



# 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.*

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT A - 04 November 2022



### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent - The Pointing Man

Today our Gospel features St John the Baptist, one of the most important figures in all Scripture (Lk.7:28). He often appears in Christian art with an unruly mop of hair, wearing camel-skin and a leather belt – and with a pointing hand. The image of John in camel-skin comes from Matthew's Gospel today. By mentioning this detail, Matthew is linking John the Baptist with the great prophet Elijah, who wore something similar (2Kgs.1:8). The Jewish people long believed that one day Elijah would return from heaven to prepare the way for the Messiah. So, by emphasising the camel-skin, Matthew is presenting John as the new Elijah who is announcing the arrival of the Messiah and warning us all to get ready. He is the pointing man, pointing us all towards Christ. This is why we often see him in paintings pointing towards a Bible, a lamb or to an image of Jesus himself. In Leonardo da Vinci's last painting, *St John the Baptist*, he's pointing up towards heaven, reminding us of our need for eternal salvation. In 2016, Pope Francis described John the Baptist as the lamp pointing towards the light and bearing witness to the light. But he's not the light itself, for that is Jesus Christ. He also said that John is 'the voice', the 'voice crying in the wilderness.' But he is not the Word itself. He is only the voice bearing witness to the Word and pointing to the Word, the Word of God. For this was the entire purpose of his life: to prepare the way for the Messiah. This explains why his parents, Elizabeth and Zechariah, waited so long for him to be born. In God's plan, John could not have arrived any earlier. He had to wait until the time was right for Jesus' birth, because their lives were inextricably linked. Indeed, when Jesus began his public ministry, he used John's words: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!' (Mt.3:1). John's message is simple and still very relevant today: we need to change the way we live, to turn away from sin, because Christ is coming. This Advent, let's remember the remarkable saint who encourages us to get serious about eternal life. He dedicated his entire life to only one thing: pointing us all towards Christ.

Does your life point towards Jesus? **Fr Jose Philip OSH**



#### Vinnies Christmas Appeal



St Vincent de Paul Society  
*good works*



The cost-of-living increases are pushing tens of thousands of Aussie families over the edge, into poverty and risk of homelessness. They desperately need support to put food on the table, keep the lights on and keep a roof over their heads. Will you please help? This year has

been tough for Kelly's family. No matter how hard they work, or however they cut back, they simply don't have enough money to get by. "When the electricity bill came in, I literally dropped to my knees. There was no way we could pay it." "It gives me so much anxiety. Every time they're bigger. We don't have that money. What are we supposed to do?" – Kelly Every day, more families like Kelly's are turning to Vinnies

for help. They need support with food, bills, and basics like clothing and furniture. They're desperate to keep their homes. With so many vulnerable people in our community depending on Vinnies for support, can we count on your help? ***Envelopes are available at all of our churches, please fill one today or take one with you and place it on the collection plate next week.*** A Christmas without joy is no Christmas at all.

## Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Is 30:19,30

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

## First Reading

Is 11:1-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*He judges the poor with justice.*

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless, his sentences bring death to the wicked. Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips. The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea. That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17. R. cf. v.7

**(R.) Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.**

O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. **(R.)**  
In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. He

shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to the earth's bounds. **(R.)**

For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. **(R.)**

May his name be blessed for ever and endure like the sun. Every tribe shall be blessed in him, all nations bless his name. **(R.)**

## Second Reading

Rom 15:4-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*Christ, the hope of all people.*

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

## Gospel Acclamation

Lk 3:4. 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:

all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

## Gospel

Mt 3:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.*

In due course John the Baptist Appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said: A voice cries in the Wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

## Feast & Memorial Days This Week

**Wednesday** - St Ambrose

**Thursday** - The Immaculate

Conception of the Blessed

Virgin Mary



**Please pray for the Year 6 Students from St Philip Neri who are celebrating their graduation Mass on Wednesday**

**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

**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 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**

2 Horsley Ave, Willoughby  
Principal: Enrica Bova  
9958 7308

**2nd Rite of Reconciliation**

St 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.

PNGCCAA 10.30pm Carols—11pm Mass @ St Leonard's

**ST Thomas' Church Willoughby:**

6pm Family Mass

8pm Youth Mass

Midnight Mass 12am with Carols commencing at 11.45pm

**Royal North Shore Hospital:**

4pm Mass

**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

**Serving over Christmas**

We need many volunteers to help us make our Christmas Masses a glorious celebration of the birth of our saviour, Jesus. We have a number of jobs for people on Christmas Eve. These include roles in the nativity play for children, people to make trays of sandwiches, welcomers, choir members, food servers, readers, people to set up and pack down and many more! If you are able to help, scan the QR code to sign up on our sign up sheet.

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

All rosters have been printed & placed in all 3 Church Foyers please fill in the gaps where help is needed.

CHRISTMAS  
EVE MASS  
VOLUNTEER



JOIN OUR  
CHRISTMAS  
CHOIR





## 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.



## We Congratulate our wonderful Catechist Eva Soos for her 5 years of dedicated service.

We need your help! Do you have a calling to spread the good news and joy of the Gospels to children in 2023? We'd love to hear from you. Please contact Henry Theodoros - Catechist Coordinator via email at [ccd@lms.org.au](mailto:ccd@lms.org.au)



## Last Sunday the RNSH congregation surprised Fr Peter Dowd with an afternoon tea.

This was to celebrate the 37<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. Members of the RNSH chapel community prepared a generous variety of cakes and biscuits to mark the occasion, including a beautiful homemade cake that didn't last very long after Fr Peter cut it! It looked amazing and tasted even better. It was a great opportunity to thank Fr Peter for his contribution to the RNSH patients and staff. We are very blessed to have him in our community.



## Cuppa 'n Conversations

Please joins us for our Christmas morning tea and Carols 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

**Letter from Bishop Anthony**—Changes in Broken Bay Youth Team see Bishops letter located in All Church Foyers

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...

**Recently Deceased:** Giuseppe Maiorana, Lesley Dalley, Isabella Fernandes, Jeanne Richardson, Pasquale Trani.

**Anniversaries:** Helene Deltoer, Anthony Scala & Joan Fitzgerald.

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



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WELCOME TO THE CHRISTMAS  
NOVENA MASSES 2022

# Simbang Gabi Launch

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CATHEDRAL

10 December | 5:00 PM

27 Yardley Ave, Waitara

## Hornsby

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

15-23 December | 7:00 PM

27 Yardley Ave, Waitara

Cynthia.alipalo@gmail.com

bbfc.hornsby@gmail.com

## Dee Why

ST. KEVIN'S CHURCH

15-23 December | 7:30 PM

50 Oaks Ave, Dee Why

c/o Marlon Cabilao

Mobile no. 0430249450

## Chatswood

OUR LADY OF DOLOURS CHURCH

16-24 December | 5:30 AM

94 Archer st, Chatswood

fccpadmin@gmail.com

## Wyong

ST. CECILIA'S CHURCH

The Tridumm

21, 22, 23 December | 7:00 PM

23 Bryon St, Wyong

monette2905@gmail.com

Pastoral Coordinator

Deacon Roberto Corpuz | m: 0414 525 448



Filipino Chaplaincy Broken Bay







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.



### St Edmund's College

Serving year 7-12 students with disability.



### Ephpheta Centre

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



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](http://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