



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 YEAR A - 18 December 2022

4th Sunday of Advent - A Warm Welcome

2000 years ago, when a couple wanted to marry, the Jewish custom was for them to first become betrothed. This meant that they were legally united as husband and wife, but they didn't live together for another 12 months. After that, there was a great wedding feast like the one Jesus attended at Cana, and only then did they start to live together as husband and wife.

In Matthew's Gospel today, Joseph is betrothed to Mary, but they are still living apart. When he learns she is pregnant, he is devastated and needs to decide what to do. According to the local law, he could declare Mary to be unfaithful and guilty of adultery, and then have her stoned to death. Or he could divorce her. Normally that would be a very public thing to do, because everyone would understand why, and Mary would be publicly humiliated.

But Joseph loves Mary and does not want to hurt her. So, he plans to divorce her quietly, without stating the reasons. But even that wouldn't really protect her from shame, because word would still spread.

The only way he can protect Mary's honour is to complete his marriage to her and to adopt her son as his own. For Joseph to do this, he has to stop thinking about himself and the expectations of others. He has to make Mary the centre of his attention, and this takes strength and courage.

When God sends an angel to talk with Joseph about what to do, he listens carefully. He agrees to be a loving husband to Mary, and a loving father to her son.

In this 4th week of Advent, St Joseph's story is offered as a gift to us. It shows us what can happen when we truly are selfless, loving and open to new challenges. It teaches us that we aren't meant to control everything, for some things are meant to be controlled by God.

And it shows us what is possible when we open our hearts and lives to Jesus Christ. For just as Joseph dedicated his life to creating a loving home for Jesus, so we are invited to do the same.

This Christmas, let's make sure that along with our family and friends, we all warmly welcome Jesus into our homes.

Fr Jose Philip OSH



World Youth Day Pilgrims

I am delighted to announce that 6 members of our parish youth group have been invited to attend World Youth Day 2023 in Portugal as representatives of the Parish of Lower North Shore.

World Youth Day is an international gathering of young Catholics from all around the world, typically occurring every 3 years. In 2023, Portugal will host the festivities, and millions of youths will travel from afar to celebrate our faith, and to worship and pray together with our Pope. Some of you may remember that Australia was fortunate enough to host World Youth Day in Sydney in 2008.

I was blessed to attend World Youth Day in Poland in 2016, alongside 3 million pilgrims. It was life changing. I shared in the joy of Christ and deepened my own faith. I encountered God in the faces of peers from all over the world. I attended Mass in languages I could not speak, and yet I was able to understand the universal language of Catholicism. I happily embraced pilgrimage, engaged in catechesis, and attended cultural events. My faith was transformed, and my passion for youth ministry was ignited.

Our 6 pilgrims from LNSP will be undergoing formation activities, as well as fundraising over the coming months. You may see us running various events and pop-ups before and after Mass. We would be so grateful if you could support our fundraising efforts as we embark on this journey to Lisbon. We will continue praying for our Parish, and we humbly ask that you keep us in your prayers too as we spiritually prepare ourselves for this journey.

If you are interested in sponsoring or part-sponsoring a pilgrim from LNSP, please contact the Parish Office.

Adeline Kassis

Youth Coordinator, LNSP

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

Is 7:10-14

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.' Then Isaiah said: 'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 23:1-6. R. see vv 7. 10

(R.) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples. It is he who set it on the seas; on the waters he made it firm. **(R.)**

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place? The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things. **(R.)**

**PASTORAL
WORKS** Broken Bay

A BIG THANK YOU to the many people that gave so generously to PWBB November appeal. We Have raised \$7433.30 which will go towards our annual quota of \$80,000.

He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him. Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Rom 1:1-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

Working Bee



We would love to give St Thomas' Church a bit of Love and Care in readiness for all the Christmas Masses
If you are Free Wednesday 21st at 10.30am and would like to help give the Church an extra clean, especially the windows, we would love your help.

Gospel Acclamation

Mt 1:23

Alleluia, alleluia! A virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us. Alleluia!

Gospel

Mt 1:18-24

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

**We Welcome into our
Parish family the Newly
Baptised**

Benjamin Wallace,
Arthur Menzies
Galindo, Sophia and
Zac Strugnell



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...

Recently Deceased: Marguerite Cecile Hakvoort

Anniversaries: Ian Smith, Leonora Lee Gemmell, Richard King and Ojdana Curac.





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
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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

2 Horsley Ave, Willoughby
Principal: Enrica Bova
9958 7308

2nd Rite of Reconciliation

St Thomas' Church Willoughby

Bell ringing

Wednesday 21st December 7pm

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve Mass Times

St Leonard's Church Naremburn

6pm Carols/ 6.30pm Family Mass

including a Nativity Play & music by SPN choir

10.30pm Carols/11pm PNGCCAA Mass

St Thomas' Church Willoughby

6pm Family Mass

8pm Yourh Mass

Midnight Mass commencing at 11.45pm with Carols

Royal North Shore Hospital

4pm Mass

Christmas Day Mass Times

St Philip Neri Church North Bridge

9am Mass

St Thomas' Church Willoughby

8am & 9.30am Mass

St Leonard's Church Naremburn

10.30am Mass



If your planning to attend the St Leonards Family Mass on Christmas Eve, why not turn up a little early and experience the sounding of the beautiful BELLS! The Bells will ring from 5.30pm-6pm.

Can you believe that we only have one week until we celebrate Christmas! This weekend is your last chance to sign-up for our Christmas Masses, we are needing help with Senior Servers at our Christmas Eve Midnight Mass & Christmas Day 9.30am Mass both @ St Thomas'

CHRISTMAS
EVE MASS
VOLUNTEER



JOIN OUR
CHRISTMAS
CHOIR

MASS/ SERVICE/ SCHEDULE	ST THOMAS' WILLOUGHBY	ST LEONARD'S NAREMBURN	ST PHILIP NERI NORTHBRIDGE
Sunday Masses	6pm Vigil Saturday 8am & 9:30am Sunday	10:30am & 6pm Sunday	5pm Vigil Saturday & 9am Sunday
Weekday Masses	9am Mon to Sat	9am Tue -Thu - Sat	9:15am Mon - Wed - Fri
Royal North Shore Hospital Chapel	Weekday Mass Thursday & Friday 1pm	Weekend Mass 4pm Sunday	
Reconciliation	Saturday 5:15pm - 5:45pm	Saturday 9:30am - 9:45am	Saturday 4:45pm
Youth Mass		1 st & 3 rd Sunday of the month at 6pm	
Children's Liturgy	During 9:30am Mass Each Sunday in school term.		9am- 23rd October 9am- 27th November
Community Masses		Italian Mass- 1st Friday 7pm PNGCCAA 1 st Saturday 7pm	
Healing Mass/ Anointing Novena to the Sacred Heart	9am Mass 1 st Friday	9am Mass 3rd Saturday	
Adoration	Tuesday after 9am Mass ALL YEAR		
Baptisms	11:00am 2nd & 4th Sundays	12pm 4th Sunday	12pm 3rd Sunday
Baptism Prep Parish Office	2nd Tuesday of the month 11am 3rd Tuesday of the month 7pm		
Catholic Charismatic Prayer Group CCCR	St Thomas' Parish Hall 7:15pm Tuesday Evenings Enquiries 0419 977 531		
Legion of Mary	Meets every Friday in the 'Blue Room' at the Parish Hall 9:45am All Welcome		

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WilloughbyGlass

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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

