



Catholic Parish of Lower North Shore

Serving the communities of

St Leonard's Naremburn, St Philip Neri Northbridge, St Thomas' Willoughby
Twinned with the Parish of Letefoho, Timor Leste

We wish to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we gather, the Cammeraygal and the Wallumedegal peoples. We respectfully acknowledge their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, as we continue the journey of Reconciliation.

Parish Priest

Rev Fr Brian Moloney PP

Assistant Priests

Rev Fr Tomy Kuruvelil CFIC
Rev Fr Vincent Musindalo AJ

RNSH Chaplain

Rev Fr Andrew Mutubusi AJ

Parish Office

182 High St, Willoughby
P: 9958 8846
E: office@lins.org.au
www.lins.org.au

Parish Office Hours

Mon-Fri: 8:30am - 3:00pm

Parish Secretaries

Caitlin Douglas
Katrina Chemello

Sacramental Co-ordinator

Jessica Bousimon

Parish Bookkeeper

Dorothy Tomagra

Director of Liturgical Music

Lisa Lewis

Catechist Co-ordinator

Kristy Komadina

St Leonard's Church

Cnr Donnelly & Willoughby Rds
Naremburn

St Philip Neri Church

224 Sailors Bay Rd
Northbridge

St Thomas' Church

Cnr Horsley Ave & High St
Willoughby

Emergency No:

0408 632 015

St Philip Neri Primary School

67 Baringa Rd, Northbridge
Principal: Fiona Bylsma
9958 7136

St Thomas' Primary School

2 Horsley Ave, Willoughby
Principal: Jenny McKeown
9958 7308

First Sunday Of Lent Year C – 10th March 2019



Dear Parishioners,

The scriptures tell us that Jesus was like us in all things but sin. That Jesus was fully human as well as fully divine. That Jesus did not float a few feet above the ground during his 33 years on this earth but that he was sorely tempted and yet was able always to say no to sin and temptation.

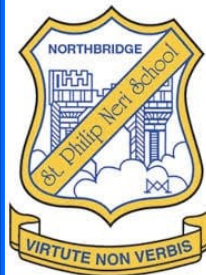
In today Gospel we have the account of Jesus in the desert and the account of his definitive no to temptation, no to sin.

May God's grace be with us all in our desert times, in our times when we find it hard to say no to sin in our lives.

Fr Brian

HOUSE BLESSING DURING LENT

If you'd like Fr Tomy to bless your home during lent please phone or email the Parish Office.



ST PHILIP NERI OPEN MORNING - TUESDAY 12TH MARCH

Catholic Schools Week also marks the commencement of our enrolment period for 2020. Our **St Philip Neri Open Morning will be held on Tuesday 12th March (Week 7 from 9:15am - 10:30am)**. This is an opportunity for parents considering enrolling their child for Kindergarten or any other grade in 2020 to have a tour of our school, meet some of our staff and students and learn more about the wonderful opportunities at St Philip Neri.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...

Recently Deceased: Michael Heffernan & Joseph Tubridy.

Anniversaries: Ana Vrandich, Ante Oreb, Lilian Cheeseman, M.Sutantijo & Mate Perdija

Repose of the Soul: Maria Teo, Florence Smith, Bob O'Connell
Elizabeth Mary Williams & George Bradley.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON *Cf. Ps 90:15-16*

When he calls on me, I will answer him;
I will deliver him and give him glory,
I will grant him length of days.

FIRST READING *Dt 26:4-10*

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

The confession of faith of the elect.

Moses said to the people: 'The priest shall take the panner from your hand and lay it before the altar of the Lord your God. Then, in the sight of the Lord your God, you must make this pronouncement:

"My father was a wandering Aramaean. He went down into Egypt to find refuge there, few in numbers; but there he became a nation, great, mighty, and strong. The Egyptians ill-treated us, they gave us no peace and inflicted harsh slavery on us. But we called on the Lord, the God of our fathers. The Lord heard our voice and saw our misery, our toil and our oppression; and the Lord brought us out of Egypt with mighty hand and outstretched arm, with great terror, and with signs and wonders. He brought us here and gave us this land, a land where milk and honey flow. Here then I bring the first-fruits of the produce of the soil that you, Lord, have given me." You must then lay them before the Lord your God, and bow down in the sight of the Lord your God.'

PSALM *Ps 90:1-2. 10-15. R. v.15*

(R.) Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High and abides in the shade of the Almighty says to the Lord: 'My refuge, my stronghold, my God in whom I trust!' **(R.)**

Upon you no evil shall fall, no plague approach where you dwell. For you have commanded his angels, to keep you in all your ways. **(R.)**

They shall bear you upon their hands lest you strike your foot against a stone. On the lion and the viper you will tread and trample the young lion and the dragon. **(R.)**

His love he set on me, so I will rescue him; protect him for he knows my name. When he calls I shall answer: 'I am with you.' I will save him in distress and give him glory. **(R.)**

SECOND READING *Rom 10:8-13*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The confession of faith of the believers in Christ.

Scripture says: The word, that is the faith we proclaim, is very near to you, it is on your lips and in your heart. If your lips confess that Jesus is Lord and if you believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, then you will be saved. By believing from the heart you are made righteous; by confessing with your lips you are saved. When scripture says: those who believe in him will have no cause for shame, it makes no distinction between Jew and Greek: all belong to the same Lord who is rich enough, however many ask for his help, for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Mt 4:4*

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

GOSPEL *Lk 4:1-13*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus was led by the Spirit through the wilderness where he was tempted.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit through the wilderness, being tempted there by the devil for forty days. During that time he ate nothing and at the end he was hungry. Then the devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to turn into a loaf.' But Jesus replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone.'

Then leading him to a height, the devil showed him in a moment of time all the kingdoms of the world and said to him, 'I will give you all this power and the glory of these kingdoms, for it has been committed to me and I give it to anyone I choose. Worship me, then, and it shall all be yours.' But Jesus answered him, 'Scripture says: You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.'

Then he led him to Jerusalem and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God', he said to him 'throw yourself down from here, for scripture says:

He will put his angels in charge of you to guard you, and again: They will hold you up on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.' But Jesus answered him, 'It has been said: You must not put the Lord your God to the test.' Having exhausted all these ways of tempting him, the devil left him, to return at the appointed time.

A LETTER TO THE PEOPLE OF GOD

from the Very Reverend Dr David Ranson Diocesan Administrator.

Letters are available at the rear of the church from Fr David, reflecting on the events of last week.

READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

MON: Lev 19:1-2,11-18; Mt 25: 31-46

TUE: Is 55:10-11; Mt 6:7-15

WED: Jonah 3:1-10; Lk 11:29-32

THU: Esther 14:1,3-5,12-14; Mt 7:7-12

FRI: Ezek 18:21-28; Mt 5:20-26

SAT: Deut 26:16-19; Mt 5:20-26

The Light is
ON for you



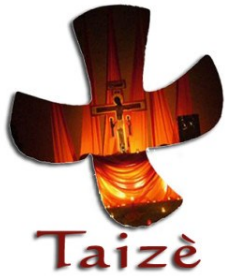
Each Friday during Lent we will be having Stations of the Cross followed by Reconciliation. St Thomas' Willoughby 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th, March, 5th & 12th April from 7pm

BAPTISMS THIS WEEKEND

St Thomas'

Alexandra Lane

Latest News...



TAIZÉ FOR LENT

The Combined Churches of Northbridge Taizé Service Sunday March 17th 7:30pm. **Hospitality from 6:30pm in Hall.**

Please join with us for a beautiful, quiet time of prayer and song during this Lenten season 2019

Venue: Northbridge Uniting Church
Gunyah Street, Northbridge

Everyone most welcome, please bring a friend.

E: Lorna lornaandjohn.fitzsimons@gmail.com

Or P: 9958 8789

DISCERNING DISCIPLESHIP IN BROKEN BAY *(edited extract from February BBN)*

As thousands of submissions Australia-wide are processed by the National Centre for Pastoral Research, we as the People of God in Broken Bay will seek to dedicate ourselves to a Year of Discernment, to discover together the concrete path that God is calling us on as individuals and as a community of Christians.

Discernment is an everyday habit of Christian life and involves our ongoing quest for God who is actively at work in our Church and world, sometimes inspiring and at other times disruptive of our plans.

Throughout this year, our Office for Evangelisation will make available opportunities to enter into this spiritual exercise of discernment, to keep before our eyes the mission of Jesus and to discern how God is asking of us to respond in Australia at this time

INVITATION TO ATTEND THE PARISH OF LETEFOHO 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS ON 16 JULY 2019

On behalf of Fr Helio Fernandes, Parish Priest of Our Lady of Mt Carmel Letefoho, all members of our Parish community and supporters of our works in Timor Leste are invited to join Fr Brian on a trip to Timor Leste to celebrate the 25th anniversary of our twin Parish.

This will be a memorable celebration and opportunity to experience Timorese culture and hospitality. Come and see how the projects supported by our Parish have transformed the lives of our Timorese brothers and sisters. Witness how people with a thriving faith and spirited sense of community work together to overcome their many challenges. Sponsors of students from Our Lady of Mt Carmel High School in Letefoho will have an opportunity to meet and spend time getting to know their students.

The trip will encompass the 25th anniversary celebrations on 16 July 2019. The length of the trip can be varied to suit individual needs and commitments. We estimate the cost will be under \$2,000 per person including flights and on-the-ground costs in Timor Leste such as guides, transport, meals and accommodation.

If you are interested in joining the trip or would like to know more or attend an information session, please contact Paul Arblaster at p_arblaster@yahoo.com.au or 0411 255 382.



YOUTH NEWS

By popular vote the next Youth group gathering on the **17 March will be Club Games!**

There'll be games - Fast Bingo, Fast Trivia Pursuit and Fast Pictionary, **from 4pm St Leonard's Hall. For more information call**

the Parish Office 9958 8846.

Thank you Lisa, Fr Vincent, Adeline, the children in the choir, the band and especially those who served our Mass last night. You were amazing. Thank you.

The mass was a beautiful expression of youth and of our supportive community to pull together in music and faith. Given how few in numbers we were, the church was vibrant with the joy of being young in Christ.

The energy was extraordinary - I saw our youth proud to be Catholics last night. Yes, I will even say; I saw a miracle being born, a resurgence of Catholic hope in our troubled times - it was wonderful.

Dear Parents and Carers, Fellow Parishioners

Our children are looking to us to guide them through their Catholic faith, they are searching and asking questions trying to find their place in the world. It is our responsibility, not their school, or their teachers, or their priest to guide them through our faith. They are our children and we must take the time to guide them ourselves.

I'm going to ask you a question. In 10 years time will you and your children remember what you did on your busy Sunday? Or will you look back and wonder where did your time together go...

Would you not like the opportunity to grow in love with your children on Sunday? Create memories your family will treasure? Give your children a sense of belonging to something greater than themselves? Give your children the confidence to choose right from wrong?

It's not the priest that make our Catholic Church, it's our communion in Christ, for the children, please, let us join together in prayer, and fill our heart with the joy of being the children of God, now and forever. In Christ we trust.

Anna-Volunteer Youth Coordinator



ST CANICE'S KITCHEN LNS PARISH OUTREACH PROGRAM THIS WEEKEND!

DONATE MONEY: If you are unable to cook or help on the day **please collect a St Canice's envelope from the church foyer & place in any of the Parish collections this week.**

PARISH CONSULTATION

All Parishioners are invited to fill out a Parish Needs Assessment form, outlining what you think the Parish needs are when looking at the Best Use of the Naremburn site. This is the first and most important step in collecting the wisdom of the local community about what any future use of the site should provide. Forms can be emailed to Fr Brian at the Parish Office, E: office@lms.org.au

WEEKEND MASSES	CHURCH	CLERGY 16 & 17 March
Sat 5:00pm	St Philip Neri	Fr Vincent
Sat 6:00pm	St Thomas'	Fr Tomy
Sun 8:00am	St Thomas'	Fr Brian
Sun 9:00am	St Philip Neri	Fr Tomy
Sun 9:30am	St Thomas'	Fr Brian
Sun 10:30am	St Leonard's	Fr Vincent
Sun 6:00pm	St Leonard's	Fr Brian
Sun 4:00pm	RNSH	Fr Andrew

WEEKDAY MASSES	CHURCH
Mon 9:00am	St Thomas'
Mon 9:15am	St Philip Neri
Tue 9:00am	St Thomas'
Tue 9:00am	St Leonard's
Wed 9:00am	St Thomas'
Wed 9:15am	St Philip Neri
Thu 9:00am	St Leonard's
Thu 9:00am	St Thomas'
Thu 1:00pm	RNSH
Fri 9:00am	St Thomas'
Fri 9:15am	St Philip Neri
Fri 1:00pm	RNSH
Sat 9:00am	St Thomas'
Sat 9:00am	St Leonard's

CHILDREN'S BAPTISM
St Leonard's Church: 12:00noon
 4th Sunday of the month
St Philip Neri Church: 12:00noon
 2nd Sunday of the month
St Thomas' Church: 10:45am
 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month
NO BAPTISMS DURING LENT

BAPTISM PREPARATION
7:00pm Parish Office
2nd & 3rd Tuesdays of the month
 Forms are available from the back of each Church, or our website.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY
St Philip Neri Church -9:00am Mass
 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sundays
St Thomas' Church - 9:30am Mass
St Leonard's Church - 10:30am Mass

HOME ROSARY
 Friday 15th March, 7:30pm
 34 Dalleys Rd, Naremburn
 If you would like to host a Home Rosary please call
 Cecilia 0466 961 240

MEMORIAL PLAQUES AT ST THOMAS' CHURCH
 If you would like to purchase a memorial plaque for a loved one, please contact the Parish Office.

ADORATION
 Tuesdays after 9:00am Mass at St Thomas' Willoughby concluding with Benediction at 10:30am. **School Term**

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M:0432 210 343
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MASS WITH ANOINTING OF THE SICK
9:00am - St Thomas'
 1st Fri of the month
9:00am - St Leonard's
 3rd Sat of the month

RECONCILIATION
St Leonard's Church
 Sat: 9:30am - 9:45am
St Thomas' Church
 Sat: 5:15pm - 5:45pm
St Philip Neri Church
 Sat: 4:45pm

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ASH WEDNESDAY 6 March 2019 Fr David Ranson

Many years ago, amongst the Wurrundjerri people in Victoria, as it was most likely was with other Aboriginal peoples, it was the sacred task of the women in the tribe during the grey, wet winter months to carry the fire. Fire meant life. In the drizzle and the damp of the winter months, it was, of course, not possible to start fires at every new camp-site. The fire had to be carried. This was achieved by maintaining hot coals in shell cones bartered from the coastal people, like the Bunbarong. Upon setting up camp, the coals could be enflamed into life. It is not difficult to imagine what a vital and important duty it was to carry those shells with the coals inside them, carefully and with a great sense of responsibility.

At times, those coals must have looked like nothing but ash. The challenge to breathe life into the embers must have seemed almost impossible. We can imagine the anxious hope those women must have experienced as they looked for the tiniest spark that could be coaxed into a glow and then into a fire so that their family and kin might have light and warmth and sustenance. The ashes that mark the beginning of Lent for this year, the charcoal that we are place on our head, are surely the sign of how most of us feel in the wake of the disturbing events of last week when such a senior figure of our Church as Cardinal Pell has been found guilty of sexual assault.

This development has turned our own confidence into ash. We are left with the ash of fear, the ash of anger and bitterness, the ash of resentment and regret, the ash of hurt and pain, the ash of shame, the ash of loneliness. We are burnt, perhaps even scorched. We feel the desolation of the bush after a mighty fire has raged through it, and all seems lost, pointless, in the aftermath. We are left dazed, confused, wondering how on earth can anything be rebuilt. And do we even want to?

This is a Lent as perhaps we have never experienced. Yet, this is the season by which its very invitation strips us of our pretences, and our illusions, and our defences, so that we might live with hearts more open in a self-giving to one another. As the German martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, the call of Jesus when he encounters us is, "Come and die." We die to something in order to rise to something. We cannot follow Jesus without being prepared to die. Something must die if we are to follow him. And what must die? What must die is a life lived in the "illusion of self-sufficiency," to quote from Pope Benedict several years ago. What must die is a life that is guarded, defended, self-protected. What must die is a life enclosed in on itself, a life that places self-preservation and self-promotion as the means to happiness.

In the way of Jesus, happiness can only be achieved when we forget about ourselves – even for a moment – yes, even when, and especially when, everything would have us turn inside ourselves and enclose ourselves in protection and defence, and when we become alive to the needs of the one who stands before me. Our future lies in the freedom to be able to listen to another, and the freedom to give myself to others. Freedom is never the experience of freedom from something. Christian freedom is always a freedom for something – ultimately the freedom to be able truly to love, and to be able to continue to make those decisions to love, to hope, and to trust even in the face of all that would threaten to negate such choices. In so doing, we turn away from the places of captivity in our life and turn towards the places which liberate our hearts. We turn from what holds us in the grip of fear and stretch out to the horizon of possibility; we turn from the somnolence that covers our days like a pall and we awaken to fresh energy and purposefulness. We say 'no' to that which leads us into the pain of isolation and say 'yes' to that which offers the prospect of communion with others. We turn from death to life.

This is a pathway into vulnerability and through our vulnerability into a radical hospitality to one another. For it is when our vulnerability has become a place of hospitality then we have entered the saving mystery of Jesus' life and mission. This is such a paradox at the centre of the Christian perspective. It is such a difficult prospect, as difficult as taking up a cross upon our shoulders and dying. Lent, therefore, is not just a time to wallow in our ashes. Lent is the time to stand before the desolation of the fire that has ravaged our hopes and our confidence, and to wonder at how we might rebuild. It is a time to sift through the ash to look for the spark of fire which is still there. We look for the coal that is still warm, that still contains the glow. Where is the spark that still glows amidst the ashes? How do we keep breathing life into this glowing coal, so that from it many fires can yet still be sparked?

That spark of fire is our hope, our desire to keep moving forward, what remains of our dream, our trust, our courage, our faith. Lent urges us to retrieve this spark and to kindle it anew. That coal we protect, we keep working with until it springs a flame; we fan it. This is the true significance of repentance. We are guardians of a dream still burning within the coals we carry. The dream of Jesus of Nazareth - fire for our world, purifying and warming fire. A dream nurtured and maintained by our constant vigilance over it; its coal kept burning by our attentiveness to its promise. But just as coals won't keep alight on their own, we can never presume the vitality of this dream we nurse. Sometimes, painfully and all too late, we discover that the maintenance of the hot coals requires that we must sacrifice all that would make us forget them. This is the invitation of the Spirit given to us in such dramatic fashion this Lent in the face of our shock and distress at recent events and our community's reaction to them. If we can enter the possibility of Lent for which the symbol of ash is central, then the flame which bursts forth on Easter night in six weeks' time will have profound meaning for us. It will be the sign of the fire rekindled from the ashes in our life: the Fire of the Risen Christ which, even as the shadows encircle it, no darkness can extinguish. We will need that Fire as we move through the subsequent winters of our life as a community of Catholic Faith to warm and sustain us. May those women of ancient years in our land teach us in our own time of Lent our responsibility and our possibility.

We, the people in the pews, can reclaim our broken church



Lay Catholics are shell-shocked but it's up to them, not the Vatican, to rebuild their shamed institution, writes **Jim Barber**.

On Sundays at 8am, you can find me at Mass about halfway along the third pew from the front. I sit with the same small number of people every week. I don't pretend to speak for these people, but I do speak as one of them. There are no lawyers among us, no bishops, theologians or clergy.

Could I respectfully suggest that we heard quite enough from them during the five years of the royal commission? We have also heard the horrifying tales of those who endured abuse at the hands of the church.

Yes, just about everyone touched by this abuse scandal has now been heard, except for those of us who sit in the pews week in and week out. The fact is that no one has asked us what we think or feel about the royal commission, despite the fact we *are* the church, or so we are told by our priests and bishops. I'm told that rank-and-file Catholics like us can have our say at the forthcoming Australian Plenary Council in August 2020, but I find myself wondering why it's happening so long after the royal commission, how representative it will be and how much influence it will have if it really does represent the rank and file.

In the meantime, I draw comfort from an Old Testament story that Jews and Christians recount. It's the tale of God's plan to lay waste to the town of Sodom for certain unspecified sins. Abraham objected and pressed God to declare how many virtuous people it would take for Him to spare the place. God initially proposed 50 but Abraham beat him down to 10. Truth be told, God ended up nuking Sodom anyway, so I presume the virtue count never did reach double figures. Still, it's comforting to think God might be

willing to spare the sinful many for the sake of the virtuous few.

According to the royal commission, 4444 allegations of sexual abuse were levelled against 1880 church officials between 1950 and 2010. Even acknowledging these are allegations, not proven cases, and allowing for some possible double counting, the sheer volume of complaints should be sufficient to convince any reasonable person of the extent of the church's crimes.

As a former Jesuit scholastic, I was naturally appalled by these revelations. I was flabbergasted. In all my years associating with Catholic clergy, not only did I never hear of child sexual abuse, but the very thought of it never occurred to

me. Many will not believe that, but it's the truth nonetheless. I admire the bravery of parents Chrissie and Anthony Foster, policemen Denis Ryan and Peter Fox, and the many well-known and little-known Australians who spoke up for survivors long before anyone in

authority would listen to them.

But there is another group of secondary victims for whom the general public has little or no sympathy. These are the vast majority of priests and the religious who never touched a child inappropriately and, I'd wager, never imagined such a thing. No doubt they, like the rest of us, have done things of which they are ashamed. But they have put their hand to the plough, they are pressing on as best they can. Not that you will hear many community leaders stand up and say anything like this. The politicians who

rush to remind us not to judge entire minority groups by the criminal behaviour of a few have been missing in action when it comes to innocent clergy.

Nor is it just politicians who have gone missing. I recently contacted a number of priests responsible for the pastoral care of other priests to see if there was anything I could do to help. Only one of them was willing to speak to me. As a priest and lifelong friend of mine explained: "They're all gun shy; they just want the whole thing to go away so things can go back to the way they were."

That's impossible now. It's time to end clericalism and experiment with new, more inclusive forms of church governance and ministry. I have no clear image of what the new church should look like, only that it must not be left to the bishops and Vatican heavyweights to decide. If the royal commission taught us Catholics anything, it is that now is the time for those who sit in the pews to reclaim their church.

Why, I ask myself, do we tolerate canon laws that enshrine parish priests at the pinnacle of decision-making power and relegate parish councils to advisory roles? And why do we allow the Vatican to dictate what we are permitted to talk about, as happened when Pope Benedict forbade Catholics even to discuss female ordination? Speaking of which, in a church dominated by women, why is the female voice still so marginalised?

Despite everything, I know that decent Catholics, lay and religious, will continue to turn up and place their trust in God. To all those innocent Catholics, I say, hang in there, God is on record as saying he won't wreck the joint if he finds 10 virtuous people among you. I know for a fact there are a lot more than 10 of you out there.

Jim Barber, a former Jesuit scholastic and university vice-chancellor, is CEO of the Polytechnic Institute Australia and executive director of PIA Global.

There is another group of victims, the priests who never touched a child.