



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.

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD Christmas Day YEAR A - 25 December 2022



Merry Christmas From Fr Jose!



The Scriptures are full of prophecies about the coming of the Messiah (e.g., Is.7:14, Mic.5:2), but no-one thought he'd arrive as he did. The Jewish people had long expected the Christ to be a brave warrior who would destroy their enemies. But God in his wisdom gave us something completely different: a vulnerable, homeless child named Jesus, born to a poor mother in an obscure village. There was nothing rich and powerful about this

King. Rather, he spoke a language of love, mercy and forgiveness, and he lived a life of simplicity and service.

Today, our world is obsessed with power, wealth and prestige - everything that Jesus is not. But every Christmas we put these things aside and we focus, at least for a while, on the things that really matter: our families and relationships, and peace and love for our neighbour.

Doesn't that feel good? Wouldn't it be nice to extend the wholesome joy of Christmas into the rest of the year? Maybe in 2023 you might do things a little differently. Perhaps you might devote some time to learning about Jesus and building your relationship with him. Too many of us stopped learning about Jesus after primary school.

As we enter the Christmas season, I want to thank you all for your wonderful support for our parish community. In many ways this has been a challenging year, but there have also been so many blessings.

In particular, I want to thank all the members of our parish team: Fr Biju, Fr Chima, Fr Peter, Fr Geoff, Ursula, Dionne, Ilona, Henny, and Lisa., for all their dedication and hard work during the year. I also thank our many parish volunteers, lay ministers, benefactors and the members of our PMC and Finance Committee. There are too many of you to mention, but you have all made a great contribution to our work.

I came to Lower North Shore Parish at the beginning of this year and you are such a warm, welcoming and loving community. I pray that you and all your family have a safe, holy and happy Christmas, and a peaceful and faith-filled New Year in 2023. **Fr Jose Philip OSH Parish Priest**

Parish Office Closed

Please note that the Parish Office will be closed from Saturday 24th December through to Tuesday 3rd January. If you are needing a Priest during this time please phone the office on 99588846 and follow the prompts.

Christmas Poem

If you look for me at Christmas you won't need a special star, I'm no longer just in Bethlehem, I'm right where you are. You may not be aware of me amid the celebrations, You'll have to look beyond the stores and all the decorations. But if you take a moment from your list of things to do and listen to your heart, You'll find I'm waiting there for you. You're the one I want to be with, you're the reason why I came, and you'll find me in the stillness as I'm whispering your name.

Love, Jesus

Christmas Day Readings

Entrance Antiphon

Is 9:5

A child is born for us, and a son is given to us; his sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.

The Gloria in excelsis Glory to God in the highest

First Reading

Is 52:7-10

How beautiful on the mountains, are the feet of one who brings good news, who heralds peace, brings happiness, proclaims salvation, and tells Zion, 'Your God is king!' Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices, they shout for joy together, for they see the Lord face to face, as he returns to Zion. Break into shouts of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord is consoling his people, redeeming Jerusalem. The Lord bares his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 97:1-6. R. v.3

(R.) All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

1. Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders. His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation. (R.)

2. The Lord has made known his salvation; has shown his justice to the nations. He has remembered his truth and love for the house of Israel. (R.)

3. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Shout to the Lord all the earth, ring out your joy. (R.)

4. Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp, with the sound of music. With trumpets and the sound of the horn acclaim the King, the Lord. (R.)

Second Reading

Heb 1:1-6

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name. God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father, or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

A holy day has dawned upon us. Come you nations and adore the Lord.

Today a great light has come upon the earth.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Jn 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not

overpower. A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself. The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth. John appears as his witness, He proclaims: 'This is the one of whom I said: He who comes after me ranks before me because he existed before me.' Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received - yes, grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Feast & Memorial Days This Week

Monday - St Stephen

Tuesday - St John the Apostle

Wednesday - The Holy Innocents

Thursday - St Thomas Becket

Friday - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...

Recently Deceased: Boso Kevric and Phornie Soteros

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





Parish Priest

Rev Fr Jose Philip OSH
jose.philip@bbccatholic.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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E: office@lins.org.au
www.bbccatholic.org.au/lins

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



Thank you to all the parishioners who supported our World Youth Day Fundraising Bake Sale last weekend. We are so grateful! If you would like to make a donation, please contact the Parish Office.



Pope Francis said:

"Being a Catechist is a Vocation"

Is it Your Vocation? Join Us and Find Out...

For further information, please contact Henny at ccd@LNS.org.au



ST THOMAS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL WILLOUGHBY

To the Lower North Shore Parish Community
On behalf of St Thomas Catholic Primary School, we thank you for your partnership in our faith journey this year. We look forward to St Thomas Catholic Primary School working closely with the Parish to strengthen our combined Catholic identity. We pray, the Christmas season fills your home with joy, your heart with love, and your life with laughter. And may God bless you and your families today and every day. With warmest regards, Enrica Bova
Principal, St Thomas students, parents and staff.



Cuppa N' Conversation Christmas Morning Tea

A beautiful morning was had with Good company, Great food and Carol singing. Thank you to all who came to our Cuppa 'n Conversations Christmas Morning Tea. We gather in the Blue Room of the Parish Hall **every Wednesday** between 9.30am and 11.00am. All welcome. *Marie Harris*
0417 077 020



Having recently visited Letefoho... here is the latest update!

Firstly, I was constantly overwhelmed by the gratitude of the students we sponsor, their parents and other members of the Letefoho Parish, I had the pleasure to meet. The head of the Letefoho Parish Council sincerely thanked not just me, but the members of LETS and all the Parishioners of LNSP for their continuing love and generosity towards the people of Letefoho. He warmly invited you to a special ceremony in August 2023, to close the visit of the Youth Cross (Crux Joven) to Letefoho. We also hope to include the official opening of the Eraulo church at that time. During 2022, Our Lady of Mt Carmel Senior High School (years 10,11,12) boasted an enrolment of 301 students - the highest number of students since 2014, with LETS sponsoring a total of 88 students. Each year since 2016, the Year 12 students give back to the school at the end of their final year. This year's class are contributing to the financing (through fundraising) and building of a covered outdoor area. They raised funds by selling cooked meals to other students. The boys boarding house additions are finished, but rain has damaged parts of the original building, so further work is needed. In discussions with the school board, we explored future projects for the Letefoho community and steps toward self-sufficiency. Pork is becoming a very popular protein source so the Parish is looking into starting a piggery which will eventually involve the whole community as a income source. Our sponsored students are doing very well and working so hard to achieve good results. To the left you will see most of are the school students.



Reminder letters for all 2023 fees will be sent soon

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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Below are the tertiary students and a letter from the students attending the Jesuit Teachers' College.

"Greetings to the LETS FAMILY



With Grateful Heart, we are students Soldiers of NOSCAR (Our Lady of Mt Carmel High School) who study at the Institute Sao Joao de Brito (ISJB). We want to give academic greetings and best regards to the LETS Family and Parishioners of LNSP. We want to give deep love and hugs to you, we admire all about your services and that you haven't tired to support us. With your compassion be a grace and bringing us close to God and discover

God's love of you to support us. We continue to pray for you to God, to give you a lot of graces and blessings that you need in your life and your services. Thank you so much. From the member of student soldiers of NOSCAR at Institute Sao Joao de Brito." Written by their coordinator, Geovanio C Maia Dias

Thank you for your continued, wonderful support!

May the blessings of Our Lord be with you all for Christmas and New Year

We would love to have new people join us in our work. Please make contact with us if you are interested in joining LETS: Lorna at admin@lets.net.au or Georgina at gcm.lough@gmail.com

LETS Committee - LETS.net.au

WORLD YOUTH DAY LISBON 2023



REGISTRATION UPDATE

- The excitement is certainly building as we continue to plan and prepare for WYD23 to Lisbon next year!
- Places for Over 18's on the full pilgrimage have reached capacity.
- We have a number of spaces on the Direct Pilgrimage 29 July to 11 August
- It's not too late to let us know that you'd like to journey with us on the Direct pilgrimage.
- Register to secure your place: <https://bit.ly/wyd2023bbc>