



# 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.*

## Fourth Sunday of Advent – 19 December 2021

### LIFE IN THE WOMB

This little gospel story tells us that 'the baby in Elizabeth's womb leaped' and not merely leaped, but leaped 'for joy'. Is this just poetic hyperbole?

We know that beautiful music can have a wonderful effect on life in the womb. Good vibrations. Here, the presence of Jesus, being carried by Mary in her pregnancy, had a wonderful effect on the life carried by Elizabeth. Very good vibrations.

From the moment of the conception of Jesus, good vibrations reverberated out to all human beings. The good news is that you and I and every human life ever conceived is visited by Our Risen Lord Jesus Christ, and we receive that visit as Original Blessing.

There is a further and consoling truth. Every mother or father who has lost a baby too early needs to know that the same extraordinary sense of Our Lord's presence was felt by your baby. That Divine Presence conferred a powerful Original Blessing on that little life within the womb, and that same Presence accompanied your baby into the everlasting embrace of Divine Love in Heaven.

We could pause a moment to pray using the very words of Elizabeth, reciting:

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.

*Blessed art thou among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.*

Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners  
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.



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### To All Our Volunteers

As a difficult year draws to a close, we have once again had to forgo our traditional volunteer thank you evening. We want to pause here and say a heartfelt thank you for your hard work and all that you do. The Parish could achieve very little without the generosity of volunteers like yourself. Your willingness to give freely of your time and talent is greatly appreciated, and your efforts continue to make a difference in the community.

Know that you are in our prayers

With Gratitude

Fr Brian



### RECONCILIATION

2nd Rite of reconciliation will be celebrated at St Thomas' Willoughby Wednesday 22nd of December @ 7:30pm

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...

**Recently Deceased:** Peter Paul Raj.

**Anniversaries:** Lee Gemmell, Anthony Scala(3rd), Emilio & Vita Ciaglia, Flavia & Ida Di Santo,  
Anna Maria & Frank Macolino, James Patrick Dalley, Angela Colaiacomo & Ian Smith (2nd).

**Please Pray For:** Kimiora Vogel, Maria Trani, Clifford Sun, Tony Harris & Imelda Dickeson.



## 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

Mi 5:1-4

A reading from the prophet Micah  
*Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel.*

The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old.

The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth.

Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel.

He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord,

with the majesty of the name of his God. They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power

to the ends of the land.

He himself will be peace.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19. R. v.4

**(R.) Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

O Shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne.

O Lord, rouse up your might,

O Lord, come to our help. (R.)

God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see.

Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted.

(R.)

May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength. And we shall never forsake you again:

give us life that we may call upon your name. (R.)

## SECOND READING

Heb 10:5-10

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

*I am coming to do your will.*

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:

You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation,

prepared a body for me.

You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin;

then I said,

just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book,

'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

### 22nd December Reconciliation

St Thomas' Willoughby 7:30pm

### St Thomas' Willoughby

24<sup>th</sup> December; 6pm, 8pm, Midnight

25<sup>th</sup> December; 8am, 9:30am

### St Leonards Naremburn

24<sup>th</sup> December;

9pm Carols 9:15pm Mass PNGCAA

25<sup>th</sup> December; 10:30am

### St Philip Neri Northbridge

24<sup>th</sup> December; 6pm Carols

6:30pm Outdoor Family Mass

25<sup>th</sup> December; 9am

### Royal North Shore Hospital Chapel

24<sup>th</sup> December: 4pm Vigil Mass

### Baptism this Weekend



**Madeliene Ryan**

*Welcome!*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done.

Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

Lk 1:39-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*Why should it happen that I am honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?*

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

### Parish Office Christmas Times

The Parish office will be closed from 12pm Christmas Eve 24th December and reopen on Tuesday 4th January. In the case of emergency call

0418 200 109

### WEEK DAY READINGS

**Mon 20** Is 7:10-14; Lk 1: 26-38

**Tue 21** Song 2: 8-14; Lk 1:39-45

**Wed 22** 1 Sam 24-28; Lk 1:46-56

**Thur 23** Mal 3: 1-4; Lk 1:57-66

**Fri 24** 2 Sam: 7:1-5,8-12,14,16;  
Lk 1: 67-69

**Sat 25 Christmas Day**



### Parish Priest

Rev Fr Brian Moloney PP

### Assistant Priest

Rev Fr Biju Mathew

Rev Fr Chima Ofor

### RNSH Chaplain

Rev Fr Peter Dowd

### Deacon

Rev Dr. Anthony Gooley

### Seminararian Appointed

Rosan Mathew

### Parish Missionary Council

Chair: Bev Jones

pmc@lms.org.au

### Parish Office

182 High St, Willoughby

P: 9958 8846

E: office@lms.org.au

www.bbcatholic.org.au/lms

### Parish Office Hours

Mon-Fri: 9:00am - 3:00pm

### Parish Secretaries

Caitlin Douglas

Katrina Chemello

### Sacramental Co-ordinator

Jessica Bousimon

### 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

### 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

Dear Parishioners, we had a lovely carol service outside St Thomas on Thursday last week...it was meaningfully delivered and the spirit of Christmas was in the air! After a

lovely day with great weather, the night was damp, and it got wetter...but it didn't matter! We sang and listened to the readings, while the night stormed around us, the lights in the school playground were beautiful and added to the atmosphere.

Thank you to Paul Harrold for all his work setting the scene, and to John Lewis for his PA system, setting up was helped by Rosan, Jim Forsyth and Sean Lewis. All the carollers looked and

sounded wonderful, as did the readers. Jim's accompaniment superb, it was a small but appreciative congregation ...the weather wasn't great, but it was worth the effort. Lets do it again next year.

We will repeat the carols before Midnight Mass so if you missed it last week, you have another chance to hear the carols.

**Thank you so much! Lisa**

### PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO THE VICAR GENERAL, OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

- Permanent, part-time position (4 days per week, 9:00am to 5:00pm)

Role split between Pennant Hills and Chatswood locations

The Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay, under the leadership of Bishop Anthony Randazzo, serves the People of God in the northern regions of Sydney, North Shore, Northern Beaches and NSW Central Coast.

### We are seeking an experienced Personal Assistant to support the Vicar General.

In this role you will provide personal and administrative support to the Vicar General, including providing support for his dual role as Parish Priest.

Your prior experience with providing high level administrative support for a senior executive or similar, with responsibility for diary and event management combined with an understanding of the level of personal support required to assist the Vicar General in balancing his busy work and personal commitments will be crucial to your success.

To obtain a copy of the position description or for further details, please contact [recruitment@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:recruitment@bbcatholic.org.au).

If you are interested in applying please send your CV and a brief cover letter addressing the skillsets required for this role to [recruitment@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:recruitment@bbcatholic.org.au).

Applications close **Wednesday 22 December 2021**. Contact to be made with candidates and interviews mid-January 2022.

### POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER

For Catechists

Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

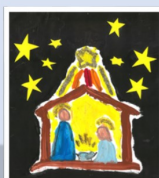


### Born In A Lowly Stable

(A Complete Christmas Concert)

By

Brigid McNally



Are you looking for some beautiful, new Nativity music for your Christmas preparations? Or, have you got children (young and old) who love a great Aussie sing along Santa song? Please check out my website where you'll find both. Listen to the song previews, and if you like what you hear, you can safely buy individual tracks or the whole albums using PayPal. [Mcnallymusic.com](http://Mcnallymusic.com)

Brigid is a parishioner in our parish and has released 3 albums, all available on her website.



CHRISTMAS MASSES	CHURCH	CLERGY 24 & 25 Dec
Fri 24th 6pm Carols 6:30pm Mass Outdoors	St Philip Neri	Fr Chima
Fri 24th 6:00pm	St Thomas'	Fr Brian
Fri 24th 8:00pm	St Thomas'	Fr Biju & Deacon Anthony
Fri 24th Midnight	St Thomas'	Fr Brian
Sat 25th 8:00am	St Thomas'	Fr Biju
Sat 25th 9:30am	St Thomas'	Fr Brian
Sat 25th 9:00am	St Philip Neri	Fr Chima
Sat 25th 10:30am	St Leonards	Fr Chima
Fri 24th 4:00pm	RNSH	Fr Peter

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**  
Takes place 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month 11am & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 7pm Parish Office. Forms are available from the back of each Church, or our website.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY**  
Resuming 2022

**CHILDREN'S BAPTISM**  
St Leonard's Church: 12:00noon  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month  
St Philip Neri Church: 12:00noon  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month  
St Thomas' Church: 10:45am  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month

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

Nicholas Maurer J.P.  
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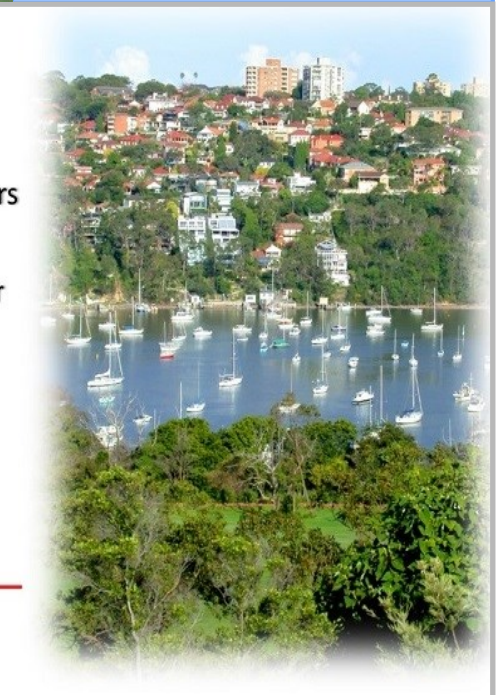
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