

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 10:15am 12:00 (Chinese Community Mass) 6:00pm (for both our communities) (5:30pm on 2 nd Sun. of month)	Sunday: 9:15am
Weekdays:		
Monday	9:15am	7:30am
Tuesday	6:00pm (prior to Forum-p.4)	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

SOLEMNITY OF THE BIRTH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST 24 – 6 – 18

This week: Is 49:1-6; Acts 13:22-26; Lk 1:57-66,80

Next week: Wis 1:13-15, 2:23-24 2 Cor 8:7,9 13-15; Mk 5:21-43

In the Church's liturgical tradition very few feasts are of such significance that they are still celebrated even when they fall on a Sunday – but today's feast is one of them.

Why we might ask is the feast of the birth of John the Baptist held in such esteem?

The reason is that John is placed before us **as a model for our own discipleship:**

if we're looking for the Southern Cross in our skies we first look for the pair of stars called 'The Pointers'. Once we've found them we look to where they're pointing – and lo and behold: there's the Southern Cross.

John the Baptist is like the Pointers. In Luke's Gospel his father Zechariah mouths these prophetic words at John's birth:

'And you little child shall go ahead of the Lord to prepare his ways before him.'

Those words are also addressed to us: we are called to be Pointers; we're called to prepare a way for the Lord in people's hearts:

And we do that by the witness of what faith and spirituality does in our own lives; by the person it makes us to be; by the compassion and love it cultivates in our hearts. **By all of that much more than by what we say.**

Fr Colin

Youth News ...



Fusion Youth at Lindfield Killara



youth.fusion



youth@lindfieldkillara.org.au

YOUTH@LINDFIELD KILLARA PARISH

YOUTH MASS @ LINDFIELD - ALL AGES INVITED!

Join our Parish's growing youth community for a warm and wonderful Mass! Featuring an all-youth choir and a family-friendly Mass, all are welcome. Pot Luck supper afterwards – please join us!

NEXT MASS: SUNDAY 8 JULY

SPECIAL TIME: 5.30PM

PRIMARY SCHOOL YEARS 3 - 6

BLAST is for kids in school years 3 - 6. We meet most months on the second Sunday of the month, from 4.00 - 5.30 pm. Meetings start in the Shirley Wallace Centre.

Next Meeting Date... SUNDAY 8 July 2018 4 - 5.30pm



HIGH SCHOOL YEARS 7 - 12

The aim of FUSION is to provide a comfortable, welcoming place where teens can get away from the pressures of school life and just be themselves.

Our Youth leaders, university students from our parish, understand what it's like to be a teenager today. We meet twice a month in the Shirley Wallace Centre:

Sunday after Youth Mass and one other Friday during the month.



NEXT MEETING.....FUSION YOUTH goes to HOLLYWOOD!*

FRIDAY, 29 June at 6.30 pm

more info to come...watch this space!

*ok we're not actually going to Hollywood, but it sounds better than "Shirley Wallace Centre"

**YOUTH
MASS**

**OUR NEXT COMBINED
CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH MASS**
will be celebrated again on the second Sunday of the month, **Sunday 8th July, at 5:30pm (not 6pm)** in Holy Family church and will be followed by a 'pot luck dinner' in St Brigid's Hall above the church.



Important Initiative of the Parish Pastoral Council

JOINING THE CONVERSATION

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

St Brigid's Hall (above the Holy Family Church, Lindfield)
Tuesday 26th June 2018, 7:00-9:00pm

FREE EVENT – All welcome (please invite other to come along)
Booking appreciated to indicate numbers

<https://www.trybooking.com/WHUB>

Why should I come?

If you are a Catholic, a parishioner or a school parent and not up to date about the findings and recommendations of the Royal Commission, you should come.

We all need to take an active role in our church by insisting on transparency and accountability from our leaders. Our collective voice needs to be heard.

What's different about this FORUM?

This Forum was organised by our own Parish Council to answer our questions and discuss our specific concerns. Those who attend the Forum will be able to question Royal Commission staff directly.

Aren't we just "rehashing" terrible events of the past?

No. Whilst we must understand what has happened in the past, this Forum will focus on what is happening now and what needs to change for the future.

What is our goal for the FORUM?

To seek change and healing through conversation.

The forum can be a first step in a process that will culminate at the Plenary Council 2020 —which will hopefully lead to major reform in church governance.

QUESTIONS

Please email any questions you'd like addressed to: forum@lindfieldkillara.org.au.
By sending these to us prior to the forum, we will try to ensure all areas of concern are covered.
There will also be an opportunity to ask questions on the night.

The PPC urge you to come along to this very important forum

To be there silently in solidarity or to ask questions or to share your thoughts

Also, if you would like to begin the evening with the Eucharist so that we may place the Lord at the heart of our listening and speaking on this night there will be Mass in the church at 6pm and tea and coffee will be available afterwards in advance of the meeting.

RICHARD ROHR'S MEDITATION: JUSTICE: PROTECTING AND ALSO BRIDGING DIFFERENCES

Humans need concrete and particular experiences to learn the ways of love. [1] We don't learn to love through abstract philosophy or theology. That's why Jesus came to show God in human form, revealing a face we could recognise and relate to. Let's first call justice giving everything its full due. Thus, it must begin with somehow seeing the divine (ultimate value) in the other. If we really see someone in their fullness, we cannot help but treat them with kindness and compassion.

Even as we know that every human's being is inherently and equally good, dignified, and worthy of respect, we cannot ignore our very real differences. The problem is that the ego likes to assign lesser and greater value based on differences. Until all people everywhere are treated with dignity and respect, we must continue calling attention to imbalances of privilege and power. Arbitrary, artificial hierarchies and discrimination are based on a variety of differences: for example, gender, sexuality, class, skin colour, education, physical or mental ability, attractiveness, accent, language, religion, & so on.

"*Intersectionality*" is a rather new concept for most of us to help explain how these attributes overlap. You can be privileged in some areas and not in others. A poor white man has more opportunities for advancement than a poor black man. [2] A transgender woman of colour has an even higher risk of being assaulted than a white heterosexual woman. [3] Someone without a disability has an easier time finding a job than an equally qualified candidate who has a disability.

Pause for a moment and think about the areas in which you benefit, not because of anything you've done or deserve but simply because of what body you were born with, what class privilege you enjoy, what country or ethnicity you find yourself in.

In the book *Intersectionality in Action*, experienced educators recognise that "admitting one's privilege can be very difficult," especially for those who consider themselves tolerant and prefer to not use labels, "calling themselves colour-blind, for instance." [4] When we finally recognise our unearned benefits—at the expense of others—we may feel ashamed & that may lead us to make excuses for ourselves or overly identify with a less privileged aspect of our identity (for example as Jewish or female). Yet as we move beyond these attachments & emotions, "[We] learn that [our] privileges & disadvantages can coexist, intersect, & impact the way [we] move through different environments." [5]

We must work to dismantle systems of oppression while at the same time honouring our differences and celebrating our oneness! This takes a great deal of spiritual maturity. Unity, in fact, is the reconciliation of differences, not the denial of them. Our differences must first be maintained—and then overcome by the power of love (exactly as in the three persons of the Trinity). We must distinguish and separate things before we can spiritually unite them, usually at cost to ourselves, especially if we are privileged (see Eph. 2:14-16).

God is a mystery of relationship, and the truest relationship is love. Infinite Love preserves unique truths, protecting boundaries while simultaneously bridging them.

[1] See Richard Rohr, "Thisness," <https://cac.org/thisness-weekly-summary-2018-03-24/>.

[2] See Emily Badger, Claire Cain Miller, Adam Pearce, and Kevin Quealy, "Extensive Data Shows Punishing Reach of Racism for Black Boys," *The New York Times*, March 19, 2018, <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2018/03/19/upshot/race-class-white-and-black-men.html>.

[3] See https://www.ovc.gov/pubs/forge/sexual_numbers.html.

[4] Amy Howard, Juliette Landphair, & Amanda Lineberry, "Bringing Life to Learning," *Intersectionality in Action: A Guide for Faculty & Campus Leaders for Creating Inclusive Classrooms & Institutions*, Brooke Barnett and Peter Felten, eds. (Stylus Publishing: 2016), 92. [5] *Ibid.*, 93.

PARISH DIARY : JUNE ~ JULY

Tuesday 26th June: Forum on the Abuse Crisis (see article on p.4).

Sunday 1st July: Morning tea after 9:15am and 10:15am Mass
Children's Mass at 9:15am at Killara.

Sunday 8th July: Monthly Youth and Children's Mass at 5:30pm at Lindfield followed by food in St Brigid's Hall.

Friday 13th July: Monthly Healing Mass and morning tea at 10am at Killara.

SOME ADVANCE DATES TO PUT INTO YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 13th November Our annual **Thank You Night** for all those involved as volunteers in our parish ministries and activities: beginning with Mass at **7:30pm** in Holy Family church and followed by a social evening with food and drink in St Brigid's Hall.

Sunday 18th November Our parish welcome to the Kindergarten families in our Parish School for 2019: a welcome by our Principal and a blessing at the 10:15am Mass followed by morning tea.

Friday 7th December: **A Festival of Christmas:** our annual combined parish and school celebration of Carols with lots of delicious food stalls.

FINAL FINANCIAL UPDATE

With six days till the end of the Financial Year we have unfortunately had no change in our shortfalls:

- ❖ The **Second Collection** which provides our parish operating revenue is **\$20,473 behind** compared to the same point last year.
- ❖ The **First Collection** which provides for our priests is **\$2200 behind** compared to the same point last year.

If you would like to make a one-off additional donation before the end of the Financial Year our account details are:

For donations to the First Collection:
BSB 062 784 Acct 1116 8002

For donations to the Second Collection
BSB 062 784 Acct 1116 8001

Please include your surname as the reference.

The Parish Finance Committee



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.

THE PRAYERS AND RESPONSES OF MASS

GLORIA:

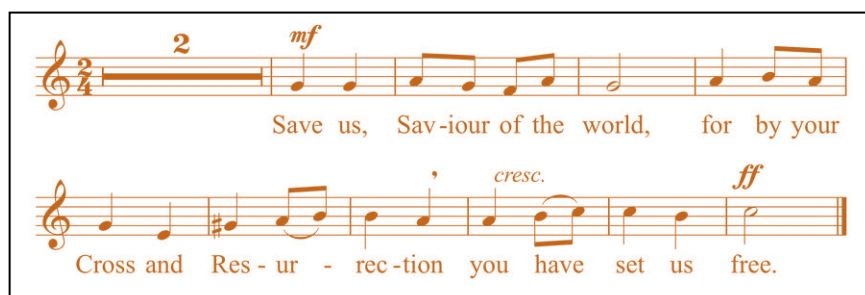
Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

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 138:1-3. 13-15.

O Lord, you search me and you know me,
you know my resting and my rising,
you discern my purpose from afar.
You mark when I walk or lie down,
all my ways lie open to you.

For it was you who created my being,
knit me together in my mother's womb.
I thank you for the wonder of my being,
for the wonders of all your creation.

Already you knew my soul,
my body held no secret from you
when I was being fashioned in secret
and moulded in the depths of the earth.

*At Masses at which the Psalm is sung
the response is: I praise you for I am
wonderfully made.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! You, child, will be
called the prophet of the Most High;
you will go before the Lord to prepare
God's ways.
Alleluia!

BAPTISED THIS WEEKEND

Congratulations to Ajla Andrijic, Sofia
Mitdopoulous, Max Lewis and
Christopher Cabiago
baptised in our parish this weekend,
sharing in the life of Jesus
and welcomed into the community of
faith.

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

Pope Francis.....

Francis became the first Pope to make a visit expressly dedicated to the World Council of Churches when he flew to Geneva on Thursday to mark the ecumenical organisation's 70th anniversary.

The Pope made a day trip on the 21 June to the council where he took part in a prayer service, had lunch with WCC leaders and then addressed a cross-denominational meeting of Christians.

Francis is the third Pope to visit the council's headquarters and is following in the footsteps of Paul VI who did the same in 1969 and John Paul II who visited in 1984.

But this Pope is the first to dedicate a trip to the WCC, a decision that is in keeping with the high priority he has given to ecumenism throughout his papacy. This has seen Francis visit Sweden to mark the 500th anniversary of the reformation while he's repeatedly called on Christians to work more closely together and act as if they are already united. (from *The Tablet*)

NEW!

WEEKLY EXPOSITION OF THE EUCHARIST

We now have an hour of Exposition of the Eucharist following the 7:30am Mass at Killara on Fridays as a time for quiet prayer in the Lord's presence. This will take place every Friday **except when there is no 7:30am Mass** (for instance on the 2nd Friday of each month when we have the Healing Mass).

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



COULD YOU HELP US? REPLACEMENT COMPUTERS

The computers in our Parish Office are really showing their (great) age and with varying degrees of urgency need to be updated. If you would be willing to donate the cost of one of the new computers please let us know in the Parish Office.

NEXT SUNDAY 1st July is Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday.

CONGRATULATIONS to Frank and Judy Dearn of our parish who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on 13th June.

Requiescat in pace....

.....Rest in peace

Margaret Sullivan 25th April 1928 – 20th March 2018



Margaret and her husband Jack were both born in our parish and then lived 54 years of their 67 years of marriage in their home in Killara where they were foundation members of the parish community of Killara in which they were deeply involved. Margaret is survived by Jack and their seven children.

Anne Ducker 27 Mar 1929 – 7th April 2018



Anne grew up and Roseville and had a very successful career with the ABC where she was highly respected. In 1967 Anne married the widower Dr John Lyell Ducker of Lindfield with whom she shared 22 happy years of marriage. Anne was a committed member of our parish and always attended Mass here until in recent years age and frailty prevented it. Her abundant hair was her “signature tune” throughout her life and she could be recognised everywhere by the sweeping halo of a beautiful silver coiffeur.

Peter O'Sullivan 29 Nov 1929 – 3rd June 2018



Peter and his wife Carolyn and their family were members of the Lindfield parish community for many years, where their children attended Holy Family School over a continuous 22 year period. Peter was of great support to the parish and to Woods Cottage through his professional financial expertise. Peter is survived by Carolyn and their seven children.

Lindfield Dental Practice



Dr Peter Chung
DDS, MDS, PhD
Clinical Assoc Professor

Open: Mon-Sat

P: 9416 5000

Suite 1, 345 Pacific Highway
(Scholastic Bldg) Next to
Lindfield Medical Practice

**Put those you love
in the hands
of those who care**

WN BULL
FUNERALS

Leaders in Personal Service



Sydney 9519 5344 | Parramatta 9687 1072
Central Coast 4323 1892
wnbull@wnbull.com www.wnbull.com.au

Century 21
NORTHSIDE

Jason Roach
Licensed Real Estate
Agent, Director
Parishioner

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

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

Parish Staff and Contact Information

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

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

PARISH OFFICE:

Parish Secretary: Philita Marundan: philita@lindfieldkillara.org.au
Address: Level 1, 2 Highfield Road (cnr Pacific Hwy) Lindfield NSW 2070
 (Postal: PO Box 22, Lindfield NSW 2070)
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 sue-anne@lindfieldkillara.org.au
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 Bookkeeper: Alison Williams alison@lindfieldkillara.org.au
Child Protection Coord. Alison Williams alison@lindfieldkillara.org.au

Parish Facilities Coordinator (volunteer): Anthony Cassidy anthony@lindfieldkillara.org.au

Youth Ministry Coordinator (volunteer) Jean Shatek youth@lindfieldkillara.org.au

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

Ph: 9416 7200 **Fax:** 9416 9342

Principal: Mr Lou Dogao

Email: info@holyfamily.nsw.edu.au

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

Parish Website: www.lindfieldkillara.org.au

Saturday		23 June	30 June
Lindfield	6:00pm	Fr Colin Blayney	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel
Killara	5:30pm	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel	Fr Colin Blayney
Sunday		24 June	1 Jul
Lindfield	8:15am	Fr Colin Blayney	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel
Killara	9:15am	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel	Fr Colin Blayney
Lindfield	10:15am	Fr Colin Blayney	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel
Lindfield	12:00noon	Fr Kelly	Fr Leung
Lindfield	6:00pm	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel

CHINESE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

聖若翰洗者誕辰 (節日)

25-6-2018

讀經一 (我要使你作萬民的光明。)

恭讀依撒意亞先知書 49:1-6

諸島嶼，請聽我！遠方的人民，請靜聽！上主由母腹中，就召叫了我；自母胎中，就給我起了名字。他使我的口，好似利劍，將我掩護在他的庇蔭下；使我像一支磨光的箭，將我隱藏在他的箭囊中。上主對我說：「以色列，你是我的僕人；我因你而自豪。」

但是我說：「我白白勤勞了，我枉費了氣力，而毫無益處；但是，我的權利是在上主那裡，我的報酬在我的天主面前。」

我在上主眼中是光榮的；天主是我的力量。

那由母胎中，形成我作他的僕人、將雅各伯領回他面前，並把以色列聚集在他面前的上主，現在說：「你作我的僕人，復興雅各伯支派，領回以色列遺留下的人，還是小事，我更要使你作萬民的光明，使我的救恩達於地極。」——上主的話。(默想片刻)

答唱詠 詠 139:1-3, 13-14, 14-15

【答】：上主，我讚美你，因我被造，驚奇神奧。(詠 139:14)

領：上主，你鑒察了我，也認清了我

；我或坐或立，你全認清了我
領：上主，你鑒察了我，也認清了我；你由遠處，已明徹我的思考。我或行走，或躺臥，你已先知；我的一切行動，你完全熟悉。【答】

領：你造成了我的五臟六腑；你在我母胎中締結了我。我讚美你，因我被造，驚奇神奧；你的工作，千奇萬妙！【答】

領：我的生命，你全知曉。我何時在暗中成形，我何時在母胎中造成，我的骨骸你全知情。

【答】

讀經二 (若翰在耶穌來臨以前，宣講了悔改的洗禮。)

恭讀宗徒大事錄 13:22-26

福音前歡呼

領/眾：亞肋路亞。

領：至於你，小孩，你要稱為至高者的先知，因為你要走在上主前面，為他預備道路。(參閱路 1:76)

眾：亞肋路亞。

福音 (若翰是他的名字。)

恭讀聖路加福音 1:57-66,80

依撒伯爾滿了產期，就生了一個兒子。她的鄰居和親戚，聽說上主向她大施仁慈，都和她一同歡樂。到了第八天，人們來為這孩子行割損禮，並願意照他父親的名字，

叫他匝加利亞。

他的母親說：「不，要叫他若翰。」

他們就向他母親說：「在你親族中，沒有人叫這名字的。」他們便給孩子的父親打手勢，看他父親願意叫他什麼名字。

他父親要了一塊小板，寫上：「若翰是他的名字。」眾人都驚訝起來。匝加利亞的口和舌頭，立刻開了，就開口讚美天主。

於是，所有鄰居，都滿懷害怕之情；這一切事，就傳遍了全猶大山區；凡聽見的人，都將這事存於心中，說：「這孩子將成為什麼人物啊？」因為上主的手與他同在。

這小孩漸漸長大，心神堅強。他住在荒野，直到他在以色列人前出現的日期。——上主的話。

華人天主教會 北區中心

主日彌撒 12 時,

彌撒後, 午餐聚會.

餐費成人\$6 小童\$4

牧職修女 司徒金美修女

聯絡 ☎ 0419- 426899

中心聯絡 Gloria Cheung

聯絡 ☎ 0416-118089

Sunday School 主日學 12noon

Parish Meeting Room

**RENOVATIONS &
BUILDING MAINTENANCE**

CHRIS IACONO
Parishioner

All work large and small
Lic 89879c Fully Insured
50 years' experience

Mobile : 0412 256 616
Phone : 9416 36 98
chris.iacono@bigpond.com



**Comfort Inn
North Shore**

Family owned and professionally
operated motel with on-site restaurant

Address: 1 Gatacre Avenue, Lane Cove

Phone: 02 9427 0266

Email: res@cins.com.au

Website: www.cins.com.au

**Henry & Gloria
Cheung
Parishioners**



Serving the Australian Construction
Industry for 32 years

UNIVERSAL INSTRUMENTS

326 Pacific Hwy, Lindfield
NSW 2070

Tel no. 94165335

Fax no. 94161538

E:sales@universalinstruments.com.au

(continued from p.12...) His concern was justice, repentance, asceticism. He warned people of an approaching time of reckoning and expected the longed-for messiah to come precisely as a violent fire, a winnowing fan that would separate the bad from the good and burn up the former with a righteousness that came straight from God. When he heard reports of Jesus gently inviting sinners in rather than casting them off, John was scandalised, that kind of a messiah didn't fit his expectations, or his preaching. That's why Jesus, in sending a response to him, invited John not to be scandalised in him. John hadn't wanted a gentle, vulnerable, peace-preaching messiah. He wanted bad people punished, not converted. But, to his credit, once he saw how Jesus' power worked, he understood, accepted a deeper truth, stepped back in self-effacement, and pointed people in Jesus' direction with the words: he must increase and I must decrease. I'm not even worthy to untie his scandal strap!

We too are slow to understand. Like The Baptist, our impatience for truth & justice makes us want & expect a messiah who comes in earthly terms, all talent & muscle, banging heads together so as to rid the planet of falsehood & evil. We want the kind of messiah we see at the end of every Hollywood thriller, Mother Teresa turned into Sylvester Stallone or Bruce Willis, beating up the bad guys with a violence they can only envy.

But that's not the Christmas story, nor the power revealed in it. An infant lying in the straw in Bethlehem didn't outgun anyone. He just lay there, waiting for anyone, good or bad, to come to him, see his helplessness, feel a tug at his or her heart strings, and then gently try to coax a smile or a word out of him. That's still how God meets us.

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

NEXT SUNDAY 1ST JULY – 'PETER'S PENCE' COLLECTION:

Next weekend (the weekend following the feast of Ss Peter and Paul) we join with other Parishes across the world in taking up the Peter's Pence Collection. The Peter's Pence Collection provides for the charitable works and structures of mercy identified by His Holiness, Pope Francis. By supporting this collection, you join with other parishes across the world in supporting projects identified by the Pope including emergency assistance to those in need due to natural disaster, war, oppression and disease. Our generosity allows the Holy Father to respond to those suffering with love and compassion.

The charitable projects that will directly benefit from the 2018 collection include:

- Support for the Parish school of the Immaculate Conception of Al Huson in Jordan that welcomes young refugees from Syria.
- A reconstruction project for the coastal regions of Ecuador affected by the earthquake.
- In support of the children at the Paediatric Hospital in Bangui, Central African Republic.

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

Grant that life to:

Please pray for Edith ('Dita') Lehel of our parish who died during the week. The Funeral Mass for Dita was celebrated at Lindfield last Thursday.

Recently deceased: Peter O'Sullivan, Anthony Pittorino, Myrna Vallecera Amurao, Helen Logan. **And for:** Freda Mercer and Thomas Wade. **Anniversary:** Eileen Wade, Gregory and Mary Wade.

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

REFLECTING ON THIS SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURES

*Though I thought I had toiled in vain,
and for nothing, uselessly, spent my strength,
yet my reward is with the Lord.*

EVEN JOHN THE BAPTIST WAS MISTAKEN

Remember Christmas? It was God's answer to human longing, God's response to the centuries of prayers that lay hidden in our groaning, our sighs, our frustrations, and our religious efforts, each of them a plea, mostly silent, for a divine intervention, all of them asking God to come and rid the world of injustice and our hearts of loneliness and heartache.

But God's answer didn't exactly meet our expectations even as it surpassed them. What was born with Jesus' birth and what still lay seemingly helpless in mangers all around the world wasn't exactly what the world expected.

What the world expected was a superstar, someone with the talent, sharpness, and raw muscle-power to out-gun everything that's bad on this planet, someone charismatic enough to make everyone who opposes him slink away in defeat. God's answer to that: A baby lying helpless in the straw!

Why? Why would God choose to be born into the world in this way?

Because you can't argue with a baby! Babies don't try to compete, don't stand up to you, don't try to best you in an argument, and don't try to impress you with their answers. Indeed, they can't speak at all. You, on your part, have to coax everything out of them, be it a smile or a word, and that effort, which demands great patience, usually draws out what's best in you. Moreover, you can't push at a baby too hard, it will begin to cry and the session is over.

And that is the Saviour who was born in Bethlehem, and that is too how God is still basically in the world. Like a baby, God does not outgun anyone, out-muscle anyone, threaten anyone, or overpower anyone. The power of God revealed in Christmas is the power of a baby, nothing more, nothing less: innocence, gentleness, helplessness, a vulnerability that can soften hearts, invite in, have us hush our voices, teach us patience, and call forth what's best in us. We watch our language around a baby in the same way as we watch our language in a church, with good reason.

The power of Christmas is like the power of a baby, was that it underwhelmed in such a way so as to eventually overwhelm. There is a greater power than muscle, speed, charism, unstoppable force: if you were to put a baby into a room with the heavy-weight boxing champion of the world, who ultimately would be the stronger? The boxer could kill the baby, but, no doubt, wouldn't, precisely because something inside the baby's powerlessness would overwhelm the boxer. Such is the way of God, the message of Christmas.

But we have always been slow to understand this; we want our messiahs to possess more immediate power. And we are in good company here. The messiah that people longed for during all those centuries leading up to Jesus and Bethlehem was precisely conceived of as a human superhero, someone with the earthly muscle to bang heads together and purge the world of evil by morally superior muscles. Even John the Baptist expected the messiah to come with that kind of power. *(continued on p. 11):*