



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

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE BIRTH OF THE LORD CHRISTMAS DAY

25 - 12 - 24



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

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

But in fact Christmas is all about what it is to be human:

'The Word became flesh':

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

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

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

Christmas isn't a 'nice' feast, but we make it so.

But it is a joyful feast: the joyful feast that God became all that we are.

Fr Colin

WELCOME

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

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

WEEKDAY MASS THIS WEEK

THE DAYS AFTER THE 25TH - THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS

Only Christmas and Easter have an Octave - eight days which count liturgically as One Great Day. Please try to come to weekday Mass to celebrate the great Christian feast of the Lord's birth - and after the Octave we continue with the remainder of the Christmas Season until the feast of the Epiphany on Sunday 7th January.

Thurs. 26th Dec 10:00am at Lindfield (Feast of St Stephen)

Friday. 27th Dec. 10:00am at Lindfield (Feast, St John, apostle)

Next weekend 28th/29th December - the Sunday within the Octave - is the celebration of the Holy Family - a feast with the rank of 'Solemnity' in our parish as it is the patronal feast of one of our two Parish Churches.

Mon. 30th Dec 8:00am at Killara (Sixth Day in the Octave)

Tues. 31st Dec. 8:00am at Killara (Seventh Day in the Octave)



One of the special feast days of this Christmas Season is the greatest and the most ancient of the feasts of Mary - 1st January, New Year's Day: (the Solemnity of Mary as Mother of God).

New Year's Day is the Octave Day of Christmas and celebrates Mary's role in our salvation: that it was through her acceptance of God's call and placing herself at the service of God that the Word was made flesh in and through her. As such this feast celebrates Mary as our model as she challenges us likewise to be 'mothers of God' bringing Jesus to birth in our world through our own lives.

Mass will be at 10:00am in Lindfield church.

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

Food for the spirit:

In Dark of Night and Winter Cold

The Christmas story has been told so often.

Mary giving birth in the dark of night and cold of winter; the newborn baby, vulnerable, fragile; the birth in the stable, because no one would give the mother any better room.

It is a study in contrasts, isn't it? There is darkness in the night, and yet the radiance of God's love is in the child. The winter is cold, but the baby brings the fire of God's love to earth. The baby is so small and helpless; and yet he is The Word, who in the beginning is God and was with God.

The humble animals surround the child, but the angels of God sing his birth. The child is poor and lowly in origin, and yet all the power of God is his. The stable is lowly, but it is the king of kings who is born into it.

Why is the story like this? Why did the Messiah come as a baby? Why didn't he come as an adult? Why did the Word of God become incarnate as so poor and humble a person? Why wasn't he incarnate as the Emperor of Rome? For that matter, why was he born in winter? And at night?

Why wasn't the Messiah born on a mild May morning?

The answer lies in us, I think. We ourselves are a study in contrasts. We are dark and cold. The darkness in our lives, the coldness in our hearts, makes us a winter to ourselves. And yet there is a longing in each one of us that will not be still. We hunger for light and warmth—in others, in ourselves, in God. We yearn for love, but we also resist it.

We yearn, and we wrap ourselves in coldness again, so that we will not be seduced by the lure of love. We fear that for us the reality is only winter and night.

But who could feel threatened by a newborn in a stable? Whose cold heart is proof against a helpless child? And so, in the dark of the night that we are and in the winter of our hearts, the baby is born. The light shines in our darkness. We can let it in.

Eleonore Stump

(from The Centre for Liturgy, University of St Louis)

A HUGE THANK YOU

to all those who have worked so hard to make our Christmas celebrations special : to our Parish Office staff for all their work in coordinating the preparations for our celebrations; all those who helped to prepare our two churches for our celebrations, our musicians and singers, liturgical ministers, those who coordinated the preparations for our Children's Masses and so many more.

Fr Colin

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).

St Vincent de Paul Society ~ Christmas Appeal ~



St Vincent de Paul
Helps People

The final Gospel of our Church year on the recent feast of the Christ the King carried Jesus' great message 'insofar as you did it - or neglected to do it - to the least of these, you did it - or neglected to do it - to me'.

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.

You can contribute by scanning this QR code:



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

THE PSALM PSALM 97 (98): 1-6

Sing a new song to the Lord
for God has worked wonders.
The Lord's right hand and holy arm
have brought salvation.
The Lord has made known his salvation;
has shown his justice to the nations.
The Lord has remembered his truth and love
for the house of Israel.
All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
Shout to the Lord all the earth,
ring out your joy.
Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp,
with the sound of music.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn
acclaim the King, the Lord.

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

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

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 last 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.

THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all
ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were
made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
(all genuflect at the words in bold)
**and by the Holy Spirit was
incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.**
For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was
buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the
Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of
the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no
end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father &
the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the
prophets.
I believe in one, holy,
catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism
for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward
to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come.
Amen

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'.

Ways that you can support our parish

- ◆ **BY DIRECT DEBIT CONTRIBUTIONS** from your bank account to our parish accounts:
1st Collection: (providing for Frs Colin & Thomas & retired & sick clergy of the diocese): **BSB 062 784 Ac 10000 1624**
Second Collection: (providing for all the operating costs of the parish): **BSB 062 784 Acct 10000 1623**
OR
- ◆ **CREDIT CARD** : scan this code & then select each of our two collections:
OR
- ◆ **PERIODIC PAYMENTS FROM YOUR CREDIT CARD:** just click on the hotlink box entitled 'Supporting parish finances' on the homepage of our website (www.lindfieldkillara.org.au) **and scroll down to 2i.b. for the form.** or simply email accounts@lindfieldkillara.org.au for assistance.



What's on for the kids, youth and families in 2025?

Children's Mass, with children's choir

is celebrated at the 10:15am Mass at Lindfield on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month (except January). If your child would like to join the choir please contact the Parish Office.



Mass is followed by morning tea in St Brigid's Hall above the church - a relaxing cuppa for parents and other parishioners, a time for the kids to relax and play together.

At the same time - straight after Mass - 'COG' ('Children of God'), our group for the young children gathers with our Youth Minister and helpers in 'The Basement', the meeting room under the church.

Youth Mass

The Sunday evening 6pm Mass at Lindfield is a Youth Mass EVERY week, with its great music and choir, and is now always be at the same time of 6:00pm.



On the third Sunday of each month however we have something special - Mass is followed by a Parish Pot Luck Dinner in St Brigid's Hall above the church: a simple but fun meal together which still allows you to have the kids home by 7:30pm.

Altar serving

A wonderful way to serve God and the community while having a birds-eye view of what's happening at the altar!

All children who have received their First Holy Communion are welcome to be trained as an Altar Server. Please contact the Parish office.



And check the Youth hotlink box on our homepage (www.lindfieldkillara.org.au) for more updates.

COMMUNION: SILENT NIGHT

Silent night, Holy night, All is calm, all is bright.
Round the virgin mother and child
Holy infant so tender and mild.
Sleep in Heavenly Peace. Sleep in Heavenly Peace.

Silent night, Holy night, Shepherds quake at the sight:
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing Alleluia.
Christ the Saviour is born. Christ the Saviour is born.

Silent night, Holy night, Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams your holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth. Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

RECESSIONAL:

1. Joy to the world!
The Lord has come
Let earth receive her King
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heav'n and nature sing.
And heav'n and nature sing
And heav'n and heav'n
and nature sing

2. Joy to the earth!
The Saviour reigns;
Let us our songs employ;
While fields and floods,
rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy

3. He rules the world
with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love
And wonders, wonders of His love.

HYMNS FOR CHRISTMAS MORNING MASSES:

ENTRANCE:

O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him
born the King of Angels:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord

God from God, Light from Light,
here in the Virgin's womb, he deigns to lie;
Son of the Father, Begotten, not created: **R.**

Sing choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God in the highest: **R.**

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning
Jesus, to you be glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; **R.**

DEDICATION OF THE GIFTS:

Hark! the herald angels sing,
glory to the newborn King,
peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.

Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."

Hark! the herald angels sing,
glory to the newborn King.

Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold Him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, th'incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus our Emmanuel!

Hark! the herald angels sing,
glory to the newborn King!

Hail, the heav'n-born prince of peace!
Hail, the Sun of righteousness!

Light and life to all He brings,
ris'n with healing in His wings.

Mild He lays His glory by,
born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.

Hark! the herald angels sing,
glory to the newborn King!

