

Catholic Parish of Lindfield-Killara

Diocese of Broken Bay

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

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

Weekdays this week:

Wednesday	10:00am	~
Thursday	10:00am	~
Friday	~	9:15am
Saturday	9:15am	~

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

There will be no celebrations of the Sacrament of Reconciliation this Saturday 29th.

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE BIRTH OF THE LORD 25 – 12 – 18 CHRISTMAS DAY

Why is Christmas usually regarded as the principal Christian feast,
whereas in fact that honour of course belongs to Easter?

*Perhaps it's because we have 'tinsellised' Christmas and made it 'nice':
a feast that seems to say nothing about suffering and death,
a feast that we in fact *can't bear* to be associated with suffering and death.*

But in fact Christmas is *all* about what it is to be human:
'The Word became flesh':

the mystery of the Incarnation, the becoming-flesh, of God
says that God is to be found in all the struggles of human life:

the searching, the failing, the sinfulness, the suffering, the sickness, the dying:

not to take those things away,
but to be present within them,
and ultimately, as Easter proclaims, to transform them into life.

Christmas isn't a 'nice' feast, but we make it so.
But it *is* a joyful feast: the joyful feast that God became all that we are.

Fr Colin

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

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 (Postal: PO Box 22, Lindfield NSW 2070)

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

Catechist Coordinator (Primary Schools): sue-anne@lindfieldkillara.org.au
Sue-Anne Sherwood 0416 141 508

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

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

Parish Website:	www.lindfieldkillara.org.au
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Saturday		29 Dec	5 Jan
Lindfield	6:00pm	Fr Michael Smith	Fr Colin Blayney
Killara	5:30pm	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel
Sunday		30 Dec	6 Jan
Lindfield	8:15am	Fr Michael Smith	Fr Colin Blayney
Killara	9:15am	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel
Lindfield	10:15am	Fr Michael Smith	Fr Colin Blayney
Lindfield	12:00noon	Fr Peter de Souza	Visitor
Lindfield	6:00pm	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel	Fr Colin Blayney

Christmas!

by Beryl Cates

He was born in a stranger's stable and buried in another man's tomb. Born no later than 4 BC, and lived in an obscure village with an unsavoury reputation (John: 1:46). His birth was as much noticed in the mighty Roman Empire as a baby born today on the outskirts of Nyngan would be in any of our teeming cities. He had no influential patrons, an unimpressive group of friends, mixed with the destitute and morally lapsed, and at times slept under the stars, having "nowhere to lay his head" (Matt: 8:20). He had no income and women supported him "out of their own resources" (Luke 8:3).

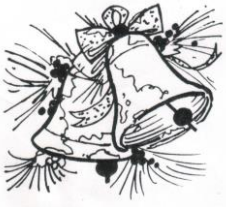
No other founder of a worldwide religion taught so short a time. Jesus was active in public life perhaps one year or, at the most three. (The three synoptic gospels indicate one, John's gospel three). None moved in so restricted an area. None died so young. According to tradition Moses died at 120 years in the midst of his people, Buddha peacefully at 80, his disciples around him. Confucius spent his old age training a group of mainly nobles in his philosophy before dying peacefully at 72 years. Muhammad was poisoned in his sixties and died in his harem in the arms of his favourite wife. Jesus was crucified in his early thirties, disgraced as a blasphemer, a criminal not fit to live among righteous people. Betrayed by a disciple, deserted by all he called friends. He was tortured and humiliated and died in agony on a cross before his heart broken mother, a group of faithful women and the disciple he loved (John 19:26).

Yet, through this itinerant lay preacher's teachings, life, death and living spirit, there erupted into the world an unprecedented upsurge of spirituality that opened minds and hearts to a new awareness of the Divine and the Light and Love of God. A spiritual power that coursed into people of all cultures, callings and times and continues its influence everywhere for good. Influencing the formation of our Western civilisation and remaining intertwined through its culture and ethics. From that preacher's life, death and living spirit we know darkness can never overcome light, death obliterate life, evil extinguish good. God always has the last word. That suffering has meaning extending into the infinite and dying we emerge into the wonder of the limitless Light and Love of the Divine. We live forever.

Only two gospel authors tell of Jesus' Nativity, Matthew and Luke, Matthew of Joseph's experiences and Luke of Mary's, and they are difficult to correlate in part because both evangelists used symbols to make theological statements, many we've interpreted literally. Not that that has deterred us. For our cribs we've taken what we've wanted from each account, developed some and added more. We've slushed the dirt floor of the stable of rats, animal manure and urine and arranged neatly clean straw in the baby Jesus' manger. Put the exultant but exhausted and dishevelled Mary into designer drip-dries, made her Anglo-Saxon rather than Jewish and, for some extraordinary reason, in some churches have the new born babe a smiling six month year old, half clothed and inadequately clothed for what we have concluded was winter. Exegetes say that it probably was not winter for if it were, shepherds would not be, "living out, watching their flocks by night", but that they and their sheep would be under shelter. Those "wise men from the east" – symbolising Truth seekers of all places and beliefs - we've decided were three, lifted them to royal status, given them names and to show our inclusiveness, darkened the skin of one.

What have we done with our busyness? We've obscured an illumined message from that dirty, comfortless stable, its two weary occupants and newborn baby. In a place

(continued on back page...)



WELCOME

A very warm welcome to anyone visiting our parish this Christmas. It is good to have you with us. If you have any questions or would like to know more about our community please visit our parish website at www.lindfieldkillara.org.au for information on parish programmes and ministries.

We wish you a holy and happy Christmas. Please visit us again.

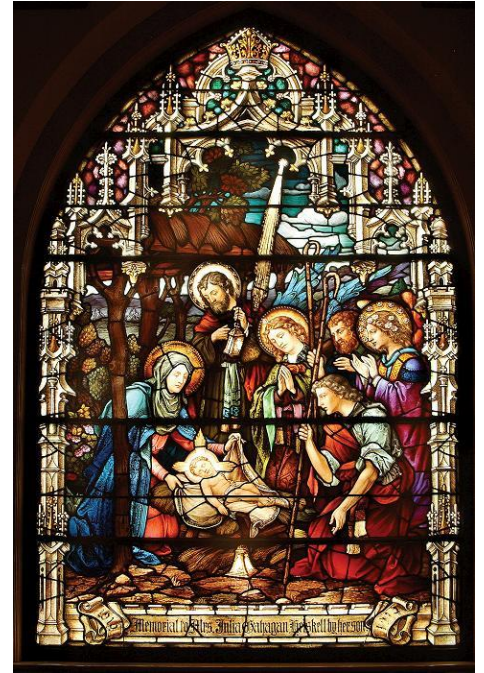
A CHRISTMAS THANK YOU A big thank you to all those who helped in the preparation and celebration of our Christmas liturgies. The Christmas liturgies are a special time when we work together to celebrate our faith as a community – thank you to all for your participation. *Fr Colin and Fr Thomas*

NOTICE OF CHANGED WEEKDAY MASS PROGRAMME IN CHRISTMAS~NEW YEAR PERIOD

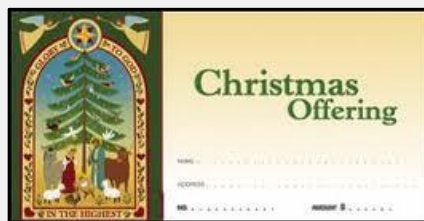
Our weekday Mass programme will be a little different in the week between Christmas and New Year, and also in the first two weeks of the New Year. Please watch the bulletin each week for details.

- for this coming week between Christmas and New Year:

Wed. 26th Dec.: 10:00am at Lindfield
Thur. 27th Dec.: 10:00am at Lindfield
Fri. 28th Dec.: 9:15am at Killara
Sat. 29th Dec.: 9:15am at Lindfield



*And the Word became flesh
and dwelt among us*



CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES

are available near the doors of both our churches.

The contributions via the Christmas Offering supplements the funds raised via the First Collection for the support and upkeep of priests. The fund it goes to depends very much on these special contributions at Christmas and Easter, without which it struggles to meet its commitments.

This fund not only provides the living allowance and household costs for the priests of the parish, but also provides funds for health care for priests and maintains priests in their retirement. Please support the Christmas Offerings.

The envelopes can be placed on either plate at Masses today or over the next few weeks.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS OVER THE CHRISTMAS – NEW YEAR PERIOD

- **Christmas-New Year office closure:** please note that the Parish Office is **CLOSED** this week & will re-open on Wednesday 2nd January.

DATES FOR SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION PROGRAMMES FOR FIRST RECONCILIATION CONFIRMATION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION IN 2019

A letter giving all the details and dates for our Sacramental Preparation Programmes for First Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Holy Communion in 2019 is now available as follows:

→ on the **parish website** (www.lindfieldkillara.org.au) under ‘Sacraments’ → ‘Children’s Sacraments’.

SOME CHANGES IN THIS HOLIDAY PERIOD:

- * There is no Children’s Liturgy of the Word at our Sunday morning Masses until school resumes.
- * There is no Children’s Mass or Youth and Family Mass in January.
- * There are no Youth Group or Young Adults’ Group gatherings in January.
- * The Christian Meditation Group resumes on 6th February.
- * There is no Healing Mass in January.
- * Parking for weekday Mass is available in the church grounds at Lindfield during the school holidays.

NEW YEAR’S DAY:

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD



One of the special feast days of this Christmas Season is the greatest & the most ancient of the feasts of Mary – **1st January, New Year’s Day: (the solemnity of Mary as Mother of God).**

New Year’s Day is the Octave Day of Christmas and celebrates Mary’s role in our salvation: that it was through her acceptance of God’s call and placing herself at the service of God that the Word was made flesh in and through her. As such this feast celebrates Mary as our model as she challenges us likewise to be ‘mothers of God’ bringing Jesus to birth in our world through our own lives. **Mass on that day will be at 11am. This year the celebration will be in Lindfield church** (we alternate each year between our two churches).

WEEKDAY MASS IN THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS We’ve taken four weeks to prepare for Christmas – now let’s not forget to celebrate it. For the commercial world Christmas ended on Christmas Day. For us as a Church *it only began then* and the *Season* of Christmas continues for another fortnight.

Please come along and celebrate this season of new birth at weekday Mass.

CHURCH PEWS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE We have a number of unneeded pews of varying sizes which are available purchase. A number of the pews are made from **New Zealand Kauri**. If you’re interested please contact Anthony Cassidy, our Parish Facilities Coordinator, at anthony@lindfieldkillara.org.au

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 97:1-6.

Sing a new song to the Lord
for God has worked wonders.
The Lord's right hand and holy arm
have brought salvation.

The Lord has made known his salvation;
has shown his justice to the nations.
The Lord has remembered his truth and love
for the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
Shout to the Lord all the earth,
ring out your joy.

Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp,
with the sound of music.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn
acclaim the King, the Lord.

*At Masses at which the Psalm is sung the
response is: All the ends of the earth have seen
the saving power of God.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia,
alleluia! A holy day has dawned
upon us. Come you nations and
adore the Lord. Today a great light
has come upon the earth. Alleluia!

CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK:

Octave of Christmas

Wed.: Feast of St Stephen

Thur: Feast of St John, apostle

Fri: Feast of the Holy Innocents

Next Sun: Solemnity of the Holy
Family: patronal feast at Lindfield.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

As we will be still within the Octave
of Christmas and celebrating the
Lord's birth, there will be no
Reconciliations at the normal
Saturday afternoon time on Saturday
29th

THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

(all genuflect at the following words in bold):

**and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of
the Virgin Mary, and became man.**

For our sake
he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the
Father.

He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father & the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy,
catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism
for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward
to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen

A Christmas Reflection...

CHRISTMAS is a strange season. When you're a child it is a season of presents. When you're young, it's a season of parties. When you get your own home, it's a season of preparations. But when you get older Christmas changes colour dramatically. Suddenly out from behind the advertisements and big dinners, through the haze of old carols and sumptuous crib scenes, we begin to see what Christmas is really all about. Christmas is about finding life where we did not expect life to be.

Every year life waxes and wanes. Every stage of life comes and goes. Every facet of life is born and then dies. Every good moment is doomed to become only a memory. Every period of living slips through our fingers and disappears. Every hope dims and every possibility turns eventually to dry clay. Until Christmas comes again and we are called at the deepest, most subconscious, least cognizant level to begin to live again.

Christmas brings us all back to the crib of life to start over, aware of what has gone before, conscious that nothing can last, but full of hope that this time, finally, we can learn what it takes to live well, grow to full stature of soul and spirit, get it right.

There is a child in each of us waiting to be born again. It is those looking for life that the figure of Christ, a child, beckons. Christmas is not for children. It is for those who refuse to give up and grow old, for those to whom life comes newly and with purpose each and every day, for those who can let yesterday go so that life can be full of new possibility and ways, for those who are agitated with newness whatever their age. Life is for the living, for those in whom Christmas is a feast without finish, a celebration of the constancy of change, a call to being once more on the journey to human joy and holy meaning. Anon

(from the website of the Melbourne Carmelite Centre)

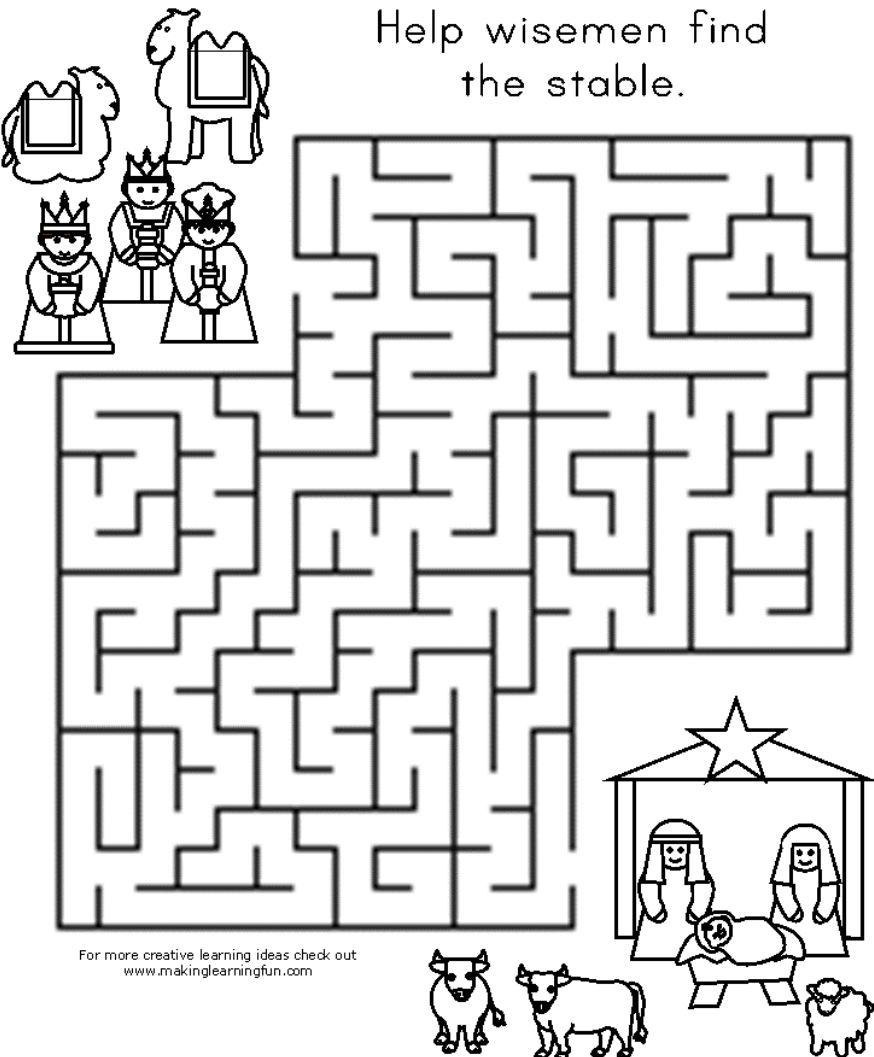
(continued from page 3...): that would have any gynaecologist or mid wife blanch with horror, and in our ignorance would say too inappropriate for anything holy, the greatest spiritual event of all time took place. Far from her parents and female friends, her only companion the gospel tells us, a man with whom she had no physical relationship, the little child mother Mary, gave birth to the Christ child- Jesus Light to the world. A baby who grew not only to teach, but exude God, and who gave his life that others might find the Divine in life and that deep-down peace when living in union with that in-dwelling Presence. Of having a new, higher purpose in living and meaning in dying.

What comes to us from Bethlehem is that there is no place or situation so unwanted, so destitute and devoid of comfort, that God is not in the midst of it. That during the harshest and most crushing times in life, one is never alone. God is there, deepening, intensifying the soul, for mystical wonderment beyond imagining if it will allow it - enlightenment.. (1 Co: 2-9) Not in spite of what is happening, but because of it.

We live within the effulgent light of the Divine, too intense, too brilliant for our poor myopic spiritual sight, but we're not sealed off from it. Glimmers of it can break into human lives at any time as it did for the shepherds in their ordinary workaday lives. That Star is not out and away from us but within, believer and unbeliever alike, beckoning all who would follow to where it leads, not overland, but into the inner self; where in the stable of the heart is the answer to all human yearning - the Light and Love of the in-dwelling Creator Spirit, awaiting the traveller's arrival.

FOR THE KIDZ

Help wisemen find the stable.



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He was created of a mother whom
He created. He was carried by
hands that He formed. He cried in
the manger in wordless infancy, He
the Word, without whom all human
eloquence is mute.

St Augustine

The idea that there's a force of love and logic behind the universe is overwhelming to start with, if you believe it. Actually, maybe even far-fetched to start with, but the idea that that same love and logic would choose to describe itself as a baby born in straw and poverty is genius, and brings me to my knees, literally. To me, as a poet, I am just in awe of that. It makes some sort of poetic sense. It's the thing that makes me a believer, though it didn't dawn on me for many years. *Bono*