



We are a welcoming Christian community which embraces all people.
We support each other to grow in faith
and create a loving and compassionate community.
We aspire to live as Christ's witnesses of God's unconditional love.

We are committed to
being a Child-Safe
Community

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

22 - 12 - 24

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH CANDLE OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Celebrant: Lord Jesus Christ, as we gather around this wreath, we ask you to strengthen our hearts with the example of your love that we may receive you with joy and gladness on the day of redemption, when you will come to reign as Universal King for ever and ever.

The fourth candle is lit.

Celebrant: Come, Wisdom of our God Most High, guiding creation with power and love.

All: Teach us to walk in the path of wisdom.

Celebrant: Come, flower of Jesse, sign of God's love for all people.

All: Save us without delay.

Celebrant: Come, Radiant Dawn, splendour of eternal light, sun of justice.

All: Shine on those who walk in the valley of darkness.

Celebrant: Come, Emmanuel, God's presence among us.

All: Save us, Lord our God.

Celebrant: As we draw near to the end of this this Advent season may Almighty God let the light of the Word made flesh shine upon us. May God fill our hearts with joy at the coming of Jesus and lead us to life everlasting. **All:** Amen.

Please join in singing one more verse of the hymn (page 4)

OUR CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Children's Vigil Masses:

Tuesday 24th December

5:30pm at Killara

6:00pm at Lindfield

Mass of Christmas Night

Tuesday 24th December

10:30pm at Lindfield

*preceded by a Service of
Carols at 10:00pm*

Christmas morning

Wednesday 25th December

8:00am at Lindfield

9:30am at Killara

10:15am at Lindfield

*(no evening Mass on 25th
December)*



AND
THE
WORD
BECAME
FLESH
AND
DWELT
AMONG
US.

The Fourth and last Sunday of this beautiful season has always been dominated by the figure of Mary, and by the figure of Mary as a sign of hope. Mary has a crucial importance in our Catholic faith: she is one of us, a model of what God wishes to do in us and a model of what can happen when we respond to God's grace.

The Mary we meet in Advent is Mary pregnant with hope: she is to give birth to God made flesh, to be the bearer of God's life and love to the world. And in that Mary stands as both a sign of hope and a challenge for us: as a sign of hope she reminds us that God's love is lavished on us in Jesus; as a challenge she reminds us that we too are called to be 'God-bearers', to recognise that we are pregnant with God, and that our call through baptism is to bring God to birth in our own lives and the lives of others. Fr Colin

*As we gather in worship on this day we acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which our parish is found.
We pay our respects to Elders past and present.*

TENDERNESS

I was sitting on the airport shuttle early this morning when I read the second reading of vigils, astounded by the immediacy of words written nearly a thousand years ago by that great man and monk, Anselm of Canterbury. How tenderness carries across the centuries! The vocative diminutive 'homuncio' and twice repeated 'aliquantum' are eloquently encouraging. 'Come, little fellow, rise up! Flee your preoccupations for a little while. Hide yourself for a time from your turbulent thoughts. Cast aside, now, your heavy responsibilities. Put off your burdensome business. Make a little space free for God; and rest for a little time in him. Enter the inner chamber of your mind; shut out all thoughts. Keep only thought of God, and thoughts that can aid you in seeking him. Close your door and seek him. Speak now, my whole heart! Speak now to God, saying, I seek your face; your face, Lord, will I seek. And come you now, O Lord my God, teach my heart where and how it may seek you, where and how it may find you.'

Bishop Eric Varden ocso

A QUICK WORD ON OUR PARISH FINANCES BEFORE WE ALL DISPERSE ON HOLIDAYS AFTER CHRISTMAS....

Firstly, a word of thanks to those who considered the bulletin articles in recent times regarding taking up 'Planned' Giving, in the sense of setting an annual goal for how much can be given in support of the parish, its ministers and its ministry.



With the holiday season upon us we just wanted to gently point out that the parish financial needs don't take a holiday! Staff salaries, property insurance and maintenance, utilities and much more still make their call on our income.

So, just a little request to consider using the various electronic means (see page 6) available to continue supporting our parish while you're away.

Thank you all for your support of our parish.

And if you're going on holidays have a wonderful (and safe) time.



Flowers for our two churches for Christmas

We want to make our two churches beautiful for the celebration of the Lord's birth but the cost of the flower arrangements isn't small!

If you would be able to contribute towards the cost of the flowers for Christmas either:

- contact the Parish Office
- transfer the funds to our Lindfield-Killara Church Account (BSB 062 784 Ac 10000 1623), and put as the reference 'Christmas Flowers'.

THE SACRAMENTS FOR THE CHILDREN IN 2025



The dates and details for the for the preparation and celebration of First Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Holy Communion in 2025 are now available on our parish website:

(www.lindfieldkillara.org.au) at:

Sacraments → Children's Sacraments

(Please note that we now have the finalised date for Confirmation and it is available at the above location).



It is a long tradition of the Church to hold a Jubilee Year every twenty-five years (the last one was the Great Jubilee of the year 2000, celebrating the second millennium of the Incarnation). A tradition drawn from the Old Testament, it was intended to be marked as a time to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation, and involved the forgiveness of debts, the return of misappropriated land, and a fallow period for the fields. Jesus announced his own mission in the synagogue at Nazareth as he quoted the prophet Isaiah: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor..... to proclaim **a year acceptable to the Lord**," (Luke 4:18-19; cf. Isaiah 61:1-2). Jesus lives out these words in his daily life, in his encounters with others and in his relationships, all of which bring about liberation and conversion.

We have now set up a special section of our parish website (www.lindfieldkillara.org.au) which can be accessed via one of the hotlink boxes on the homepage. It provides some introductory insight into the Jubilee and how it can be part of our lives and discipleship. The page will continue to evolve. Please visit it often.

Food for the spirit³

MARY AS A MODEL OF FAITH

Picture the scene: Jesus has just impressed a crowd, when a woman, probably a mum, shouts out: "You must have had a wonderful mother?" Jesus responds something to this effect: "Yes, I had a wonderful mother, though in ways you don't imagine. She was wonderful not because she gave me biological birth, all mothers do that. What made her a great mother is that she gave me birth in the faith."

Here, as in others places, we have to be careful to understand what Jesus is really telling us about his mother. We see places in the gospels where he seemingly does not speak highly of her when in fact the reverse is true. For example, the instance when he is approached and told, "your mother is here, trying to see you," and he answers, "who is my mother?" Then, pointing to the people sitting around him he says, "Those who hear the word of God and keep it are mother and brother and sister to me." Is Jesus distancing himself from his mother here? No.

He's pointing out the real link between them, namely, among all the people in the gospels, Mary is the pre-eminent example of the one who hears the word of God and keeps it. For this reason, more than because of biological motherhood, Jesus claims her as his mother. Giving birth to Christ is something more than biological. Moreover, it's also something we're asked to do. How?

Looking at how Mary gave birth to Christ, we see that it's not something that's done in an instant. Faith, like biology, also relies on a process that has a number of distinct, organic moments. What are these moments? What is the process by which we give birth to faith in the world?

First, like Mary, we need to get pregnant by the Holy Spirit.

We need to let the word take such root in us that it begins to become part of our actual flesh.

Then, like any woman who's pregnant, we have to lovingly gestate, nurture, and protect what is growing inside us until it's sufficiently strong so that it can live on its own, outside us. This process, gestation, as we know, is often accompanied by nausea, morning sickness, and a stretching of the flesh that permanently scars the body.

Eventually, of course, we give birth. What we have nurtured and grown inside of us must, when it is ready, be given birth outside. This will always be excruciatingly painful. There is no painless way to give birth.

Birth, however, is only the beginning of motherhood.

Mary gave birth to a baby, but she had to spend years nurturing, coaxing, and cajoling that infant into adulthood. The child in the crib at Bethlehem will be the Christ who preaches, heals, and dies for us. Every mother needs to give birth twice, once biologically and once in faith, once to an infant and once to an adult.

Finally, motherhood has still one more phase. As her child grows, matures, and takes on a personality and destiny of its own. The mother, at a point, must ponder (as Mary did). She must let herself be painfully stretched in understanding, in not knowing, in carrying tension, in letting go. She must set free to be itself something that was once so fiercely hers. The pains of childbirth are often gentle compared to this second wrenching.

All of this is what Mary went through to give Christ to the world: pregnancy by the Holy Spirit; gestation of that into a

(continued on page

CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES



are available on the pews in both our churches.

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

Please support the Christmas Offerings. The envelopes can be placed on the plates along with the normal collections over the next weeks.

Alternatively, you can use the QR code on p.6: click in the space under 'Biller Code' and in the drop down menu which appears select 'Christmas/Easter Offerings'.

LINDFIELD CHURCH—AUDIO AND VISUAL SYSTEM

Many thanks to all those generous people who have contributed towards this cause. The great news is that we now have sufficient funds and the work will be done as soon possible. Many many thanks. *Fr Colin*

UPDATE ON WEEKDAY MASS

We welcome Fr Stephen back from his holidays and hope that he has had a refreshing break.

This week therefore our parish weekday Mass programme and the Ordinariate weekday programme return to normal (with the exception of course of Wednesday with its special Christmas timetable).

This week's weekday programme is printed as usual on page 6.



PARISH OFFICE HOURS OVER THE CHRISTMAS ~NEW YEAR PERIOD

The Parish Office will close at 1pm on Christmas Eve and will re-open at 9:30am on Thursday 2nd January.



PARISH ACTIVITIES TAKE A BREAK

As usual, many of our parish activities take a rest during January (not sharing in the Sunday Eucharist though!): amongst the activities have a rest are Children's Mass and COG, pot luck dinner, Scripture study, Healing Mass, and Book Group.

Hymns for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

ENTRANCE HYMN: O come, O come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O day-spring, come and cheer
our spirits by your advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night
and deaths dark shadows put to flight. **Refrain**

The fourth candle is lit (see page 1)

We join in singing one more verse of the hymn:

O come, desire of nations, bind
in one the hearts of human kind.
Bid eve'ry sad division cease,
and be yourself our Prince of Peace. **Refrain**

From the Great O Antiphons, c. 12th cent.

DEDICATION OF THE GIFTS: BLESSING SONG

1. We bless you Lord for this gift of bread
Fruit of the earth work of human hands
By your word this gift is made
The bread of life given for all.
Bless'd be our God forever more.

2. We bless you Lord for the gift of wine
Fruit of the vine work of human hands
By your word this gift is made
The bread of life given for all.
Bless'd be our God forever more.

3. We bless you Lord for all gifts of life
We work with them to make the world with you
By your word all things converge
All formed in Christ all made anew.
Bless'd be our God forever more.

Mark Arnold © 1970, BB Diocese

COMMUNION: COME TO THE WATER

Refrain: Come to the water! You who are thirsty!
Though you have nothing, I bid you come!
And be filled with the goodness I have to offer!
Come! Listen! Live.

Why spend your money on what cannot fill
The emptiness deep in your heart?
Listen to My word and you will enjoy
Goodness and peace in your heart!

Just as the heavens are high above earth;
My ways and thoughts beyond you!
Call me your Father and know I am near!
I will be Father to you!

Just as the rain falls to water the earth;
Just as a seed becomes bread
My word upon you can never return
Until My longing is filled!

*Frank Anderson © 1979, Chevalier Music. **

RECESSIONAL: TELL OUT MY SOUL

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
Tender to me the promise of his word;
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his Name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
His mercy sure, from age to age to same;
His holy Name - the Lord, the Mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
To children's children and for evermore!

*Words ©1962. Renewal 1990 Hope Publishing Company **

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Hymns for the Children's Mass

ENTRANCE: O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

Same as ENTRANCE HYMN above

DEDICATION OF THE GIFTS: WE BRING TO YOU

We bring to You (we bring to You)
our gifts today (our gifts today)
of bread and wine (of bread and wine)
You share with us (You share with us)

Chorus: We lift our voice to sing for You
We praise Your name in every land
Jesus my friend you lived for us

The things I do (the things I do)
I bring to You (I bring to You)
The gifts I share (the gifts I share)
because of You (because of You) (**Chorus**)

The love I share (the love I share)
for those that care (for those that care)
The times I work (the times I work)
the times I play (the times I play) (**Chorus**)

*John Burland ©1996, Ovation Music Services***

COMMUNION: OPEN MY EYES

Open my eyes Lord, help me to see Your face
Open my eyes Lord, help me to see
Open my ears Lord, help me to hear Your voice
Open my ears Lord, help me to hear
Open my heart Lord, help me to love like You

Open my heart Lord, help me to love
I live within You, deep in Your heart, O Lord
I live within You, rest now in me

*Jesse Manibusan ©1988, OCP.***

RECESSIONAL HYMN: RAINBOW

Red and orange, yellow and green
Blue and indigo and violet and me
Side by side, together we grow,
Underneath God's beautiful rainbow.

Red is for Your spirit of love
Seven gifts from God above
Orange for the warmth of Your sun
Shining down on everyone.

Yellow is the colour of faith
The light of Christ in every day
Green is for the life you give
A call to grow, a way to live.

Blue is for the sky and sea
Gifts from God for you and me
Indigo is in between
A colour of God's gentle peace.

Violet calls us all to forgive
Together we grow, together we live
Side by side and hand in hand
Together we grow, together we can.

*Andrew Chinn ©2004, Butterfly Music***

*We abstain from the joyful words of
the Gloria
during these days of Advent
as we prepare our hearts
and our community
to celebrate once again the birth of the
Lord Jesus*

THE PSALM Ps 79 (80): 2-3, 15-16, 18-19

O Shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help.
God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted.
May your hand be on the one you have chosen,
the one you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name.

**CAN YOU PLAY KEYBOARD/PIANO?
You wouldn't have to do it all the time!**

Our wonderful combo for the 6pm Youth Mass on Sundays needs an occasional helper on the keyboard—no more than once a month, if that. If you could help in this way please contact Fr Colin (0475 558500; colin@lindfieldkillara.org.au).

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in 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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Luke 1:38)

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

**FR RICHARD ROHR OFM'S MEDITATION:
BORN ANEW**

Anglican hermit Maggie Ross describes an experience of God's indwelling presence:

December is the season of Advent, the time of expectancy, of hushed hearts and quiet waiting. And though many Christians don't make too much of her, it is the season of Mary.... One day I had my own annunciation. The raked winter sun was streaming through the east window of the hermitage, illuminating various items stuck on the rough sawn wall, including a little icon of our Lady of Guadalupe....

As the angled shaft of light set the icon on fire ... I realized that the angel was greeting not only her but also me; that the intimacy of bread made God and God made Bread was possible only because of her obedience; that sacrament is the earthly and tangible culmination of her yes and our yes to participate in the fact of the Incarnation.

Annunciations are events of infinite and immense silence, for all that the Gospel records of conversation. The walls or scenery push back, become transparent to reveal all that is, was, will be, and then converge within.

That morning I came to understand that it is by baptism that we say, "Be it unto me according to your Word," to bear that Word by the power of the Holy Spirit, and to bring it to fruition in our lives. It's difficult to describe the impact of sunlight on a piece of printed paper stuck to fibreboard, and the insight may seem obvious, but it shook me to the heart.

Inspired by a Gospel passage about being "born again" (John 3:1-21), Ross recognises how she is born anew through her yes to God's invitation:

I took another step when the story of Nicodemus was read at the Eucharist the morning I was to leave for retreat at a Cistercian abbey. His question, "How shall this be?" awoke the echoing voices of Mary and Zechariah, of Abraham and Sarah's laughter over God's preposterous proposal that he at a hundred years, and she in her nineties would bear a son....

To bear the Word, to enter the kingdom, we must indeed be born from the Spirit, not for the second time in the womb of our natural mothers, but continually in the love of the Mother of God that brought forth her son, and like her, in the same movement, to bear Christ as well. Mary, then, is my mother in this second birth, just as she is for Nicodemus.

That my heart is still not big enough to encompass this paradox I readily admit. I still feel unease about Mary sometimes.... But if nothing else, Mary has taught me to say yes: as Abraham and Sarah said yes, as Elizabeth and Zechariah said yes, as Jesus said yes to the cup that did not pass from him.

And each time that cup is passed to me at the Eucharist, I look into its depths beyond the dark wine shimmering gold and, trembling, I say, "yes."

SUNDAY MASS

Killara Church :

5:30pm Vigil 9.00am

Lindfield Church

6.00pm Vigil 8.30 am 10.15am **

12 noon Chinese Mass 6:00pm Youth Mass*

* On the 3rd Sunday of the month (except January) the 6pm Youth Mass is followed by a Parish Pot Luck Dinner in St Brigid's Hall.

** The 10:15am Mass on the 2nd & 4th Sundays is a Children's Mass, featuring our Children's Choir (followed by morning tea).

WEEKDAY MASS THIS WEEK**FOURTH WEEK IN ADVENT THEN CHRISTMASTIDE**

Mon: 8am Killara

Tues. 8am Killara

Wed. Christmas Day (see page 1)

Thur.: 10am Lindfield Christmas Octave - Feast of St Stephen

Fri.: 10am Lindfield Christmas Octave - Feast of St John

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays for 15 mins after Vigil Mass at Killara

Saturdays 5.15 - 5.45pm at Lindfield

**THE ORDINARIATE OF OUR LADY OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS
(GATHERING IN OUR CHURCH AT KILLARA):****Mass**

Thursday 9am Friday 9am Sunday 12 noon

Evensong

4th Sunday of the month 4pm

SUNDAY MASS ROSTER

| Saturday | | 21 Dec. | 28 Dec. |
|-----------|----------|-----------------|------------------|
| Lindfield | 6:00 pm | Fr Colin | Fr Stephen |
| Killara | 5:30 pm | Fr Joey | Fr Colin |
| Sunday | | 22 Dec. | 29 Dec. |
| Lindfield | 8:30 am | Fr Colin | Chatswood priest |
| Killara | 9:00 am | Fr David Strong | Fr David Strong |
| Lindfield | 10:15 am | Fr Colin | Fr Stephen |
| Lindfield | 12:00 pm | Fr David Ranson | Chatswood priest |
| Lindfield | 6:00pm | Fr Colin | Fr Stephen |

CHRISTMAS MASSES**LINDFIELD****KILLARA****CHRISTMAS EVE EVENING:**

| | | |
|---|--|--------------------|
| Children's Vigil Mass | 6:00pm: Fr Colin | 5:30pm: Fr Joey |
| Mass of Christmas Night (early 'Midnight' Mass) | 10:30pm: Fr Colin, with Fr Stephen (preceded by a Service of Carols at 9:55-10:30pm) | |

CHRISTMAS MORNING:

| | | |
|---------------------|------------|----------|
| 8:00am (NOT 8:30am) | Fr Colin | |
| 9:30am (NOT 9am) | | Fr Colin |
| 10:15am | Fr Stephen | |

Ways that you can support our parish

- ◆ **DIRECT DEBIT CONTRIBUTIONS** from your bank a/c:
1st Collection: (providing for the priests of the parish & retired & sick clergy of the diocese):
BSB 062 784 Ac 10000 1624
- 2nd Collection:** (providing for all the operating costs of the parish):
BSB 062 784 Ac 10000 1623
- CREDIT CARD:** scan this code & then select each of our two collections:



- ◆ **PERIODIC PAYMENTS FROM YOUR CREDIT CARD:** just click on the hotlink box entitled 'Supporting parish finances' on our homepage (www.lindfieldkillara.org.au) or email accounts@lindfieldkillara.org.au for assistance.
- ◆ The **TAP MACHINES** are available in our two churches.

HOW TO CONTACT US

Fr Colin Blayney, Parish Priest

colin@lindfieldkillara.org.au

0475 558 500

Parish Office Hours: Closed till 2nd January**Postal address:** PO Box 22, Lindfield NSW 2070**P:** 94 16 3702**E:** parishoffice@lindfieldkillara.org.au**Parish Website:** www.lindfieldkillara.org.au**Fr Stephen Hill, Priest-in-residence E. fr.stephen@me.com****P. 0474 303 261 (VOICE only—no SMS)***For all of our staff click on 'Our Parish' on the website.***Holy Family School: 4 Highfield Rd, Lindfield****E info@holyfamily.nsw.edu.au****Ph.7256 2141****OUR CHINESE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY****將臨期第四主日 22.12.2024****讀經一**

(將由白冷出生一位統治以色列的人。)

恭讀米該亞先知書 5:1-4

上主這樣說：「厄弗辣大白冷！你在猶大郡邑中，雖是最小的，但是，將由你為我出生一位統治以色列的人；他的來歷源於亙古，遠自永遠的時代。」

因此，上主必將遺棄他們，直到孕婦生產之時；那時，他弟兄中的遺民，必將歸來，與以色列子民團聚。他必卓然屹立，以上主的能力，及上主、他天主之名的威權，收牧自己的羊群。

他們將獲得安居，因為他必大有權勢，直達地極。他本人將是和平！

——上主的話。(默想片刻)

答唱詠 詠 80 (79):2-3, 15-16, 18-19

【答】：天主，求你復興我們；請顯示你的慈顏，好拯救我們。(詠 80:4)

領：以色列的牧養者，懇求你留心細聽。坐於華魯賓之上者，求你大顯光榮。求你發顯你的威能，快來作我們的救星！【答】

領：萬軍的天主，求你領我們回去；求你從高天之上，垂視而憐恤！求你常看顧這葡萄樹，及你右手種植的園圃；保護你所培養的小樹。【答】

領：願你右手扶持你右邊的人，並扶助你所堅固的子民！從此，我們再不願意離開你；請賜我們生存，為能傳揚你的名。【答】

讀經二

(我已來到，為承行你的旨意。)

恭讀致希伯來人書 10:5-10

姊妹弟兄們：

為此，基督一進入世界便說：「犧牲與素祭，已非你所要，卻給我預備了一個身體；全燔祭和贖罪祭，已非你所喜，於是我說：看，我已來到！關於我，書卷上已有記載：天主！我來為承行你的旨意。」

前邊說：「祭物與素祭，全燔祭和贖罪祭，已非你所要，已非你所喜」——這一切都是按照法律所奉獻的；後邊他說：

「看，我已來到，為承行你的旨意」。由此可見，他廢除了那先前的，為要成立那以後的。我們就是因這旨意，藉耶穌基督的身體，一次而為永遠的祭獻，得到了聖化。——上主的話。(默想片刻)

福音前歡呼 (路 1:38)

領：亞肋路亞。

【眾】：亞肋路亞。

領：看！上主的婢女，願照你的話，成就於我吧！

【眾】：亞肋路亞。

福音

(我主的母親瑪利亞，這是我那遲得來的呢?)

恭讀聖路加福音 1:39-45

瑪利亞就在那幾日起身，急速往山區去，到了猶大的一座城。她進入匝加利亞的家，就向依撒伯爾請安。

依撒伯爾一聽到瑪利亞請安，胎兒就在她的腹中歡躍。依撒伯爾於是充滿了聖神，高聲說：

「在女人中，你是蒙祝福的，你的胎兒，也是蒙祝福的。我主的母親，駕臨我這裡，這是我那裡得來的呢？看，你請安的聲音，一入我耳，胎兒就在我腹中，歡喜躍躍。那信了由上主傳於她的話必要完成的，是有福的。」

——上主的話。(講道後默想片刻)

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中文主日彌撒 正午 12 時

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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 gift of eternal life for Lisa Ford who died during the week. The Funeral Service for Lisa will be held in Holy Family Church on Mon. 30th December at 11am.

Recently deceased: June Mercer, Owen McCormack, Mohtaram Lahooti, David Handley. **Anniversary:** John Quirk, Henry Yee Joy, Mollie Curtin, Robert Thornton, Peter John Jarvis. **And for:** deceased members of the Curtin, Rolfe, Hughes and Egan families.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK: Bev Gledhill, Diane McGirr, Mary Moran, Peter Tsang, Wolfgang Liers, Tanya Walsh, Jutta Mathur, Jessica Keen, Therese Playoust, Ali Crawford, Morna Sutherland, Barbara McMullen, Cyril Ferriere, William Wise, Rosanna Comastri, Janette Brennan.

St Vincent de Paul Society ~ Christmas Appeal ~



St Vincent de Paul
Helps People

As the feast of the Lord's birth approaches Advent invites us in a special way to look to our care for those in need. Please support the St Vincent de Paul Society Christmas Appeal. Donations \$2 and over are tax deductible.

Envelopes are available in the church foyers.

OR you can contribute by scanning this QR code:



INVITATION TO THE PEOPLE OF GOD IN BROKEN BAY

Bishop Anthony invites everyone in our Diocese of Broken Bay to join him on the Feast of the Holy Family, next Sunday 29 December, for 9.30am Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara to officially mark the beginning of the 2025 Holy Jubilee.



MARY AS A MODEL OF FAITH

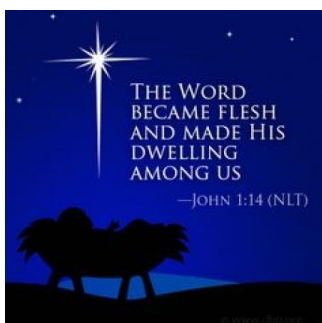
(continued from page 3...):

....child inside of her; excruciating pain in birthing that to the outside; nurturing that new life into adulthood; and pondering, painfully letting go so that this new life can be its own, not hers. When the woman in the crowd told Jesus, "You must have had a wonderful mother!" his answer had precisely this in mind. Mary certainly was a wonderful mother, but in ways that went far beyond the simple fact of motherhood. She heard the word of God and kept it. That obedience, more than biological motherhood, gave both an infant Jesus and an adult Christ to the world.

And in this, Mary wants imitation not admiration: our task too is to give birth to Christ. Mary is the paradigm for doing that. From her we get the pattern: let the word of God take root and make you pregnant; gestate it by giving it the nourishing sustenance of your own life; submit to the pain that is demanded for it to be born to the outside; then spend years coaxing it from infancy to adulthood; and finally, during and after all of this, do some pondering, accept the pain of not understanding and of letting go.

Christmas isn't automatic. It can't be taken for granted. It began with Mary, but each of us is asked to make our own contribution to giving flesh to faith in the world.

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



A THOUGHT ON THE MASS OF CHRISTMAS NIGHT.....

One of the most beautiful things in the treasury of our Church is the tradition of the Mass of Christmas Night - celebrated either at Midnight itself or late in the evening on Christmas Eve.

'The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light.' Advent reminds us of something that's true of all life - that we search for God sometimes in darkness, sometimes full of our uncertainties. We discover God in that darkness - we glimpse those moments of light & peace which enable us to continue on the journey.

The timing of the Mass of Christmas Night is beautiful. Our gift to God is to stay awake on this great feast till those still night hours, that time of deep darkness which symbolises the darkness in which we wait for God to enter our lives. And then the celebration of the light of God's coming is even more symbolic: light and joy break into the stillness and darkness of that night hour. It's a beautiful way to keep vigil and to usher in the celebration of the birth that changes the world. We do it at a time free from all the frantic preparations of Christmas Eve and before the busyness of Christmas Day itself.

Please try to come along to the beautiful celebration of the Mass of Christmas Night this Christmas - at 10:30pm in Lindfield church on Christmas Eve (preceded by a Service of Carols from 10:00pm). Mass will be concluded by 11:30pm and you can be tucked up in bed before midnight! *Fr Colin*



Merry Christmas!

Wishing all our youth at Lindfield-Killara parish a very joyful and blessed Christmas and New Year!

See you next year!



Please contact Kate at youth@lindfieldkillara.org if you'd like to know what's coming up in 2025

DID YOU KNOW?

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON STARTS ON DECEMBER 25TH AND GOES UNTIL JANUARY 12TH (THE FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD)!

THE MEANING OF THE FIRST 4 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS IN THE FAMOUS SONG ARE:

ON THE FIRST DAY OF CHRISTMAS MY TRUE LOVE SENT TO ME...

A PARTRIDGE IN A PEAR TREE - JESUS CHRIST

2 TURTLE DOYES - OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS

3 FRENCH HEENS - THE THEOLOGICAL VIRTUES (FAITH, HOPE & LOVE)

4 CALLING BIRDS - FOUR GOSPELS (MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE & JOHN)

CHILDREN & YOUTH PERMISSION FORM FOR PARTICIPATION

If you haven't completed the form for your child(ren) already, please scan the QR code to sign-up, or enter below link on your browser thank you:

<https://lindfieldkillara.chmeetings.com/forms/CBF1EE1F12CD9BDD>

SIGN UP NOW!



COG FEEDBACK



https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfRY1KVmIQFkRMah1nxxhz_OXqsj3aUbEP0CG-Ec2VKca6K9A/



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