Catholic Parish
of Tindfield-Killara
Diocese of Broken Bay

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

MASS TIMES:	Saturday Sunday:	LINDFIELD: 6:00pm 8:15am 10:15am 12:00 (Chinese Communi 6:00pm (for both our com				
Weekdays:		-				
Monday		9:15am	7:30am			
Tuesday		7:30pm	8:30am			
Wednesday		7:30pm	8:30am – Parish Retreat (p.4)			
Thursday		7:30pm	8:30am			
Friday		9:15am*	7:30am			
Saturday		9:15am				
SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturdays 5:00 – 5:30pm (Lindfield)						
		For 15 minutes a	after the 5:30pm Mass (Killara)			
* NO 9:15 Mas	* 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						
	SECC	ND SUNDAY IN LE	NT 25 - 2 - 18			

This week: Gen 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18; Rom 8:31-34; Mk 9:2-10 Next week: Ex 20:1-17; 1 Cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25

Transfiguration, or disfiguration.

The transfiguration reveals the divine depths of Jesus and at the same time calls us to recognise the presence of God in ourselves and in our neighbour.

Do our words and actions 'transfigure' those around us: shed a spark of divine love into their lives. Or do our judgements and our harshness 'disfigure', wound and maim?

This Sunday of Lent invites us to play our own part in the transfiguration of people's lives and of the world.

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.

cooperating communities centred on our two chu	rches at Killara and Lindfield.			
Holy Family Church: Immaculate Heart of Mary Church: Parish Priest: Fr Colin Blayney Assistant Priest: Fr Thomas Alackakunnel VC	cnr Pacific Hwy and Highfield Rd, Lindfield cnr Fiddens Wharf Rd and Charles St, Killara <u>colin@lindfieldkillara.org.au</u> 9416 7195 C <u>thomas@lindfieldkillara.org.au</u> 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 Frida	y 9:30am-1:00pm and 1:30pm-4:00pm			
Catechist Coordinator (Primary Schools):				
Sue-Anne Sherwood	<u>sue-anne@lindfieldkillara.org.au</u> 0416 141 508			
Sacramental Programme Coordinator:				
Sue-Anne Sherwood	<u>sue-anne@lindfieldkillara.org.au</u> 0416 141 508			
Assistant Sacramental Programme Coordinat Maia Schulze Tsang	or: <u>maia@lindfieldkillara.org.au</u>			
Parish Priest's Secretary: Maia Schulze Tsang	maia@lindfieldkillara.org.au			
Parish Bookkeeper:Alison WilliamsChild Protection Coord.Alison Williams	alison@lindfieldkillara.org.au alison@lindfieldkillara.org.au			
Parish Facilities Coordinator (volunteer): Anthony Cassidyanthony@lindfieldkillara.org.auYouth Ministry Coordinator (volunteer)Jean Shatekyouth@lindfieldkillara.org.au				
	: 9416 9342			

	Parish We	bsite: www.lindfieldk	illara.org.au
Saturd	ay	24 Feb	3 March
Lindfield	6:00pm	Fr Colin Blayney	Fr Colin Blayney
Killara	5:30pm	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel
Sunda	ıy	25 Feb	4 March
Lindfield	8:15am	Fr Colin Blayney	Fr Colin Blayney
Killara	9:15am	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel
Lindfield	10:15am	Fr Colin Blayney	
Lindfield	12:00noon	Fr Gerard Kelly	
Lindfield	6:00pm	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel	
			3:30pm Pilgrimage Mass Mount St, North Sydney: Frs Colin and Thomas

RICHARD ROHR'S MEDITATION: WHO WAS JESUS?

Jesus was from the peasant class. . . . His use of language was remarkable and poetic, filled with images and stories. . . . He was not an ascetic, but world-affirming, with a zest for life. There was a sociopolitical passion to him . . . he challenged the domination system of his day. He was a religious ecstatic, a Jewish mystic, for whom God was an experiential reality. . . . Jesus was an ambiguous figure—you could experience him and conclude that he was insane, as his family did [Mark 3:21], or that he was simply eccentric or that he was a dangerous threat—or you could conclude that he was filled with the Spirit of God. —Marcus Borg [1]

[H]ow we see Jesus . . . shapes what we think the Christian life is most centrally about. —Marcus Borg [2]

The Bible is surely the most controversial book ever in print. It has done an immense amount of good. Unfortunately, it probably has also caused more damage than any other text. Throughout history we clearly see how many Christians acted in oppressive, ignorant, and abusive ways in the name of Jesus and the Gospel (two of the most damning examples being the support of slavery and the subjugation and colonisation of indigenous peoples). It seems that to many Christians it did not matter what Jesus really said or did. They just needed an imperial God-figure, and Jesus was used to fit the bill. It could just as well have been Howdy Doody.

Thankfully, in the last several decades there has been a turn toward scholarship and theological study that considers the social, spiritual, cultural, political, and economic context in which the Bible was written. We're trying to be more honest with the Scriptures—inspired by God, as understood by humans—rather than making the Bible say what we want it to say or interpreting it according to our cultural conditioning. Yet God has always risked being misused, misinterpreted, or "man-handled" by God's own people. For me, this is the deep symbolism of the babe in a manger. God completely, vulnerably gives God's self over to our care.

Most Christians preconceive Jesus as "the divine Saviour of our divine church," which prematurely settles all the dust and struggle of his human experience. Such a predisposition does not open us to enlightenment so we also can have the mind of Christ, but in fact, deadens and numbs our perception. Too often we read the Bible with an eye to prove this understanding of "our" Jesus so that our ideas and our church are right—and others are wrong. If we are honest enough to admit this bias, we may have a chance of letting go of it for a richer understanding of the Gospel.

The biblical authors, disciples, and church founders were also ordinary humans people like you and me. I hope that understanding these people and their world will help us see who Jesus really is and what his mission always will be. There is no other possible reform of Christianity—and it will never cease.

Marcus J. Borg, Jesus: Uncovering the Life, Teachings, and Relevance of a Religious Revolutionary (HarperSanFrancisco: 2006), 164. Borg originally offered these comments on NBC's Today Show, Good Friday, 1995.
 Ibid., 307.



WEEKDAY MASS

is a rich way of entering into the time of Lent ~ providing the fodder of the daily Scripture readings for reflection and the great gift of the Eucharist to strengthen us on the journey and to build us ever more deeply as the community of the body of Christ centred on his sacrifice of self-giving.

MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH SOCIAL JUSTICE TEAM

Please join us on **Sunday 11th March at 4.30pm** in the Shirley Wallace Parish Centre for our Parish Social Justice meeting. We will be discussing the exciting activities planned for this year.

Everyone is welcome. If you aren't able to attend and have a few ideas to share or would like to know more about our activities please email <u>socialjustice@lindfieldkillara.org.au</u>.

A NEW BAPTISM PREPARATION PROGRAMME FOR OLDER CHILDREN

If your child is aged 5 or older and is not yet baptised and you would like them to be baptised, please contact Sue-Anne Sherwood at <u>sue-anne@lindfieldkillara.org.au</u>.

We will be running a preparation programme for baptism during March over two sessions.



A LENTEN PARISH RETREAT on-site here in the parish:

Theme: Loved by HIM

Love forms the basis of all healthy relationships. It is blissfully uplifting. But seeing love through the eyes of Jesus, helps us look at the world, in the blissful way that He sees us. To understand the essence of love we have to search for it in God.

"Above all love each other deeply" (1 Peter 4:8).



Fr Michael is a known preacher in many countries including Australia. He is the founder of the Divine Retreat Centre in Somersby, NSW. He was the director of this retreat centre for 3 years before he moved to Mumbai. Hence he knows the Australian culture quite well. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Philosophy and Theology and a licentiate in Family Counselling. Now he is the director of the Divine Retreat Centre in

Mumbai, India, where more than six thousand people attend his retreats every week. So, Michael comes to us with a lots of experience in preaching retreats.

Retreat Timetable-Lindfield Church

Tues. 27, Wed. 28 Feb & Thurs.1 March 7:30pm to 9pm (*7:30pm Mass followed by Talk)

Retreat Timetable-Killara Church

Tues. 27, Wed. 28 Feb & Thurs.1 March (*8:30am Mass followed by Talk)

8:30am to 10am



CATHOLIC PARISH OF LINDFIELD KILLARA – STRATEGIC PLANNING PROJECT FOR 2021

Following the 2017 National Church Life Survey, our Parish Pastoral Council is conducting a review and update of our 3 year strategic plan in order to address the needs of the community we serve and represent.

We have been analysing the learnings from the National Church Life Survey, and are now conducting the first activity which is to consult our Parishioners on their view of what should be included in our vision statement.

A vision statement is a road map, or aspirational description of what our organisation wants to accomplish over a defined period of time.

"A vision statement is like a photograph of your future organisation, which gives it shape and direction".



In the near future, you will be presented with a questionnaire and a series of words to select from which will help us define the vision statement and the mission we will focus on, in order to bring this to life in our community.



PARISH PILGRIMAGE IN HONOUR OF ST MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP NEXT SUNDAY 4TH MARCH



Please be part of our **parish pilgrimage** to the shrine of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop at North Sydney on **Sunday 4th March.**

THE ROUTE:

Bring a picnic lunch to share in Hyde Park (we'll gather on the grass as close to the Archibald Fountain as possible -12 noon).

We will then move to the crypt below St Mary's Cathedral (12:40pm) ('A' on the map) (entry on the eastern side of the cathedral) for an introductory prayer and a reflection from the writings of Mary MacKillop.

At two further stops along the way – St Patrick's (point 'C') at Church Hill and St Francis Xavier's at Lavender Bay (point 'D') – we will again stop for a short time of input and prayer.

Then at the chapel of Mary MacKillop itself at **7 Mount St, North Sydney (point 'E')** we will gather for our parish Mass at 3:30pm.

WHAT IS A PILGRIMAGE? *Pilgrimage* has a strong tradition in our Catholic faith. It is like a prayerful journey – as we walk we



interact with our fellow pilgrims as fellow disciples, chatting and talking; but we also have those times and spaces for prayer and reflection. The pilgrimage walk is like a sacrament of the journey of our life helping us to focus

once again on God who is the goal of that journey. It is like a mini-retreat 'on foot'.



WHO CAN COME? We hope that this will be a day for **ALL** the parish. Children and adults are all welcome.

WHAT IF IT'S A BIT TOO FAR FOR YOU TO WALK? For those who might find it difficult to do any or all of the walk there is the option of course of joining us at points along the journey – at Church Hill (near Wynyard) or at Lavender Bay church (not too far from either North Sydney or Milsons Point Stations) or just for the Mass itself at Mount Street (again not far from North Sydney Station).

(continued over page....)

But if you can walk all the way please do it -a pilgrimage is a wonderful way to pray with our bodies rather than just with words.

CHANGES TO OUR SUNDAY MASS PROGRAMME THAT WEEKEND As we hope that the majority of the parish will take part in the pilgrimage we will have less Masses in the parish that weekend – there will be no 10:15am Mass or Sunday evening 6pm Mass at Lindfield on 4^{th} March.

WHAT ABOUT WET WEATHER?

In the event of really bad weather we will cancel the pilgrimage, including the Mass. If it's pouring rain on Sunday morning then it will be obvious that this is the case. However if the weather simply looks doubtful and we decide that cancellation is the best choice we will advise of a late decision re cancellation in two ways:

- a. A sign will go up on the changeable sign at the front of Holy Family church at Lindfield by 9:30am on the Sunday if the pilgrimage is cancelled
- b. We will leave a similar message on the parish website by 9:30am.

If there is no notice given either on the sign or on the website then the pilgrimage will be going ahead as planned.

Please be there!

Fr Colin

TWO KEY THINGS TO NOTE:

- remember there is NO 10:15am NOR Sunday 6pm Mass next weekend
- see the wet weather arrangements above. **However** even if the pilgrimage itself doesn't take place due to rain we will still have our parish Mass at 3:30pm in the chapel of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop in Mount St North Sydney.





Second Sunday of Lent 25th February 2018



Rattanak is a skilled young barber, living an independent life in rural Cambodia. But it wasn't always that way. As a child he contracted polio and also became deaf. Like many people who are deaf or hard of hearing, Rattanak faced isolation, with a lack of opportunity to escape poverty. After joining the Deaf Development Program run by Caritas Australia's partner, Maryknoll Cambodia, his life was transformed and he is now supporting himself, his wife and baby.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2018 and help deaf youth in Cambodia to build a just future, and live in communities that uphold everyone's dignity.

A Just Future starts with your support! You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting <u>www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion</u> or phoning 1800 024 413.

8 The Prayers and Responses of Mass

We fast from the joyful words of the Gloria during these days of Lent as we prepare our hearts and our community to celebrate once again the saving death and resurrection of Jesus

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION:



THE PSALM Ps 115:10. 15~19

I trusted, even when I said: 'I am sorely afflicted.' O precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of the Lord's faithful.

Your servant, Lord, your servant am I; you have loosened my bonds. A thanksgiving sacrifice I make: I will call on the Lord's name.

My vows to the Lord I will fulfil before all the Lord's people, in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! From the shining cloud, the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

RESPONSE TO THE PSALM FOR WEEKDAY MASSES:

Monday: Lord, do not deal with us as our sins deserve.
Tues: To the upright I will show the saving power of God.
Wed: Save me, O Lord, in your steadfast love.
Thursday: Happy are they who hope in the Lord.
Friday: Remember the marvels the Lord has done.

Saturday: The Lord is kind and merciful.

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

GO FORTH, SPREAD MY WORD

If you've been considering answering the honoured call to be a Catechist in our State Schools, please respond today.

We are looking for a teacher for: - Lindfield Public School - Yr 3 (Tues 10.30-11am)

The manual you teach from has every question and answer you'll need in class. That is all you need to teach. We will train you and guide and help you.

So looking forward to hearing from you. Sue-Anne Sherwood (sue-anne@lindfieldkillara.org.au) Catechist Co-ordinator

A CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP

meets in the *Meeting Room at the rear of and under Holy Family Church* each Wednesday from <u>8:40am – 9:05am</u> (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 <u>catherinecwillis@gmail.com</u>

A NEW BAPTISM PREPARATION PROGRAMME HERE IN OUR PARISH FOR OLDER CHILDREN



If your child is aged 5 or older and is not yet baptised and you would like them to be baptised, please contact Sue-Anne Sherwood at <u>sue-anne@lindfieldkillara.org.au</u>.

We will be running a preparation programme for baptism during March over two sessions.

PARISH YOUNG ADULTS GROUP The next gathering for the year takes place today Sunday 25th February immediately following the 6pm Mass and will be held in the lounge in the Shirley Wallace Parish Centre on the first floor of Lindfield church. All young adults welcome – a relaxed and informal time (including dinner).





PARISH PLAYGROUP 'Characters Playgroup' meets every Wednesday from 10:30am till noon (during school terms) in the Shirley Wallace Parish Centre on the first floor of Holy Family church. Please register via Trybooking: www.trybooking.com/JYKW Please contact Sue-Anne for more details: sue-anne@lindfieldkillara.org.au

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A Parish Retreat Experience? Bookings by this Friday!

This year, instead of a parish retreat at Tarrawarra Abbey we are offering a shorter parish retreat experience at the Benedictine Abbey at Jamberoo (just 2 hours south of Sydney) in the beautiful location of the Jamberoo Mountain.

We have tentative bookings for the following:

- Monday afternoon 17th September to 9am Thursday morning 20th September
- Monday afternoon 22nd October to Thursday morning 9am 25th October



On each occasion we have 6 double bed rooms and 6 single rooms available. The single rooms have a tariff of \$60 per night and the double bed rooms are \$150 per night for a couple and \$100 per night for a single.

Unfortunately, we are not able to leave the bookings at a tentative level and would need to confirm the bookings in the next fortnight. So if you would like to attend one of these retreats

could you let me know by this Friday 2nd March.

After that, we would have to cancel the booking(s) if we have insufficient numbers. Please consider taking part in this wonderful parish opportunity to take some time out and nurture the Spirit within us. *Fr Colin*

LENTEN 'LECTIO DIVINA' Once again our diocese has provided books with guided reflections for the Sunday Scriptures of the Lenten Season. These are available today in both foyers of both our churches. It can also be accessed on the diocesan website: www.dbb.org.au



RCIA - A Journey to Easter





Please pray for:

Our catechumens preparing for baptism at Easter:

Luna Li, Michael Willet and Victoria Kwan. Our fourth catechumen, Scarlett Zheng, was not available when this photo was taken.

Our candidates preparing to be received into the Church:

Anthony Yap and Kate Jegat.



On the First Sunday in Lent in each year, in each diocese around the world, those preparing for baptism at Easter are formally chosen ('elected') for this sacrament at a celebration of 'The Rite of Election' in the cathedral of each diocese.

Pictured to the left are our catechumens (now 'Elect') with Bishop Peter following the liturgy.

CANCELLATION OF MONTHLY CHILDREN'S MASS Because of the Parish Pilgrimage next weekend the 9:15am Mass at Killara **will not** be a Children's Mass this month.

The following Sunday 11th March the 10:15am Mass at Lindfield will be the monthly Children's Mass as normal.

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Celebrating Easter - Making a Joyful Sound Unto the Lord Please be part of a combined choir for Easter ~



As we are one parish this year we will once again come together for a combined celebration of the greatest liturgical celebration of our Christian Year – the Mass of the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday night: a single Mass at 7:30pm in our Lindfield church And also once again we will come together for a single celebration of the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday evening in our Killara church.

Anyone who is interested in being part of the special choir for the Easter liturgy (especially the Easter Vigil and Holy Thursday, and Good Friday for those who wish) is invited to join our Easter choir (even if you are not a regular member of any of our parish choirs).

Rehearsals are on **Saturday mornings 3rd March, 10th March and 24th March** from 10:00am to midday in Holy Family church at Lindfield. Please contact Christian on 0405 594 300 or <u>christianwaltercatsanos@gmail.com</u> or Catherine Willis at <u>catherinecwillis@gmail.com</u> for further information. Thank you!

Please help to make our Easter special by being part of the choir.

PREPARATION FOR THE CELEBRATION OF FIRST RECONCILIATION Contrary to what was previously advised, the Rite of Enrolment for First Reconciliation next weekend will be celebrated **at only one Mass – the 3:30pm Pilgrimage Mass** at the shrine of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop at 7 Mount St North Sydney.



ROSEVILLE – LINDFIELD – KILLARA INTERCHURCH FELLOWSHIP

LENTEN ECUMENICAL SERVICES 2018

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 6th March at 7:45pm

Holy Family Catholic Church Lindfield Cnr Pacific Hwy and Highfield Rd, Lindfield Preacher: Rev. Chris Goringe

Tuesday 20th March at 7:45pm

at Roseville Uniting Church Lord St, Roseville Preacher: Rev. Ian Pearson



A scene from the supper at last Tuesday's Lenten Ecumenical Service at Lindfield Uniting Church.

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION AND LENT

Since Lent is the time of Easter preparation please make use of the *whole* of Lent to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, which is celebrated each Saturday (see p. 1). When Easter arrives our Lenten preparation is over so please note that there will be NO opportunities for the celebration of Reconciliation once Holy Week begins, including no Reconciliations at the normal Saturday time on Holy Saturday.

There will also be a celebration of the Second Rite (Communal Rite) of Reconciliation on Wednesday 21st March (Wednesday before Holy Week) at 7:30pm.

This celebration is for our two communities and will take place in **at Killara** (since the Advent celebration took place at Lindfield).

The Light is On For You



Our diocese and its parishes will be introducing this programme this Lent. Churches will be open from 7 - 8pm each Friday night of Lent as a quiet reflective space during which time the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available. Please enter into this Lenten opportunity. It will take place in Holy Family church at Lindfield each Friday night of Lent until Friday 23rd March inclusive.

For details of other churches where *The Light Is On For You* is taking place please visit www.thelightisonforyou.org.au

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14 CHINESE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

四旬期第二主日	鍊,我要向你獻上讚美之祭;我	當時,有一團雲彩,遮蔽了他
25/2/2018	要呼號上主的名字。【答】	們,從雲中有聲音說:「這是我的
讀經一 (我們聖祖亞巴郎的祭獻。)	領:我要在眾百姓面前,在上主聖殿	愛子,你們要聽從他!」
恭讀創世紀 22:1-2,9,10-13,15-18	的庭院裡,在你——耶路撒冷中	他們忽然向四周一看,見不到
那時候,天主試探亞巴郎,說:	間,向上主還我的誓願。【答】	任何人,只有耶穌同他們在一起。
「亞巴郎!」	讀經二 (天主沒有憐惜自己的兒	他們從山上下來的時候,耶穌
亞巴郎回答說:「我在這裡。」	子。)	囑咐他們,非等人子從死者中復活
天主說:「帶你心愛的獨生子依撒	恭讀聖保祿宗徒致羅馬人書 8:31-34	後,不要將他們所見的,告訴任何
格,到摩黎雅地方去,在我要指給你的	弟兄姊妹們:	人。他們遵守了這話,卻彼此討
一座山上,將他獻為全燔祭。」	如果天主偕同我們,誰能反對我	論:從死者中復活是什麼意思。—
當他們到了天主指給亞巴郎的地	們呢?天主既然沒有憐惜自己的兒	—上主的話。(講道後默想片刻)
方,亞巴郎便在那裡,築起一座祭壇,	子,反而為我們眾人,把他交出來,	華人天主教會 北區中心
擺好木柴,將兒子依撒格捆好,放在祭	豈不也把一切,與他一同賜給我們	主日彌撒 12 時, 彌撒後.午餐聚會.
壇的木柴上。	嗎?誰能控告天主所揀選的人呢?是	餐費\$5.00
亞巴郎正伸手舉刀,要宰獻自己的	使人成義的天主嗎?誰能定他們的	
兒子時,上主的使者從天上,對亞巴郎	罪?是那已死,或更好說已復活,現	聯絡 (0419-426899
大聲說:「亞巴郎!亞巴郎!」	今在天主右邊,代我們轉求的基督耶	中心聯絡 Gloria Cheung
亞巴郎回答說:「我在這裡。」	穌嗎?——上主的話。(默想片刻)	聯絡 (0416-118089
使者說:「不可在這孩子身上下	福音前歡呼	Sunday School 主日學 12nooon
手,不要傷害他!我現在知道你實在敬	領:基督、天主聖言,願光榮歸於	Parish Meeting Room (next toCar
畏天主,因為你為了我,竟然連自己的	你。	Park)
獨生子,也不顧惜。」	眾:基督、天主聖言,願光榮歸於	
亞巴郎舉目一望,見有一隻公綿	你。	23/2-23/3 每星期五 8:00pm
羊,兩角纏在灌木中,於是前去取了那	領:雲中有聲音說:「這是我的愛	25/2 25/5 파프 M프 0.00pm
		Lindfield Holy Family Church 舉行
隻公綿羊,代替自己的兒子,獻為全燔	子,你們要聽從他!」(參閱瑪	Lindfield Holy Family Church, 舉行 拜苦路 請各数友參加
隻公綿羊,代替自己的兒子,獻為全燔 祭。		拜苦路,請各教友參加
	子,你們要聽從他!」(參閱瑪	拜苦路,請各教友參加 四旬期內. 16/2-23/3 每星期五
祭。	子,你們要聽從他!」(參閱瑪 17:5)	拜苦路,請各教友參加
祭。 上主的使者由天上,又呼喚亞巴郎	子,你們要聽從他!」(參閱瑪 17:5) 眾:基督、天主聖言,願光榮歸於	拜苦路,請各教友參加 四旬期內. 16/2-23/3 每星期五 Lindfield Holy Family Church, 7pm
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(continued from page 16 Global Positioning System, that is, that computerised instrument, complete with human voice, that countless people have today in their cars and which gives them ongoing instructions on how to get to their destination. One of its features is this: No matter how many times you disregard or disobey its command, the voice never expresses impatience, yells at you, or gives up on you. It simply says "Recalculating." Sooner or later, no matter how many times you disregard it, it gets you home.

Delightful as is that image, it's still but a very weak analogy in terms of understanding God's patience and forgiveness. None of us should be haunted, long-term, by sadness and fear because we feel that we've missed our vocation, unless we are living a selfish life. Selflessness rather than selfishness, a life in pursuit of service rather than a life in pursuit of comfort, not guessing correctly, constitutes one's vocation. Our Christian vocation is to make what we are in fact living—married, priest, religious, single in the world—a life of selflessness and service to others. Happiness and salvation are contingent upon that, not upon guessing correctly.

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

DEATH OF FR ANTHONY SMITH SJ Fr Anthony Smith SJ was the longest serving Headmaster of St Aloysius' College, Milsons Point.

All members of the Aloysian Family are warmly invited to attend his Vigil Mass on Tuesday 27th February to be held in The College Chapel, Upper Pitt Street, Milsons Point commencing at 6.30pm.



LENT AND EASTER ON THE PARISH WEBSITE You will find plenty of information on our Lenten activities and also the timetable for our Easter celebrations on our website (www.lindfieldkillara.org.au). This Lenten and Easter information can be accessed either under 'Mass and Prayer Times' or even more easily via the special highlight box for **Lent** (*pictured to the left*).

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

Recently deceased: Hans Schanz (father of Kylie O'Connor of our parish), Betty Knight, David Ockeby, Chahidy Saouma, Fr Anthony Smith, SJ (former Headmaster of St Aloysius' College). **Anniversary:** Cecille McKinnon, Bog Dug Kim. **And for:** Bacic Maria, Marko, Nikola and Ante Vezik Jaka, Stipan and Ante Bacic Jaka and Nikola.

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

REFLECTING ON THIS SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURES

"This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." (Gospel)

CAN YOU LOSE YOUR VOCATION?

Recently I received a letter from a man who shared that he was still deeply haunted by a story he'd heard in grade school many years before. One of his religion teachers had read them a story about a priest who went to visit a childhood friend. While staying with his friend, the priest noticed that, while his friend was cheerful and affable enough, he seemed to be harbouring some deep, residual sadness. When he asked his friend about it his friend confessed that he "had lost his salvation" because he had felt a call to priesthood when he was young but had chosen instead to marry. Now, he felt, there was no existential redemption from that. He had had a vocation and lost it and, with that, also lost for good his chance at happiness. Though happily enough married, he felt that he would bear forever the stigma of having been being unfaithful in not accepting his God-given vocation.

I was raised on stories like that. They were part of the Catholicism of my youth. We were taught to believe that God marked out a certain vocation for you, that is, to be a priest, a sister, a married person, or a single person in the world, and if you didn't accept that, once you knew your calling, then you had "missed" or "lost" your vocation and the consequence would an abiding sadness and even the danger of missing heaven. Such were the vocation stories of my youth, and, truth be told, I went to the seminary to become a priest with that lingering as a shadow in my mind. But it was only a shadow. I didn't enter religious life and priesthood out of fear, though some moral fears did play a part in it, as they should. Fear can also be a healthy thing.

But it can also be unhealthy. It's not healthy to understand both God and your vocation in terms that can have you missing out on happiness and salvation on the basis on singular choice made while you are still young. God doesn't work like that.

It's true that we are called by God to a vocation which we are meant to discern through conscience, through community, through circumstance, and through the talents that we've been given. For a Christian, existence does not precede essence. We're born with a purpose, with a mission in life. There are many clear texts in scripture on this: Jesus, praying for entire nights to know his Father's will; Peter conscripted on a rock to be led by a belt that will take him where he would rather not go; Paul being led into Damascus and instructed by an elder as to his vocation; Moses being called to do a task because he saw the suffering of the people; and all of us being challenged to use our talents or be stripped of them. We're all called to mission and so each of us has a vocation. We're not morally free to live our lives simply for ourselves.

But God doesn't give us just one chance which if we miss it or turn down will leave us sad forever. No. God opens a new door every time we close one. God gives us 77×7 chances, and more after that, if needed. The question of vocation is not so much a question of guessing right (What very specifically was I predestined for?) but rather a question of giving oneself over in faith and love to the situation that we've chosen (or which more often than not has by circumstance chosen us). We should not live in unhealthy fear about this. God continues to love us and desire our happiness, even when we don't always follow to where we are ideally called.

Recently I heard a homily in a church in which the priest compared God to a GPS, a *(continued on page 15...)*