

# Bellerive - Lindisfarne Catholic Parish

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Fr Fidelis Udousoro

Dear Parish Family,

What a wonderful celebration of Confirmation we were privileged to be part of on Tuesday evening. Our young people literally glowed: the excitement and joy in their faces was beautiful to see, along with a reasonable dose of nerves as evidence of the importance of this occasion. One of the wisest insights about the experience and process of the initiation of children is that "they may forget the information you give them, but they will never forget how you made them feel." I saw ample evidence that these children were feeling loved, supported, welcomed and valued and this experience will stay with them forever. My thanks to the Sacramental Team whose tireless efforts, supported by many volunteers, enabled the preparation to be as engaging and enjoyable as it has been. Thanks also to Kath Hogan for leading the music on Tuesday and to Joan Shackcloth and her helpers for their work in co-ordinating the supper. The journey continues towards First Eucharist and a life of faith, hope and love beyond that.

That phrase "they will never forget how you made them feel" carries a dark and haunting truth when considered in the light of the abuse of children. What beautiful, precious and innocent souls they are, and abuse of any kind leaves a permanent scar on their deepest self. From this most challenging truth which is understood so much more widely now than ever before, we address the issue of Safe Communities. There is much media attention and angst given to the change of the secular law concerning the Seal of the Confessional. This is one of a number of recommendations made by the Royal Commission, and so the various governments of Australia would be remiss not to follow through on this recommendation. It attracts this attention, I believe, because power and secrecy are the two primary ingredients for the abuse of children, and these are both central to the practice surrounding the Confessional Seal. I believe this is an opportunity, even an invitation of the Holy Spirit bringing light into this darkness, for us as a church to revisit how we celebrate and experience God's gift of forgiveness

There are also other more significant recommendations of the Royal Commission which we as a church must embrace which will impact on the church in positive ways. These include issues of governance and transparency, including the selection of bishops, participation of lay men and women in decision making as well as issues around the formation, ongoing support and supervision of priests. Many of these developments will enhance the life of our church and help create healthier and more empowered communities of faith.

Blessings to you and yours for the week ahead,  
Fr Richard

**Emergency Flood Relief** Heavy monsoon rains have caused extensive damage in several countries across Asia with deaths through landslides, flooded homes as well as crops and livelihoods destroyed. Br Michael Lynch, Director of Salesian Missions, said he has received requests for urgent assistance for emergency relief in Cambodia, Myanmar and India. Donations are tax deductible and may be sent to Salesian Missions Australia, PO Box 264 Ascot Vale, Vic, 3032, ph 9377 6014 or via [www.salesianmissionsaustralia.org.au](http://www.salesianmissionsaustralia.org.au) Donated funds will be transferred to the Don Bosco Salesians in these areas so they can provide the urgently needed items to minimise the spread of disease and assist those who have been affected.

**Kevin Dunn – International Pro- Life Filmmaker**, will speak on the topic of *Living, Dying and the Power of Presence*, from 7-9pm on Wednesday August 28 at St Mary's Cathedral Centre. For more information about the event please contact Ben Smith on 6208 6036 or [ben.smith@aohtas.org.au](mailto:ben.smith@aohtas.org.au). For information on Kevin see: [www.kevindunn.info](http://www.kevindunn.info) .

## The "Why" of L'Arche

The L'Arche Hobart community (Beni-Abbes) is delighted to invite you to a session with Eileen Glass AM on the topic: "The Why of L'Arche". Eileen has deep knowledge and experience of L'Arche. She was one of the founders, over 40 years ago, of the first Australian L'Arche community in Canberra. Eileen was also instrumental in establishing L'Arche as a National organisation, and for five years was Deputy Leader of L'Arche International. Venue: Josephite Mission and History Centre, 67 Clare St, New Town 11 am to 2 pm, Saturday 24 August. \$10 per head. Tea/coffee/juice and cheese/fruit platters provided. For catering purposes an RSVP would be appreciated. Phone 6228 3920 or email [hobart.leader@larche.org.au](mailto:hobart.leader@larche.org.au)

You are invited to come and hear **Robert Falzon, co-founder of menALIVE**, discuss "Into The Breach" at **Holy Rosary School, 29 Wyndham Rd, Claremont** (next to St Bernard's Parish Church) at **7:30 am on Saturday 31st August**. Come and enjoy some singing, inspiration, fellowship, and breakfast. Perhaps stay on for Mass at 9:00 am. (Please bring a friend). To assist catering, **please RSVP:** by return email or phone Duncan MacFarlane 0400 095 807 or phone Martin Stone 6223 8132 H

**Evangelium Conference:** held by the Archdiocese at Claremont Parish on Friday night and all day Saturday, August 30-31. The speakers will present practical ideas we can implement in our parishes, families, and schools, to help lead people to encounter Jesus Christ and his Church. **Cost:** \$65 per person. **Information & Registration:** <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/evangelium-conference-tas-tickets-61614281976> or call Diana Bachelor on 6210 8805.