



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

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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

3rd Sunday Of Lent Year C – 24th March 2019



Dear Parishioners,

Today's Gospel reminds us that God does not give up on us when we fail. Human beings have a limit to how many times we can forgive but we know that our God is a God of infinite mercy.

Our Gospel with the parable of the Fig Tree is a story of hope for another year. A hope that maybe next year we will bear fruit, that we will use the opportunities that come our way to more brightly shine in our faith lives.

Fr Brian

HIGHLIGHTS OF PARISH MISSIONARY COUNCIL (PMC) MEETING 6 MARCH 2019

Most of the meeting was spent discussing the first drafts of some of the Ministry Descriptions that were presented. After much discussion about the Ministry Description template, in light of the completed descriptions, the meeting agreed to complete the assigned tasks in time for the next PMC meeting on April 3rd. The aim is to complete this work in time to present to the congregation on the first Sunday of July.

Fr Brian is to invite applications from the congregation to fill the current and impending vacancies on the PMC. The first invitation appeared in last week's parish bulletin.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...

Recently Deceased: Betty Hannon.

Anniversaries: Bob Ljubic, Herlien Sutanto, Michael Fossey,
Judy Moran (nee Fahy), Ana Vrandich, Nancy Camilla,
Salvatore Bentivoglio & Norman Thomas Behm.

Repose of the Soul: John Heuston, Florence Smith, Elizabeth Mary Williams
& George Bradley.

Sick: Fr Helio Fernandes.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Cf. Ps 24:15-16

My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

FIRST READING Ex 3:1-8. 13-15

A reading from the book of Exodus

This is what you must say to the children of Israel: I Am has sent me to you.

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said, 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am' he answered. 'Come no nearer' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father,' he said 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God.

And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow.'

Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This' he added 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.'

PSALM Ps 102:1-4. 6-8. 11. R. v.8

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name. My soul give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. **(R.)**

It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. **(R.)**

The Lord does deeds of justice, gives judgement for all who are oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses and his deeds to Israel's sons. **(R.)**

The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy. For as the heavens are high above the earth so strong is his love for those who fear him. **(R.)**

SECOND READING 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

All this that happened to the people of Moses in the desert was written for our benefit.

I want to remind you how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert.

These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer.

All this happened to them as a warning and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Mt 4:17

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! Repent, says the Lord; the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL Lk 13:1-9

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Unless you repent you will all perish as they did.

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.'

He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down."'

The Light is
ON for you



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

READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

MON: Is 7:10-14, 8:10; Heb 10:4-10;
Lk 1:26-38

TUE: Dan 3:25, 34-43; Mt 18: 21-35

WED: Deut 4:1, 5-9; Mt 5:17-19

THU: Jer 7:23-28; Lk 11:14-23

FRI: Hosea 14:2-10; Mk 12:28-34

SAT: Hosea 5:15-6:6; Lk 18:9-14

Latest News...



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.

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

PARISH MISSIONARY COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

The PMC needs some new members. As a parish we strive to have membership of the PMC from each of our 3 faith communities. While we have the full complement from St Thomas community we are in need of **1 new member from our St Leonards community** and **2 new members from our St Philip Neri community**.

PMC members give advice to me as PP of LNS and meetings are from 7.30pm to 9.00pm on a Wednesday evening at Willoughby. There are eight meetings each year (two during each school term).

Qualities needed in a PMC member is an ability to work collaboratively with the other councillors and to be able to look at how the parish as a whole can better serve the pastoral mission as church.

If you or someone you know have these qualities and are available to serve on the PMC please contact the parish office.



LATEST FROM LETEFOHO

Thank you to so many of our Parishioners who have re-sponsored a student of Letefoho to continue their Senior High School attendance at Our Lady of Mt Carmel High School for 2019! This is a tremendous example of commitment to improve the life of others.

We now have only 70 students, including 35 new Year 10 students, who require sponsorship for this year's 12 month's tuition and uniforms. Please see the lists at the back of each church, if you would like to sponsor a student for this year. The cost is \$245. Payment details are included in the folders. For more information please contact Georgina at gcm.lough@gmail.com / 0419280729



FIRST RECONCILIATION 2019

Children across our Parish are midway through their preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The Diocesan Reconciliation Program has selected **Forgiveness & Reconciliation** as the last two concepts to be studied. Children will recognise how making poor choices creates a separation between us and God, however, God's capacity for love and forgiveness is boundless. Candidates will learn that reconciling our relationship with God begins by saying "sorry" and making a decision to change our thoughts and actions.

Our Parish prays for all candidates and their families as they develop and deepen their relationship with Jesus, especially in the coming weeks as the children prepare to celebrate their Reconciliation on **Monday 8th April at St Philip Neri, and Tuesday 9th April at St Thomas**.

BAPTISMS THIS WEEKEND

St Thomas'

Abigail Wilson

St Leonard's

Alessia Overton



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Please join the Italian Community for Stations of the Cross at St Leonard's 7pm – 7.30pm every Tuesday from 12 March through to the 13 April. All welcome! If you would like more information or you need help with transport, please contact Irma 02 9958 2945 or 0437 607 918.

'MEDITATE IN MAY'

How to meditate in the Christian Tradition

4-week Course at the Parish Office

Delivered in 4 sessions. Each 1-hour session covers a different topic and there is time for practice and questions.

Sessions are **Mondays 7:30pm** on the following dates:

6-May; 13-May; 20-May; 27-May.

Enquiries: SMS or call Maximo 0431 996 108

Booking: <https://www.trybooking.com/434714>

WEEKEND MASSES	CHURCH	CLERGY 30 & 31 March
Sat 5:00pm	St Philip Neri	Fr Brian
Sat 6:00pm	St Thomas'	Fr Vincent
Sun 8:00am	St Thomas'	Fr Tomy
Sun 9:00am	St Philip Neri	Fr Brian
Sun 9:30am	St Thomas'	Fr Vincent
Sun 10:30am	St Leonard's	Fr Brian
Sun 6:00pm	St Leonard's	Fr Tomy
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 29th March, 7:30pm
 45 Park 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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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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JOHN WARHURST. Why I am not leaving the Catholic Church

Posted on [13 March 2019](#)

Not only am I not leaving the Catholic church, but I am redoubling my efforts to join with others in making the case for much needed reforms. At heart I believe it is an institution worth working within to improve because it does way more good than harm in Australian society. For me the church is both a community and a formal institution. The twin crises of child sexual abuse and leadership failure by covering it up have certainly shaken my faith in the formal institution part. But while that has been happening my spiritual and social life within the broader Catholic community has remained strong.

I think I'm loyal by instinct, not just in a church setting, and inclined to get involved in organisations for the long haul. The grass is always greener over the other side, but my instinct has always been to play with the cards you have been dealt and to try to make a positive contribution to society in that way. I realise that's very prosaic, but it is part of my character.

To be a Catholic has various meanings for me, including sharing values and friendships with fellow Catholics. At the local and personal level that finds expression in various ways. Within a parish setting my wife Joan and I have been fortunate enough to find respectful and rewarding relations with numerous clergy and to share the admirable faith that shapes fellow Catholics to be community-minded and generous with their time to help others, especially the most vulnerable, through association with Vinnies, Caritas and other networks.

We've also been fortunate enough in recent times to share a monthly discussion group with fellow Catholics from different parishes. This social and intellectual network leads us to question our identity sometimes but also to learn more about both our faith and our church in a 'warts and all' way that can be inspiring but also challenging. Our involvement in the church reform group, Concerned Catholics Canberra Goulburn, grew out of this discussion group.

There is also a very lonely aspect to being Catholic. By and large our closest friends don't share our faith and most of our extended family, with a few notable exceptions, have fallen away from their upbringing and made either a dramatic departure or slowly drifted away. I'm very conscious that younger family members don't share our commitments and understand they have very cogent reasons why they shouldn't. I'm sad that, like dying religious orders, many Catholic families are dying. We will probably be the last.

Catholic role models in academic life are few and far between too. Mainstream universities just don't highlight personal faith. I've had some inspirations though, and it is always a thrill to come across in church fellow academics whose life and work I admire. I've also been involved with Catholic university colleges, seeing their struggles and successes in helping young students to lead more ethical lives.

Alongside my life within the Catholic community the institutional church has granted me opportunities to work alongside many wonderful people at the national board level, mainly in social justice areas. For 25 years now, in three different fields (social justice and human rights, social services and international aid and development) I've accepted these invitations enthusiastically and always been thrilled to be associated with their mission.

I'm now in a position where I'm wearing several different hats. It can be an uncomfortable position, but to my mind intellectually defensible. Nevertheless, I know it could eventually turn out either to be untenable or a complete dead end. If this happens I will either be invited to leave or will walk away, without regrets, not from Catholic life or the local church, but from active participation in the larger institutional church.

This means I'm continuing my work within the institutional church, even taking on new and more senior responsibilities in an official governance review, doing all I can to reform it from within by making it more inclusive, transparent and participatory. For me a non-hierarchical and less clerical church in which lay people, especially women, are treated as equals is non-negotiable.

This is a position adopted by Concerned Catholics Canberra Goulburn, though not without trepidation. We see ourselves as a ginger group within the church, making serious and time-consuming efforts to take advantage of opportunities like dialogue with bishops and make submissions to the Plenary Council 2020, and a lobby group from without trying to press the case in the general community, so shaping the official church indirectly.

Doing it this way has advantages because we can bring our church experiences to bear on all we do. The little power we have is given some extra leverage because we are speaking as insiders. We are, however, still in a position of great weakness. Many of us are doing so with considerable unease and in the likelihood of being greatly disappointed.

Speaking strictly for myself I am 'having a crack' in the great Australian tradition. I'm giving it a go. In doing so I have been greatly buoyed by the explicit and implicit support of so many friends and colleagues as well as complete strangers. I believe there is a greater hunger for church reform among many of my generation of Catholics than is widely recognised. But there is also a great tiredness in the face of past disappointments and what seem like insuperable odds. To many in church authority we are dispensable and surplus to requirements and they are not afraid to tell us that. But we will not be moved.

John Warhurst is an Emeritus Professor of Political Science at the Australian National University and Chair of Concerned Catholics Canberra Goulburn

<https://johnmenadue.com/john-warhurst-why-i-am-not-leaving-the-catholic-church/>

Practice: Seeing a Luminous World

The world is charged with the grandeur of God. It will flame out, like shining from shook foil; . . .

—Gerard Manley Hopkins [1]

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin often used the image of fire for God. As with Moses' experience of the burning bush, the fire invites our reverent attention; it burns without consuming. Teilhard wrote:

. . . the World gradually caught fire for me, burst into flames; how this happened all during my life, and as a result of my whole life, until it formed a great luminous mass, lit from within, that surrounded me. . . . Christ. His Heart. A Fire: a fire with the power to penetrate all things—and which was now gradually spreading unchecked.

[2]

Louis Savary suggests a simple practice to help us see the luminous divine everywhere:

Teilhard encourages us to learn this new way of seeing and promises that as we deeply explore our world with it, we will begin to see how God has "invaded" and "ignited" the universe with a consuming, loving fire. He wants us to be able to see, ultimately, the entire universe as the shining Body of Christ.

God is waiting for you, Teilhard says, to discover the diaphanous divine beauty, not only in the spectacular loveliness of creation on earth or in its ever-expanding vastness in outer space, but also in your daily personal and interpersonal experience.

We learn to develop these new eyes, the same way we learn any art, by ongoing practice. Here is a basic spiritual practice of Teilhardian spirituality. . . .

In order to discover and frequently exercise your new eyes to discern the fire or luminosity within things, start small. Choose one living thing, such as a flower, a bug, a pet, or a baby, and with your imagination picture a kind of glow or luminousness surrounding and penetrating the object of your contemplation. Stay with it for a few minutes, focusing not on the external beauty or complexity of the object but upon the glow surrounding and penetrating it, as if that were its source of life and existence.

Once you learn to do this, the glow or luminosity will develop a life of its own. Then you can move on to another object of contemplation to witness its glowing luminosity.

From time to time, say a word of thanks to this benevolent God who is constantly revealing God's self to you everywhere in creation.