

Catholic Parish of Lindfield-Killara

Diocese of Broken Bay

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

MASS TIMES:	LINDFIELD:	KILLARA:
	Saturday 6:00pm Sunday: 8:15am 10:15am 12:00 (Chinese Community Mass) 6:00pm (for both our communities) (5:30pm on 1 st Sun. of month)	Saturday Vigil: 5:30pm Sunday: 9:15am

Weekdays this week:

Monday	9:15am	7:30am
Tuesday	6:00pm (with Vespers)	7:30am
Wednesday	9:15am	~
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)

*** Healing Mass for whole parish at 10am each 2nd Friday of each month (except Jan.)

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME **17 – 2 – 19**

This week : Jer 17:5-8; Cor 5:12, 16-20; Lk 6:17, 20-26

Next week: 1 Sam 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23; 1 Cor 15:45-49; Lk 6:27-38

In our world the Beatitudes can more likely *be platitudes*:

**our society is much more likely to treat the rich well
and the poor with distrust and disdain.**

Our country is riveted by the nightly news
but has little time for the Good News, with its strange priorities.

The question we have to face is: are we any different?

Any different from the world which values competition, success, gain and goods?

Are the Beatitudes merely *platitudes*,

or is their upside down world

where the weak, the poor and the vulnerable are the most important

*the world that Christians try to make a reality?
the world that we try to make a reality?*

Fr Colin

**RICHARD ROHR'S MEDITATION:
JESUS AND THE BIBLE PART IV:
JESUS' HERMENEUTIC***

Jesus' approach to interpreting sacred text was radical for his time, yet honoured his own Hebrew Bible (or what Christians call the Old Testament). Even though Jesus' use of Scripture is plain enough for us to see in the Gospels, many Christians are accustomed to reading the Bible in a very different way. We simply haven't paid attention and connected the dots! Over the next couple days, I'll share some examples that reveal Jesus' hermeneutic so that we might follow his methodology:

- *Jesus actually does not quote Scripture that much!* In fact, he is criticised for not doing this: “you teach with [inner] authority and not like our own scribes” (Mark 1:22).
- *Jesus talks much more out of his own experience of God and humanity* instead of teaching like the scribes and Pharisees, who operated out of their own form of *case law* by quoting previous sources.
- *Jesus often uses what appear to be non-Jewish or non-canonical sources*, or at least sources scholars cannot verify. For example, “It is not the healthy who need the doctor, but the sick do” (see Mark 2:17, Matthew 9:12, and Luke 5:31), or the parable of the rich man and Lazarus (see Luke 16:19-31). His bandwidth of authority and attention is much wider than *sola Scriptura*. He even quotes some sources seemingly incorrectly (for example, John 10:34)!
- *Jesus never once quotes from nineteen of the books in his own Scriptures.* In fact, he appears to use a very few favourites: Exodus, Deuteronomy, Isaiah, Hosea, and Psalms—and those are overwhelmingly in Matthew's Gospel, which was directed to a Jewish audience.
- *Jesus appears to ignore most of his own Bible, yet it clearly formed his whole consciousness.* That is the paradox. If we look at what he ignores, it includes any passages—of which there are many—that appear to legitimate violence, imperialism, exclusion, purity, and dietary laws. Jesus is a *biblically formed non-Bible quoter* who gets the deeper stream, the spirit, the trajectory of his Jewish history and never settles for mere surface readings.
- When Jesus does once quote Leviticus, he quotes *the one positive mandate* among long lists of negative ones: “You must love your neighbour as yourself” (Leviticus 19:18).

* *Hermeneutic = a method of interpretation*

Youth News



Fusion
youth
Faith and Friendship for teens years 7 thru 12

NEXT MEETING!!!!!!
Fri, Feb 22 6.30-8.30 pm
Water Games - prepare to get soaked!

Meet at Shirley Wallace Centre

FOR ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
YEARS 7 - 12





FOR MORE INFORMATION

EMAIL:
YOUTH@LINDFIELDKILLARA.ORG.AU

NEW PARISH YOUTH CENTRE ... 'THE BASEMENT'

We have given the old parish meeting room at the rear of and under the church at Lindfield over to our youth ministry to serve as the gathering space for our parish youth. **Many thanks** to the members of the young adults group and senior youth who painted the room over the school holidays – it looks lovely and fresh! Once everything is set up we'll have a grand opening.

CAN YOU
HELP US?

We also want to put some comfortable sofas/lounges and some floor lamps in the room – if you have old ones in good condition we'd love to hear from you.

If you can help please contact Jean at youth@lindfieldkillara.org.au



BLAST YOUTH GROUP (FOR YEARS 3-6) will gather on **Sunday 3rd March** from 4:00-5:30pm (prior to the Youth and Family Mass) in MacKillop Hall.

Join us for a *conversation* with **Fr Frank Brennan S.J., A.O.**

**CEO Catholic Social Services Australia
Human Rights Lawyer, A.C.U Jesuit**



Discussing a number of important issues facing the church at this critical time in our history as well as sharing his insights on various social justice topics



"The meddling priest".

PM Paul Keating, 1998

"An ethical burr in the nation's saddle".

PM Kevin Rudd, 2007



WHEN: Sunday, 3rd March from 2:30pm to 5:15pm

WHERE: St Brigid's Hall in the Shirley Wallace Parish Centre,
Holy Family Catholic Church, 2 Highfield Rd Lindfield

BOOKINGS: <https://www.trybooking.com/468555>

(please book so that we know numbers and can have seating ready)

Entry by gold coin donation.

If you would like to suggest questions you would like to be addressed, please write to forum@lindfieldkillara.org.au

SUMMARY OF SOME OF THE MATTERS DISCUSSED AT LAST WEEK'S PPC MEETING:

- Planning for Fr Frank Brennan's visit
- Planning a retreat/conference for those in parish leadership roles
- Agreed, in line with recommendation of the Parish Finance Committee, to use funds from a recent modest bequest to install solar roof panels on Holy Family church with aim to: i. in line with Pope Francis' teaching on care for the earth, to reduce our adverse impact on the environment and ii. to reduce electricity costs, thereby extending the benefit of the bequest to the parish into future years. It was felt that out of respect for the donor the funds should not be made part of general parish revenues but used for a good work we could not otherwise undertake.
- Discussion re new logo for the parish
- Report from our School Principal, Lou Dogao
- Updates on Coles development and our own Killara carpark development

ROSEVILLE – LINDFIELD – KILLARA INTERCHURCH FELLOWSHIP

LENTEN ECUMENICAL SERVICES 2019

We are blessed that this year we will again be having **three Lenten Ecumenical Services** with our fellow Churches in our local area. Please be part of this wonderful opportunity to build the bridges of Christian Unity during the Lenten season of renewal:

- Tuesday 12th. Mar.** at 7:45pm **at Holy Family Catholic Church Lindfield**
Cnr Pacific Hwy and Highfield Rd, Lindfield
 Preacher: Rev. Chris Goringe
- Tuesday 26th March** at 7:45pm **at Lindfield Uniting Church**
Cnr Pacific Hwy and Provincial Rd, Lindfield
 Preacher: Rev. Colin Blayney
- Tuesday 9th April** at 7:45pm **at Killara Uniting Church**
Cnr Arnold St and Karanga Ave, Killara
 Preacher: Rev. David Gill.

PARISH DIARY : FEB. – MAR.

Friday 22nd February: Fusion (high school) youth group. See p.3.

Sunday 24th February: Morning tea after 10:15am Mass

Sunday 3rd March: Conversation with Fr Frank Brennan SJ (see p.4)

Sunday 3rd March: Blast Youth Group (Years 3-6) 4-5:30pm (see p.3).

Sunday 3rd March: Monthly Youth and Family Mass at 5:30pm followed by parish potluck dinner.

Wednesday 6th March: Ash Wednesday.

Friday 8th March: Monthly Healing Mass and morning tea at 10am at Killara.

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

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

Tuesday 12th March: Lenten Ecumenical Service (see top of page).

Wednesday 13th March: Parish Scripture study group, 10-11am.

Sat 16th~Sun.17th Mar.: Holy Family School Art Show.

Tuesday 26th March: Lenten Ecumenical Service at 7:45pm (see top of page).

Wednesday 27th March: PPC meeting.

WE REALLY NEED YOUR HELP !

STATE SCHOOL CATECHESIS ~

Tues ~ 9.15-10am Yr 5 Lindfield East

Tues ~ 11.30-12pm Yr 6 Beaumont Rd
 (Training Mondays or Fridays end Feb and March ~ enrol asap)

Contact sue-anne@lindfieldkillara.org.au

PARISH PLAYGROUP 'Characters Playgroup' gathers every **Wednesday** from 10:45am till 12:15pm in the Shirley Wallace Parish Centre on the first floor of Holy Family church. Please contact Sue-Anne for more details:

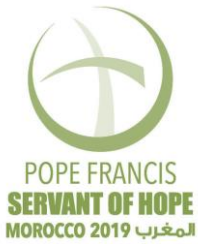
sue-anne@lindfieldkillara.org.au

For the Diary

- **Parish Pilgrimage in honour of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop:**
Sunday 31st March. Keep the date – details to come.
- **Parish Outdoor Mass and Parish Picnic on Queen Elizabeth Oval:**
 Sunday 19th May.
- **Parish Blessing of Animals:**
 Sunday 27th October, 10:30am at Killara.
- **Mass for HSC/IB students followed by pizzas:** Wed. 9th Oct. at 6pm at Lindfield.

Pope Francis to visit school for imams and Muslim preachers in Morocco in March

The visit to Morocco will give Francis an opportunity to continue the reflections on Christian-Muslim relations he began in Abu Dhabi



The official logo for Pope Francis' visit to Morocco features a Christian cross and a Muslim crescent moon as a sign of the trip's focus on Catholic-Muslim dialogue

Pope Francis' trip to Morocco on 30-31 March will include a visit to a school training an international group of Muslim prayer leaders and preachers, including women.

He also will visit a Caritas centre assisting migrants, many of whom ended up in the North African country with hopes of eventually making it to Europe.

Returning to Rome from the United Arab Emirates on 5 February, Pope Francis told journalists he had hoped to go to Marrakech, Morocco, in December for the signing of the U.N. Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, but protocol dictated that he make a full visit to the country and there was not time in December.

The trip in March will include a full slate of formal events, including a meeting with King Mohammed VI and a visit to the mausoleum of King Mohammed V, who negotiated the country's independence from France and ruled until his death in 1961.

The visit to Morocco, where more than 99 per cent of the population is Muslim, will give Pope Francis an opportunity to continue the reflections on Christian-Muslim relations he began in Abu Dhabi in February. As he did in the United Arab Emirates, he is expected to highlight 2019 as the 800th anniversary of the encounter of St Francis of Assisi and Sultan al-Malik al-Kamil of Egypt.

From 'The Tablet'



REPAIRS TO LINDFIELD PRESBYTERY:

The first of the works was undertaken the week before last – the replacement of the barge boards on the front façade.

The first of the major works will commence within the next month – addressing groundwater drainage and guttering/downpipes – totalling \$45,000. The full scope of works will cost \$90,000.

We have raised just over \$41,000 from the parish appeal. Many thanks to you all.

Envelopes for this purpose are still available in the foyers of both churches if you would like to contribute.

WHY AM I STILL A CATHOLIC ?

Why am I still a Catholic ? is a question that perhaps many of us ask ourselves at this time when we are confronted with the sins and crimes of (a minority of) members of our Church.

This year, as part of our parish adult faith education programme, we will be inviting a number of guest speakers to address this topic from their own experience of faith.

- **For the first session** we have asked Fr Frank Brennan SJ to address this topic in his homily at our monthly Youth and Family Mass on **Sunday 3rd March** (a reminder ~ at the earlier time of 5:30pm), which he will celebrate following our afternoon gathering with him.
- **The second session** we have so far organised will be led by Fr Richard Leonard SJ on **Wednesday 12th June** from **7:30 – 9:00pm** in the Shirley Wallace Parish Centre.

(About Fr Richard Leonard:

He directs the Australian Catholic Office for Film & Broadcasting, is an Honorary Fellow of the Australian Catholic University; has been a visiting scholar within the School of Theatre, Film & Television at UCLA and a Visiting Professor at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome.

Fr Richard has served on juries at the Cannes, Venice, Berlin, Warsaw, Hong Kong, Montreal, Brisbane and Melbourne International Film Festivals and he has lectured on faith and culture all over the world.

He has been published in America Magazine, Eureka Street, US Catholics, is a regular columnist with The London Tablet and is a regular guest on ABC Radio. He is the author of ten books: *What does it all mean?* New Jersey: Paulist Press, 2017; *What are we doing on earth for Christ's sake?* New Jersey: Paulist Press, 2015; *What are we hoping for? Reflections for Lent & Easter* New Jersey: Paulist Press, 2015; *Why Bother Praying?* New Jersey: Paulist Press, 2013; *What are we waiting for? Reflections for Advent & Christmas* New Jersey: Paulist Press, 2010; *Where the Hell is God?* New Jersey: Paulist Press, 2010; *Preaching to the Converted*, New Jersey: Paulist Press, 2007; *Movies That Matter: Reading Film Through the Lens of Faith*, Chicago: Loyola University Press, 2006; *The Mystical Gaze of the Cinema: the Films of Peter Weir*, Melbourne: Melbourne University Press, 2005; *Beloved Daughters: 100 Years of Papal Teaching About Women*, Melbourne: David Lovell, Toronto: Novalis, 1996. His forthcoming book: *Hatch, Match & Dispatch: a Catholic Guide to Sacraments* will be published by Paulist in 2019.)

UPDATES:

Coles development proposal: Coles submitted their DA in the last quarter of last year. Council however has asked Coles to address a number of issues and to re-submit the DA once this is done. A possible timeline is that Council approval may be granted late this year and works to begin early in the new year.

Killara carpark development: The drainage issues which have been holding us up have been resolved and GHA is now ready to move forward. We will keep you posted.

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:

At Masses at which the Psalm is sung the response is:

Happy are they who hope in the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Rejoice and be glad; your reward is great in heaven. Alleluia!

THE PSALM *Ps 1:1-4. R. Ps 39:5*

Happy indeed are those who follow not the counsel of the wicked; nor linger in the way of sinners nor sit in the company of scorners, but whose delight is the law of the Lord and who ponder God's law day and night.

They are like a tree that is planted beside the flowing waters, the yields its fruit in due season and whose leaves shall never fade; and all that they do shall prosper.

Not so are the wicked, not so! For they like winnowed chaff shall be driven away by the wind. For the Lord guards the way of the just but the way of the wicked leads to doom.

RESPONSES TO THE PSALM FOR WEEKDAY MASS THIS WEEK:

Monday: Offer to God a sacrifice of praise.

Tues: The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Wed: To you, Lord, I will offer a sacrifice of praise.

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

Friday: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Saturday: I will praise your name for ever, Lord.

CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK:

Sixth Week in Ordinary Time:

Fri: The Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle.

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

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.

PAINTING OF THE FOYER OF HOLY FAMILY CHURCH

We are grateful to members of the Korean
community who have generously
donated the funds to repaint the main
foyer of Holy Family church.

The foyer will be painted in the same two
tones with which the sanctuary of the
church was painted three years ago.



FIRST RECONCILIATION:

**ENROLMENT FOR PREPARATION FOR FIRST RECONCILIATION
IS NOW OPEN:**

The (online) enrolment process is open **until 28th February**.
Please go to the parish website (www.lindfieldkillara.org.au)
and click on 'Sacraments' and then 'Children's Sacraments'.

RCIA - A Journey to Easter

Pictured below are our catechumens and candidates who have been preparing to be welcomed into the Church at Easter, along with our RCIA team members.



From left to right: Bill Bye (RCIA team member), Eric Guliev, Coey Man, Kimberley Gross, Richard Murray, Rob Cooper, Katrina Meade, Jos Beunan (RCIA team member), Kathryn Dent (RCIA team member).



At our School Mass on 7th February Year 6 were commissioned in their role of leadership in our parish school.

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MY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH

It's often commented that we live in an age when people are far more aware of their rights than they are of their responsibilities. In an obscenely affluent society the media is full of our complaints about what we don't have. There is a 'niceness' to Western society which can be easily cut away to reveal the self-interest lurking beneath it – smiles & courtesy rapidly change to road or trolley-rage when *our* will is not done.

The great spiritual writers throughout Christian history have always insisted that there can be no real spiritual growth if we don't work to let go of our self-will. If we're full of our self then there'll be no room for God or for neighbour. It's at the heart of Jesus' call – to take up the cross, to die to self. If we really want spiritual growth then there's no way around this.

It is of course the last thing we really want to do. The need to control and to be in control is planted deep within us. Doing what we haven't chosen to do, doing what we don't want to do, doing what isn't immediately gratifying is not the way of the 21st (or 20th or 19th or 18th...) century world. But if God is to be God, rather than a hobby or a pastime, then discovering and opening ourselves to a will other than our own is at the heart of spiritual life.

It's this realisation which lies behind the monastic vow of obedience. The Latin root of 'obedience' is 'to listen'. To be obedient is to listen to voices other than our own, it's to be prepared to learn, to be challenged, to change. In his Rule St Benedict doesn't tell the monks to obey only their abbot – he encourages them also to be obedient to one another, to listen to one another, to defer to one another, to seek what is best for one another. Monastic obedience allows the person who embraces it to set their self-will aside and to be guided by the will of another – not an easy thing to do!

But what of ourselves, who do not live a monastic life? The monastic life is merely an *intense* expression of following the call to live by the Gospel. What it expresses intensely still has to be followed by any serious disciples at the level of which they are capable. So how do we tame our self-will, how do we try to obey something other than our own desires?

The answer perhaps lies in those origins of the word 'obedience' - 'to listen'. Are we open enough to really listen to what's happening around us – to people, to events, to the unwanted and the unplanned? To put it simply, are we prepared to change our mind? Are we even capable of that? If we're too pigheaded (= self-willed) to ever change our mind then how can we hope to change our heart?

The obedience of monastic life is meant to be a dialogue, not a monologue. What is being sought is the will of God and neither abbot nor monk have that – only by radical, open, mutual listening can they hope to discover it. And neither do *we* have it. Only an open ear, an open heart, a changeable heart can help us find it.

Every time we come to share in the Eucharist we pray '*Your* will be done'. If we want to be growing into God the challenge is to ensure that it doesn't really reflect a life driven by the need that '*my* will be done'.

Fr Colin

Parish Retreats in 2019

Each year we offer the opportunity for Parish Retreats at Tarrawarra Abbey, located in the beautiful Yarra Valley to the east of Melbourne, and/or at the Benedictine Abbey at Jamberoo, located on the beautiful Illawarra escarpment just two hours south of Sydney. Tarrawarra is an Abbey of Cistercian monks, and Jamberoo is an Abbey of Benedictine Nuns, and the heart of the retreat is to experience the richness of the monastic tradition in the life of our Church, and to draw on its wisdom for our own life.

In 2019 we will be offering parish retreats at both these monasteries:

A. Tarrawarra Abbey:

Arriving mid-afternoon Tuesday 30th April; retreat proper running from Wednesday 1st – Sunday 5th May; departing after breakfast on Monday 6th May.



B. Jamberoo Abbey:

We have tentative bookings for the following two options:

a. Arrive Monday afternoon 23rd September; depart Friday morning 27th September (the week before school holidays begin)

b. Arrive Monday afternoon 14th October; depart Friday morning 18th October (the week school returns)

We will choose the week which suits the majority of those wishing to go to Jamberoo.

You are welcome to book for both the Tarrawarra and Jamberoo retreats.

Cost:

At Tarrawarra the abbey sets no fixed fee but requests a donation. An amount of \$350-\$400 would be appropriate for the week.

At Jamberoo single rooms have a tariff of \$60 per night and the double bed rooms are \$130 per night for a couple and \$100 per night for a single.

Booking:

If you are interested in taking part in one of these retreats or just finding out more about what's involved please Fr Colin. More details can be found on the parish website under 'Groups and Ministries' → 'Parish Retreats'.

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 (Tues-Fri): philita@lindfieldkillara.org.au
Parish Office Coordinator and Child Protection Coordinator:
Alison Williams (Mon, Wed, Thur): 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
Parish Office Hours: Monday to Friday 9:30am-1:00pm and 1:30pm-4:00pm

Catechist Coordinator (Primary Schools): sue-anne@lindfieldkillara.org.au

Sue-Anne Sherwood

Sacramental Programme Coordinator: sue-anne@lindfieldkillara.org.au

Sue-Anne Sherwood

Assistant Sacramental Programme Coordinator:

Maia Schulze Tsang

maia@lindfieldkillara.org.au

Parish Priest's Secretary: Maia Schulze Tsang

maia@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 **School Website:** www.hflddb.catholic.edu.au

Parish Website:	www.lindfieldkillara.org.au
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Saturday		16 Feb	23 Feb
Lindfield	6:00pm	Fr Colin Blayney	Fr Colin Blayney
Killara	5:30pm	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel
Sunday		17 Feb	24 Feb
Lindfield	8:15am	Fr Colin Blayney	Fr Colin Blayney
Killara	9:15am	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel
Lindfield	10:15am	Fr Colin Blayney	Fr Colin Blayney
Lindfield	12:00noon	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel	Fr Kelly
Lindfield	6:00pm	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel	Fr Colin Blayney

CHINESE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

常年期第六主日

17/2/2019

讀經一（只信賴世人的人，是可咒罵的；信賴上主的人，是可祝福的。）

恭讀耶肋米亞先知書 17:5-8

上主這樣說：「凡信賴世人、以血肉的人為自己靠山、決心遠離上主的人，是可咒罵的：他必像一株在曠野中的檉柳，住在曠野乾燥之處，無人居住的鹼地，即使幸福來到，一點也不覺察。「凡信賴上主，以上主為依靠的人，是可祝福的：他必像一棵種在水邊的樹，在河畔扎根，不怕炎熱的侵襲，枝葉茂盛，不愁旱年，不斷結果。」——上主的話。（默想片刻）

答唱詠 詠 1:1-2, 3, 4, 6

【答】：全心依靠上主的人，真有福！（詠 40:5）

領：凡不隨從惡人的計謀，不與罪人同路，不與譏諷者同席的人，真是有福。他喜愛上主的法律，晝夜默想上主的誡命，真是有福！【答】

領：他好像種在溪畔的樹，按時結果，枝葉不枯；他所有的作為，都碩果豐盛。【答】

領：惡人卻不如此，絕不如此！他們好像被風吹散的糠秕。因上

主賞識義人的行徑；惡人的行徑，必自趨沉淪。【答】

讀經二（如果基督沒有復活，你們的信仰便是假的。）

恭讀聖保祿宗徒致格林多人前書 15:12,16-20

福音前歡呼

領/眾：亞肋路亞。

領：主說：你們歡喜踴躍吧！

你們的賞報，在天上是豐厚的。（路 6:23）

眾：亞肋路亞。

福音（貧窮的人是有福的；富有的人是有禍的。）

恭讀聖路加福音 6:17,20-26

那時候，耶穌和那十二人下山，站在一塊平地。那裡，有一大群門徒和大批群眾；他們來自猶太、耶路撒冷、提洛和漆冬海邊。耶穌舉目，望著自己的門徒，說：

「你們貧窮的人是有福的，因為天主的國是你們的。」

「你們現今飢餓的人是有福的，因為你們將得飽飫。」

「你們現今哭泣的人是有福的，因為你們將要歡笑。」

「幾時，為了人子的原故，

人惱恨你們，並棄絕你們，並且以你們的名字為可惡的，而加以辱罵詛咒，

你們才是有福的。在那一天，你們歡喜踴躍吧！看，你們的賞報，在天上是豐厚的，因為他們的祖先，也這樣對待過先知。

「但是，你們富有的人是有禍的，因為你們已經得到了你們的安慰。「你們現在飽飫的人是有禍的，因為你們將要飢餓。「你們現在歡笑的人是有禍的，因為你們將要痛哭。「幾時，眾人都誇讚你們，你們是有禍的，因為他們的祖先，也這樣對待過假先知。」——上主的話。

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(continued from p.16): That, I suspect, is how God looks at us. We grow up, grow more responsible, and grow more capable of taking care of ourselves, still we never quite achieve adequacy. We simply humiliate ourselves in other ways, though we become more adept at hiding this from others. Or, at least, we think we do. But, to use Jesus' own metaphor, the beam in our eye is always evident to others. We are never whole and adequate, nor do we look it.

Physically, our bloom is pretty short-lived and, long before we are ready for it, our bodies begin again to betray us. Wrinkles, fat, and the humiliating sags of mid-life appear in ways that cannot be hidden. Our friends don't tease and taunt us about these weaknesses, as very young kids do. They don't need to, we are painfully aware of our inadequacies.

That is true too for us emotionally and morally. There are mid-life wrinkles, fat, and sagging in these areas too. When we are young, the beauty of a youthful body and youthful spirit helps compensate for, and partly camouflages, our hidden and not-so-hidden selfishness, bitterness, and envy. These become more and more evident in us as we grow older and are a lot more shameful than bed-wetting. In the end, none of us can protect ourselves against our own weaknesses, nor indeed can we forever hide them from the view of others.

But, and this is the point, in the face of our inadequacies, we must begin to see ourselves as God sees us, a child who cannot yet be fully responsible for his or her life. Then our shame can give way to tender compassion. We are all bed-wetters and live in that humiliation. But, as Jesus assures us, to such as these belongs the kingdom of heaven.

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

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THE EMPATHETIC GAZE OF GOD

And raising his eyes toward his disciples he said:

“Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours” (Lk 6:20)

Recently I was visiting a family who have a four year-old daughter. Some of her friends were over at the house playing with her and her siblings. There were about six kids in total, all under the age of eight. Kids can play cruel games and these kids did just that. At a certain point, the others began to tease this young girl because she still occasionally wets her bed. They had a little jingle that they sang within which they rhymed part of her name with the word “pee.”

The poor kid! She flinched every time they repeated the rhyme and yet she was helpless to protect herself. She was exposed and ashamed. You could also see that she was angry, not so much at the other kids and their teasing as at herself, at her weakness, at her inability to not do that for which she was being taunted. Sometimes kids are powerless to stop wetting their beds, long after they’ve matured enough to experience great shame in doing it.

To such as these belongs the kingdom of God. Jesus had just such a child in mind when he made that statement. But generally we misunderstand why the kingdom belongs to children. We tend to idealize the innocence of children—and, indeed, childlike innocence is a beautiful quality. That is not what Jesus most idealises in a child however. The quality that makes children so apt to receive the kingdom is not so much their innocence as their helplessness, their powerlessness to not wet their beds, among other things. Very young children cannot even feed themselves, let alone provide for themselves. And certainly they cannot protect themselves, especially against their own weaknesses.

There is more than one fruitful theological reflection that can be spun off of the phenomenon of bed-wetting. At a more obvious level, of course, we have St. Paul’s great dictum in the Epistle to the Romans: “Woe to me, weak and inept, bed-wetter that I am! The good I want to do, I can’t do; the thing that I most don’t want to do, I end up doing.” What a pity our young four year-old couldn’t have quoted Romans to herself in the face of their cruel teasing.

There is a congenital ineptness inside of all of us and, try as we might, we cannot always or often protect ourselves against our own weaknesses. That’s basic biblical anthropology. But there is something even more important theologically here. It’s how God sees us in our weakness. I was one of the adults in the room as this child was being teased, as was her mother. What an adult brings to this situation, beyond a pretty immediate call to the kids to stop it, is understanding and empathy: A three year-old cannot always help herself, cannot be responsible for herself as an adult can, and should not be subjected to this kind of cruel, wounding judgement. Any adult not jaded in the soul, witnessing something like this, will spontaneously feel a burst of tender empathy for the one who is little, who cannot protect herself against her own weakness.

(continued on page 15):