.

Scrumptious sausage sizzle & delicious Devonshire Tea!

All proceeds support families in crisis, thanks to wonderful volunteers.

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454 Pacific Highway (cnr Provincial Rd) Lindfield

Email:

<u>lindfield.uniting@bigpond.com</u> Ph 94162106

What has Pope Francis been up to?...

POPE PRAYS WITH PATRIARCHS IN BARI FOR MIDDLE EAST CHRISTIANS

Pope Francis travelled to the eastern city in Italy which overlooks the Adriatic Sea on 7th July for a day of prayer and reflection on "the dramatic situation of the Middle East which afflicts so many brothers and sisters in the faith".

The Pope was joined by Cardinal Louis Sako, the Patriarch of Chaldean Christians in Iraq, whom Francis recently named a cardinal, along with the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, spiritual leader of the Orthodox Church. Leaders of the Oriental Orthodox churches, the Assyrian church and other Catholic oriental church bishops were also be present. Many of them are on the front line ministering to the persecuted Christian communities in the region.

The Pope has repeatedly talked about an "ecumenism of blood" which is uniting Christians, regardless of their denomination. Speaking at the Vatican in advance of the visit, Cardinal Kurt Koch, President of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, pointed out that while Christians represented 20 per cent of the population in the Middle East before the First World War, today that figure stood at just four per cent.

from The Tablet)

FIRST LAY HEAD OF A VATICAN DICASTERY*

Pope Francis has named a married lay man as head of a Vatican dicastery, the first lay head of a Vatican dicastery in history.

Paolo Ruffini is the new Prefect of the Dicastery for Communication. He will oversee the Vatican press office and communication outlets, ranging from radio to the Vatican News site.

(from 'RomeReports')

* A dicastery is a department of the Roman Curia, the administration of the Holy See through which the Pope governs the Roman Catholic Church.

POPE NAMES NEW CARDINALS

On Pentecost Sunday Pope Francis named 14 new cardinals from far flung, dangerous parts of the world – bishops renowned for their hands-on, pastorally focused ministry.

Among those selected to the highest rank of clerical privilege is Archbishop Konrad Krajewski, 54, the papal almoner, a bishop who has given his flat over to a Syrian refugee family and walks the streets of Rome helping the homeless.

Francis has consistently chosen cardinals from unexpected places, seeking to further internationalise an Italian-heavy college of electors while upending the old, unwritten system of ecclesiastical power where bishops of particular dioceses would automatically be given a red hat.

His appointments reflect where he sees the Church's most important pastoral work happening, and a desire to operate a "last will be first policy" in appointments. And while cardinals were traditionally known as "Princes of the Church", under Francis that title has fallen out of favour. Among his latest batch of cardinals are the Iraqi prelate, Chaldean Patriarch Louis Raphaël I Sako, and Archbishop Joseph Coutts of Karachi, Pakistan, both bishops working on the front line when it comes to persecution of Christians and dialogue with Islam. (from The Tablet)

THE PRAYERS AND RESPONSES OF MASS

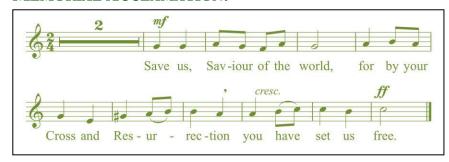
GLORIA:

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:



THE PSALM Ps Ps 84:9~14

I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace, peace for God's people.
God's help is near for those who fear him and God's glory will dwell in our land.

Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced. Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven.

The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit. Justice shall march before the Lord and peace shall follow God's steps. At Masses at which the Psalm is sung the response is: Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our hearts

RESPONSES TO THE PSALM FOR WEEKDAY MASS:

Monday: To the upright I will show the saving power of God.

Tuesday: God upholds his city for ever. **Wednesday:** The Lord will not abandon his people.

Thursday: From heaven the Lord looks down on the earth.

Friday: You saved my life, O Lord, I shall not die.

Saturday: Do not forget the poor, O Lord!

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 bow 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

A CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP meets in the *Meeting Room at the rear of and under Holy Family Church* each Wednesday from 8:40am – 9:05am (finishing in time for 9:15am Mass). Everyone is welcome. For further information contact Kay at 9416 2194 Kay.Hunt@optusnet.com.au or Catherine 9415 6345 catherinecwillis@gmail.com



COULD YOU HELP US? REPLACEMENT COMPUTERS

The computers in our Parish Office are really showing their (great) age and with varying

degrees of urgency need to be updated. If you would be willing to donate the cost of one of the new computers please let us know in the Parish Office.

Many thanks to those who have already responded. However, we still need some more donations if we are to be able to update all the computers.

CHILD PROTECTION

Our parish's processes for ensuring the safeguarding of children can now be found on our parish website under 'Our Parish'.

YOU COULD HELP US by advertising in our parish bulletin. The weekly advertisements help supplement our



parish income – and in turn help your business. Please contact the Parish Office for more information. Please consider helping us in this way.

Many thanks to those who have already responded – this is a great help to us.

Can you belp us....as a musician?

Due to a retirement amongst our music ministry we are in great need of an additional

organist/keyboard player to join the roster. If you have this talent please contact Fr Colin. Please help us to ensure we always have the joy of music in our celebrations.

A Forum on Child Protection and the Child Sexual Abuse Crisis within the Church



If you attended

the Forum, your feedback would be very valuable. Please take a few minutes to let us know; either via the feedback form at the back of the churches or via email: forum@lindfieldkillara.org.au. All feedback will be kept in confidence by the Forum subcommittee and not passed on to the Diocese. If you were unable to attend the Forum but would like to have a voice in our "road to healing", please contact us via the email address listed above.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL ~ WINTER APPEAL



The Society's Annual Winter Appeal for funds concludes this weekend 14th & 15th July.

The recent cold weather reminds us those people who cannot afford high energy costs to keep them warm and of those sleeping out because of homelessness. It is with your generous donations that the Society can provide relief and assistance to those in need. **Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.** Envelopes are available throughout with churches. Include your name and address for your receipt. *Brad Iones*



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Jason Roach
Licensed Real Estate
Agent, Director
Parishioner

Jason 0448 455 556 or jason.roach@century21.com.au

If I can ever be of assistance to you, a family member or a friend with any property advice for buying, selling or renovation tips, I would be delighted to help.

Parish Staff and Contact Information

We are the one parish of Lindfield-Killara containing our two distinct but collaborating and cooperating communities centred on our two churches at Killara and Lindfield.

Holy Family Church: cnr Pacific Hwy and Highfield Rd, Lindfield **Immaculate Heart of Mary Church:** cnr Fiddens Wharf Rd and Charles St. Killara **Parish Priest: Fr Colin Blayney** colin@lindfieldkillara.org.au 9416 7195 Assistant Priest: Fr Thomas Alackakunnel VC thomas@lindfieldkillara.org.au 0421 406162

PARISH OFFICE:

Parish Secretary: Philita Marundan: philita@lindfieldkillara.org.au

Address: Level 1, 2 Highfield Road (cnr Pacific Hwy) Lindfield NSW 2070

(Postal: PO Box 22, Lindfield NSW 2070)

Fax: 9416 3913 **Ph:** 9416 3702 Email: parish@lindfieldkillara.org.au

Parish Office Hours: Monday to Friday 9:30am-1:00pm and 1:30pm-4:00pm

Catechist Coordinator (Primary Schools):

Sue-Anne Sherwood sue-anne@lindfieldkillara.org.au

0416 141 508

Sacramental Programme Coordinator:

Sue-Anne Sherwood sue-anne@lindfieldkillara.org.au

0416 141 508

Assistant Sacramental Programme Coordinator:

Maia Schulze Tsang maia@lindfieldkillara.org.au

maia@lindfieldkillara.org.au Parish Priest's Secretary: Maia Schulze Tsang

Parish Bookkeeper: **Alison Williams** alison@lindfieldkillara.org.au **Child Protection Coord. Alison Williams** alison@lindfieldkillara.org.au

Parish Facilities Coordinator (volunteer): Anthony Cassidy anthony@lindfieldkillara.org.au Youth Ministry Coordinator (volunteer) Jean Shatek youth@lindfieldkillara.org.au

Parish Primary School: Holy Family School, 4 Highfield Rd, Lindfield 2070

Ph: 9416 7200 Fax: 9416 9342

Principal: Mr Lou Dogao

Email: info@holyfamily.nsw.edu.au www.hfldbb.catholic.edu.au **School Website:**

Parish Website: www.lindfieldkillara.org.au

Saturday		14 Jul	21 Jul
Lindfield	6:00pm	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel	Fr Colin Blayney
Killara	5:30pm	Fr Colin Blayney	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel
Sunday		15 Jul	22 Jul
Lindfield	8:15am	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel	Fr Colin Blayney
Killara	9:15am	Fr Colin Blayney	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel
Lindfield	10:15am	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel	Fr Colin Blayney
Lindfield	12:00noon	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel	Fr Kelly
Lindfield	6:00pm	Fr Colin Blayney	Fr Colin Blayney

CHINESE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

常年期第十五主日 15-7-2018 **讀經一**(你去向我的百姓講預言吧!) 恭讀亞毛斯先知書 7:12-15

那時候,阿瑪責雅又向亞毛斯說:「先見者,你走吧!趕快到猶大國去,在那裡餬口,在那裡講預言。在貝特耳,不可再講預言,因為這裡是君王的聖所,王國的殿宇。」

亞毛斯回答阿瑪責雅,說:「我原來不是先知,也不是先知的弟子,我只是一個放羊、兼修剪野無花果的人。但是,當我正在趕羊時,上主提拔了我。上主對我說:你去向我的百姓以色列,講預言吧!」——上主的話。(默想片刻)

答唱詠 詠 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14

【答】:上主,求你向我們顯示你的寬仁;求你賜給我們你的救恩。(詠85:8)

領:我要聽天主上主說的話;他向自己 的聖者和子民,及向全心皈依他的 人,所說的話,確是和平綸音。他 的救恩,必臨於敬畏他的人;他的 光榮,必在我們的地上永存。 【答】

領:仁愛和忠信,必彼此相迎;正義與 和平,必彼此相親。忠信從地下生 出;正義由天上遠矚。【答】

領:上主也必賜下康樂幸福;我們的土 地,必有收穫。正義在上主前面行 走,救恩必緊隨上主的腳步。 【答】

讀經二(天主在創世以前,在基督

內,已揀選了我們。) 恭讀聖保祿 宗徒致厄弗所人書 1:3-14 弟兄姊妹們:

願我們的主耶穌基督的天主和父 受讚美!他在天上,在基督內,以各 種屬神的祝福,祝福了我們,因為他 於創世以前,在基督內,已揀選了我 們,為使我們在他面前,成為聖潔無 瑕疵的;又由於愛,按照自己旨意的 決定,預定了我們藉著耶穌基督,獲 得義子的名分,而歸於他,為頌揚他 恩寵的光榮;這恩寵是他在自己的愛 子內賜與我們的。我們就是全憑天主 豐厚的恩寵,在他的愛子內,藉他愛 子的血,獲得了救贖,罪過的赦免。 的確,天主豐厚地把這恩寵,傾注在 我們身上,賜與我們各種智慧和明 達,為使我們知道,他旨意的奧秘, 是全照他在愛子內所定的計劃:就是 依照他的措施,當時期一滿,就使天 上和地上的萬有,總歸於基督元首。

——上主的話。(默想片刻)

福音前歡呼

領/眾:亞肋路亞。

領:我們的主耶穌基督的天主,光照 我們心靈的眼目,為叫我們認 清:他的寵召有什麼希望。(弗 1:17-18)

眾:亞肋路亞。

福音(先知除了在自己的本鄉,是沒有不受尊敬的。)

恭讀聖馬爾谷福音 6:1-6

那時候,耶穌召集那十 二人,開始派遣他們兩個兩 個出去,賜給他們制伏邪魔 的權柄。耶穌囑咐他們在路 上,除了一根棍杖外,什麼 也不要帶:不要帶食物,不 要帶口袋,也不要在腰帶裡 帶銅錢;卻要穿鞋,不要穿 兩件內衣。耶穌又對他們 說:「你們無論在那裡,進 入那一家,就住在那裡,直 到離開那裡。無論何處,不 接待你們,或不聽從你們, 你們就離開那裡,拍去你們 腳上的塵土,作為反對他們 的證據。」那十二人就出去宣 講,使人悔改,並驅逐了許 多魔鬼,且給許多病人傅 油,治好了他們。——上主 的話。

華人天主教會 北區中心 主日彌撒 12 時, 彌撒後, 午餐聚會. 餐費成人\$6 小童\$4 牧職修女 司徒金美修女 聯絡 6 0419- 426899 中心聯絡 Gloria Cheung 聯絡 6 0416-118089

Sunday School 主日學 12nooon Parish Meeting Rm

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Fax no. 94161538 E:sales@universalinstruments.com.au (continued from p.12...) In her autobiography, The Story of a Soul, Therese of Lisieux tells how she sensed that she could help others, across time and distance, by being part of the silent, hidden, moral heart within the Body of Christ. Hidden away in an obscure convent, she sensed she could help people outside those walls, and help the whole world, by being part of a hidden moral heart. And so she bore down in her private life and focused on making every action, no matter how small, pure and loving, believing that some universal power would flow forth from this private, hidden goodness.

How right she was! We know that from our own lives. Anyone who has had the right and power to ask us to make a real sacrifice has had that right and power only because he or she was inviting us into a moral reality that he or she was already living, at least essentially. Conversely, we've all experienced how feeble is the invitation from someone who speaks the right things, but doesn't live them.

In the Gospels, we see an instance where Jesus' disciples are perplexed because they're powerless to cast out a demon. When they ask Jesus about it, he says: "This kind is cast out only by prayer and fasting." That cryptic phrase contains more than we suspect.

The power to baptise with fire and spirit, that is, the power to actually change someone's life for the better, unlike the power to simply enlighten, issues forth only from a heart that is essentially pure, moral, and integral because only that kind of heart can cast out the real demons.

Fr Ron Rolheiser omi, Centre for Liturgy, University of St Louis





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

Recently deceased: Ellen Bennett, Fr Brian Yates, Erika Stanek, Edith ('Dita') Lehel, Peter O'Sullivan. **And for:** Marion and George Blayney. **Anniversary:** Raymond Jones.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK: Joe Agius, Aida Cameron, Faye Bartlett, Maureen Hobbs, Ian Coffey, Yvette Marie and Jeff Oras, John and George Agius, Fr Franciscus Choi, Ken Kan, Gizelle Tan, Basilisa Choi, Cyril Ferriere, Br Braden, Brian Couper, Kieran Norton, Sean Maguire, Pakie Maguire, Naneth Bernado, Michael Swan.

REFLECTING ON THIS SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURES

So they went off and preached repentance.

The Twelve drove out many demons,
and they anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

OUR INABILITY TO CAST OUT DEMONS

The older I get, the more I realise that there is a huge difference between speaking effectively, perhaps even brilliantly, and actually changing anybody's life. It's one thing to impress a person, move a heart, inspire someone, reveal the depth of some truth, help someone to understand himself or herself more deeply, or to teach and minister in a way that brings admiration. No small thing. But it's something else, something much more difficult, to move someone in such a way that he or she actually changes and gives up the habits, compensations, addictions, indulgences, fears, and angers that stand between him and her and the joy of being a saint.

Even when we are at our best, we are still not very effective in helping each other better our lives. In effect, people listen to us and say: "You're wonderful, but this isn't going to change my life!" Like John the Baptist, we are able to point out the way, but not able to help affect the transformation that's needed for someone to actually change his or her way of life. That's why there's a lot more admiration than transformation inside religious and moral circles.

And that's true too in the world at large. In the arts, politics, and academia, we've become masters at everything, except actually creating new beauty and actually bettering community. We're brilliant at showing what's wrong, but far less effective in actually improving the situation. If we're honest, we can all truthfully speak these words (which John Shea puts into the John the Baptist's mouth): "I can denounce a king, but I cannot enthrone one. I can strip an idol of its power, but I cannot reveal the true God. I can wash the soul in sand, but I cannot dress it in white. I can devour the word of the Lord like wild honey, but I cannot lace his sandal. I can condemn the sin, but I cannot bear it away." Why? Why is our power less than our knowledge? Why, when we know so much, are we so powerless to change things?

Largely, I believe, it's because our own lives aren't integral enough. We aren't saints, pure and simple, and only saints have the right to actually ask someone to change his or her life and have some power to affect that transformation. Why?

There's a story about a troubled mother who had a daughter who was addicted to sweets. One day she approached Gandhi, explained the problem to him and asked whether he might talk to the young girl. Gandhi replied: "Bring your daughter to me in three weeks' time and I will speak to her." After three weeks, the mother brought her daughter to him. He took the young girl aside and spoke to her about the harmful effects of eating sweets excessively and urged her to abandon her bad habit. The mother thanked Gandhi for this advice and then asked him: "But why didn't you speak to her three weeks ago?" Gandhi replied: "Because three weeks ago, I was still addicted to sweets."

And there's the lesson: We must do more than just point out the right road to others, we must be on that road ourselves. For this reason, the integrity of our private lives and private morals, down to the smallest detail, is the real power behind our words.

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