Catholic Parish of Tindfield-Killara Diocese of Broken Bay

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

> 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 | 7:30am |
|-----------|---------|--------|
| Tuesday | No Mass | 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)

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

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT 2 - 12 - 18

This week: Jer 33:14~16; 1 Thess 3:12~4:2; Lk 21:25~28, 34~36 Next week: Baruch 5:1~9; Phil 1:3~6, 8~11; Lk 3:1~6

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH AND LIGHTING THE FIRST CANDLE

Celebrant: Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Saviour of the world. We ask you to bless this Advent wreath, which we honour as a remembrance of your first coming at Bethlehem, your final coming in glory, & your daily coming amongst us in grace. Strengthen our hearts with the example of your love that we may receive you each day with joy and gladness, & be prepared to meet you on the glorious day of our death.

The wreath is sprinkled with holy water and the first candle is lit.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus, you are the light of the world come that we might have life in its fullness.

All: Come and let your light shine forth in our lives.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus, you are the Flower from the root of Jesse, the sign of salvation for all.

All: Come and let your light shine forth in our lives.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus, you were heralded by all the prophets as the one who would save the people from their sins.

All: Come and let your light shine forth in our lives.

Please resume the singing of the Processional hymn.

YOUTH@LINDFIELD KILLARA PARISH

SUNDAY 2 DECEMBER

Fusion Christmas Celebration
6pm Mass
7-9pm Party

Bring a plate to share
Bring a small gift (under \$10) for gift exchange.
All High School students invited.
Special invitation to year 6 students to join us!



FRIDAY 7 DECEMBER

Festival of Christmas YOUTH Cake Stall

FU5i

The annual **FUSION Cake Stall** with the yummiest cakes, cookies, slice and other desserts at the Festival of Christmas. Proceeds go towards the youth programmes at our Parish. Start baking! Bring your donations to the Parish Meeting room on Friday, 7 December from 8.30am onwards.



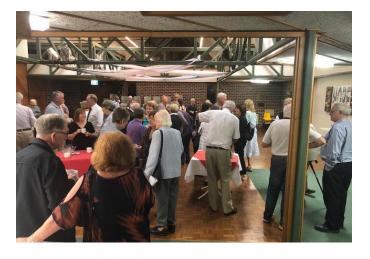
Fusion Youth at Lindfield Killara



youth.fusion



youth@lindfieldkillara.org.au



Advent Ecumenical Service last Tuesday:

60 people from our various local churches gathered at Roseville Uniting Church last Tuesday for a joyful celebration to lead us into the time of Advent. The photo was taken at supper following the Service.

Please be here this Friday!



JOIN US AT THE FESTIVAL!

- Delicious gourmet food stalls to feed the family
- * Carols Under the Stars concert
- * Fabulous cakes, coffee and desserts available
- * Parish Christmas Drinks (after the concert) above the church in the Shirley Wallace Parish Centre. So that parents can also come there will be a supervised DVD for children in MacKillop Hall until 9pm.
- * And best of all, a chance to celebrate our faith together in a warm, community atmosphere.

Can you HELP? Please contact the Parish Office or youth@lindfieldkillara.org.au if you can:

- Make a curry: Use your own recipe or we can provide one!
- <u>Bake a cake/cookies/slice</u>: The Fusion Youth Cake Stall is back this year & we need lots of items to sell. All funds raised at the stall help us run the youth programmes each year. We'll be handing out boxes, along with instructions on where to deliver.
 - Donations of wine for the Christmas drinks after the concert
 - · Helpers to clean up at the end of the evening

A note on care for the children: our parish and school have been working together to ensure the safety of children on the evening. For the children's safety we cannot have children unsupervised on the site, so after the concert please note that children may either be:

- in the company of their parents in the Shirley Wallace Centre above the church (children will not be permitted to leave unless in the company of their parents)
- or at the supervised DVD showing in MacKillop Hall (children will not be permitted to leave except in the company of their parents).

THE SEASON OF ADVENT...

The Season of Advent is a beautiful season of our Church year, but it can so easily become a *lost* season – lost amidst the Christmas rush, the Christmas parties and the Christmas shopping. It takes some effort to allow Advent to realise its potential in our lives as individuals and as a community.

Some ways to keep the time of Advent:

- **WEEKDAY MASS** provides rich fodder for reflection in the selection of Advent Scripture readings, while the Eucharist itself brings us the daily encounter with the Lord whose coming we prepare for.
- **PRAYER TIMES AT HOME:** as usual, over the next few weeks we'll print some prayer celebrations that you can use at home to keep some of this time of Advent.
- **THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION** provides a forum for reviewing our discipleship and preparing for a new beginning as we enter another liturgical year.

There will be a celebration of the Second Rite of Reconciliation on Wednesday 19th December at 7:30pm which will be for the whole parish and will be held in Holy Family Church at Lindfield. We will have a similar celebration in Lent, on which occasion it will be held in Immaculate Heart of Mary Church at Killara.

The Second Rite of Reconciliation takes the form of a communal celebration with a short liturgy leading us into the time of individual confessions (we will have several priests present) & concluding with a common prayer of thanksgiving & final blessing and hymn.

Parish Diary: Nov – Dec.

Sun. 2nd Dec. Monthly Children's Mass at 9:15am at Killara, followed by morning tea.

Morning tea after 10:15am Mass at Lindfield.

Tues. 4th Dec.: PPC, Parish Finance Committee & School Board end of year dinner.

Fri. 7th Dec.: our joint parish and school 'Festival of Christmas, featuring food stalls and a carols concert (see page 4).

Sun. 9th Dec: Monthly Youth and Children's Mass at 5:30pm followed by parish potluck dinner.

Tues 11th Dec.: Catechists' end of year Mass and luncheon.

Wed. 12th Dec. 6pm Year 6 Graduation Mass.

Wed. 19th Dec. 11:15am End of year Advent Mass for our Parish School.

Wed. 19th Dec. 7:30pm Second Rite of Reconciliation in preparation for Christmas (in Lindfield church).



PARISH YOUNG ADULTS' GROUP

The final gathering for the year will be a Trivia Night on Sunday 16th December immediately following the 6pm Mass, in the lounge in the Shirley Wallace Parish Centre on the first floor of Lindfield church — a relaxed gathering over a meal with discussion



OUR NEXT COMBINED YOUTH AND FAMILY MASS will be celebrated again on the second Sunday of the month, Sunday 9th December, at 5:30pm (not 6pm) in Holy Family church and will be followed by a 'pot luck dinner' for all in St Brigid's Hall above the church.



A Few Updates

- Killara carpark re-development: we are still in a preliminary phase as we work through proper drainage issues for the site. Once these are sorted out we can start moving forward.
- Coles re-development: Coles has been very forthcoming with us throughout the planning phase for the new supermarket. Our parish and school joint committee has had many meetings with Coles and has achieved many good outcomes for our school in the long-term. The DA was submitted to Council a couple of months ago. Council have asked Coles to do further work on some areas of the DA.
- School fees: Our Diocese has worked very hard to keep next year's fee increase to a minimum, following the earlier substantial increase in fees due to the Federal Government's changes to school funding. The great news is that the fee increase next year will be only 1.5%.

An Advent Prayer

If you choose, you can be instruments of hope in the world. We so choose,

we go to spread the hope and promise of a coming child.

If you choose, you can counter the voices of anxiety and despair in the world.

We so choose,

we sing songs of hope for the world can be changed

If you choose, you can fight against the fear that freezes the heart of many.

We so choose, we will tell of the love that conquers fear, the love of a child in a manger.

Go with God, who feeds our hopes and quiets our fears **Always and everywhere. Amen.**

CHARITABLE WORKS FUND APPEAL



Received from August appeal \$12,608.25 Received from this appeal: \$16,563.45

Rec'd from first two appeals: \$29171.70

Shortfall after two appeals: \$ 828.30

Thank you all for your generous contributions.

Amount req'd:

\$15,000.00

<u>\$15,000.00</u>

\$30,000.00

APPEAL FOR PRESBYTERY REPAIRS



Estimated cost of works: \$90,000 Received from our appeal: \$15,934

Many thanks for your generous contributions. Envelopes are still available in the foyers if you wish to contribute.

Celebrating Christmas - Making a Joyful Sound Unto the Tord ~ Please be part of a choir for Christmas ~

Even if you are not regularly part of our choirs, we invite you to be part of the special choir for the 10:30pm Vigil Mass for Christmas at Lindfield (and the Carols at 10pm preceding it). Please be part of making this Christmas celebration special.

Rehearsals take place on Saturdays 8th, 15th and 22nd December in Lindfield church from 10:00 ~ 11:30am, or contact Catherine Willis (catherinecwillis@gmail.com).

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT A reminder that there is a time of Exposition of the Eucharist following the 7:30am Mass on Fridays at Killara as a time for quiet prayer in the Lord's presence.

Our Pre-Christmas Anointing Mass and pre-Christmas Tuncheon



A reminder that our final Healing Mass for the year will be celebrated at Killara on the second Friday of the month, **Friday 14th December**, and at the later time of <u>11:00am</u> as it will be followed by <u>lunch</u>, rather than morning tea, in the parish hall at Killara.

We invite all who seek God's healing strength. We would especially invite our senior parishioners for the Mass and the

luncheon afterwards.

If you or someone you know would like to attend but is unable to get there or needs assistance in travelling please ring Fran Grant who will be happy to organise transport: **9880 7679.**

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Our parish, with its two churches of Immaculate Heart of Mary at Killara and Holy Family at Lindfield warmly invites you to join us for our celebrations of the Lord's birth at Christmas. Our celebrations are as follows:

CHRISTMAS EVE EVENING:



Lindfield: 6:00pm Christmas Vigil Mass Killara: 5:30pm Christmas Vigil Mass These are the Children's Masses.

(please note that once again the Children's Mass at Lindfield will be celebrated in the

church, not in the hall).

A CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS GIFT TO THOSE IN NEED:

We invite the children at both Children's Masses to bring an envelope containing a donation towards the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal. We will invite the children to come forward at the time of the Presentation of the Gifts to put their envelopes in the boxes under the Christmas Tree.

Lindfield: 10:30pm Mass

(an earlier 'Midnight Mass') preceded by Carols at 10pm.

CHRISTMAS MORNING:

Lindfield 8:00am Mass (not 8:15am)
Killara 9:30am Mass (not 9:15am)

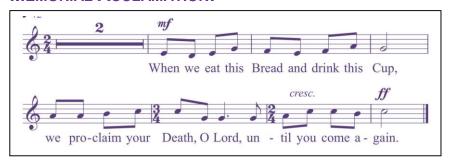
Lindfield 10:15am Mass

NO Chinese Mass & NO evening Mass on Christmas Day.

THE PRAYERS AND RESPONSES OF MASS

We abstain from the joyful words of the Gloria during these days of Advent as we prepare our hearts and our community to celebrate once again the birth of the Lord Jesus

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION:



THE PSALM Ps 24:4~5, 8~9, 10, 14, R, v,1

Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour.

The Lord is good and upright.
God shows the path to those who stray,
the Lord guides the humble in the right path;
God teaches his way to the poor.

God's ways are faithfulness and love for those who keep his covenant and will. The Lord's friendship is for those who revere him; to them God reveals his covenant. At Masses at which the Psalm is sung the response is: To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia

RESPONSES TO THE PSALM FOR WEEKDAY MASS THIS WEEK:

Monday: Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Tues: Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

Wed: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Thursday: Let hearts rejoice who search for the Lord.

Friday: The waters of the river gladden the city of God.

Saturday: Happy are those who fear the Lord.

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

PLAYGROUP CHRISTMAS PARTY



Save the date! Christmas
Party with jumping
castle and a Father
Christmas visit. Please
come join us Wednesday
12th December.

Contact Sue-Anne:

sue-anne@lindfieldkillara.org.au

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

COLUMBAN CALENDARS

Columban Calendars for 2019 are now on sale for \$10each. As usual the calendars feature reproductions of many masterpieces and they make a handy small gift to family and friends. Please place your purchase money in the Poor Box. St Vincent de Paul Conference

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME DATES FOR 2019



The letter giving all the details and dates for our Sacramental Preparation Programmes for First Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Holy Communion is now available on the parish website under 'Sacraments' - 'Children's Sacraments.'

Please download the letter and note all the dates involved in the sacraments which your child will celebrate next year.

THIS WEEKEND we begin a new liturgical year with the First Sunday of Advent. Readings will follow the Year C cycle on Sundays and Year 1 on weekdays.

The Readings for coming Sundays are always available on our parish website under 'Sacraments' \rightarrow 'Scripture Readings for the Coming Sunday'.



Advent

by Beryl Cates

The First Sunday of Advent - the scriptural readings during Eucharistic worship are of the early Christians' awaiting the coming end of the world. They anticipated it with feverish excitement despite the cataclysmic events Jesus predicted would precede it. The present order would be no more, the hated occupiers banished, evil doers expelled and all would be in peace on earth. A man of his culture Jesus believed the end was imminent and he would return in great glory "on the clouds of heaven" to establish the Kingdom of God on earth.

It didn't happen that way of course and since the 6th century the Church has selected those readings during community worship for reflection on how the world as we know it ends for us when we die. When, through death we emerge into the boundless Light and Love of the omnipresent Creator God.

Liturgists choosing the readings lived in the northern hemispheres where year's ending is just prior to the winter solstice with its metaphors for earthly death and dying, The sun losing its strength, trees their leaves, flowers without blossoms, and darkness closing in earlier. The people feeling the chill of the coming winter and rueing the loss of the sun's warmth on themselves and everything around them.

The symbols for the north carry no relevance for us where this is the time of the coming summer solstice, winter is over, the sun promoting new life, budding leaves on trees and flowers, bringing colour and growth everywhere. Not a time conducive to reflection on dying to life here ~ more like metaphors for closing our eyes in death and awakening to the boundless Light and Love of God empowering all the suns, moons, stars and known and unknown lights of the cosmos. Invisible but real within all creation, including us. While earthlings our finite sight can never bear full vision of that ~ even the mystics have but glimpses. We may live unaware of its reality but we know when we are living in that Light and when we've lost it.

The great mystic of Avila described it not as light "that dazzles, rather a soft infused radiance...alongside which the brightness of our sun seems dim." ~ Interior Castle.

Why is it that within many there is a feeling that no matter how exquisite earth's pleasures and successes can be, there is something that says there must be more to all we know and experience? That only the 'more' will truly satisfy us? This inner wanting, if not a yearning, has been described by those taunted by its insatiability as from a void, an emptiness wanting to be filled but always unfillable. Is it not this inner longing for the 'more' in life which propels so many to restlessly seek constant distractions and entertainments, excessive possessions, sexual conquests and illicit affairs in their efforts to find and grasp that 'more' that eludes them? Does not that desperate search for the 'more' end sadly for some not in fulfilment, but a cynical weariness few envy? Does this feeling of inner vacuity confront many acclaimed entertainers when their mega performances are over, band and instruments gone, screaming fans departed, doors closed and the star is alone wherever home may be at the time. Can it be that then for some, any sense of an inner emptiness is accentuated so acutely that the hand reaches for the bottle or syringe to obliterate it?

Advent ...meaning 'waiting'. The last weeks of the little girl Mary waiting with apprehension and excitement the birth of her baby Jesus – *Light to the world* ~ John 8:12.

It was Mary's child who never knew any inner emptiness or void, his whole self filled

(continued on page 11...)

(continued from page 10...): with Light and Love of the Divine (John: 16:32). But he recognised it in people: 'I have come that they may have life to the full." He gave his life to teach his followers in the ways of the time that we are incarnate spirits, and the spirit has its needs no less, at times greater than the bodily self. It needs Light from its Maker to strengthen and grow and finds it in worship and the giving of itself to help others hanging onto the lowest rungs of the ladders of life. Deprived of that Light ever restlessly wanting "more" in life, never entirely unhappy but not happy either.

Whenever religion vacates a stage it always leaves an empty role for someone or something else to fill. As church attendances drops and spirituality as once expressed wanes, is our culture now attempting to reassure itself that sensual pleasures and goodies of life are answers to life's mysteries? Food, alcohol, fashion, body image, money making, sex, entertainment and sport are the most widely items advertised in magazines, newspapers and supplements, bill boards, buses. We have a TV outlet devoted entirely to food. We don't need the spiritual director telling an undernourished soul is never satiated with a surfeit of food and earthly delights.

"You have made us for yourself O God and our hearts are restless until they rest in you" (St Augustine).

After Jesus died the early Christians prayed constantly for his return. *Maranatha...* "Come Lord Jesus come" (1 Cor 16~22). A prayer many have as a mantra when beginning meditation and we plead it in the creeds during community worship. For Jesus has come again and is still coming into people of every age, race and calling who open their hearts to his living spirit, allowing it to direct, support and encourage them to live in the Light of the Divine. Everywhere establishing the Kingdom of God on earth. The "more" every restless heart is seeking.

GIFTS FOR WATERLOO

For many years our Parish, through the St Vincent de Paul Society, has provided Christmas gifts for children in the Waterloo area.

The pressures of daily life are a constant grind for the sick, or those living on very low incomes.

Please help us again to brighten their hearts by taking a tag from the Christmas tree and buying a suitable gift. Each tag shows the age and gender of a child for whom we hope to provide a gift.



There is also a box near the tree if you wish to donate some Christmas goodies for our friends at Waterloo.

To assist distribution will you please return your gift to either of our churches by Sunday 9th December.

Peace and Joy to you all.

OUR PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

As you will recall, earlier this year in a number of forums (including at Sunday Mass) we consulted you, our community, about the issues you considered most important as we move forward as a Christian community.

Since then the Parish Pastoral Council analysed those responses to identify the ones that stood out as most important to the community.

These issue were then shared with several groups who were asked to produce a draft Mission Statement which captured those central issues which came from our community consultation.

Finally, the PPC met to discuss those various drafts and from them to produce a Mission Statement which we believed best expressed what our community had put forward.

That Mission Statement will be formally launched on the Third Sunday of Advent. In 2019 we will work together to find ways to allow that statement to shape who we are, what we do, and how we move into the future as the Catholic Parish of Lindfield-Killara.

The Mission Statement is:

We are a welcoming Christian community which embraces all people.

We support each other to grow in faith and create a loving and compassionate community.

We aspire to live as Christ's witnesses of God's unconditional love.

Fr Colin



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Phone: 02 9427 0266 Email: res@cins.com.au Website: <u>www.cins.com.au</u>

RENOVATIONS & BUILDING MAINTENANCE

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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:
Immaculate Heart of Mary Church:
Parish Priest: Fr Colin Blayney
Assistant Priest: Fr Thomas Alackakunnel VC thomas@lindfieldkillara.org.au

cnr Pacific Hwy and Highfield Rd, Lindfield cnr Fiddens Wharf Rd and Charles St, Killara colin@lindfieldkillara.org.au

9416 7195

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 Sherwood sue-anne@lindfieldkillara.org.au

0416 141 508

Sacramental Programme Coordinator:

Sue-Anne Sherwood <u>sue-anne@lindfieldkillara.org.au</u>

0416 141 508

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

Principal: Mr Lou Dogao

Email: info@holyfamily.nsw.edu.au

School Website: www.hfldbb.catholic.edu.au

Parish Website: www.lindfieldkillara.org.au

| Saturd | ay | 1 Dec | 8 Dec |
|-----------|-----------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Lindfield | 6:00pm | Fr Thomas Alackakunnel | Fr Colin Blayney |
| Killara | 5:30pm | Fr Colin Blayney | Fr Thomas Alackakunnel |
| Sunda | y | 2 Dec | 9 Dec. |
| 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 Lucas Leung | Fr Thomas Alackakunnel |
| Lindfield | 6:00pm | Fr Thomas Alackakunnel | Fr Colin Blayney |

CHINESE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

將臨期第一主日 2-12-2018

讀經一(我必由達味出生一枝正義的苗芽。)

恭讀耶肋米亞先知書 33:14-16

上主說:「看時日將到——上主 的斷語——我要實踐我對以色列家 和猶大家,所預許賜福的諾言。

「在那些日子裡,在那時期內,我必由達味出生一枝正義的苗芽,在地上執行公道和正義;在那時日裡,猶大必獲救,耶路撒冷必享安寧;人將稱她的名字為:『上主是我們的正義。』」——上主的話。(默想片刻)

答唱詠 詠 25:4-5, 8-9, 10,14

【答】: 上主,我一心仰望你。(參 閱詠 25:1)

領:上主,求你使我認識你的法度,並求你教訓我履行你的道路;引我進入真理之途。我終日仰望你,因你是救我的天主。【答】

領:因為上主仁慈又正直,常領迷 途者歸回正路,引導謙卑者遵 守正義,教導善良者走入正 途。【答】

領:對持守上主盟約和誡命的人, 上主的一切行徑常是慈愛和忠 誠的。上主親近敬畏自己的人 民,也使他們認識自己的盟 約。【答】

讀經二(願主堅固你們的心,使你

們在基督來臨時,無可指摘。) 恭讀聖保祿宗徒致得撒洛尼人前 書 3:12-4:2

福音前歡呼

領:亞肋路亞。 眾:亞肋路亞。

領: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)

眾:亞肋路亞。

福音(你們的救援近了。)

恭讀聖路加福音 21:25-28,34-36

那時候,耶穌對門徒們說: 「日月星辰將有異兆出現;在地 上,萬國要因海洋波濤怒號,而 驚惶失措。眾人要因等待即將臨 於天下的事,而恐懼昏倒,因為 諸天萬象將要動搖。那時,他們 要看見人子,帶著威能及莫大光 榮,乘雲降來。

「這些事開始發生時,你們 應當挺起身,抬起頭,因為你們 的救援近了。

「你們應當謹慎,免得你們 的心,為宴飲沉醉,及為人生的 牽掛所拖累,那意想不到的日 子,就臨於你們;因為,那日子 有如羅網,要臨於全地

面的一切居民。所以,你們應當 時時醒寤祈禱,為使你們能逃脫 即將發生的這一切事,並 能立於人子之前。」——上主的話。(講道後默想片刻)

華人天主教會 北區中心,

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Food continues after the

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(continued from p.16): compares our pre-advent selves to green logs that have been thrown into a fire, the fire of love. Green logs, as we know, do not immediately burst into flame. Rather, being young and full of moisture, they sizzle for a long time before they reach kindling temperature and can take into themselves the fire that is around them so as to participate in it. So too the rhythm of love: Only the really mature can truly burst into flame within community. The rest of us are still too self-contained, too green, too selfish, too damp. We don't burst into flame when love surrounds us. Rather our dampness helps extinguish the communal flame.

What helps change this is precisely the tension in our lives. In carrying properly our unfulfilled desires we sizzle and slowly let go of the dampness of selfishness. In carrying tension we come to kindling temperature and are made ready for love. Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, as a scientist, noticed that sometimes when you put two chemicals into a test-tube they do not automatically unite. They only merge at a higher temperature. They must first be heated to bring about unity. There's an entire anthropology and psychology of love in that image. In order to love we must first be brought to a higher psychic temperature. What brings us there? Sizzling in tension, not resolving things prematurely, not sleeping with the bride before the wedding, not trying to have the complete symphony within two hours.

The sublime has to be waited for. Only when there is first enough heat will there be unity. To give birth to what's divine requires the slow patience of gestation. In shorthand, that's the algebra of Advent.

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

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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.

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

Recently deceased: Evangelina (Evita) Perea de Sanches, Paul Le.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK: Alex Noble, William Wise, Lise Therese Ferriere, Daniella Schulze, Ian Coffey.

REFLECTING ON THIS SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURES

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.

Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low."

ADVENT: PREPARING FOR THE SUBLIME

Some years ago, Robert Waller published a book that became a runaway bestseller and an immensely popular movie. Entitled, *The Bridges of Madison County*, it stirred the romantic imagination in a way that few other stories have in recent times, especially as it was played out in its film version by Clint Eastwood and Meryl Streep. The story runs this way:

A photographer for National Geographic magazine is sent out to photograph a series of old bridges in Madison county. Lost, he stops at a farmhouse to ask for directions. As chance would have it, the man of the house has just left for a cattle show. His wife is home alone and she and the photographer instantly sense a deep connection and fall violently in love. Karma, soul-mates, mysticism, whatever, they experience a rare and powerful affinity. Within hours they are in bed with each other, triggering a love-affair that leaves them both sacramentally scarred for the rest of their lives.

What the viewer of the movie or reader of this book is asked to believe is that something truly sublime has taken place, a masterpiece of love has been painted, and a noble thing worth more than life itself has just occurred. But can this be so? Can anyone paint a masterpiece in a couple of hours? Can a doctoral thesis be completed in two hours? Can sex with someone you met just two hours before be sublime?

To answer those questions, I suggest you watch another film which, ironically, was playing in theatres at nearly the same time. It's a version of Jane Austin's, *Sense and Sensibility*, and tells the story of a young woman who has to carry a very painful tension (one that includes the same feelings found in *Bridges of Madison County*) for a long time. But unlike the characters in *Bridges of Madison County*, she doesn't move quickly to resolve it. Nobody is in bed with each other within a couple of hours. She carries the tension for a long time, years, and then finally when it is resolved there is true sublimity. Why? Because something can only be sublime if first there has been some sublimation (and for more than two hours!).

In essence, this expresses the meaning of Advent: for something to be sublime there must first be sublimation; fasting is the necessary prelude to feasting; greatness of soul is contingent on first nobly carrying tension; great joy is not experienced if one is not first properly prepared; and what's truly divine can only appear after a certain kind of gestation. Advent is about proper waiting.

It should therefore not to be confused with Lent. The crimson-purple of advent is not the black-purple of Lent. The former symbolises yearning and longing, the latter repentance. The spirituality of Advent is not about repentance, but about carrying tension without prematurely resolving it so that what's born in us and in our world does not short-circuit the fullness that comes from respecting love's rhythms.

What is the connection here? How does carrying tension help lead to the sublime? It does it by helping to produce the heat required for generativity. An image might be helpful here. John of the Cross, in his book, *The Living Flame of Love*, (continued on page 15):