

# Catholic Parish of Lindfield-Killara

## Diocese of Broken Bay

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

MASS TIMES:		LINDFIELD:	KILLARA:
	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 <sup>nd</sup> Sun. of month)	
<b>Weekdays:</b>			
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

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**EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME      5 – 8 – 18**

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*This week: Ex 16:2-4, 12-5; Eph 4:17, 20-24; Jn 6:24-35*

*Next week: 1 Kg 19:4-8; Eph 4:30-5:2; Jn 6:41-51*

### Bread.

It's what we take to celebrate the Eucharist.

*It's what Jesus describes himself in terms of in today's Gospel:*

*'I am the bread of life'.*

Bread is the basic staple of life; it represents what we *need* to be alive, in contrast to the many other things we *want* but which may not bring to life what's deepest in us.

In describing himself as bread of life Jesus is saying that he will fulfil those deepest needs in us:

*which is a paradox because in today's world  
so many are so out of touch with themselves  
that they have little contact with what those deepest needs are:*

the quest for prosperity, the diversion of computer games,  
the quick fulfilment of drugs and alcohol,  
the focus on sex at the expense of relationship,  
all serve to keep human beings away from what is deepest within them.

As Jesus offers himself as our bread of life we have to first ensure that we know what true and deep hunger for the things of the Spirit is about. Otherwise he's food that we won't be interested in receiving.      *Fr Colin*

# Youth News ...



Fusion Youth at Lindfield Killara



youth.fusion



youth@lindfieldkillara.org.au

## YOUTH@LINDFIELD KILLARA PARISH

LINDFIELD KILLARA CATHOLIC PARISH

### Youth & Family Mass

Featuring an all-youth choir, warm and welcoming service and a potluck supper after mass. at 5.30pm on the 2nd Sunday every month.

**Fusion**  
youth

The aim of FUSION is to provide a comfortable, welcoming place where teens can get away from the pressures of school life, discover more about their faith and themselves. Meetings are on Fridays once a month.

**Blast**  
youth group

BLAST is for kids in school years 3 - 6. We try to provide fun activities (in a faith context) where kids feel welcome. We meet most months on the second Sunday of the month from 4.00 - 5.30 pm.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS TERM 3

### AUGUST 12

4-5.30 pm **BLAST**

### AUGUST 12

5.30 pm **Youth Mass**  
Supper to follow mass

### AUGUST 17

**Fusion Youth**  
5.30 -7.30pm Years 7,8,9  
7.00 - 9.00pm Years 10,11,12

### SEPTEMBER 9

5.30 pm **Youth Mass**  
Supper to follow mass

### SEPTEMBER 28

**Fusion Youth**  
5.30 -7.30pm Years 7,8,9  
7.00 - 9.00pm Years 10,11,12

YOUTH  
MASS

**OUR NEXT COMBINED CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH MASS** will be celebrated again on the second Sunday of the month, **next Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> August, 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.



## PARISH DIARY : AUGUST

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> Aug.:** Morning tea after 9:15am and 10:15am Mass.

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

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> August:** Enrolment for First Holy Communion opens.

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> Aug.:** Monthly Healing Mass and morning tea at 10am at Killara.

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> Aug.:** Monthly Youth and Children's Mass at 5:30pm at Lindfield followed by dinner in St Brigid's Hall.

**Wed. 15<sup>th</sup> Aug:** Solemnity of the Assumption of Our Lady (Holy Day of Obligation)

**Tues. 28<sup>th</sup> Aug.:** First Communion enrolments close.

## OUR MONTHLY HEALING MASS



Our monthly Healing Mass (including the celebration of the Sacrament of the Sick) will take place as

usual on the second Friday of the month (**THIS Friday 10<sup>th</sup> August**) at **10am in our church at Killara** (no Mass at Lindfield or Killara at the normal Friday times on that day).

Mass will be followed by morning tea in the hall at Killara.

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

## ARE YOU OR IS SOMEONE YOU KNOW

### CONSIDERING BECOMING A CATHOLIC?

The team from our parish RCIA programme will soon begin again the journey guiding and preparing those who wish to become members of the Catholic Church. The process involves a series of meetings in which the various aspects of Catholic faith and life are presented and discussed, and culminates with reception into the Church at Easter 2019. If you are interested or would like further information please call Bill Bye 9498 5459, Jos Beunen 9498 2858 or the Parish Office.



## *Parish Staff and Contact Information*

**Parish Priest: Fr Colin Blayney**

[colin@lindfieldkillara.org.au](mailto:colin@lindfieldkillara.org.au)

**Assistant Priest: Fr Thomas Alackakunnel VC**

[thomas@lindfieldkillara.org.au](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:philita@lindfieldkillara.org.au)

**Parish Office Coordinator: Alison Williams**

[alison@lindfieldkillara.org.au](mailto:alison@lindfieldkillara.org.au)

**Parish Website:**

[www.lindfieldkillara.org.au](http://www.lindfieldkillara.org.au)

*Please see the parish website for full staff contact details.*

## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> September.



**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION PROGRAMME** Enrolments for the preparation programme for First Holy Communion will be open from **this Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> August and close on 28<sup>th</sup> August.** The enrolment process is an online one – please go the parish website ([www.lindfieldkillara.org.au](http://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.

## FROM THE PARISH SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP

### Next Parish Social Justice Meeting - 5 Aug

Please join us on Sunday 5th August from 4.30 – 5.45pm for our next meeting in the parish meeting room underneath the Holy Family church.

Everyone is very welcome. If you are unable to attend but would like to be involved, please email [socialjustice@lindfieldkillara.org.au](mailto:socialjustice@lindfieldkillara.org.au).

 <p><b>Comfort Inn North Shore</b></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: <a href="mailto:res@cins.com.au">res@cins.com.au</a> Website: <a href="http://www.cins.com.au">www.cins.com.au</a></p>	<p><b>RENOVATIONS &amp; BUILDING MAINTENANCE</b></p> <p><b>CHRIS IACONO</b> <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 <a href="mailto:chris.iacono@bigpond.com">chris.iacono@bigpond.com</a></p>	 <p><b>Henry &amp; Gloria Cheung Parishioners</b></p> <p>Serving the Australian Construction Industry for 32 years <b>UNIVERSAL INSTRUMENTS</b> 326 Pacific Hwy, Lindfield NSW 2070</p> <p>Tel no. 94165335 Fax no. 94161538 E:<a href="mailto:sales@universalinstruments.com.au">sales@universalinstruments.com.au</a></p>
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## CHARITABLE WORKS FUND APPEAL



The first Charitable Works Fund Appeal for this Financial Year takes place **this weekend 4/5 August and next weekend 11/12 August.**

Through your donation, you support:

- **Catechists** - Bringing God's love to nearly 20,000 students in State Schools
- **Hospital Chaplaincy** - Providing care to Catholic patients in hospital
- **St Lucy's School** - A school of excellence for children with disabilities K-6
- **St Edmund's School** - A Year 7-12 co-educational special high school for teenagers with a wide range of disabilities.
- **The Ephpheta Centre** - Supporting the Catholic Deaf community in wider Sydney.

We are obliged to meet the quota set for us and so if we don't achieve that quota we have to make up the shortfall from our own parish funds – which of course doesn't help us to achieve our own financial goals.

Please support the appeal generously. **Donations are 100% tax deductible.**

**COULD THE OWNER OF WEEKLY ENVELOPE NO. 528** please contact Alison in the Parish Office (see p.9 for contact info).

**A WELCOME AND THANK YOU** to **Fr Geoff Bugden** who will be celebrating some of our Masses this weekend and to **Fr David Strong SJ** who will be assisting us over the remaining weekends of August.

Saturday		4 Aug	11 Aug
Lindfield	6:00pm	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel	Fr David Strong
Killara	5:30pm	Fr Geoff Bugden	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel
Sunday		5 Aug	12 Aug
Lindfield	8:15am	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel	Fr David Strong
Killara	9:15am	Fr Geoff Bugden	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel
Lindfield	10:15am	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel	Fr David Strong
Lindfield	12:00noon	Fr Lucas Leung	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel
Lindfield	6:00pm	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel	Fr Thomas Alackakunnel

### 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**



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



**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.

## THE PRAYERS AND RESPONSES OF MASS

### GLORIA:

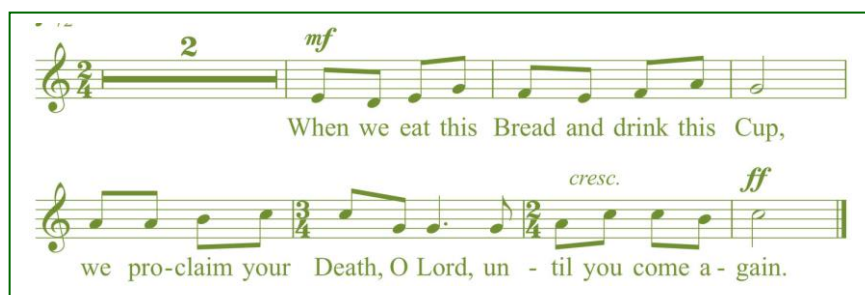
Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.

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:



When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,  
we pro-claim your Death, O Lord, un - til you come a - gain.

*At Masses at which the Psalm is sung the response is: **The Lord gave them bread from heaven.***

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! No one lives  
on bread alone,  
but on every word that comes  
from the mouth of God.  
Alleluia!

### THE PSALM Ps 77:3-4. 23-25. 54

The things we have heard and understood,  
the things our ancestors have told us,  
we will tell to the next generation:  
the glories of the Lord and his might.

The Lord commanded the clouds above  
and opened the gates of heaven.  
The Lord rained down manna for their  
food,  
and gave them bread from heaven.

Mere mortals ate the bread of angels.  
God sent them abundance of food.  
The Lord brought them to his holy land,  
to the mountain which his right hand  
had won.

### RESPONSES TO THE PSALM FOR WEEKDAY MASS :

**Monday:** The Lord is king, the most high  
over all the earth.

**Tuesday:** The Lord will build up Zion  
again, and appear in all his glory.

**Wednesday:** My soul clings to you; your  
right hand holds me fast.

**Thursday:** Create a clean heart in me, O  
God.

**Friday:** Happy the merciful who give to  
those in need.

**Saturday:** You will never abandon those  
who seek you, Lord.

### THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ,  
his only Son, our Lord,  
*(all bow at the following words in bold):*  
**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,**  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended into hell;  
on the third day he rose again from the  
dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand  
of God the Father almighty;  
from there he will come  
to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Holy Catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting. Amen

**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](mailto:catherinecwillis@gmail.com)

**Our Parish SCRIPTURE STUDY GROUP**  
*will not be meeting during August.*

### CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK:

**Mon:** Feast of the Transfiguration of the  
Lord  
**Wed.:** Solemnity of St Mary of the Cross  
**MacKillop**, co-patroness of Australia.  
**Fri.:** Memoria of St Laurence, martyr.  
**Sat.:** Memoria of St Clare of Assisi.

### 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 please contact Rev at [parishrental@lindfieldkillara.org.au](mailto:parishrental@lindfieldkillara.org.au)

### PARISH YOUNG ADULTS GROUP

The next gathering for the year takes place *today Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> August* 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).



## ***Bread for the Soul***

by Beryl Cates

We are more than physical people beginning and ending in the here and now but incarnate spirits, destined to live for ever in the happiness and wonder of life unlimited in God. Spirit animates the body, allowing it express and engage itself with what is of earth. Jesus said, “***It is the spirit that gives life...***” (John 6:64). Spirit charges the brain’s activity particularly when it is in any of its thinking, grieving, intuiting, praying, willing, wondering and dreaming moods. It directs the pen of the writer, the scalpel of the surgeon, the hands of the taxi driver and those of priest and well-wisher tracing the sign of the cross in a blessing. It loves and loves being loved, responds to life’s beauties and absurdities and recognising humour in life moves the whole self to laughter.

Without the spirit’s presence the body is a designer collection of molecules, in themselves unable to feel anything. It is not uncommon to hear our physical, biological, pleasurable sexual activity is primarily of the brain – of the spirit. “***The creative range of spirit is earthed in this relational structure of the sexual body, the point of the aphorism is inescapable***” (Tony Kelly CSsR “Expanding Theology”).

But the physical self is no slouch. The atoms in our bodies have a prehistory which puts the most brilliant author of the wildest imaginative inter-galactic fantasy into the kindergarten class. All we call “creation”, in our planet home and every element in our physical selves, science tells us was forged in the blazing heat of a primal fireball that exploded 20 billion years ago, the *Big Bang*. We are stardust. So heady are our molecules’ astral ancestry, so indescribable their navigation from the reaches of the firmament to us, science itself is dizzy with its discoveries. A scenario more worthy of the boundless creativity of the awesome, limitless Creator God than any human spirit at its imaginative best.

Nature offers its parable of no death only change. A body in its casket to us is “dead”, human life no longer animating it. But every cell is alive and being activated to promote and continue life in creation as surely as the brittle, brown leaves fallen from a tree are becoming life-giving fertiliser invigorating life in grasses, trees and farm crops..

The spiritual saying, ***In life there is death***, should be, ***in death there is life***.

Jesus never dismissed earthly existence as of no account. The gospels tell over and over of his concern and practical help for people afflicted by life’s ills and tragedies. And he said a follower of his will “***go and do the same***” (Luke:10: 37) for others. To do what he lived and taught of “*love of neighbour*” is enlivenment for the soul and its relationship with its Maker.

Jesus chided those following him for their spiritual dullness in not grasping his teaching. He had astonished them by feeding five thousand hungry people with five loaves of bread and a few fish ,and he knew they now clamoured around him, not to hear more about his teaching of “***spirit and life***”, but more free food. They failed to grasp he was ***spiritual bread*** that could nourish their underfed spiritual selves in a way that would open in them a new dimension in living and meaning in dying. The writer of John’ gospel attributes the most profoundly moving and beautiful words in Scripture. to Jesus as ***heavenly bread***. “***I am the bread of life, living bread... Who comes to me will never be hungry... Do not work for bread that cannot last, but work for bread that endures to eternal life.***”

(continued on page 9)



*(continued from page 8...):* It is thought provoking that the fourth gospel, with so many meaningful references to Jesus being the *living bread of life* should have no account of the Last Supper and the words Jesus spoke during that memorable meal. What the evangelist told of that sad, final meal is that before the men took their places, Jesus did something his followers would long remember, and so should we. No slave or servant present, he took the role of one and washed the men's tired dirty feet. There is no mention of anyone in turn offering to wash Jesus' feet. The lesson to servitude is clear.

In today's debate whether divorced and remarried people should receive Holy Communion it is interesting not only did Jesus wash Judas' feet as in John's gospel, but in Luke's account of the Last Supper gave him Holy Communion well aware of his smouldering intent of treachery (Luke 22:62). A priest was once heard say that Judas' sin was *he could not believe he was forgiven*. Forgiveness was there awaiting him make it his own. Always awaiting us no matter how badly we lapse from Jesus ideals and are at our worst. Jesus not only gave Judas Holy Communion but also to Peter and the disciples knowing of their later cowardly desertion of him during his darkest hour.

The Church selects who may or may not approach the priest and his assistants offering "*the body of Christ*" and "*the blood of Christ*" to participants in Eucharistic worship, but if we truly believed what we say we do with our "Amen" who is worthy to receive it anyway? Through our earthly existence we are still, developing, frail, instinctual creatures and few can deny even when we're at our best, there are times when we need the Master's washing and cleansing and that *heavenly bread* to nourish and strengthen us in our human striving towards the destiny that awaits us.

## KEY CHECK



In preparation for our annual insurance review we are checking the key register is in order. If you have been issued a key over the years that starts with code E054 we would be extremely grateful if you could email ([parish@lindfieldkillara.org.au](mailto:parish@lindfieldkillara.org.au)) or phone the office (9416 3702) the rest of the code. We appreciate your volunteer work in the parish.

**PARISH PLAYGROUP** 'Characters Playgroup' meets every **Wednesday** from 10:45am till 12:15pm (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](http://www.trybooking.com/JYKW)

Please contact Sue-Anne for more details:

[sue-anne@lindfieldkillara.org.au](mailto:sue-anne@lindfieldkillara.org.au)

## ACCOMMODATION~THE COTTAGE

The former, and very recently renovated, manse residence on the grounds of Lindfield UC has a vacant partly furnished and fairly large bedroom for rent for \$170 p/w (fully includes electricity). If you are interested, please contact Frank 0432 330 520

# CHINESE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

常年期第十八主日

5-8-2018

讀經一 ( 我要從天上，給你們降下食物。 )

恭讀出谷紀 16:2-4, 12-15

那時候，以色列子民全會眾，在曠野抱怨梅瑟和亞郎，說：「巴不得我們在埃及國，坐在肉鍋旁，吃飽時，死在上主手中！你們領我們到曠野來，是想叫我們全會眾都餓死嗎？」上主對梅瑟說：「看，我要從天上，給你們降下食物；百姓要每天出去，拾取當日所需要的，為試探他們，是否遵行我的法律。「我聽見了以色列子民的怨言。你給他們說：黃昏的時候，你們要有肉吃；早晨要有食物吃飽。這樣，你們就知道，我是上主，你們的天主。」到了晚上，有鵲鴉飛來，遮蓋了營幕；到了早晨，營幕四周落了一層露水。露水蒸發之後，在曠野的地面上，留下稀薄的碎屑，稀薄得好像地上的霜。以色列子民一見，就彼此問說：「這是什麼？」原來他們不知道這是什麼。梅瑟告訴他們說：「這是上主賜給你們吃的食物。」——上主的話。(默想片刻)

答唱詠 詠 78:3-4, 23-24, 25,54

【答】：上主賜給了他們天上的食糧。( 詠 78:24 )

領：凡我們所見所聞的，及我們祖先傳報給我們的，我們都不願隱瞞他們的子孫，且要傳報給後代眾生。【答】

領：上主命令雲彩降下，並開啟了上天之門，給他們降下瑪納，飽飫他們；上主賜給了他們天上的食糧。【答】

領：世人可以享受天使的食糧；上主賜下食物，飽飫他們。上主引領他們，進入他的聖地，到他右手所贏得的山區。【答】

讀經二 ( 你們應穿上按照天主肖像所造的新人。 )

恭讀聖保祿宗徒致厄弗所人書 4:17, 20-24

福音前歡呼

領/眾：亞肋路亞。

領：人生活不只靠餅，也靠天主所說的一切話。( 瑪 4:4 )

眾：亞肋路亞。

福音 ( 到我這裡來的，永不會飢餓；信從我的，總不會渴。 )

恭讀聖若望福音 6:24-35

那時候，群眾發覺耶穌和他的門徒都不在海邊，便上了那些小船，往葛法翁，去找耶穌。當群眾在海的對岸，找到耶穌時，就對耶穌說：「辣彼，你什麼時候到了這裡？」

耶穌回答說：「我實實在在告訴你們：你們尋找我，並不是因為看到了神蹟，

而是因為吃餅吃飽了。你們不要為那可損壞的食糧勞碌，而要為那存留到永生的食糧勞碌，即人子所要賜給你們的，因為他是天主聖父所印證的。」群眾問耶穌說：「我們該做什麼，才算做天主的事業呢？」耶穌回答說：「天主要你們做的事業，就是要你們信從他所派遣來的那一位。」群眾又說：「那麼，你能行什麼神蹟，群眾便說：「主！你就把這樣的食糧，常常賜給我們吧！」耶穌回答說：「我就是生命的食糧；到我這裡來的，永不會飢餓；信從我的，總不會渴。」——上主的話。( 講道後默想片刻 )

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*(continued from p.12...)* Perhaps this can be helpful in our search for what to say to some of our own children and young people who no longer go to church and who tell us that the reason they don't go is that they don't find the Eucharist meaningful. We hear that lament all the time today: "Why should go to church, it doesn't mean anything to me?" That objection is simply another way of saying what young Christian de Cherge said to his mother at his first communion: I don't understand this. Perhaps our answer then could be along the lines of the response of his mother: You don't have to understand now, later you will understand.

The British theologian, Ronald Knox, speaking about the Eucharist, submits this: We have never, he claims, as Christians, been truly faithful to Jesus, no matter our denomination. In the end, none of us have truly followed those teachings which most characterize Jesus: we haven't turned the other cheek. We haven't forgiven our enemies. We haven't purified our thoughts. We haven't seen God in the poor. We haven't kept our hearts pure and free from the things of this world. But we have, he submits, been faithful in one very important way; we have kept the Eucharist going. The last thing Jesus asked us to do before he died was to keep celebrating the Eucharist. And that we've done, despite the fact that we have never really grasped rationally what in fact we are doing. But we've been faithful in doing it because we grasped the wisdom in what Christian de Cherge's mother to her son: You don't have to understand this; you just have to do it.

*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:**

**Recently deceased:** Fr Paul Ryan, Mary (Molly) Watts, Fr Brian Yates, Erika Stanek, Edith ('Dita') Lehel, Peter O'Sullivan. **And for:** Freda Mercer and Thomas Wade.  
**Anniversary:** David Sullivan, William Sullivan, Eileen Wade, Gregory and Mary Wade.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK :** Faye Bartlett, Ida Cameron, 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 ....

*This is the work of God, that you believe in the one he sent.*

### A PRIMAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE EUCHARIST

Christian de Cherge, the Trappist Abbott who was martyred in Algeria in 1996, tells this story of his first communion. He grew up in a Roman Catholic family in France and on the day of his first communion he said to his mother: "I don't understand what I'm doing." She answered simply: "It's okay, you don't have to understand it now, later you will understand."

Jesus, no doubt, must have given his disciples the exact same advice at the Last Supper, at their first communion. When he offered them bread and said, "This is my body," and then offered them wine and said, "This is my blood," they would not have understood. There would have been considerable confusion and bewilderment: How are we supposed to understand this? What does it mean to eat someone's body and drink someone's blood? I suspect that in the face of their non-understanding, like Christian de Cherge's mother, Jesus would have also said: You don't have to understand it now, later you will understand.

Indeed in instituting the Eucharist at Last Supper, Jesus didn't ask his disciples to understand what they were doing, he only asked them to faithfully celebrate it until he returned. Their understanding of what they were doing in celebrating the Eucharist only developed as they grew in their faith. But initially, Jesus didn't ask for much of an understanding, nor did he give them much of an explanation for what he was celebrating with them. He simply asked them to eat his body and drink his blood.

Jesus didn't give a theological discourse on the Eucharist at the Last Supper. He simply gave us a ritual and asked us to celebrate it regularly, irrespective of our intellectual understanding of it. One of his more-explicit explanations of the meaning of the Eucharist was his symbolic action of washing his disciples' feet.

Little has changed. We too aren't asked to fully or even adequately understand the Eucharist. Our faith only asks that we are faithful in participating in it. In fact, as is the case for all deep mysteries, there is no satisfactory, rational explanation of the Eucharist. Nobody, not a single theologian in the world, can to anyone's intellectual satisfaction, adequately lay out the phenomenology, psychology, or even spirituality of eating someone else's body and drinking his blood. How is this to be understood? The mind comes up short. We need instead to rely upon metaphors and icons and an inchoate, intuitive understanding. We can truly know this mystery, even as we can't fully understand it.

During my seminary and academic training, I took three major courses on the Eucharist. After all those lectures and books on the Eucharist, I concluded that I didn't understand the Eucharist and that I was happy enough with that because what those courses did teach me was how important it is that I celebrate and participate in the Eucharist. For all the intellectuality in those courses, their true value was that they ultimately said to me what Christian de Cherge's mother said to him on the day of his first communion: You don't have to understand now, later you will understand. Contained in that, of course, is the fact that there is something profound here that is worth understanding, but that it's too deep to be fully grasped right now.

*(continued on p. 11):*