



# 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.*

## THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A — 12 MARCH 2023



### REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

All people thirst for meaning, but of what does that meaning consist? The people in the desert thirsted for water, but they misunderstood their thirst. The woman of Samaria thirsted. Her conversation with Jesus showed that she thirsted for understanding and insight as well as water. For what do we thirst in this world of such great excess and unmeasured need? Life has not become simpler with all of our advances. We still thirst for more – for the newest, the fastest and the best. How much is enough, and when do we cross the line into 'too much'? The gospel readings for the scrutiny Sundays very clearly lay out the choices that are placed before the catechumens and the rest of the believing community as well. This Sunday it is between water that quenches thirst and water that does not. Jesus identifies himself as the source of water that guarantees eternal life. He places before the Samaritan woman a choice that requires a step of profound faith. She knows the thirst-quenching quality of the water from Jacob's well, but she is not acquainted with the water promised by this stranger who is also an enemy of her people. The choice is not an obvious one. A similar choice is placed before us. We know the demands of our culture and the circumstances of our lives. Are we able to acknowledge the sins of which we are guilty, recognise the grace that is being offered to us, and make the right choice?  
© Dianne Bergant CSA



This weekend we warmly welcome Fr Emmanuel Obiche to the Parish. If you see him at one of the Masses over the weekend make sure you give him our warm LNS welcome.

**Please join us for our final Discernment Discussion at St Leonard's Hall, Naremburn 7pm  
Wednesday 15th March. Facilitated by Deacon Peter.**

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...

**Recently Deceased:** Leonarda Drago Bestulic

**Anniversaries:** Ante Oreb, Margaret Ann Hurrell, Herlien Sutanto, Marija Burmas Milostic and Kata Farac

**Sick:** Hermalina Sutanto



### Stations of the Cross during Lent

St Leonard's church  
every Tuesday at 7:00pm  
St Thomas' church every  
Friday at 7:00pm including  
Reconciliation  
St Philip Neri every Friday  
after the 9am Mass

## HEALING MASS

Including Anointing of The Sick

### March

Saturday 18th  
St Leonard's 9am

### All Day ADORATION Friday 31st March at St Thomas'

**Mass 9am**

**Adoration**

**9.30am–7pm**

**Stations of the Cross**

**7pm**

**Reconciliation**

**9.30–11am**

**4–7pm**



## Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Ps 24:15-16

My eyes are always on the Lord,  
for he rescues my feet from the  
snare. Turn to me and have mercy  
on me, for I am alone and poor.

## First Reading

Ex 17:3-7

A reading from the book of Exodus

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 94:1-2. 6-9. R. v.8

**(R.)** If today you hear his voice,  
harden not your hearts.

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us. Let us come before him, giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord. **(R.)**

Come in; let us bow and bend low; let us kneel before the God who made us for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture, the flock that is led by his hand. **(R.)**

O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert when your fathers put me to the test; when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **(R.)**

## Second Reading

Rom 5:1-2. 5-8

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's

glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man - though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die - but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

## Gospel Acclamation

See Jn 4:42. 15

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world; give me living water, that I may never thirst again.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

## Gospel

Jn 4:5-15. 19-26. 39-42

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' - Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied: 'If you only knew what God is Offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water. 'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied: 'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again: but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.' 'Sir,' said the woman, 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water. I see you are a prophet, sir. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said:

'Believe me, woman, the hour is Coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know; for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come - in fact it is here already - when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshiper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah - that is, Christ - is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.' Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony, so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

## Reconciliation Times

Every **Saturday** at

**St Thomas'** prior to the Vigil  
5.15-5.45pm

**St Philip Neri** prior to the Vigil  
4.15-4.45pm

Every **Sunday** at

**St Leonard's** prior to Mass  
9.45-10.15am

## Baptism

We welcome our newly  
baptised Pippa Penelope  
Roberts into our faith family.



# sign up

## WE NEED YOUR HELP

Easter Sign-up sheets are now available in all Church Foyers.

If you use Elvanto can you please use the HARD copy sign-up sheets in the church as many people are not using Elvanto. Thank you.





#### Parish Priest

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

#### Assistant Priests

Rev Fr Biju Mathew  
Rev Fr Vincent Nguyen  
Rev Fr Emmanuel Obiche

#### RNSH Chaplain

Rev Fr Peter Dowd

#### Parish Office

182 High St, Willoughby  
P: 9958 8846  
E: office@lins.org.au  
www.bbcatholic.org.au/lins

#### Parish Office Hours

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

#### Parish Secretary

Ursula O'Hare

#### Monday - Friday

Dionne Soares

Mon & Fri

#### Children Sacramental Coordinator

Kristy Komadina

Tuesday & Wednesday

#### 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

# Holy Week & Easter.

## Palm Sunday 2nd April

### Holy Thursday, Mass of the Lord's Supper

6th April 7.30pm Mass St Thomas' Willoughby &  
7.30pm at St Philip Neri Northbridge

### Good Friday Stations of the Cross 7th April 10am

St Thomas', St Leonard's & St Philip Neri

### Good Friday, The Passion of the Lord 7th April 3pm

St Thomas', St Leonard's & St Philip Neri

### Holy Saturday Vigil Mass 8th April 7pm St Leonard's \*\*\*

no Vigil Mass at 5pm St Philip Neri & 6pm St Thomas'

### Easter Sunday 9th April

8am & 9.30am Mass, St Thomas'

9am Mass, St Philip Neri

10.30am Mass, St Leonard's \*\*\* there is no 6pm Mass

4pm Mass, Royal North Shore Hospital Chapel

Holy Week & Easter at Lower North Shore Parish

## The 2nd Rite of Reconciliation

will be held in our parish on Tuesday 28th March 7.30pm at St  
Thomas' Church



### Candlelight, song, prayer, silence **WATCH and PRAY**

a Taizé service for Lent Simple meditative worship for everyone. *Looking for some peace, stillness and a message of hope in a fragile world?*

### Northbridge Uniting Church Gunyah St, Northbridge

7.15pm, Sunday March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023 6.30pm Refreshments in Hall

**Hosted by our Christian Church Communities** Catholic Parish of Lower North Shore,  
Willoughby- Northbridge Uniting Church, St Marks Anglican North

**warmly welcome you!**



This weekend is LETS Awareness weekend. We are not holding a collection, but you are more than welcome to donate to the LETS projects via BPoint on the Parish website.

We are very fortunate to have LETS as a part of our Parish community. It is a LNSP project that is now in its 10 year, thanks to the wonderful support of our Parish Priests and you, our Parishioners! Your individual support has been unsurpassed. The LETS Committee and the people of

Letefoho are incredible grateful for all you have given – funds, hands-on support and your prayers. **THANK YOU!**

The LETS Committee needs to grow! Please think about joining our small group and contributing to a most meaningful and rewarding opportunity within which you can really help our less fortunate brothers and sisters in Christ. Please contact Georgina at [gcm.lough@gmail.com](mailto:gcm.lough@gmail.com) or 0419280729 or Lorna at [admin@lets.net.au](mailto:admin@lets.net.au) if you would like to share your time, talents or expertise with LETS.

MASS/ SERVICE/ SCHEDULE	ST THOMAS' WILLOUGHBY	ST LEONARD'S NAREMBURN	ST PHILIP NERI NORTHBRIDGE
<b>Sunday Masses</b>	6pm Vigil Saturday 8am & 9:30am Sunday	10:30am & 6pm Sunday	5pm Vigil Saturday & 9am Sunday
<b>Weekday Masses</b>	9am Mon to Sat	9am Tue -Thu - Sat	9:15am Mon - Wed - Fri
<b>Royal North Shore Hospital Chapel</b>	Weekday Mass Thursday & Friday 1pm	Weekend Mass 4pm Sunday	
<b>Reconciliation</b>	Saturday 5:15pm - 5:45pm	Saturday 9:30am - 9:45am	Saturday 4:45pm
<b>Youth Mass</b>		1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month at 6pm	
<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	During 9:30am Mass Each Sunday in school term.		9:00am on the 4th Sunday of the month
<b>Community Masses</b>		Italian Mass Any request please contact Irma 0437607918 PNGCCAA 1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday 7pm	
<b>Healing Mass/ Anointing Novena to the Sacred Heart</b>	9am Mass 1 <sup>st</sup> Friday	9am Mass 3rd Saturday	
<b>Adoration</b>	Tuesday after 9am Mass <b>ALL YEAR</b>		
<b>Baptisms</b>	11:00am 2nd & 4th Sundays	12pm 4th Sunday	12pm 3rd Sunday
<b>Baptism Prep Parish Office</b>	2nd Tuesday of the month 11am 3rd Tuesday of the month 7pm		
<b>Catholic Charismatic Prayer Group CCCR</b>	St Thomas' Parish Hall 7:15pm Tuesday Evenings Enquiries 0419 977 531		
<b>Legion of Mary</b>	Meets every Friday in the 'Blue Room' at the Parish Hall 9:45am All Welcome		

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Powers of Attorney Appointment of  
Enduring Guardian – Leasing

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# CATHOLIC PARISH OF LOWER NORTH SHORE

## SUSTAINING OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

Fr Jose Philip and the Parish Finance Committee



Parish Annual **Report**

Financial Year  
2021/22



*Go make disciples of all nations, baptise them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and teach them to obey all that I have commanded you.*

# OUR PRIEST

A LETTER FROM FR JOSE PHILIP



Dear Friends,

Along with the Lower North Shore Parish Finance Committee, I present to you the Annual Financial Report of our Parish community. We have sought to provide you with as helpful an amount of information as possible.

The 2021/22 financial year continued to be challenging at times, however we were fortunate enough to be able to open our doors for the majority of the year. If you were able to join us, many of you

continued to give very generously to the Parish through your weekly donations and many of you also continued to embrace the “Tap N Go” terminals in each Church. For those who were not able to return in person, your continued support through online giving also very much assisted our Parish. Sadly,

despite significant Government financial support during lockdowns, our revenue from various

traditional means for donations and collections continues to decline year-on-year. The financial

viability of our Parish to properly perform ministry and evangelisation and at the same time to meet its operating costs is principally dependent on the continued financial support of our generous Parish community.

***For those of you who are already a part of our planned giving program, might you be able to increase your donation, even if only by a few dollars? If this is not possible right now, then your ongoing prayers and thoughts are always appreciated.***

I want to take this opportunity to thank most warmly our Finance Committee, for contributing their time in such a generous way to the financial life of our community. I record my gratitude, and that of the Committee to our recently appointed Parish Bookkeeper, who provides the Committee with

comprehensive and extensive financial reports on a quarterly basis. I also thank the members of our Parish Missionary Council who dedicate their time and energy to our Parish, providing tremendous support and sharing their wisdom.

I extend my sincere appreciation to our Parish Secretary, Sacramental Coordinator and Catechist

Coordinator for their valuable support and expertise. A very big thank you also to Fr Biju and Fr Chima for their invaluable assistance and support throughout the year.



# OUR COLLECTIONS

INFORMATION ON THE COLLECTIONS IN THE PARISH

## The First Collection

The proceeds from the First Collection, as well as Stole fees (donations for Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals) are for the support of the Priests and Bishops in our Diocese.

After covering the household expenses of the clergy in our Parish, the balance of the Collection is passed over to a pooled fund that provides Stipends for all active Priests, supports our retired clergy and pays clergy medical costs. A portion of the collection (15%) is allocated to a fund to support the Bishop (and retired Bishops) and his office.

Personal mass offerings and gifts remain with individual Priests.

## Pastoral Works Broken

### Bay (formerly Charitable Works Fund).

Commencing 2022/23 the Pastoral Works Broken Bay collections will be held twice a year. Donations, which are tax deductible, directly support the people of our Diocese. These are:

1. Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD)
2. CatholicCare Hospital Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care Practitioners
3. Ephpheta Centre
4. St Lucy's School
5. St Edmund's College

## The Second Collection

The Second Collection (Loose and Tap N Go) and Planned Giving (envelopes, credit cards and direct bank transfers) are for the needs of the Parish.

These funds support our parish ministries, meet the administration costs including electricity and insurance and the maintenance of the Parish buildings. as detailed on the following pages.



## Devotional Candle Stands

The monies donated for the intentions of the donors at the candle stand, are placed at the service of Parish special appeals.

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**Peter's Pence:** conducted on the first weekend in July and sent to the Vatican as a response from the faithful to support the charitable activities of the Holy See.

**Project Compassion:** conducted during Lent each year for Caritas, the Catholic organisation that provides humanitarian assistance to people in need.

**St Vincent de Paul Appeals:** held twice a year for the Winter Appeal and Christmas Appeal.

**Holy Places:** held on Good Friday to promote missionary work of the Church and support education, health, medical and social works for the people of the Holy Land and to preserve and restore sacred historical sites.

# OUR FINANCES

OVERVIEW OF OUR PARISH FINANCES FY2021/22

The ongoing impacts of the COVID pandemic, coupled with declining planned giving contributions and the loss of rent from the Naremburn property all contributed to a net deficit of **\$187K**.

Government COVID assistance totaling \$45k received throughout the year partially offset extra costs that the Parish incurred to comply with COVID obligations, including making our churches safe and to enable the Parish to continue its various Ministries which otherwise would not have been possible in these difficult times. Government financial assistance programmes are no longer available.

## Key Outcomes With Income

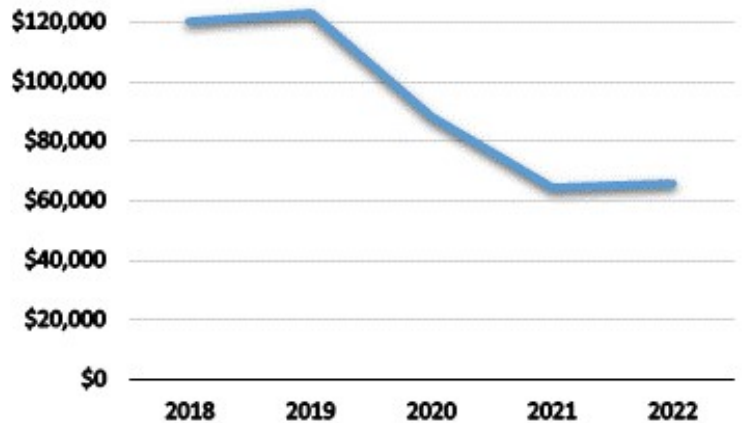
2021/22 total Church operating income declined by **15.8%** on the prior year.

Unfortunately, first and second collections giving continues to steadily decline year-on-year (refer to graphs).

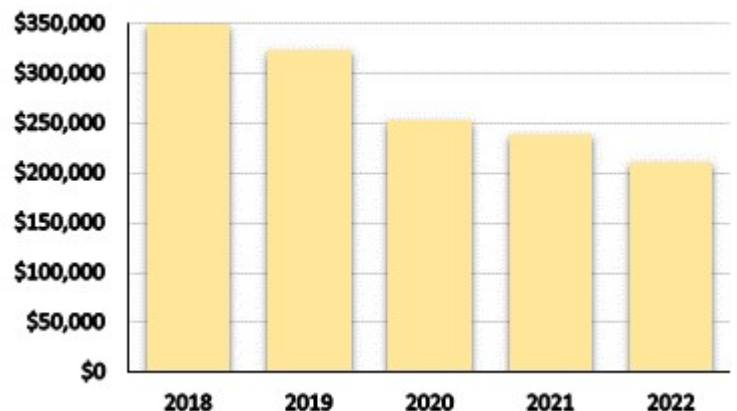
## Key Outcomes With Expenditure

2021/22 total Church operating expenditure had decreased by 5% on the prior year (driven largely by Government subsidising wages during lockdowns). Wage expenses will increase again in the coming financial year as Government subsidies are no longer available.

First Collection FY2018 - 2022



Second Collection FY2018 - 2022





# OUR FINANCES

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORT

### 5 Year Comparative Analysis of Income and Expenditure

	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18
<b>OPERATING INCOME</b>					
Credit Cards & Direct Deposits	123,475	135,670	140,692	160,469	182,400
Envelopes	23,920	33,465	35,028	46,663	66,905
Good Giving App	1,805	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Planned Giving</b>	<b>149,200</b>	<b>169,135</b>	<b>175,720</b>	<b>207,132</b>	<b>249,305</b>
Tap N Go	15,835	22,334	-	-	-
Loose Second Collection	45,661	46,988	77,274	116,607	99,758
<b>Total Giving Revenue:</b>	<b>210,696</b>	<b>238,456</b>	<b>252,994</b>	<b>323,739</b>	<b>349,062</b>
<b>Other Income</b>					
CCI & Diocesan Rebates	-	-	1,040	1,022	2,443
Donations	11,744	16,435	308,521	21,844	27,406
Interest Received	4,846	11,797	23,913	29,117	24,302
Pastoral Programmes	8,828	3,595	4,975	14,818	11,943
Rental income	260,282	266,310	250,993	290,277	252,540
Other Income	19,033	75,769	24,408	15,870	29,641
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>304,733</b>	<b>373,905</b>	<b>613,850</b>	<b>372,947</b>	<b>348,276</b>
<b>TOTAL OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b>515,428</b>	<b>612,362</b>	<b>866,843</b>	<b>696,686</b>	<b>697,338</b>
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>675,913</b>	<b>712,437</b>	<b>653,756</b>	<b>725,250</b>	<b>779,697</b>
<b>OPERATING SURPLUS / DEFICIT</b>	<b>- 160,484</b>	<b>- 100,075</b>	<b>213,088</b>	<b>- 28,563</b>	<b>- 82,359</b>
<b>Other Non Operating Income &amp; Exp:</b>	<b>- 26,282</b>	<b>- 20,613</b>	<b>2,655</b>	<b>- 87,121</b>	<b>- 138,277</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>-\$ 186,766</b>	<b>-\$120,688</b>	<b>\$215,743</b>	<b>-\$115,685</b>	<b>-\$ 220,636</b>

#### Notes for FY2021/22:

- Office Staff wages accounted for \$126,253 of total operating expenditure
  - Music Ministry wages accounted for \$116,380 of total operating expenditure
  - Figures exclude expenditure incurred on the proposed Naremburn development (\$282K). This amount is covered by the payment received from the developer as part of the development rights payment.
  - PWBB collections shortfall of **\$56,062** which is required to be paid from Parish funds.
- Target for FY2022/23 is \$77,738.

# OUR FINANCES

PARTICULAR HIGHLIGHTS FOR FY2021/22

## Key Outcomes With Income:

- Recurring planned second collection (credit cards, direct debits and envelopes) income decreased by **11.8%** on the prior year.
- Second collection loose and Tap N Go income declined by **11.6%** on the prior year reflecting reduced Mass attendance due to COVID restrictions.
- Total Church revenue (excl. Govt. Subsidies) declined by **\$97K** or **15.8%** on the prior year driven mainly by significant decreases in planned giving (**11.8%**), unplanned giving (**11.3%**), one-off donations (**28.5%**), and interest income from Term Deposits (**58.9%**).
- The above significant decreases in income were only partially offset by Government assistance subsidies.

## Key Outcomes With Expenditure:

Total Church operating expenses declined by \$37K or 5% on the prior year.

- Key drivers were reductions in Motor Vehicle costs, IT expenses, and Altar & Church requisites.
- Employment expenses also declined due to COVID closures but will increase again in the new financial year.
- Any increases in operating expenses were offset by these larger cost savings.

## Capital Works Development Highlights: (non-operating expenditure)

### Parish Office:

- Re-carpet and repaint office.
- Installation of new ducted air-conditioning system.

### St Thomas Church:

- Installation of new projector system.

### St Leonards Church:

- New lectern microphone
- New lighting fixtures for sanctuary area.



# OUR FUTURE

FINANCIAL STRATEGIES FOR OUR FUTURE

## Planned Giving

As we look ahead to support the ongoing life and mission of our Parish, might you consider becoming a member of our **Planned Giving Program** so that we can most effectively plan for our annual endeavours?

If you are already one of our valued planned giving members, are you able to review your contribution and increase it? Even if only by a few dollars?

Planned giving may easily be made by:

- A monthly debit to your credit or debit card;
- Direct bank transfer (EFT);
- Obtaining a set of weekly envelopes that you contribute at Mass collections; or
- Pledging a quarterly or annual amount to the Parish.

For more information about these options for our Planned Giving Program please contact the Parish office.

## Bequests

**A gift to the Parish in your Will, no matter how small, would help us enormously.**

After you have provided for your family, you may like to leave part of your estate to your family of faith. This may be through a specific sum of money or a small percentage of your estate.

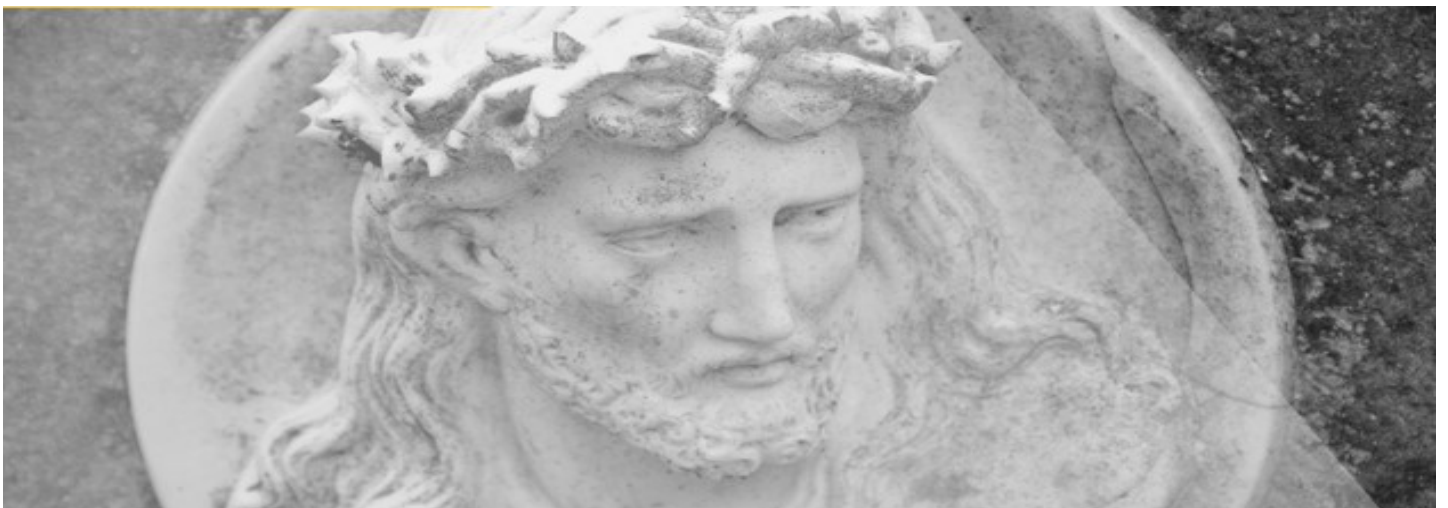
The following clause may be taken to your solicitor and discussed with your family.

*"I give to the Trustees of the Roman Catholic Church for the Diocese of Broken Bay, (ABN 79 031 652 544) as trustee for the Catholic Parish of Lower North Shore, in the State of New South Wales for its general purposes, the sum of \$ .....or \_\_\_\_\_percent of my estate or the property at \_\_\_\_\_(or other specific items), free of all duties, taxes and other deductions of whatever kind.*

*I declare that the receipt for the same signed by the Bishop of the Diocese, or other designated officer, shall be sufficient discharge to my Executors and Trustees."*

**At all times, donations to the Parish are able to be made either for specific projects or for general revenue via our bank account.**

**Please contact the Parish Office on 9958 8846 for account details.**





## **Vox Episcopi 02 March 2023**

During the first week of Lent I saw a meme on social media which said, "you're fasting during Lent but not praying? I think that's called dieting."

It is very easy to take our eye off the mission, which is to begin and end with Jesus Christ. The negative consequence is that the season of Lent, with its three sure fast patterns of penance: alms giving, prayer, and fasting, tend to become all about us.

Jesus teaches us that to follow him as a disciple, we need to be vigilant in our relationships – with others, with God, and with ourselves.

This time of penance is not a call to scrupulosity or rigid practices of religion. It is an invitation to eternal life, which begins with small acts of selflessness, carried out with humility and simplicity. I repeat what I said on Ash Wednesday when we began our Lenten journey, "what we do in Lent will hopefully impact upon who we are for the rest of the year".

Last weekend I had the pleasure of admitting Richard Houwing and Hien Vu as Candidates for Sacred Orders. Richard has been journeying along the pathway to the Diaconate and Hien is on the way to Priesthood. Both men have been preparing well and I am confident that they will make a great contribution to the mission in the Church of Broken Bay.

I am grateful to those who have accompanied them in their formation thus far, and invite you to continue to support and encourage Richard and Hien as they are called to Sacred Orders.

+Anthony





**Sacred Heart Church Pymble**

*Serra Club* North Shore

Lenten

*Reflection Day*

**SATURDAY, MARCH 11**

SPEAKER **FR ALDRIN VALDEHUEZA**

The Serra Club invites you to a Lenten Reflection Day, Saturday March 11 at Sacred Heart Church Pymble. All are welcome to attend. Please bring a plate to share for lunch and refreshments will be provided. The day will conclude with Mass at 3PM. Please RSVP to Terry Scanlan

**TIME: 10AM - 4PM**

**VENUE: Sacred Heart Church  
2 Richard Porter Way, Pymble**

To RSVP email [terry\\_scanlan@bigpond.com](mailto:terry_scanlan@bigpond.com)





## VIRTUAL BOOK LAUNCH INVITATION

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*Australian Women Preach* is a weekly podcast featuring Australian women preaching the Sunday Gospel. *In Her Voice: Raising Women's Voices in Preaching the Gospel* is a selection of reflections from that podcast featuring 30 women preachers of diverse Christian faith and ages.

*In Her Voice* is a unique Australian book that showcases the often unheard voices of Christian women.

Six of the contributors from the book – Tricia Gemmell, Mary Coloe, Rachel McLean, Jennifer King, Di Langham and Tracy McEwan – will talk about their preaching experiences, and what it has meant to be part of *Australian Woman Preach*. A Q&A session will follow.

We hope you can join us for the virtual launch of this powerful and ground-breaking book.

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### EVENT DETAILS

**WHEN:** Thursday 9 March 2023

**TIME:** 7.30pm AEDT\*

**WHERE:** Via Zoom meeting

**COST:** Free

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER ONLINE](#)

# Latest from Letefoho



This weekend is LETS Awareness weekend. We are not holding a collection, but you are more than welcome to donate to the LETS projects via BPoint on the Parish website.

To remind you all LETS stands for Letefoho East Timor Support. Letefoho is a remote subdistrict in the mountains of Timor Leste. It includes 65 villages and 25,000+ people. It is a very poor area of one of the poorest countries in the world. LNSP has been supporting Letefoho through LETS since September 2013.

Our past projects include:

1) The complete renovation of a high school



2) the building of a boarding house for girls



3) Vehicles for the community



4) The extension of an old building to be a boarding house for boys



Our ongoing projects continue to include students sponsorship for high school students and students attending tertiary education institutions. This year we will be expect to be sponsoring a total of 95 high school students and 65 tertiary students. This is a most effective level of support for a very poor community, which provides for future self-sustainability and improved quality of life for not just the students, but the whole community.



School students (L)

Tertiary students (R)



LETS continues to send reconditioned laptops, school supplies and occasionally books to Letefoho, with the great



support of D B Schenker Australia to transport the goods to Melbourne for us and then Rotary Donations in Kind for transport to Timor Leste.

This year we are working towards:

1. funding repairs to the older section of the boys' boarding house (~AUD9,524)
2. completion of the Eraulo chapel. Eraulo is a village of Letefoho with a significant position.
3. funding a new project of pig farming. Initiated by the Letefoho Parish, this project is to be the base of a village project for families to eventually grow and sell pigs themselves.

We are very fortunate to have LETS as a part of our Parish community. It is a LNSP project that is now in its 10 year, thanks to the wonderful support of our Parish Priests and you, our Parishioners! Your individual support has been unsurpassed. The LETS Committee and the people of Letefoho are incredible grateful for all you have given – funds, hands-on support and your prayers. THANK YOU!

The LETS Committee needs to grow! Please think about joining our small group and contributing to a most meaningful and rewarding opportunity within which you can really help our less fortunate brothers and sisters in Christ. Please contact Georgina at [gcm.lough@gmail.com](mailto:gcm.lough@gmail.com) or 0419280729 or Lorna at [admin@lets.net.au](mailto:admin@lets.net.au) If you would like to share your time, talents or expertise with LETS.

Candlelight, song, prayer, silence

# WATCH and PRAY



a **Taize** service for Lent

Simple meditative worship for everyone.

*Looking for some peace, stillness and a message of hope in a fragile world?*

**Northbridge Uniting Church**

**Gunyah St, Northbridge**

**7.15pm, Sunday March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

6.30pm Refreshments in Hall

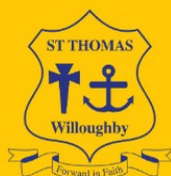
**Hosted by our Christian Church Communities**

Catholic Parish of Lower North Shore, Willoughby- Northbridge  
Uniting Church, St Marks Anglican North

**We warmly welcome you!**



# OPEN DAY



## St Thomas Catholic Primary School

**Come and experience first hand why St Thomas Willoughby is a great choice for your child.**

- Meet our Principal, teachers and students
- Discover how each and every child has a unique learning experience
- Visit our new refurbished learning environments
- Gain a real sense of the St Thomas community

**Wednesday 8 March 2023**

8am to 10:30am, 4pm to 6pm

**Tuesday 14 March 2023**

7.30am to 8.45am, 4pm to 6pm



**Scan Now  
To Register**

**Enrica Bova, Principal**

St Thomas Catholic Primary School  
2 Horsley Ave, Willoughby  
9958 7308  
[stwdbb.catholic.edu.au](http://stwdbb.catholic.edu.au)

