

# Catholic Parish of Lindfield-Killara Diocese of Broken Bay

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

	LINDFIELD:	KILLARA:
MASS TIMES:		
Saturday	6:00pm	Saturday Vigil: 5:30pm
Sunday:	8:15am	Sunday: 9:15am
	10:15am	
	12:00 (Chinese Community Mass)	
	6:00pm (for both our communities) (5:30pm on 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sun. of month)	
Weekdays:		
Monday	9:15am	7:30am
Tuesday	12:15pm	7:30am
Wednesday	No Mass	~
Thursday	9:15am	~
Friday	9:15am	7:30am
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

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**TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME      16 – 9 – 18**

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*This week: Gen 3:9-15; 2 Cor 4:13-5:1; Mk 3:20-35*

*Next week: Ezek 17:22-24; 2 Cor 5:6-10; Mk 4:26-34*

*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*

# Youth News ...

## YOUTH@LINDFIELD KILLARA PARISH



Fusion Youth at Lindfield Killara



youth.fusion



youth@lindfieldkillara.org.au

### Youth & Family Mass

LINDFIELD KILLARA CATHOLIC PARISH

Our Youth & Family Mass is for anyone looking for a joyous, faith-filled celebration with youthful music and a warm, community feel. Feed the family after Mass at our supper

**NEXT MASS:**  
**SUN 14 October**  
**5.30 pm**

**Special focus on Social Justice  
and the Homeless**



### FOR TEENS IN YEARS 7-12

*FUSION is a welcoming space for teenagers, helping them navigate their teenage years. Youth leaders (young adults from our Parish) lead the teens in social justice activities, games and discussion. We meet regularly one Friday night and one Sunday night per month and for other activities throughout the year.*

#### **Fri 28 September**

Yr 7,8,9 meets 5.30-7.30pm

Yr 10,11,12 meets 7-9pm  
in Shirley Wallace. Dinner  
served at 7pm for all.

#### **Sun 14 October**

Meet after Youth Mass  
supper (approx. 7.30 to  
9.00pm) in Parish  
Meeting Room



### FOR KIDS IN YEARS 3-6

*At BLAST kids have fun whilst learning what it means to be part of a faith community. We have a different "theme" every month led by FUSION youth members of our Parish. We meet monthly on Sundays, from 4.00pm to 5.30pm, just before the Youth & Family Mass.*

#### **Sunday, 14 October**

"My Own Two Hands": Social Justice

*Please note there will be **no** BLAST  
meeting in September.*

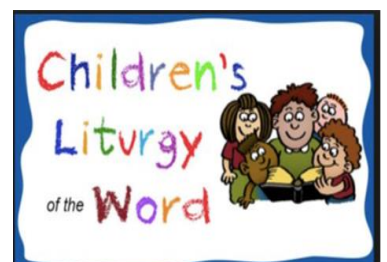
**FOR MORE INFORMATION... PLEASE CONTACT US VIA EMAIL OR SOCIAL MEDIA  
(SEE ABOVE) OR RING THE PARISH OFFICE.**

Dear Parents,

We are in great need for more volunteers to join the roster to help run Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) at the 8:15am and 10:15am Mass at Holy Family Church Lindfield.

We have volunteers up to mid-September, but need more help from there onwards. Getting involved is very rewarding and without your help, we may not be able to have the CLOW for the children.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact our CLOW coordinators, Helen and Richard Martin at:  
[richardianmartin@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:richardianmartin@yahoo.co.uk)



## PARISH DIARY : SEPT ~ OCT

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> Sep.:** Morning tea after 9:15am and 10:15am Masses.

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> Oct.:** Morning tea after 9:15am and 10:15am Mass  
**Children's Mass** at 9:15am at Killara.

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> October:** Mass for HSC and IB students at 6pm followed by pizzas.

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October:** Monthly Youth and Children's Mass at 5:30pm followed by parish potluck dinner.

## THIS WEEK: ANOTHER CHANGING OF THE GUARD!

Fr Thomas is back from retreat but this week Fr Colin will be away for a few days leading the parish retreat group at Jamberoo Abbey. This will only affect one weekday Mass - please see page 1 for this week's weekday Mass programme.

## A DADS' CLUB FOR THE PARISH ?



Any dads who would be interested in the possibility of a monthly dads' gathering in the parish of a social nature are invited to come for a chat about this at **morning tea in the Shirley Wallace Parish Centre** immediately following the 10:15am Mass this Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>.

All Year 12 HSC and IB students and their families invited to...



AT HOLY FAMILY  
CHURCH LINDFIELD

-----  
PIZZA SUPPER  
AFTER MASS IN

-----  
SHIRLEY WALLACE  
CENTRE

-----  
LOCATED ABOVE  
THE CHURCH



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## OUR DIOCESAN COMMITMENT TO SAFEGUARDING

*We the people of the Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay are committed to fostering communities of safety and care for all people, especially for children and others in the community who are vulnerable.*

*Our commitment is underscored by our faith in Jesus Christ who teaches the fundamental sanctity of each human person, and by our dedication to sustained education, practice, and conversation about our moral, legal, and spiritual obligation to safeguard all those within our community.*



## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

First Holy Communion will be celebrated this year as follows:

- **at Killara:**
  - at the 9:15am Mass on Sunday 23rd September
- **at Lindfield:**
  - at the Vigil Mass on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September
  - at the 10:15am Mass on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> September



In addition to the fact that our celebrations are spread over a number of Masses so that the number of First Communicants at each Mass is not too large, the First Communion Masses will be celebrated in such a way that **they take no longer than a normal Sunday Mass.**

**May we ask all parishioners to please congratulate and pray for First Holy Communion candidates:**

If you see a child with a lanyard around the necks at Mass, please approach the families and make a big deal of congratulating these children on preparing for their First Holy Communion and especially if you can see they have stickers for good behaviour or outstanding effort. These 'passports' allow the children to follow the steps on their preparation journey to their First Communion Celebration.

### Lindfield Dental Practice



**Dr Peter Chung**  
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Clinical Assoc Professor

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**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.

## THE PLENARY COUNCIL 2020 – HOW YOUR VOICE CAN BE HEARD....



Preparation for the Plenary Council 2020 begins with open Listening and Dialogue. It is the first step to preparing the agenda for the Plenary Council. Your experience of faith and the Church is important. Read about how you can #shareyourstory at [plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au](http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au).

The Plenary Council agenda will be developed from the stories you share and the questions you raise. **To join a small group for**

**Plenary Council Listening and Dialogue, please contact the parish office.** All people are welcome – come along, and bring a friend. Visit [plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au](http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au) for more information.

You are warmly invited to the annual community

### Interfaith Prayer Service

to celebrate UN Int. Day of Peace

**11AM - Friday 21<sup>st</sup> Sept**



**Many faiths represented - peace prayers -  
school choirs sing - a peace bell is rung -  
peace candles are lit - all welcome**

A very special annual community event, hosted by Lindfield Uniting Church (formerly St David's), held in the main community hall, 454 Pacific Hwy (Cnr Provincial Rd) Lindfield Ph: 9416 2106

### CAN YOU HELP US?

#### A NEED IN OUR CHURCH AT KILLARA

Our church at Killara does not have an audio-visual projection system.

As you know we often have need to project videos – messages from the bishop, Project Compassion information during Lent, matters pertaining to the forthcoming Plenary Council and the list goes on.

It is rare for a church today to be without this facility but its purchase and installation is an expensive matter.

If you would be willing to contribute to adding this much-needed facility to our church at Killara please contact the Parish Office or myself.

*Fr Colin*

**NO PARKING** A reminder to those attending weekday Mass at Lindfield that there is **NO PARKING** in the church carpark during school term. The carpark serves both the Parish Office and the school staff and so is at maximum capacity. In addition, cars often have to depart at short notice and we have had vehicles parked in.

**PARISH YOUNG ADULTS GROUP** The next gathering for the year takes place **today Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> September** immediately following the 6pm Mass and will be held in the lounge in the Shirley Wallace Parish Centre on the first floor of Lindfield church. All young adults welcome – a relaxed and informal time (including dinner).



## 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, Sav-iour of the world, for by your  
Cross and Res - ur - rec - tion you have set us free.

### THE PSALM Ps 114:1-6. 8-9. R. v.9

I love the Lord for God has heard  
the cry of my appeal;  
for the Lord turned his ear to me  
in the day when I called.

They surrounded me, the snares of death,  
with the anguish of the tomb;  
they caught me, sorrow and distress.  
I called on the Lord's name.  
O Lord my God, deliver me!

How gracious is the Lord, and just;  
our God has compassion.  
The Lord protects the simple hearts;  
I was helpless so God saved me.

The Lord has kept my soul from death,  
my eyes from tears and my feet from stumbling.  
I will walk in the presence of the Lord  
in the land of the living.

*At Masses at which the Psalm  
is sung the response is: I will  
walk in the presence of the  
Lord,  
in the land of the living.*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! My only  
glory is the cross of our Lord  
Jesus Christ,  
which crucifies the world to  
me and me to the world.  
Alleluia!

### RESPONSES TO THE PSALM FOR WEEKDAY MASS THIS WEEK:

**Monday:** Proclaim the death of the Lord  
until he comes again.

**Tues:** We are his people: the sheep of his  
flock.

**Wed:** Happy the people the Lord has chosen  
to be his own.

**Thursday:** Give thanks to the Lord, for he  
is good.

**Friday:** Their message goes out through all  
the earth.

**Saturday:** I will walk in the presence of  
God, with the light of the living.

### THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,

and in Jesus Christ,  
his only Son, our Lord,

*(all bow at the following words in bold):*

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,**  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended into hell;  
on the third day he rose again from the  
dead;

he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand  
of God the Father almighty;  
from there he will come  
to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Holy Catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting. Amen



### STAIRWAY TO THE HEART Our young people and social justice:

Saturday 22 September, 10am - 4pm

**The Concourse Steps ~ 409 Victoria Ave,  
Chatswood**

Stairway to the heart is a free interactive art exhibition that invites you to reflect on how we are connected to people seeking safety from conflict and persecution. The Concourse stairway will host hundreds of small, clay human hearts. Each heart was made by one of more than 500 people, including our own youth from Holy Family School and our parish.

You are invited to pick up a heart wrapped in cloth, unwrap it and replace it on the stair before writing your own reflection on the cloth. The cloth reflections will be displayed on the day for others to read. Stairway to the heart is by artist Penny Ryan. Please come along and take part in this special event.

### FROM OUR PARISH SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP:

#### PARISH GROCERY DRIVE: ASYLUM SEEKERS CENTRE, 29 AND 30 SEPTEMBER

We will be running a Grocery Drive for the Asylum Seeker Centre at Mass on the 29 & 30 September, coinciding with Social Justice Sunday.

Urgently needed: Cornflakes, Vegetable Oil (1L), tinned fish, deodorant (men and women), sanitary pads, shampoo.

Always needed: Coffee, tea, canned chickpeas, red kidney beans, mixed beans, dried apricots, dried dates, dried lentils, nuts, soup, tomato soup, tinned corn, tinned tomatoes, dishwashing liquid, laundry powder (small packages), toothpaste, toothbrushes.

Save the Date: Sunday, 14 October – a social justice event not to be missed!

**Also:** Please mark the afternoon of Sunday 14th October in your diaries. More to come!

**Like to be involved?** Please email [socialjustice@lindfieldkillara.org.au](mailto:socialjustice@lindfieldkillara.org.au) to add your name to our mailing list.

# Catechists

*'God doesn't call the qualified, God qualifies the called'*

## WE BELIEVE IN

**K** - kingdom building

**I** - impacting lives

**D** - deeper Relationships

**S** - spiritual growth

We are looking for teachers and assistants for:

- Tues 9.15-10am - Lindfield East - Yr 5

- Thurs 9.15-10am - Killara Primary - Yr 4 (small class)

- Wed morning 75 min - Killara High - 1 teacher and 1 assistant

- new school in Lindfield next year.

Please come forward now so you can attend the training in October and November and be ready to teach next year.

Please contact Sue-Anne Sherwood: [sue-anne@lindfieldkillara.org.au](mailto:sue-anne@lindfieldkillara.org.au)

## FR RICHARD ROHR OFM'S MEDITATION

### TWO ROLES OF RELIGION

*The chief fruit of Old Testament spirituality was a long-term education that gradually weaned the Chosen People away from their narrow concept of God as one among many other Near Eastern gods to the Transcendent One. The monotheistic God is the great gift of Israel to humanity. —Thomas Keating [1]*

Let me begin with one of my favourite passages from the brilliant philosopher Ken Wilber: . . . *Religion itself has always performed two very important, but very different functions. One, it acts as a way of creating meaning for the separate self: it offers myths and stories and tales and narratives and rituals that, taken together, help the separate self make sense of, and endure, the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune. This function of religion does not usually or necessarily change the level of consciousness in a person; it does not deliver radical transformation. Nor does it deliver a shattering liberation from the separate self altogether. Rather, it consoles the self, fortifies the self, defends the self, promotes the self. As long as the separate self believes the myths, performs the rituals, mouths the prayers, or embraces the dogma, then the self, it is fervently believed, will be "saved"—either now in the glory of being God-saved or Goddess-favoured, or in an afterlife that ensures eternal wonderment.*

*But two, religion has also served—in a usually very, very small minority—the function of radical transformation and liberation. This function of religion does not fortify the separate self, but utterly shatters it—not consolation but devastation, not entrenchment but emptiness, not complacency but explosion, not comfort but revolution—in short, not a conventional bolstering of consciousness but a radical transmutation and transformation at the deepest seat of consciousness itself. [2]*

This second function is the ultimate goal of all mature spirituality. This is the contemplative dimension of religion. As Thomas Keating says, "The primary purpose of religion is to help us move beyond the separate-self sense to union with God." [3]

[1] Thomas Keating, *Fruits and Gifts of the Spirit* (Lantern Books: 2007), 3.

[2] Ken Wilber, *One Taste: Daily Reflections on Integral Spirituality* (Shambhala Publications, Inc.: 2000), 25-26.

[3] Thomas Keating and Joseph Boyle with Lucette Verboven, *World Without End* (Bloomsbury Continuum: 2017), 24.



## *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](mailto:colin@lindfieldkillara.org.au) 9416 7195  
**Assistant Priest: Fr Thomas Alackakunnel VC** [thomas@lindfieldkillara.org.au](mailto:thomas@lindfieldkillara.org.au) 0421 406162

### PARISH OFFICE:

**Parish Secretary: Philita Marundan (Tues-Fri):** [philita@lindfieldkillara.org.au](mailto:philita@lindfieldkillara.org.au)

**Parish Office Coordinator and Child Protection Coordinator:**

**Alison Williams (Mon, Wed, Thur):** [alison@lindfieldkillara.org.au](mailto:alison@lindfieldkillara.org.au)

**Address:** Level 1, 2 Highfield Road (cnr Pacific Hwy) Lindfield NSW 2070  
 (Postal: PO Box 22, Lindfield NSW 2070)

**Ph:** 9416 3702    **Fax:** 9416 3913    **Email:** [parish@lindfieldkillara.org.au](mailto: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](mailto:sue-anne@lindfieldkillara.org.au)  
 0416 141 508

**Sacramental Programme Coordinator:**

**Sue-Anne Sherwood** [sue-anne@lindfieldkillara.org.au](mailto:sue-anne@lindfieldkillara.org.au)  
 0416 141 508

**Assistant Sacramental Programme Coordinator:**

**Maia Schulze Tsang** [maia@lindfieldkillara.org.au](mailto:maia@lindfieldkillara.org.au)

**Parish Priest's Secretary: Maia Schulze Tsang** [maia@lindfieldkillara.org.au](mailto:maia@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 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](mailto:info@holyfamily.nsw.edu.au)

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

<b>Parish Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.lindfieldkillara.org.au">www.lindfieldkillara.org.au</a>
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Saturday		15 Sep	22 Sep
Lindfield	6:00pm	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel	Fr Colin Blayney
Killara	5:30pm	Fr Colin Blayney	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel
Sunday		16 Sep	23 Sep
Lindfield	8:15am	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel
Killara	9:15am	Fr Colin Blayney	Fr Colin Blayney
Lindfield	10:15am	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel
Lindfield	12:00noon	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel	Visitor
Lindfield	6:00pm	Fr Colin Blayney	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel

# CHINESE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

常年期第二十四主日

16-9-2018

**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。( 默想片刻 )

**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

**福音前歡呼**

領/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，已被釘在十字架上了；我於世界，也被釘在十字架上了。( 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？」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。

( 講道後默想片刻 )

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12noon Parish Meeting Room

23/9北區中心慶祝中秋節午餐聚會,請帶一份甜品分享

華人天主教會暨高齡之家高齡之家, 依士活中心 慶祝中秋節聯歡會, 日期 :23/9 1:00 -5:00 pm

慶祝梁加恩神父九十大壽感恩彌撒將於十月六號星期六 Strathfield Santa Sabina College舉行, 隨後晚宴喺大三元海鮮酒家,每位 \$50



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*(continued from p.12...)* in longing, battling bitterness, as we wait for something or someone to come and change our situation. We spend about 98% of our lives waiting for fulfillment, in small and big ways. Jesus' invitation to us to follow him implies waiting, accepting to live inside an unfinished symphony.

Fifth, carrying our cross daily means accepting that God's gift to us is often not what we expect. God always answers our prayers but, often times, by giving us what we really need rather than what we *think* we need. The Resurrection, says James Martin, does not come when we expect it and rarely fits our notion of how a resurrection should happen. To carry your cross is to be open to surprise.

Finally, taking up your cross and being willing to give up your life means living in a faith that believes that nothing is impossible for God. As James Martin puts it, this means accepting that God is greater than the human imagination. Indeed, whenever we succumb to the notion that God cannot offer us a way out of our pain into some kind of newness, it's precisely because we have reduced God down to the size of our own limited imagination. It's only possible to accept our cross, to live in trust, and to not grow bitter inside pain if we believe in possibilities beyond what we can imagine, namely, if we believe in the Resurrection.

We can take up our cross when we begin to believe in the Resurrection.

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

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

**Grant that life to:**

***Please pray for the repose of the soul of June Connors of our parish who died last week.  
The funeral for June will be taking place from Rookwood this Monday.***

**Recently deceased:** Bill O'Connell, Janice Breslin, Pattie Upton, Faye Bartlett.

**Anniversary:** Marion Blayney, Dr Peter Tsui, Maria Arabia, Beni Conti, Veronica Buchanan, Philomena Beazley, James and Daphne D'Cruz.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK :** Daniella Schulze, Ian Coffey.

## REFLECTING ON THIS SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURES ....

*Whoever wishes to come after me must deny themselves,  
take up their cross, and follow me.*

### CARRYING OUR CROSS

Among Jesus' many teachings we find this, rather harsh-sounding, invitation: *Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.*

I suspect that each of us has a gut-sense of what this means and what it will cost us; but, I suspect too that many of us misunderstand that Jesus is asking here and struggle unhealthily with this invitation. What, concretely, does Jesus mean by this?

To answer that, I would like to lean on some insights offered by James Martin in his book, *Jesus, A Pilgrimage*. He suggests that taking up our cross daily and giving up life in order to find deeper life means six interpenetrating things:

First, it means accepting that suffering is a part of our lives. Accepting our cross and giving up our lives means that, at some point, we have to make peace with the unalterable fact that frustration, disappointment, pain, misfortune, illness, unfairness, sadness, and death are a part of our lives and they must ultimately be accepted without bitterness. As long as we nurse the notion that pain in our lives is something we need not accept, we will habitually find ourselves bitter—bitter for not having accepted the cross.

Second, taking up our cross and giving up our lives, means that we may not, in our suffering, pass on any bitterness to those around us. We have a strong inclination, almost as part of our natural instincts, to make others suffer when we are suffering: If I'm unhappy, I will make sure that others around me are unhappy too! This does not mean, as Martin points out, that we cannot share our pain with others. But there's a healthy way of doing this, where our sharing leaves others free, as opposed to an unhealthy kind of sharing which subtly tries to make others unhappy because we are unhappy. There's a difference between healthily groaning under the weight of our pain and unhealthily whining in self-pity and bitterness under that weight. The cross gives us permission to do the former, but not the latter. Jesus groaned under the weight of his cross, but no self-pity, whining, or bitterness issued forth from his lips or his beaten body.

Third, walking in the footsteps of Jesus as he carries his cross means that we must accept some other deaths before our physical death, that we are invited to let some parts of ourselves die. When Jesus invites us to die in order to find life, he is not, first of all, talking about physical death. If we live in adulthood, there are a myriad of other deaths that we must undergo before we die physically. Maturity and Christian discipleship are about perennially naming our deaths, claiming our births, mourning our losses, letting go of what's died, and receiving new spirit for the new life that we are now living. These are the stages of the paschal mystery, and the stages of growing up. There are daily deaths.

Fourth, it means that we must wait for the resurrection, that here in this life all symphonies must remain unfinished. The Book of Proverbs tells us that sometimes in the midst of pain the best we can do is put our mouths to the dust and wait. Any real understanding of the cross agrees. So much of life and discipleship is about waiting, waiting in frustration, inside injustice, inside pain, *(continued on p. 11):*