



# 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.*

16th April SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

DIVINE MERCY  
*Sunday*



**Divine Mercy Sunday** is a day of great significance for Christians around the world. It is celebrated on the Sunday after Easter and is a day dedicated to recognizing the infinite mercy of God.

On this day, Christians remember the message of St. Faustina Kowalska, who had a vision of Jesus as the Divine Mercy in the early 20th century. She was inspired to spread the message of God's mercy and to promote the devotion to the Divine Mercy.

On Divine Mercy Sunday, Catholics around the world gather to pray and participate in special devotions, such as the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and the Novena of Divine Mercy. It is a time to reflect on God's boundless love and mercy, and to seek forgiveness for our sins.

Divine Mercy Sunday is an opportunity for Christians to reflect on God's unconditional love and mercy, and to seek His forgiveness for their sins. It is a day to rejoice in the triumph of God's mercy over sin and death, and to renew our faith in His promise of eternal life.

As we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday, let us be reminded of God's great love and mercy towards us, and let us strive to extend that same love and mercy to others in our lives. May we always remember that no matter how far we may stray from God, His mercy is always available to us, and He is always ready to welcome us back into His loving embrace.

## Combined Parish Consultation

You'll be aware that in recent weeks, we have organised four parish discernment sessions – for parishioners at each of our three church communities, and for students at St Thomas' Primary School. The purpose of these sessions has been to give everyone an opportunity to listen, discuss and share their thoughts, hopes and ideas for our parish.

We have received lots of wonderful feedback from these sessions, and our facilitator, Deacon Peter McCulloch, has been collating the ideas into one document.

We would now like to present the feedback we've received to a combined parish consultation to be held at **St Thomas' Church Hall at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 9 May**. This will be an opportunity for everyone to discuss what has been raised so far, and to add any new ideas you may have.

The results of this consultation will be used to guide the preparation of our new Parish Pastoral Plan.

I hope you can join us. Refreshments will be available. *Fr Jose Phillip OSH* **Parish Priest**

Please join us for our Combined Parish  
Consultation Wednesday 9th May  
St Thomas' Church Hall at 7pm



Please join us on 25th April for our  
ANZAC Day Masses at St Thomas'  
Church and St Leonard's Church  
9am

## Entrance Antiphon

Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

## First Reading

Acts 2:42-47

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone.

The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed.

They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 117:2-4. 13-15. 22-24. R. v.1

**(R.) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.**

1. Let the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end.' Let the sons of Aaron say: 'His love has no end.' Let those who fear the Lord say: 'His love has no end.' **(R.)**

2. I was thrust, thrust down and falling but the Lord was my helper. The Lord is my strength and my song; he was my saviour. There are shouts of joy and victory in the tents of the just. **(R.)**

3. The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad. **(R.)**

## Second Reading

1 Pt 1:3-9

## A reading from the first letter of St Peter

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which has been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold - only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire - and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

## Gospel Acclamation

Jn 20:29

Alleluia, alleluia! You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe! Alleluia!

## Gospel

Jn 20:19-31

## A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw

the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive,

they are forgiven;

for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me.

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

## Baptism

We welcome into our parish family the newly baptised Micha & Isaiah Murphy, Oliver Yang, Theodore Chung, Tate Lucotte and Anya Zhao into our faith family.





### 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@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 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

Dear parishioners,

With your help, and with the help of Fr Jose and the Willoughby Conference of St Vincent de Paul Society, we have raised just over \$35,000 towards our pilgrimage. Fundraising has now officially concluded. We can hardly put into words how grateful we are to you all for your incredible support. You have made it possible for us to experience a truly life-making event. Without you, it would not have been possible for us all to attend WYD. Thank you, thank you, thank you!! Above all, we give thanks to God for you, our parishioners, and for making it possible for us to participate in WYD. We know that the Holy Spirit has been with us throughout our fundraising and continues to guide our spiritual formation before we head off in July.



As a small token of our gratitude, **we would like to put on a morning tea for you at each of our churches over the next few weekends after some morning Masses.** Please come and say hi if you see us - we'd love to thank you in person for your support, both financial and spiritual. God bless, WYD Pilgrims

## "Sharing the Stories of Our New Catholic Members"

### The Kawanishi Family

It was a wonderful Experience. We have had a sense of gradually becoming a part of the community. We enjoyed the meetings which made us understand the Catholic faith, Still a lot to learn in front of us, but it was a big first step! We really appreciate the parish team who spent their precious time on teaching us. Best part was when we were baptised in a beautiful mass setting and in a welcomed atmosphere to become a catholic. We decided to become catholic because we have been so impressed with the values of Catholic faith and education through St Philip Neri School, and we thought we can contribute to the society through Catholic faith.



### Yue (Kelly) Zou

As a newly baptised member, I would like to extend a warm thanks for organising RCIA program. Not only each session was very informative but the material that was provided was also very interesting, especially for the children. Thank you (Fr Jose, Fr Biju, Fr Vincent, Fr Emmanuel, Sister Ana, Rose and Paul) for your support, guidance, encouragement and opportunities provided to me during the last several months. I have certainly learned a lot and felt more close to God. The RCIA program, the team and prayers made me feel warm, welcome and confident. Thanks again for your time effort and hard work!

### Sharmila Shearing

It was a transformative and beautiful experience. I enjoyed learning the meaning behind rituals and practices of faith, gaining the fuller understanding of the mystery of faith and the life of Christ. Being inspired by the kindness and generosity of the RCIA teachers was also important. Gaining insight and understanding in the enactment of the last supper with the figures and it's connection to the Eucharist. Understanding the nature of the Church. Thank you.

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...

**Recently Deceased:** Ronald Powell and Joseph Thundiyil.

**Anniversaries:** Leonardo Cascio, Vincenza Nandorlo, Ivica, Ante & Kuzma Marinovic

**Repose of the Soul:** Calogero Nandorlo, Maria & Santo Prestipino

**Sick:** Bishop Peter Ingham





## Diocesan Pastoral Care Course

Volunteer Catholic Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion visit hospitals throughout the Diocese of Broken Bay providing comfort and care to Catholic patients. We are looking for volunteers to join the Catholic Chaplaincy Team at Royal North Shore Hospital (RNSH). Some of the key qualities we are looking for in anyone considering being part of this ministry at RNSH are:

- A genuine prayerful faith life including reverence for and regular participate in Sunday Eucharist
- An ability to listen and a willingness to refer on when necessary
- A warm, friendly, empathetic disposition
- The ability to relate to people of different ages, personalities and backgrounds
- A respect for others and their diversity
- The ability to work as part of a team
- Enthusiasm, motivation and professionalism
- A Compassionate heart

\*Please note that this role is not suitable for those seeking to proselytise. Our Diocese and NSW Health require that 40 hours of training is completed to perform this important role. The Diocesan Pastoral Care Course (DPCC) meets this requirement, is FREE and is open to those who already volunteer in a hospital context, or in local health and aged care facilities, and also to those who might be deciding if they are suited to this ministry.

The course will be offered on five consecutive Wednesdays: April 26, May 3, 10, 17 and 24, between 9:00am and 3:00 pm at St. Leonard's Catholic Church (Cnr Willoughby Rd and Donnelly Rd, Naremburn). Morning tea and lunch will be provided.

Please speak to your Parish Priest for more information about the course and how to apply, or contact Peter Brown, Practice Manager Hospital Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care, CatholicCare Diocese of Broken Bay on 0418 616 602.



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### **Vox Episcopi**

**13 April 2023**

Our celebrations of the Easter Vigil was the beginning of the season of Easter, a feast of rebirth and new beginnings.

While the Vigil marked the end of the paschal fast, the end of the celebration of Holy Week, and the end of repentance and conversion for which Lent prepared us all, it is now a time of joy and thanksgiving.

The Easter season is the longest of the special liturgical seasons of the Church. It extends right through to Pentecost Sunday, the 50th day after Easter, and encompasses the feast of Divine Mercy Sunday, this Sunday, 16 April, the Ascension of Our Lord on 21 May and then Pentecost on Sunday 28 May when we celebrate the Holy Spirit coming down on the Apostles and followers of Jesus who had gathered in the Upper Room, and the beginning of the Church.

Divine Mercy Sunday, this Sunday, is based on the private revelations of Sr Faustina Kowalska and focuses on the gift of mercy and love given through Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.

Sr Faustina, who became known as the Apostle of Mercy, was a Polish religious sister of the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy who received the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy through visions and conversations with Jesus.

In her diary Sr Faustina wrote the chaplet's prayers for mercy, also said on beads like the rosary, are threefold – to obtain mercy, to trust in God's mercy, and to show mercy to others. The Chaplet can be said at any time but it is especially said on Divine Mercy Sunday at 3pm, recalling the time of Christ's death on the Cross.

Sr Faustina suffered from tuberculosis and died at just 33 years old. She was the first saint canonised in the new millennium by Pope John Paul II, 30 April 2000 who on the same day declared the second Sunday of Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday.



# DIVINE MERCY HOUR

SUNDAY 16th APRIL 2023

3.00 pm – 4.15 pm



- Procession
- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
- Adoration with Sr Faustina's quotes
- Divine Mercy Chaplet
- Benediction
- Blessing of Divine Mercy images

Sacrament of Reconciliation available from 3pm

**“All grace flows from mercy, and the last hour abounds with mercy for us. Let no one doubt concerning the goodness of God; even if a person’s sins were as dark as night, God’s mercy is stronger than our misery.”**

(No. 1507)

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## St Philip Neri Primary School Northbridge



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The Bishops of Oceania say their people's reflections for the global Synod of Bishops for a Synodal Church left them feeling "peace and joy", but also called them to be prophetic and ready to "model ourselves on the love we proclaim". The bishops, in Fiji for the quadrennial assembly of the Federation of Catholic Bishops Conferences of Oceania in February, spent part of that gathering considering the region's response to the Synod's Working Document for the Continental Stage, titled Enlarge the Space of Your Tent. The Oceania response was drafted by a writing and discernment group, which synthesised reports from the four bishops conferences and the local Eastern Catholic Churches. In a context of prayer and contemplation, the bishops reviewed and refined that document, which the FCBCO's executive council recently approved and submitted to the Synod Secretariat in Rome. The document has now been published, as have some other continental responses. Bishop Anthony Randazzo of Broken Bay, appointed president of the FCBCO at the February assembly, said while the report captured the voices of Catholics across Oceania, the bishops felt the need to offer a pastoral response. "One of the key works of a bishop is to teach. Gathered as the shepherds of the people of Oceania, we wanted to share our prayerful and considered thoughts on what we had heard," he said. "As we bishops wrote, through this Synod process 'we do not want to build a different Church, but rather to renew and revitalise the Church which we love'. That starts with each and every one of us – all the baptised – individually, but also in communion with one another." The document concedes that the responses gathered represented only a small proportion of the Catholic population, and the breadth and depth of local lived experiences were not always contained in the document. "The document captures the hopes and concerns of our people, and this might give the impression that the Church is in disarray," the bishops' pastoral reflection says. "However, it is precisely in places and times of pain and suffering that Christ reveals Himself. This confidence and faith in His presence can guide us in our response." The Oceania report outlines the fruits of the discernment that took place in response to Enlarge the Space of Your Tent, drawing together common themes, issues and insights. It also highlights tensions and differences, and identifies priorities and calls to action. Regional bishops conferences around the world were invited to prepare responses to the Working Document for the Continental Stage, with the seven submissions helping to shape the working document (instrumentum laboris) for the first Synod assembly, to be held in Rome this October. "We pray – and we believe – that Oceania's hope-filled contribution will help the work of the Synod move forward in fidelity to the Holy Spirit," Bishop Randazzo said. The Federation of Catholic Bishops Conferences of Oceania comprises the episcopal conferences of Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific and Papua New Guinea/Solomon Islands.