



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.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A - 27 November 2022

Advent: Get Ready to Welcome Jesus

Once again, we are entering the season of Advent. Just as Lent prepares us for the Passion and death of Jesus Christ and his resurrection at Easter, so Advent prepares us for his coming at Christmas.

Most of us associate Christmas with the birth of Christ, and for good reason. But in Advent, the Church actually invites us to meditate upon the three comings of Our Lord. What are they?

The first is Jesus' birth in a humble stable in Bethlehem. As St John reminds us, '*... the Word became flesh and dwelt among us*' (Jn. 1:14).

Jesus' Second Coming will be at the end of time. Not even Jesus knows the day, the hour or the circumstances of his return – only his Father knows. But as he so often reminds us, stay awake and be vigilant because one day he will arrive like a thief in the night (Mt. 25:13).

And his third coming is actually right now, in a very different but very real way. Jesus comes to us through his grace. How does he do that?

Jesus comes to us through prayer, through almsgiving and through works of charity (see Mt.25:31-46). He also comes to us through the penances and sacrifices made to God for the conversion of sinners. As well, his grace is communicated to us through the frequent and worthy reception of the Sacraments, and most especially Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist.

So, in the season of Advent, we not only look forward to the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day; we also hope for his birth in the very depths of our hearts. To prepare ourselves, I encourage you to consider doing these things during December:

1. Pray more. Spend some quiet time with Jesus, reflecting, praying and listening for his quiet voice. Most of us think that A.S.A.P. means 'As soon as possible'. But it also means 'Always Say a Prayer'.
2. Attend daily Mass and reflect on the readings. Jesus wants us to get to know him better, and an excellent way to do this is through his Word. As Matthew tells us, 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God' (Mt.4:4).
3. Go to Confession. Advent is an ideal time to clean out and refresh our hearts, to make space for Our Lord.
4. And finally – actively practise your Christian faith by loving your neighbour. Do something nice for someone. Or even better – do something nice for several people. Love others just as Jesus loves us.

Fr Jose Philip OSH



The Vinnies Annual Christmas Appeal will be on next weekend, 4th/5th December
Aussie families are struggling to survive the increasing cost-of-living pressures this Christmas.
**Your generosity can provide urgent relief for a family who's doing it tough this Christmas,
and give them hope for a better future.**

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Ps 24:1-3

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

First Reading

Is 2:1-5

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord will gather all nations in eternal peace in the kingdom of God.

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In the days to come the mountain of the Temple of the Lord shall tower above the mountains and be lifted higher than the hills. All the nations will stream to it, peoples without number will come to it; and they will say: 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the Temple of the God of Jacob that he may teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths; since the Law will go out from Zion, and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem. He will wield authority over the nations and adjudicate between many peoples; these will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles. Nation will not lift sword against nation, there will be no more training for war. O House of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 121:1-2. 4-5. 6-9. R. see v.1.

(R.) Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house.' And now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem. **(R.)**

It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord. For Israel's law it is, there to praise the Lord's name. There were set the thrones of judgement of the house of David. **(R.)**

For the peace of Jerusalem pray: Peace be to your homes! May peace reign in your walls, in your palaces, peace! **(R.)**

For love of my brethren and friends I say: 'Peace upon you!' For love of the house of the Lord I will ask for your good. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Rom 13:11-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The time has come, our salvation is near.

You know 'the time' has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon – let us give up all the things we prefer to do under the cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation

Ps 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Mt 24:37-44

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Stay awake, you must be ready.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

Baptism this Weekend

Liam O'Keefe, Audrey
Young and
Zinzi Morris
Welcome!



Hospital Chaplaincy & Pastoral Care Practitioners

Helping those who are vulnerable, experiencing loneliness or sick in hospital.



Confraternity of Christian Doctrine

Catechists taking the gospel to State school students.



St Lucy's School

Serving year K-12 students with disability.



St Edmund's College

Serving year 7-12 students with disability.



Ephpheta Centre

Pastoral care, sacraments, and advocacy for the deaf community.

Every gift makes a difference to someone in hospital, school, a parish or the wider community.

Please remember to place your Pastoral Works Broken Bay Envelopes on one of the collection plates

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...

Recently Deceased: Lesley Dalley, Isabella Fernandes, Jeanne Richardson & Pasquale Trani.

Anniversaries: Katie Kam Man Chan

Rest of the Soul: Emilio & Vita Ciaglia, Anna Maria & Franco Macolino, Ida & Flaviano Di.Santo, Antonio & Fiorrentina & Ida Di. Santo & Antonio Meoli, Enzo Oliveri

Please Pray For: Giuseppe Maiorana





Parish Priest

Rev Fr Jose Philip OSH
jose.philip@bbcatholic.org.au

Assistant Priests

Rev Fr Biju Mathew
Rev Fr Chima Ofor

RNSH Chaplain

Rev Fr Peter Dowd

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Parish Office Hours

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

Parish Secretary

Ursula O'Hare
Monday - Friday
Dionne Sores
Mon, Tue & Fri

Director of Liturgical Music

Lisa Lewis

Catechist Co-ordinator

Henny Theodorus

Finance

Ilona Dudek
Tuesday Only

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

2nd Rite of Reconciliation

St Thomas's Thomas' Church Willoughby

Wednesday 21st December 7pm

Christmas Mass Times 2022

Christmas Eve Saturday 24th December

St Leonard's Church Naremburn:

6pm Carols/6.30pm Mass INDOORS.

Please note that this year the St Philip Neri and St Leonard's communities are joining forces to bring you the annual Family Christmas Vigil Mass with Nativity Pageant and festive hospitality after Mass, this will be held at St Leonard's. This will replace the usual outdoor Mass.

ST Thomas's Church Willoughby:

6pm Family Mass

8pm Youth Mass

Midnight Mass 12am with Carols commencing at 11.45pm

Christmas Day Sunday 25th December

St Leonard's Church Naremburn:

10.30am

St Philip Neri Church Northbridge:

9am

St Thomas Church Willoughby:

8am & 9.30am

Royal North Shore Hospital:

4pm

Serving over Christmas

We need many volunteers to help us make our Christmas Masses a glorious celebration of the birth of our saviour, Jesus. Signing-up for the St Leonard's Christmas Eve Mass will be done via the QR codes below. Please use the QR codes to sign up to help on the day and/or to join our special Christmas choir. If you love to sing, especially at Christmastime, this is the choir for you! All skill levels welcome!



CHRISTMAS
EVE MASS
VOLUNTEER

JOIN OUR
CHRISTMAS
CHOIR



As Christmas Eve and Christmas Day fall on a weekend please check your ELVANTO Rosters.

There will be a sign-up sheet at St Thomas' for the Midnight Mass

Christmas For Waterloo



Again we, the Vinnies volunteers working with our disadvantaged friends in Waterloo, ask that you prepare festive Christmas hampers for the families and people living alone whom we regularly visit. This year with the increasing costs of food and energy, Christmas could be a very bleak one for the poor. A hamper and gifts for children will bring smiles to faces.

On our tree, there are cards with ages and genders of the children and hamper cards below the tree.

Our thanks : June O'Keefe & Helen Walsh. On behalf of Vinnies helpers we would like the hampers and gifts to be ready for pickup by Sunday 11 December.

Cuppa and Conversations

Please joins us for our Christmas morning tea and liturgy on Wednesday 14th December from 9:30am in the Parish Hall. We would like to offer transport to those who are unable to get themselves here. For that to happen, please ring Marie Harris 0417077020



Thank You BBQ



Fr Jose invites all our wonderful volunteers from across our three communities to join him for a Thank You BBQ in the grounds of St Thomas' Church & School.

When: Thursday 1st December

Time: 6:30pm

Where: St Thomas'

Please use the sign-up sheet in the church foyer if you would like come.

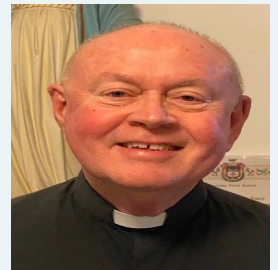
Fr Geoff Budgen is turning "70"

Please join us to celebrate Fr Geoff Budgen' 70th Birthday with a special Mass and Morning -tea

When: Sunday 4th December

Time: 9:30am

Where: St Thomas' Church



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WilloughbyGlass

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Every gift makes a difference to someone in hospital, school, a parish or the wider community.

PASTORAL WORKS Broken Bay

Pastoral Works Broken Bay is the pastoral charity of the Catholic community in Broken Bay.

In supporting our pastoral works you are helping our dedicated catechists provide thousands of state school students with a Catholic education; and helping us provide comfort, care, a listening ear and the sacraments to those who are vulnerable or experiencing loneliness, illness and isolation through our hospital chaplaincy program.

Our pastoral works also assist students with disability achieve their dreams, and provides practical support for the deaf community.

Your gift does make a difference. It maybe young people in schools, someone in hospital, a parish or the wider community.

My prayer is that Pastoral Works Broken Bay enables us to reach further and wider in helping our community, and more deeply connects us to our vision and the mission of Jesus. I am deeply grateful for your support.

Most Rev Anthony Randazzo DD JCL,
Bishop of Broken Bay



**CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF
BROKEN BAY**

Thank you for your generosity

For many in our community, your generosity means the Church can be there during times of great need, renewing and rebuilding their lives. Your donations support five ministries:



Hospital Chaplaincy & Pastoral Care Practitioners

Helping those who are vulnerable, experiencing loneliness or sick in hospital.



Confraternity of Christian Doctrine

Catechists taking the gospel to State school students.



St Lucy's School

Serving year K-12 students with disability.



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Ephpheta Centre

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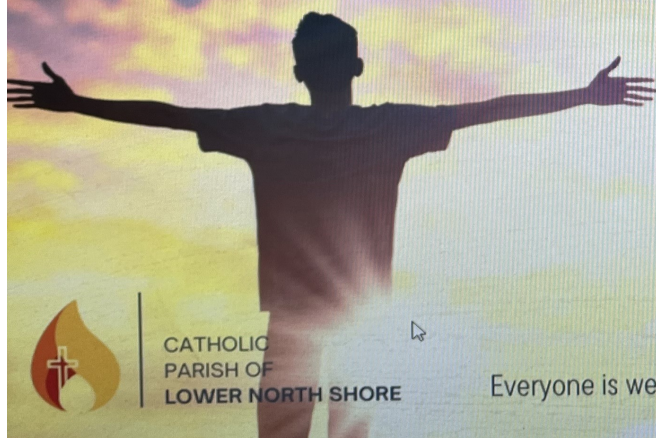
All donations over \$2 are tax deductible. ABN 87 849 944 998

To donate, complete the form in the envelope available in your parish and return to your parish.

Or go online by scanning the QR code and visiting: bbcatholic.org.au/pastoralworks. Thank you.

You are invited to

OUR FAMILY MASS : NEXT SUNDAY, 27 November. 9AM



- GREAT MUSIC
- CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD
- SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT
- JOIN US AFTER MASS, MEET NEW FRIENDS & NEIGHBOURS OVER OUR BIG MORNING TEA



CATHOLIC
PARISH OF
LOWER NORTH SHORE

Everyone is welcome here! Come, taste and see the goodness of the Lord - Psalm 34:8