



Catholic Parish of Lower North Shore



St Thomas' Willoughby

St Philip Neri Northbridge

St Leonard's Naremburn

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.

PARISH OFFICE

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🌐 www.bbcatholic.org.au/lns

OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Friday: 9:00am - 4.00pm

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Fr. Vincent Trung Nguyen, AP
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Fr. Emmanuel Obiche, AP
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Dionne Soares (Mon & Fri)

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Ilona Dudek (Fri)
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CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

St. Thomas' Primary School

2 Horsley Ave, Willoughby NSW
(02) 7256 2104

Principal: Enrica Bova

enrica.bova@dbb.catholic.edu.au

St. Philip Neri Primary School

67 Baringa Rd, Northbridge NSW
(02) 9958 7136

Principal: Liz Calabria

MISSION - "Together, in Christ's love, for others"

VISION - "To know and love God, and to be Christ to one another"

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B
10th DECEMBER 2023**



Dear Brothers & Sisters,

As we enter the second week of Advent we hear in the opening verses of Mark 1:1-8, that we are called to reflect on the profound message of preparation and repentance. As we immerse ourselves in this passage, the figure of John the Baptist emerges, a voice in the wilderness proclaiming a call to repentance and preparing the way for the Messiah. In our own spiritual landscapes, how often do we find ourselves in the wilderness—times of uncertainty, doubt, or longing? John's message echoes through the ages, urging us to turn towards God, to repent and be renewed. The baptism he offers symbolizes a cleansing, a fresh start, an invitation to embrace the transformative power of Christ in our lives.

This Gospel challenges us to reflect on our spiritual preparedness. Are we open to the transformative journey Christ offers? The urgency in Mark's narrative calls us to examine our hearts, making space for repentance and renewal. To help make room for the presence of Jesus in our lives the parish will be holding two **Reconciliation & Prayer Evenings**. The first will be held on Tuesday 12th Dec 7.30pm at St Leonards Church, this will also include Adoration. The second will be held on Wednesday 20th Dec 7pm at St Thomas' Church starting with the Rosary. So I invite you to come and allow the grace that comes from confessing our sins to open our hearts to a deeper relationship with God and strengthen our connection with the community. In the spirit of humility and renewal, let us approach the sacrament, allowing the love and mercy of Christ to transform us. May the message of Mark 1:1-8 inspire us to prepare our hearts, making room for the presence of Jesus, the true source of hope and renewal in our lives.

Blessings, **Fr Jose Philip OSH Parish Priest**

Join us for an evening of Reconciliation and Prayer

Date: Tuesday 12th December
St Leonard's Church

Time: 7.30PM - 8.30pm
Including Adoration

Date: Wednesday 20th December
St Thomas' Church

Time: 7.00PM - 8.30PM
Including Rosary & Adoration



Farewell to Kristy

We invite you all to join us for a special farewell celebration honouring Kristy, our Sacramental Coordinator. With gratitude, we share the news that Kristy will be concluding her position in the parish this year after playing an important role in our community. Please keep Kristy in your prayers as she commences her fulltime role with the diocese at CCD.

Date: Sunday, 17th December **Time:** 9.00am mass **Location:** St Philip Neri church



SUNDAY'S READINGS

Entrance Antiphon *Isaiah 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.



Lighting of the 2nd Advent Candle

"Gracious God, as we light the second candle of this Advent wreath, we seek your peace. In a world filled with turmoil, may the light of this candle remind us of the peace

that only you can bring. Help us to be instruments of your peace in our homes, communities, and the world. Amen."

First Reading *Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11*

'Console my people, console them' says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes. 'A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God. 'Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

Responsorial Psalm *84:9-14. R. v.8*

(R.) Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Second Reading *2 Peter 3:8-14*

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget:

that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his

ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up. Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

Gospel Acclamation *Luke 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 *Mark 1:1-8*

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

Volunteers Needed!

We need many volunteers to help us make our Christmas Masses a glorious celebration. These include roles in the nativity play for children, choir members, food servers, readers, people to set up and pack down and many more! If you are able to help, at the 6pm Christmas Eve Mass at St Leonards please use the QR code on the following page. All other Christmas Masses will have sign up sheets in each church for you to use.



CHILDREN PARTICIPATING IN THE NATIVITY CHRISTMAS MASS ST THOMAS' CHURCH AT 6PM WILL HAVE REHEARSAL ON - THURSDAY 21st DECEMBER AT 10.30AM.



CHILDREN'S PARTICIPATING IN THE CHRISTMAS EVE CHOIR REHEARSAL- SUNDAY 17th AFTER 9.30AM MASS

Come and join our St Thomas

Christmas Eve Choir

Calling all children and their parents to come and sing with us at the Family Mass on Christmas Eve

24 DECEMBER

CAROLS: 5.30PM
MASS: 6PM
ST THOMAS WILLOUGHBY

RSVP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO:
HENNY.THEODORUS@GMAIL.COM

OR PHONE PARISH OFFICE: 9958 8846

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve Mass Times

St Leonard's Church Naremburn

5.30pm Carols/ 6pm Family & Youth Mass

This Mass will include a Nativity Play & Music by
SPN & Youth Choir

10.30pm Carols/11pm PNGCCAA Mass

St Thomas' Church Willoughby

6pm Family Mass with a Nativity Play

11.30pm Carols/ 12 midnight Mass

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

Please note all Sunday Morning
Masses over the 3 communities on

Christmas Eve will remain

- 9am St Philip Neri
- 8am & 9.30am St Thomas'
- 10.30am St Leonard's



The St Philip Neri and St
Leonards Communities invite
you to volunteer at our

Christmas Eve VIGIL MASS



SCAN QR CODE TO SIGN UP
OR GO TO [HTTPS://BIT.LY/SPNCHRISTMASEVE](https://bit.ly/spnchristmaseve)

We need kids to play roles in our pageant,
teens and adults to assist with catering and
various other helping roles. The success of this
night depends on on volunteers. Please help!

HOLY HOUR EVENING



You are warmly
invited to join us
for an hour of
guided Eucharistic
Adoration.

TIME

7.30pm

DATE

12 DEC

LOCATION

ST LEONARDS
NAREMBURN

**ARRIVE FROM 7PM FOR A CUPPA
RECONCILIATION AVAILABLE**

O come o come Emmanuel.

Join us for a peaceful evening of prayer with
our Lord Jesus in Adoration in this Advent
Season.



IN OUR PRAYERS

Anniversaries: Bosko Kevric, Rosa Squadrito

Rest of the Soul: Alice Attard

Sick: Bishop Peter Ingham, Peter Champion,
Anne-Maree Nevil, Nicole Eve Van de Gard,
Lana Zalmic, Lucy Rappa and Michael Chiu



Cuppa N' Conversation

You are invited to join in the spirit of Christmas by
enjoying a delicious Morning Tea and singing of
Christmas Carols.

Date: Wednesday 20th December

Time: 9.30am to 11am

Venue: Parish Hall Blue Room, Cnr High St and
Horsley Rd

*Come along and join in the fun and
Christmas Spirit*

Thank You From SVdP

for your amazing generosity during the **toiletries drive** and
all our wonderful helpers last Sunday morning. We packed
around 50 gift bags of toiletries with treats and have deliv-
ered these along with boxes of toiletry supplies to the Vin-
nies Maternal Heart centre at Waterloo.



A fabulous supply of toiletry gifts bags were Made up and
all extras delivered to Waterloo Vinnies , with very
generous goods received from parish school and church
communities. The Vinnies hamper and gifts campaign
continues over next fortnight with an **emphasis on**
hampers please - food is in great demand.
Kind regards Lynda, Helen, June

Latest from Letefoho

Parabens! Congratulations to the first group of sponsored students to graduate from the Jesuit Teachers College in Kasait, Timor Leste!

These diligent and most grateful students were sponsored by Parishioners of LNSP through LETS, to complete their senior high school education and then their 4 year teachers college course.

They will return to Letefoho in 2024 to teach at Our Lady of Mt Carmel High School for 2 years - to "give back" to their school and community. They and their families are so thankful to LETS and the Parishioners of LNSP, who have given them such a treasured opportunity.

Lao ho Maromak!

Front row (from left):

Pedro de Jesus Graça, Isabel Soares, Helena Soares, Fr Elio, Rosalina



PARISH SCHEDULE

	St Thomas' Willoughby	St Leonard's Naremburn	St Philip Neri Northbridge
Weekend Masses	6.00pm Vigil Saturday 8.00am & 9.30am Sunday	10.30am Sunday 6.00pm Sunday (<i>Youth Mass</i>)	5.00pm Vigil Saturday 9.00am Sunday
Weekday Masses	9.00am: Mon – Sat	9.00am: Tue, Thu, Sat	9.15am: Mon, Wed, Fri
Adoration	Tuesday: 9.30am - 10.30am	Saturday: 9.30am - 10.00am	
Reconciliation	Saturday: 5.15pm - 5.45pm	Saturday: 9.30am - 10.00am	Saturday: 4.15pm - 5.00pm
Healing Mass	9.00am on First Friday (<i>Divine Mercy & Adoration</i>)	9.00am on 3 rd Saturday	
Baptism	11.00am on 2nd and 4th Sunday	12pm on 4th Sunday	10.30am on 3rd Sunday
Children's Liturgy	9.30am Sunday (<i>during school term</i>)		9.00am 4 th Sunday (<i>Family Mass</i>)
Rosary	8.30am Mon-Fri 7.00pm Wednesday	9.30am Tue, Thu, Sat	9.45am Mon, Wed, Fri

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ALLIED HEALTH:
DR GEORGE DRAGASEVICH, CHIROPRACTOR

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GROUND FLOOR, NORTH SHORE HEALTH HUB, 7 WESTBOURNE STREET, ST LEONARDS, NSW

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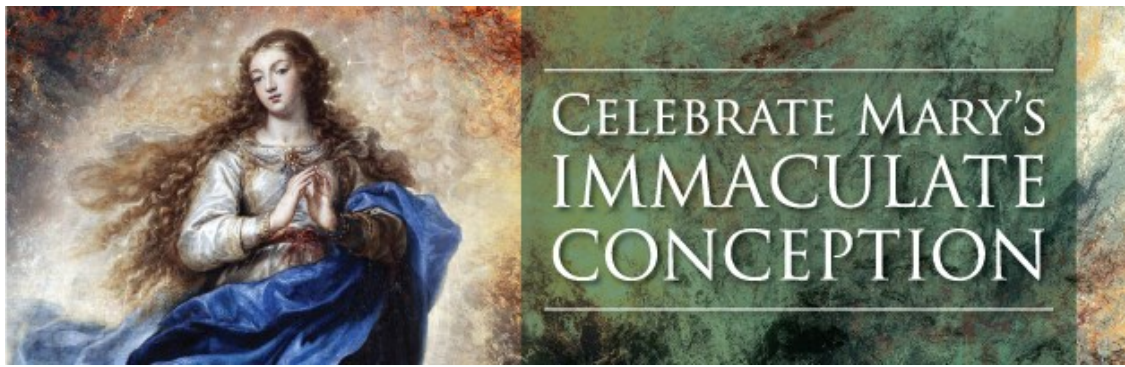
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Vox Populi
07 December 2023

Tomorrow, on 8 December, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

A feast called the Conception of Mary arose in the Eastern Church in the seventh century. It reached the West in the eighth century. In the 11th century, it received its present name, the Immaculate Conception. By the 18th century, it became a feast of the universal Church and is now recognised as a solemnity. In 1854, Pope Pius IX's solemn declaration, 'Ineffabilis Deus,' clarified with finality the long-held belief of the Church that Mary was conceived free from original sin. Mary was granted this extraordinary privilege because of her unique role in history as the Mother of God. That is, she received the gift of salvation in Christ from the very moment of her conception.

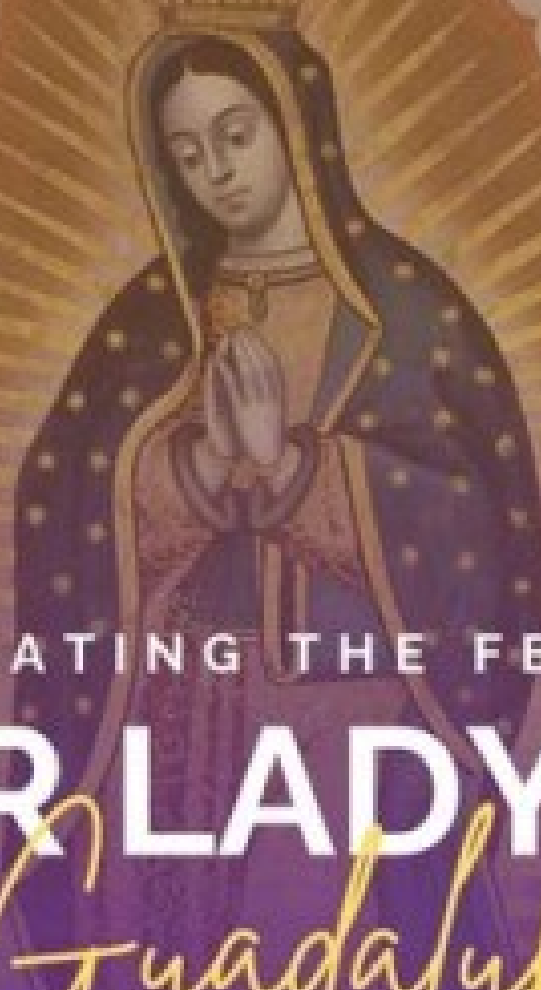
Even though Mary is unique in all humanity for being born without sin, she is held up by the Church as a model for all humanity in her holiness and purity and her willingness to accept the Plan of God for her.

Every person is called to recognise and respond to God's call to their own vocation to carry out God's plan for their life and fulfil the mission prepared for them since before the beginning of time. Mary's 'Let it be done to me according to Thy Word,' in response to the Angel Gabriel's greeting, is the response required of all Christians to God's Plan.

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is a time to celebrate the great joy of God's gift to humanity in Mary and to recognise with greater clarity the truth that each and every human being has been created by God to fulfil a particular mission that only He can fulfil .



Our Lady
OF DOLOURS



CELEBRATING THE FEAST OF
OUR LADY OF
Guadalupe

12
DEC

ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US FOR:
MASS 7:00PM
BLESSING FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS
MUSIC ON THE FORECOURT AFTER

Our Lady of Dolours | 94 Archer St Chatswood



Advent starts this Sunday, heralding a new church year and the Year B cycle of liturgical readings at Mass.

No season of the year is more at odds with our Australian culture than Advent. The advertising blitz for the Christmas shopping binge is in full swing, secular Christmas music is everywhere, neighbourhood streets become ablaze with Christmas lights and good cheer. We easily forget the true meaning of Christmas, the birth of our Messiah, so lost on many today. Then suddenly, all the commercial Christmas glitz disappears Christmas night makes way for Boxing Day sales, the Sydney to Hobart yacht race is on and the summer holidays are in full swing.

Yes, it's a crazy time of the year; school graduation ceremonies, concerts, farewells. Workplaces celebrating end-of-the year parties. We are preoccupied with plans for Christmas day feasting and summer holidays. For many, there's a spirit of indulgence in the air, congruent with the languor of balmy summer days ahead. For others the struggle is just to keep their lives together, with living costs causing enormous stress for so many. In 2023 we are all overshadowed by a darker world with wars, conflict, and social division. Will we simply let Advent pass by unnoticed?



What does our Church say about Advent?

Advent is the twofold coming of Christ. The season where we prepare ourselves in heart and mind, to remember the first coming of the Son of God, through his Incarnation (God becomes human), **and** to joyfully anticipate his second coming at the end of time.¹

Our Advent liturgy tells its own story.

Advent begins on the Sunday on or nearest to 30th November and ends before the evening prayer on Christmas Eve. Depending on the day of the week that Christmas falls, the number of days vary but there are always four Sundays. **This year the 4th Sunday of Advent falls on 24th December, Christmas Eve.**

Our **music** settings and hymns change, they're anticipatory, reflecting simplicity and restraint. We hear lovely hymns like the age-old *O Come O Come Emmanuel* and, *Creator of the Stars of Night*. The Gloria is not said or sung this season.

The **colour violet** springs up everywhere denoting a season of penance, humility, and prayer as we await Christ's birth.

The **Advent wreath** is an evergreen circular wreath signifying continuous life, the eternity of God who has no beginning or end. Each week of Advent, we will light one of the 4 candles, 3 purple and one rose, representing the 4 weeks of Advent: hope, faith, joy (rose) and peace. The white candle placed in the middle of the wreath is lit on Christmas Eve. This candle is called the "Christ Candle" and represents the life of Christ.

The Advent Sunday readings

The Sunday Mass readings are centred on the **Gospel** readings.

1st Sunday heralds the end times. (*The second coming*)

2nd and 3rd Sundays highlight the mission of John the Baptist,

4th Sunday turns attention to the forthcoming Nativity of Christ.

The **Old Testament** readings consist of messianic prophecies, mostly from Isaiah, while the **second readings** are season-related extracts from the writings of the Apostles.

Take a little time during each week this Advent to read through the Sunday readings and see this story unfold.

(UNLYGRC #39, 1969)

Ref: <https://www.catholic.au/s/article/Advent-and-Christmas>

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Take a little time during each week this Advent to read through the Sunday readings and see this story unfold.

Here are some ideas to help you focus on the Advent season this year.

We have put together a music play list of Advent music both old and new. Take a little time out, listen in the car, out walking, at home, to help you focus on this wonderful season of Advent. Keep the Christmas carols to later in Advent. <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/4NkqWPgXx4VeVwwcoqQxbf?si=e9771d18ae38423b>

Have a listen to the popular Fr Mike Schmitz on the true meaning of Advent (**8mins**). https://youtu.be/WD357YYDk1A?si=576WFL5_gll_QeBj

Partake in an Advent prayer study at home or with others. Eg <https://www.ignatianspirituality.com/advent/>

Spend calming prayer time with Jesus in the Advent Holy Hour 7.30pm Dec 12, St Leonards Church.

Go to confession.

Get to a local Handel's Messiah concert, specifically written as an Oratorio to be performed during Advent.





Christmas For Waterloo

Again this year members of Vinnies are asking you to give Gifts and Hampers for the families we visit in Waterloo. Most of these families live in isolation in the Department of Housing high rise units.

For many years now our parish has generously given to these families bringing some joy into their lives for Christmas. For this they have always expressed sincere gratitude.

This year with the increase in food prices etc; the people we serve and of course the homeless cannot afford any treats or luxuries.

You have already given generously to the homeless and now we are asking for your help again. Under the Christmas tree you will find cards with suggestions for hampers. There will be cards on the tree if you wish to give gifts.

Please place your GIFTS or HAMPERS under the tree on the 9th & 10th December in each church so that they can be distributed in time for Christmas.

Thank you
June, Helen & Lynda



CATHOLIC VOCATIONS
| BROKEN BAY |

Calling all Young Adults
You are invited to our
MERRY CHRISTMAS
HOLY HOUR
&
DINNER PARTY

Thursday evening, December 14

Holy Hour at 6:00pm

Dinner at 7:00pm

Holy Name Parish

35 Billyard Ave Wahroonga, 2076

RSVP's Essential to 0418 522 449 or
vocations.ministry@bbcatholic.org.au