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, who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to this Country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

4th Sunday of Advent year B – 20 December 2020

'SPIRIT HOVERING'

St Luke's account of the Annunciation draws on the Jewish tradition describing creation: 'There was darkness over the deep and *God's Spirit hovered over the water*. God said: "Let there be light", and there was light.' (Genesis 1:2-3) St Luke depicts Mary hearing in the depths of her soul: 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow.'

The Holy Spirit hovers over this young Jewish woman so that the most stupendously creative act in human history can take place. With her consent, God assumes human nature to be gradually enfleshed, embodied, in Mary's womb.

A naturally bewildered young woman was able to respond to God's will because she understood the imagery and the symbolism of the Genesis Story. We, in turn, need to read the Gospels in all their Jewishness so that we can understand when God's Holy Spirit hovers over our lives, asking us to fulfil some particular role in the Divine Plan.

We could pause for a moment to ask whether *now* is the time for a Marian response: 'Be it done unto me according to your word.'

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SUMMER NIGHTS 2021

The Summer Schools of Evangelisation that have been running around Australia for over 30 years have responded to the challenge of COVID, and are combining to run a program for young people at the Mt Carmel Retreat Centre in Varroville in January 2021.

There are two options (the retreat is run twice during the week):
Monday 11 - Wednesday 13 January (3pm to 9pm) &
Thursday 14 - Saturday 16 January (3pm to 9pm)
COVID-safe dinner is provided each day.

For age 16-35 year olds.

The retreat will feature excellent quality talks and teaching, night sessions with praise and worship, drama, preaching, testimonies, and prayer. Mass, adoration and reconciliation are available each day.

It will be held on the grounds of Mt Carmel Retreat centre. A stage will be brought in to hold all the sessions. Run by the Disciples of Jesus Community. For more information and to register: www.summerschool.org.au.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS…

Recently Deceased:	Marcus Manning, Betsy Shannon Moran & Sr Anito Peers RSJ.
Anniversaries:	Odjana Curac (11th), Petar Pavisic, Alice Ho, Ian Brenton Ross Smith,(1st), Norlette Casey, Nuncio Philipi (1st) Lee Gemmell (10th), James Patrick Dalley, Anthony, Kristine & Winona Langford & Laurie Formly.
Deceased:	Guiseppi Parino, Stefano Boccunfuso (80th Birthday).
Sick:	Sebastian John Nicola

Parish Priest
Rev Fr Brian Moloney PP

Assistant Priest
Rev Fr Vincent Musindalo AJ
Rev Fr Philip Thottam MSFS

RNSH Chaplain
Fr Vincent Trung Nguyen

Deacon
Rev Dr. Anthony Gooley

Parish Office
182 High St, Willoughby
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E: office@lns.org.au
www.bbcatholic.org.au/lns

Parish Office Hours
Mon-Fri: 9:00am - 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
Aida Moore

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:
0418 200 109

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

MASS BOOKINGS

- **5PM ST PHILIP NERI OUTDOOR FULLY BOOKED**
- **6PM VIGIL ST THOMAS' FULLY BOOKED**
- **PLENTY OF ROOM AT OTHER MASSES AVAILABLE.**

https://www.trybooking.com/eventlist/christmasmasses

LESSONS AND CAROLS

Join the parish choirs in this beautiful celebration of Christmas. Based on the nine lessons and carols, sing along with our choir and reflect on the word of God as we prepare to welcome Christ anew this Christmas. You can watch here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8vnRGw8sITg

AN EXCERPT FROM BISHOP ANTHONY'S LETTER TO THE PEOPLE OF BROKEN BAY, PLEASE SEE THE FULL LETTER AT THE REAR OF THE CHURCH

In my Decree of 18 March 2020, in response to the crisis of the pandemic, I dispensed the Faithful of the Diocese of Broken Bay from the ordinary obligation to be present at the Sunday Eucharist. Now, with the welcome situation that has developed, with gratitude to God, **I rescind that Decree, and call upon and encourage the Faithful to resume their obligations as part of the living Body of Christ. Under Canon 1247, the Faithful are now once more obliged to attend Mass on Sundays and the Holy Days of Christmas and the Assumption.** Notwithstanding, those who are aged or have health conditions or are otherwise anxious about the risk of COVID19 are free to remain at home, honouring the Lord's Day through the best way open to them. Some examples are participating in the live-streamed Mass, private prayer, reading the Scripture, praying the Rosary.

DOROTHY RETIRING

This week we will be farewelling our wonderful accounts person Dorothy Tomagra. Dorothy has been a tireless servant of the combined community here at Lower North Shore for 15 years. She will be greatly missed in the office for not only for her skills but her wonderful attitude and enviable style. We wish her and her family every joy in retirement.

CHRISTMAS CARD COLOURING

Thank you to Jacinta Oner and the creative members of the PMC who pulled together this years beautiful parish Christmas Cards as part of this years outreach. Thank you to all our creative colourers who provided the art work. It's wonderful to see the beautiful finished project. If you know someone who would like to receive a card please contact the parish office with their name an address.

EASING RESTRICTIONS

The easing restrictions looking to be passed on Monday the 7th December will see our numbers at Mass double. St Leonards 250, St Thomas' 290 & St Philip Neri 140. This same 2sqm rule will apply for weddings and funerals. While capacity is greatly increased we still need to register for contact tracing purposes and continue with social distancing, hand sanitising and remaining home if unwell.

MASS BOOKING DURING COVID

Follow the Trybooking link to book Mass;
https://www.trybooking.com/eventlist/christmasmasses

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Is 45:8

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

FIRST READING

2 Sm 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16

A reading from the second book of Samuel

The kingdom of David will be established for ever in the sight of the Lord.

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent'. Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 88:2-5. 27. 29. R. see v.2

(R.) For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth. Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever, that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. (R.)

'I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: I will establish your dynasty for ever and set up your throne through all ages.' (R.)

He will say to me: 'You are my father, my God, the rock who saves me.'
I will keep my love for him always; for him my covenant shall endure. (R.)

SECOND READING

Rom 16:25-27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The mystery kept secret for endless ages is now revealed.

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 1:38

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

GOSPEL

Lk 1:26-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

You will conceive and bear a son.

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

The Parish Office will be closed from 12pm Thursday 24th December until Monday 4th January 2021

JOIN IN THE SINGING

With the easing of restrictions it's now possible to join in the hymns and responses at Mass.

What do I need to do to take part?

Simply bring a mask from home or pick up one of the complimentary ones from the back of the church. Children under 12, don't need to be masked.

Baptism this Weekend

Lachlan & Jasmine Robertson

& Ariana Coelho

Welcome!

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WEEKEND MASSES	CHURCH	CLERGY 26 & 27 Dec
Sat 5:00pm	St Philip Neri	Fr Brian
Sat 6:00pm	St Thomas'	Fr Philip
Sun 8:00am	St Thomas'	Fr Trung
Sun 9:00am	St Philip Neri	Fr Brian
Sun 9:30am	St Thomas'	Fr Vincent
Sun 10:30am	St Leonard's	Fr Philip
Sun 6:00pm	St Leonard's	Fr Vincent
Sun 4:00pm	RNSH	Fr Trung

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

BAPTISM PREPARATION

7:00pm Parish Office

2nd & 3rd Tuesdays of the month

Forms are available from the back of each Church, or our website.

MEMORIAL PLAQUES AT ST THOMAS' CHURCH

If you would like to purchase a memorial plaque for a loved one, please contact the Parish Office.

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

ADORATION

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

School Term Only

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

- **Please remember to sanitise hands on your way into Mass.**
- **Sit 1.5m away from others.**
- **Follow the distance stickers on pews and for communion.**

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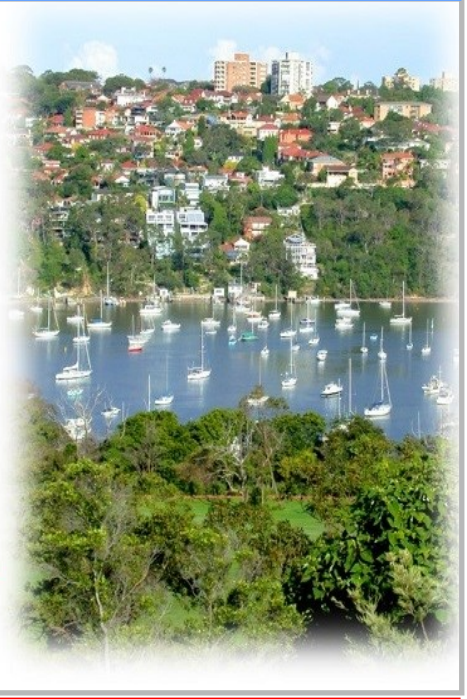

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