

Catholic Parish of Lindfield-Killara

Diocese of Broken Bay

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

	LINDFIELD:	KILLARA:
MASS TIMES:	Saturday 6:00pm	Saturday Vigil: 5:30pm
	Sunday: 8:15am	Sunday: 9:15am
	10:15am	
	12:00 (Chinese Community Mass)	
	6:00pm (for both our communities) (5:30pm on 2 nd Sun. of month)	

Weekdays:

Monday	9:15am	7:30am
Tuesday	No Mass	7:30am
Wednesday	No Mass	~
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

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 26 – 8 – 18

This week: Jos 24:1-2, 15-18; Eph 5:21-32; Jn 6:60-69

Next week: Deut 4:1-2, 6-8; James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27; Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Today's First Reading: 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord and serving other gods'.
Today's Gospel: 'Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of everlasting life.'

Noble intentions. We shall never turn anywhere else but to God.

And yet while we may not formally turn away from faith, it can happen much more easily in informal ways:

such as (as this Immigration and Refugee Sunday reminds us) by our attitudes, our words, our actions towards those who are different: asylum seekers, refugees, those of different race and nation. Indeed, those who are different from us in any way.

When we do that then we do desert the Lord and serve other gods: the god of prejudice and nationalism, the god of self-interest and self-preservation.

'Lord, to whom shall we go?' The Lord never turns his back on a single human being. Do we?
Fr Colin

Youth News ...

YOUTH@LINDFIELD KILLARA PARISH



Fusion Youth at Lindfield Killara



youth.fusion



youth@lindfieldkillara.org.au

Youth & Family Mass

LINDFIELD KILLARA CATHOLIC PARISH

Our Youth & Family Mass is for anyone looking for a joyous, faith-filled celebration with youthful music and a warm, community feel. Feed the family after Mass at our supper

**SUN 9 September
5.30 pm
Supper served**

Fusion
youth

FOR TEENS IN YEARS 7-12

FUSION is a welcoming space for teenagers, helping them navigate their teenage years. Youth leaders (young adults from our Parish) lead the teens in social justice activities, games and discussion. We meet regularly one Friday night and one Sunday night per month and for other activities throughout the year.

Meet after Youth Mass supper (approx. 7.30 to 9.00pm) in Parish Meeting Room

Sun 9 September



FOR KIDS IN YEARS 3-6

At BLAST kids have fun whilst learning what it means to be part of a faith community. We have a different "theme" every month led by FUSION youth members of our Parish. We meet monthly on Sundays, from 4.00pm to 5.30pm, just before the Youth & Family Mass.

Sunday, 14 October

"My Own Two Hands": Social Justice

Fri 28 September

Yr 7,8,9 meets 5.30-7.30pm
Yr 10,11,12 meets 7-9pm
in Shirley Wallace. Dinner served at 7pm for all.

*Please note there will be **no** BLAST meeting in September.*



FUSION YOUTH@LINDFIELD KILLARA PARISH

Father's Day Bake Sale

AFTER ALL MASSES ON
SAT/SUN 1 & 2 SEPTEMBER

ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS
YOUTH PROGRAMMES AT OUR PARISH

PARISH DIARY : AUG~SEPT

Tues. 28th Aug.: First Communion enrolments close.

Sun. 9th Sep.: Parent meeting & sessions 1 & 2 for 1st Communion preparation.

Sunday 2nd Sep: Morning tea after 9:15am and 10:15am Mass

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

Sunday 9th Sep.: Monthly Youth and Children's Mass at 5:30pm at Lindfield followed by food in St Brigid's Hall.

Friday 14th Sep.: Monthly Healing Mass and morning tea at 10am at Killara.

Sunday 16th Sep.: Morning tea after 9:15am and 10:15am Masses.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION PROGRAMME



Enrolments for the preparation programme for First Holy Communion **CLOSE** this **Tuesday 28th August.**

The enrolment process is an online one – please go to the parish website (www.lindfieldkillara.org.au) and go to ‘Sacraments’ → ‘Children’s Sacraments’ to find the instructions for the enrolment process and for full dates and details of our preparation programme.

OUR MEMORIAL WALLS

As you know we now have a Memorial Wall in each of our two churches. As promised there will be Mass each year in November for those whose names are recorded on the Memorial Walls. The dates for this year are:

- * at Lindfield ~ at the 9:15am Mass on Saturday 3rd November
- * at Killara ~ at the 7:30am Mass on Friday 16th November

Ordering New Plaques:



If you would like to order one or more Memorial Plaques for either church please contact Philita in the Parish Office. You can also find out more about the plaques and donate the forms required for ordering the plaques by visiting our parish website and going to ‘Our Parish’ → ‘Memorial Walls’.

For the plaques to be in place for this November you would need to have your order in to Philita by **Monday 3rd September.**



BAPTISMS THIS WEEKEND IN OUR PARISH

Congratulations to **Clive and Tina Hayward** on the baptism of their child **Louis Hayward** this weekend at Lindfield Church.

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:

2 *mf*

Save us, Sav-iour of the world, for by your

Cross and Res - ur - rec-tion you have set us free. *cresc.* *ff*

At Masses at which the Psalm is sung the response is: taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Your words,
Lord, are spirit and life: you have
the words of everlasting life.
Alleluia!

THE PSALM Ps 33:2-3. 16-23.

I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad.

The Lord turns his face against the wicked
to destroy their remembrance from the
earth.

The Lord turns his eyes to the just
and his ears to their appeal.

They call and the Lord hears
and rescues them in all their distress.
The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;
those whose spirit is crushed he will save.

Many are the trials of the just man
but from them all the Lord will rescue
him.

He will keep guard over all his bones,
not one of his bones shall be broken.

Evil brings death to the wicked;
those who hate the good are doomed.
The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.
Those who hide in him shall not be condemned.

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

Catechists – Scripture teachers in the Public Schools

'GOD DOESN'T CALL THE QUALIFIED,
HE QUALIFIES THE CALLED.'

"Jacob was a cheater, Peter had a temper, Noah got drunk, Jonah ran from God, Gideon was insecure, Miriam was a gossip, Martha was a worrier, Thomas was a doubter, Sara was impatient, Elijah was moody, Moses stuttered and Abraham was old. God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the CALLED!"

We're not qualified but God doesn't care. No matter where you are in your life with God, HE is qualifying you for his service because you are CALLED. He can help you overcome your worries, and even use them to help others. Just allow *Him* to use you.

Don't miss an opportunity to serve the Lord because of insecurity.

Come and talk to me, attend the training & see if you can let God work through you.

The children need Teachers and Assistants in classes & next year when the new school in Lindfield opens we'll need even more Catechists – get qualified now and see if you can serve in this way (Training: Frenchs Forest - Thurs 18, 25 Oct 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Nov & 6 Dec 2018, 7:00pm-9:00pm; Pennant Hills - Mon 5, 12, 19 & 26 Nov 2018, 9:30am-2:30pm. There are manuals telling you exactly what to say and do!!!

Try focus on what God can do through you and not about what you can or can't do. Team teaching is a wonderful way to start and learn. Assist with an experienced Catechist who can guide you and let you try just 5 min of teaching a lesson and work that up as you grow in confidence.

Moses was called by God to deliver the Israelites out of Egypt, but said "Who am I (to bring the Israelites out of Egypt)?" and God told him "I will be with you."

Contact Sue-Anne Sherwood
sue-anne@lindfieldkillara.org.au

PARISH FACILITIES AVAILABLE FOR HIRE

Our parish has several facilities which members of the parish may wish to hire for events such as 50ths, 60ths, etc., wedding anniversaries, funeral receptions, and the like.

The facilities are:

- St Brigid's Hall in the Shirley Wallace Parish Centre above Holy Family Church
- The newly refurbished hall at Killara
- MacKillop Hall (between the church and the school at Lindfield)

All of these facilities have a kitchen.

If you would like to make an enquiry about hiring one of these facilities

CHINESE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

<p>常年期第二十一主日 26-8-2018</p> <p>讀經一 (我們必要事奉上主，因為他是我們的天主。) 恭讀若蘇厄書 24:1-2, 15-17, 18</p> <p>那時候，若蘇厄聚集以色列眾支派，來到舍根，也召集了以色列的長老、首領、判官和官長，叫他們站在天主面前。若蘇厄對全民眾說：「如果你們不樂意事奉上主，那麼，今天就選擇你們所願意事奉的神吧！或是你們祖先，在大河那邊，所事奉的神，或是你們現在居住的地方，阿摩黎人的神。至於我和我的家族，我們一定要事奉上主。」百姓回答說：「我們絕對不願背棄上主，去事奉其他的神！因為上主是我們的天主，是他領我們和我們的祖先，離開了埃及地，為奴之家；是他在我們眼前，行了那些絕大的神蹟；是在我們所走的一切路上，在我們所經過的一切民族中，始終保護了我們。為此，我們必要事奉上主，因為他是我們的天主。」——上主的話。（默想片刻）</p> <p>答唱詠 詠 34:2-3, 16-17, 18-19, 20-21</p> <p>【答】：請你們體驗，請你們觀看：上主是何等和藹慈祥！（詠 34:9）</p> <p>領：我要時時讚美上主；我的口舌不斷讚頌上主。願我的心靈，因上主而自豪；願謙卑的人聽到，也都歡喜雀躍。【答】</p>	<p>領：上主的雙目，垂顧正義的人；上主的兩耳，俯聽他們的呼聲。上主的威容，敵視作惡的人民，把他們的紀念，從人間抹去。【答】</p> <p>領：義人一呼號，上主立即俯允，拯救他們，脫離一切艱辛。上主親近心靈破碎的人，他必救助精神痛苦的人。【答】</p> <p>領：義人的災難雖多，上主卻救他免禍，並保全他的一切骨骸，連一根也不容許折斷。【答】</p> <p>讀經二 (基督對教會的愛，是偉大的奧秘。) 恭讀聖保祿宗徒致厄弗所人書 5:21-32</p> <p>福音前歡呼 領/眾：亞肋路亞。</p> <p>領：主，你的話，就是神，就是生命，唯你有永生的話。 （參閱若 6:63,68）</p> <p>眾：亞肋路亞。</p> <p>福音 (主！唯你有永生的話，我們去投奔誰呢？) 恭讀聖若望福音 6:60-69</p> <p>那時候，耶穌的門徒中，有許多人聽了耶穌的講話，便說：「這話生硬，誰能聽得下去呢？」耶穌自知他的門徒，</p>	<p>對他這番話，竊竊私議，便對他們說：「這話使你們起反感嗎？那麼，如果你們看到人子，升到他先前所在的地方，又將怎樣呢？使人生活的是神，肉一無所用；我對你們所講的話，就是神，就是生命。但你們中有些人，卻不相信。」原來，耶穌從開始，就知道那些人不信，和誰要出賣他。所以他又說：「為此，我對你們說過：除非蒙父恩賜的，誰也不能到我這裡來。」從此，他的門徒中，有許多人離開了他，不再同他往來。於是，耶穌對那十二人說：「難道你們也要走嗎？」西滿伯多祿回答說：「主！唯你有永生的話，我們去投奔誰呢？我們相信，而且知道：你是天主的聖者。」——上主的話。講道後默想片刻）</p> <p>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</p>
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 <p>Mike O'Shea <i>Parishioner</i></p> <p>Trusted Senior Sales Consultant for Over 15 years Parishioner Special Guaranteed, very best pricing on all Honda models Phone : (02) 9431 2333 Mobile : 0401 220 878 Email: moshea@scottsgroup.com.au</p>	<p>Advertisement space available Please contact the parish office at 94163702</p>	 <p>ENRICH FINANCIAL ADVICE PTY LTD <small>We focus on building up trust with our clients</small></p> <p>Lisa Lee Master Fin Plan, FPA, Independent Financial Adviser, Director, Parishioner Mobile :0450 868 188 Email: lisa@enrichfinancial.com.au Address: Suite 101. Level 1, 6 Help St , Chatswood. NSW 2067 Service provided: Protection, Wealth Creation, Super Review, Retirement Plan, SMSF.</p>
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Parish Staff and Contact Information

Parish Priest: Fr Colin Blayney

colin@lindfieldkillara.org.au

Assistant Priest: Fr Thomas Alackakunnel VC thomas@lindfieldkillara.org.au 0421 406162

PARISH OFFICE:

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

Parish Secretary: **Philita Marundan:** philita@lindfieldkillara.org.au

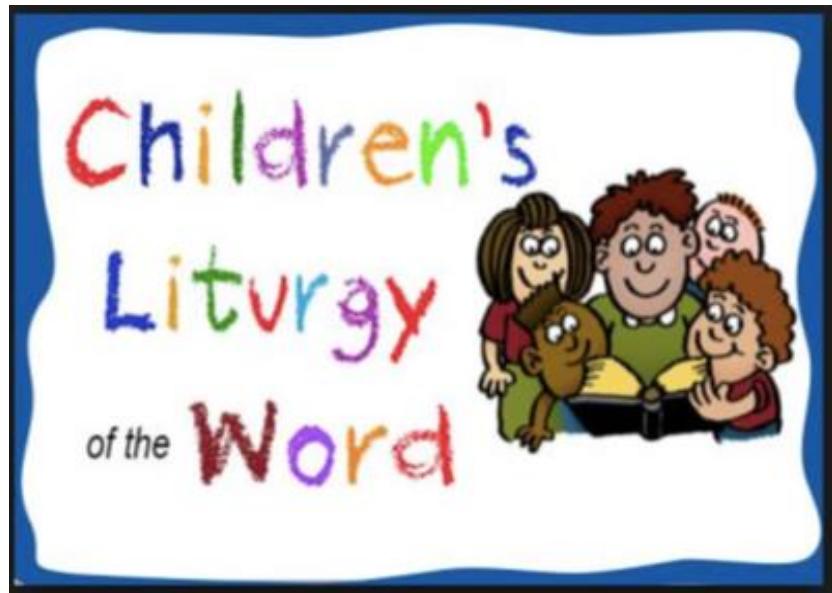
Parish Office Coordinator: **Alison Williams** alison@lindfieldkillara.org.au

Parish Website:	www.lindfieldkillara.org.au
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Saturday		25 Aug	1 Sep
Lindfield	6:00pm	Fr David Strong SJ	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel
Killara	5:30pm	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel	Fr David Strong SJ
Sunday		26 Aug	2 Sep
Lindfield	8:15am	Fr David Strong SJ	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel
Killara	9:15am	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel	Fr David Strong SJ
Lindfield	10:15am	Fr David Strong SJ	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel
Lindfield	12:00noon	Fr. Kelly	Fr Lucas Leung
Lindfield	6:00pm	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel	Fr David Strong SJ

 <p>Comfort Inn North Shore</p> <p>Family owned and professionally operated motel with on-site restaurant</p> <p>Address: 1 Gatacre Avenue, Lane Cove Phone: 02 9427 0266 Email: res@cins.com.au Website: www.cins.com.au</p>	<p>RENOVATIONS & BUILDING MAINTENANCE</p> <p>CHRIS IA CONO <i>Parishioner</i></p> <p>All work large and small <i>Lic 89879c Fully Insured</i> 50 years' experience</p> <p>Mobile : 0412 256 616 Phone : 9416 36 98 chris.iacono@bigpond.com</p>	<p>Henry & Gloria Cheung Parishioners</p>  <p>Serving the Australian Construction Industry for 32 years</p> <p>UNIVERSAL INSTRUMENTS 326 Pacific Hwy, Lindfield NSW 2070 Tel no. 94165335 Fax no. 94161538 E:sales@universalinstruments.com.au</p>
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<p>Lindfield Dental Practice</p>  <p>Dr Peter Chung DDS, MDS, PhD Clinical Assoc Professor</p> <p>Open: Mon-Sat P: 9416 5000</p> <p>Suite 1, 345 Pacific Highway (Scholastic Bldg) Next to Lindfield Medical Practice</p>	<p>Put those you love in the hands of those who care</p>  <p>WN BULL FUNERALS <i>Leaders in Personal Service</i> <i>125 Years</i></p> <p>Sydney 9519 5344 Parramatta 9687 1072 Central Coast 4323 1892 wnbull.com www.wnbull.com</p>	<p>Century 21 NORTHSIDE</p> <p>Jason Roach Licensed Real Estate Agent, Director</p> <p>Parishioner</p> <p>Jason 0448 455 556 or jason.roach@century21.com.au</p> <p>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.</p>
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Dear Parents,

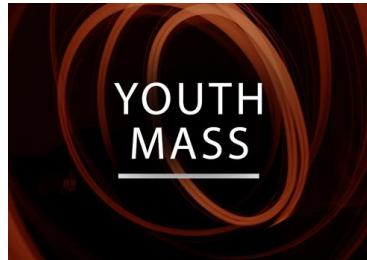
We are in desperate need for more volunteers to help run Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) at the 8:15am and 10:15am Mass each Sunday at Holy Family Church Lindfield.

We have volunteers up to mid-September, but need more help from there onwards. Getting involved is very rewarding and without your help, we may not be able to have the CLOW for the children.

*If you would like to volunteer, please contact our CLOW coordinators, Helen and Richard Martin at:
richardianmartin@yahoo.co.uk or parish@lindfieldkillara.org.au*

PARISH YOUNG ADULTS GROUP

The next gathering for the year takes place **next Sunday 2nd September** 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).



OUR NEXT COMBINED CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH MASS
 will be celebrated again on the second Sunday of the month, **Sunday 9th September**, 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.





Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As much of eastern Australia battles one of the worst droughts it has experienced for many years, the state of Kerala in India is experiencing massive floods with dreadful destruction. Eighteen of our own priests come from Kerala, and so this is a very anxious time for them. I ask that you keep them all in your prayer. The families of two of our priests have been particularly affected. The home of Fr Vincent Chirackalmanavalan Varghese VC was under water for almost four days. Though it has taken some days to make contact with them, Fr Vincent shares with me that his mother and family got shelter on the first floor of their neighbour's house and later they were shifted to rescue camps, of which there are 430 across the state seeking to accommodate over 700,000 people who have been displaced. The family of Fr Tomy Kurevelil CFIC has also been displaced. Water is a metre high in their house and they have sought safety in a hospital. Thankfully, everyone in both families is safe but the damage is very severe. Given the massive damage to infrastructure caused by the flooding and subsequent landslides it will take many, many years for Kerala to recover.

At times such as these we can feel quite powerless to respond in the face of the enormity of the tragedy. Yet, our prayers and heartfelt wishes are with all our brothers from Kerala and all those affected by the enormity of this natural disaster. I would be very grateful if we could also give some thought to how we might offer practical support. Given the generosity of the state of Kerala to us through our wonderful men here, it would be important for us to give something in return at this difficult time.

It will be important that any fundraising is co-ordinated and transparent. However, as a first step, might I encourage you to give attention to the situation in your parishes this weekend, and in so doing to promote the work of Caritas Australia that is currently underway? Caritas India has already conducted rapid needs assessments in the worst affected districts of the state. Four of Caritas India's partners have already responded with immediate food assistance. Emergency water and sanitation (WASH) activities are currently being developed to address need and reduce the potential for disease outbreaks. Therefore, our parishioners may find it helpful to support Caritas Australia's Asia Emergency Appeal online (<https://www.caritas.org.au/learn/emergency-response/asia-emergency-appeal>) or by calling 1800 024 413.

In the meantime, we will continue to monitor the situation of those families of our brothers who are especially affected by the tragedy.

With my appreciation

Fr David

Very Rev Dr David Ranson PP

Diocesan Administrator
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF
BROKEN BAY

T: 02 8379 1614 (Chancery)
diocesan.administrator@bbccatholic.org.au
[2/423 Pennant Hills Road, Pennant Hills](#)
PO Box 340 PENNANT HILLS NSW 1715
www.bbccatholic.org.au



The Plenary Council 2020 is a gathering of the Church in Australia to make decisions for the future. Your voice is important. All people are invited to contribute to the Plenary Council agenda by sharing your experience of faith and of the Church. See plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au for more information.

Preparation for the Plenary Council 2020 begins with *open Listening and Dialogue*. It is the first step to preparing the agenda for the Plenary Council. Your experience of faith and the Church is important. Read about how you can #shareyourstory at plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au.

You are warmly invited to the annual
community
Interfaith Prayer Service
to celebrate UN Int. Day of Peace
11AM - Friday 21st Sept



Many faiths represented - peace prayers

**school choirs sing - a peace bell is rung -
peace candles are lit - all welcome**

A very special annual community event,
hosted by Lindfield Uniting Church (formerly
St David's),
held in the main community hall,
454 Pacific Hwy (Cnr Provincial Rd)
Lindfield Ph: 9416 2106

'ISLAM IN THE MODERN WORLD'
FRIDAY 26 OCTOBER 7.30PM

Speaker: Associate Professor Mehmet Ozalp is a theologian, author & academic, & founding director of the Centre for Islamic Studies & Civilisation (CISAC) at CSU; founder of ISRA Aust providing educational services on Islam & Muslims; & a co-founder of Affinity Intercultural Foundation in 2000, fostering interfaith harmony in Aust.

*'Question Time' * Supper provided afterwards*

*Entry by 2 x gold coins donation **
Everyone welcome RSVP appreciated for seating numbers & refreshments

Hosted by Lindfield Uniting Church, 454 Pacific Highway Lindfield Contact: LUC Office (Jane) 9416 2106 or Malcolm & Noella 9498 8105

(continued from p. 12...) Yes, there are things that can do that, but all of them—fighting chaos, curing diseases, having children, living for others, building things, inventing things, achieving goals, or simply living honest and generous lives—leave us, in an inchoate way, radiating the transcendental properties of God and working alongside God to bring life and order to the world. How so?

Christian theology tells us that God is One, True, Good, and Beautiful. And so, when an artist gives him- or herself over to creating beauty, when a couple has a child, when scientists work to find cures for various diseases, when artisans make an artifact, when builders build, when teachers teach, when parents parent, when athletes play a game, when manual laborers labor, when administrators administrate, when people just for the sake integrity itself live in honesty and generosity, and, yes, even when hedonists drink deeply of earthly pleasure, they are, all of them, whether they have explicit faith or not, acting in some faith because they are putting their trust in either the Oneness, Truth, Goodness, or Beauty of God.

“Lord, to whom else can we go? You have the message of eternal life.” Well, it seems that there are places to go and many go there. But these aren’t necessarily empty places, as is sometimes suggested by misguided spiritual literature, that are wrong and self-destructive. There are, of course, such places, spiritual dead-ends; but, more generally, as we can see simply by looking at the amount of positive energy, love, creativity, generosity, and honesty that still fill our world, those places where people are seeking God outside of explicit faith still has them meeting God.

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

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

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Faye Bartlett of our parish, who died peacefully last weekend. Her family will organise a special mass at Lindfield Parish in the near future. Many thanks for all your love and support of Faye over the decades.

And for: The deceased members of the Finnane, Fenelon, Earley and Marriott Families, Eileen Wade. **Anniversary:** Bill Fenelon, Thomas Wade.

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

REFLECTING ON THIS SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURES

*We have come to believe and are convinced
that you are the Holy One of God.*

TO WHOM CAN WE GO?

"To whom else shall we go? You have the message of eternal life" (Gospel). Peter says these words to Jesus. But they are spoken in a very conflicted context: Jesus had just said something that upset and offended his audience and the Gospel tells us that everyone walked away grumbling that what Jesus was teaching was "intolerable." Jesus then turns to his apostles and asks them: "Do you also want to leave?" Peter answers: "To whom else can we go?" But that's more a statement of stoic resignation than an actual question.

His words function at two levels. On the surface, they express an unwanted humility and helplessness that sometimes beset us all: "I have no alternative! I'm so invested in this relationship that now I have no other options. I'm stuck with this!" That's a humble place to stand and anyone who has ever given himself or herself over in an authentic commitment will eventually stand on that place, knowing that he or she no longer has another practical choice.

But those words also express a much deeper quandary, namely, where can I find meaning if I cannot find it in faith in God? All of us have at some point asked ourselves that question. If I didn't believe in God and had no faith or religion, what would give meaning to my life?

Where can we go if we no longer have an explicit faith in God? A lot of places, it seems. I think immediately of so many attractive stoics who have wrestled with this question and found solace in various forms of what Albert Camus would call "metaphysical rebellion" or in the kind of Epicureanism that Nikos Kazantzakis advocates in Zorba, the Greek. There's a stoicism which offers its own kind of salvation by drawing life and meaning simply from fighting chaos and disease for no other reason than that these cause suffering and are an affront to life, just as there is an Epicureanism that meaningfully grounds life in elemental pleasure. There are, it would seem, different kinds of saints.

There are also different kinds of immortality. For some, meaning outside of an explicit faith, is found in leaving a lasting legacy on this earth, having children, achieving something monumental, or becoming a household name. We might be familiar with the axiom: plant a tree; write a book; have a child!

Poets, writers, artists, and artisans often have their own place to find meaning outside of explicit faith. For them, creativity and beauty can be ends in themselves. Art for art's sake. Creativity itself can seem enough.

And there are still others for whom deep meaning is found simply in being good for its own sake and in being honest for its own sake. There's also virtue for virtue's sake and virtue is indeed its own reward. Simply living an honest and generous life can provide sufficient meaning with which to walk through life.

So, it appears that there are places to go outside of explicit faith where one can find deep meaning. But is this really so? Don't we believe that true meaning can only be found in God? What about St. Augustine's classic line? You have made us for yourself, Lord, and our hearts are restless until the rest in you. Can anything other than faith and God really quiet the restless fires within us?

(continued on p. 11):