



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. We respectfully acknowledge their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, as we continue the journey of Reconciliation.

Parish Priest

Rev Fr Brian Moloney PP

Assistant Priests

Rev Fr Tomy Kuruvelil CFIC
Rev Fr Vincent Musindalo AJ

RNSH Chaplain

Rev Fr Andrew Mutubusi AJ

Parish Office

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Parish Office Hours

Mon-Fri: 8:30am - 3:00pm

Parish Secretaries

Caitlin Douglas
Katrina Chemello

Sacramental Co-ordinator

Jessica Bousimon

Parish Bookkeeper

Dorothy Tomagra

Director of Liturgical Music

Lisa Lewis

Catechist Co-ordinator

Kristy Komadina

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

Emergency No:

0408 632 015

St Philip Neri Primary School

67 Baringa Rd, Northbridge
Principal: Fiona Bylsma
9958 7136

St Thomas' Primary School

2 Horsley Ave, Willoughby
Principal: Jenny McKeown
9958 7308

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C – 24th February 2019

The Light is
ON for you



Fridays during Lent from

7:00pm St Thomas' Willoughby
8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th, March,
5th, 12th April

Dear Parishioners,

Sometimes we can be tempted to live by the motto, only to do something when there's something in it for us, to only act when we can be assured that it is in our interest. It also challenges us to incredibly love those that do not love us and have even caused us pain.

May God so grace us all that we may like Jesus be a people of generosity and a people who love those that are hard for us to love.

Fr Brian

PARISH COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

ST LEONARDS HALL NAREMBURN

WEDNESDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 7.30PM-9.00PM

All parishioners (from our 3 communities) are most welcome to attend a parish consultation meeting regarding the proposed future uses of our St Leonards site at Naremburn.

Present at the meeting will be myself and Nigel and Reg the Chairs of our Parish Missionary Council and Finance Committee. We will also have some leaders from the diocese of Broken Bay who have been supporting us in this process.

At the meeting we will be briefed by Charter Keck Cramer, an independent property advisory firm, who have been commissioned by the parish over the past year to look at the best possible future uses for our site (excluding the St Leonards Church which of course is a given that will remain).

The input of our parishioners will form a most important basis of the shape of the project going forward.

Supper will be provided at the end of the meeting and for catering purposes you may wish to contact the parish office on 9958 8846 or admin@lns.org.au

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...

Recently Deceased: Fr Graham Kings (former Assistant Priest Willoughby), Ivan Tims, & Mary Harrold

Anniversaries: Anthony Smith SJ, Peter Donkersley, Peter Damien Burke, Nick Smith, Robert Chen Chow, Domenica & Giuseppe Fieramosca, Dorothy Aileen Henry, Frank Grew, Skok Franciska, Philomena Tuite, Orsola Orsini & Umberto Carangelo.

Repose of the Soul: Teresa Song, Sun Ok Kim, Florence Smith, Elizabeth Mary Williams & George Bradley.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON *Ps 12:6*

O Lord, I trust in your merciful love.
My heart will rejoice in your salvation.
I will sing to the Lord who has been
bountiful with me.

FIRST READING*1 Sm 26:2. 7-9. 12-13. 22-23*

A reading from the first book of Samuel
*The Lord has put you in my power, but I will
not raise my hand against you.*

Saul set off and went down to the
wilderness of Ziph, accompanied by
three thousand men chosen from Israel
to search for David in the wilderness of
Ziph.

So in the dark David and Abishai made
their way towards the force, where they
found Saul asleep inside the camp, his
spear stuck in the ground beside his
head, with Abner and the troops lying
round him.

Then Abishai said to David, 'Today God
has put your enemy in your power; so
now let me pin him to the ground with
his own spear. Just one stroke! I will not
need to strike him twice. David
answered Abishai, Do not kill him, for
who can lift his hand against the Lord's
anointed and be without guilt?' David
took the spear and the pitcher of water
from beside Saul's head, and they made
off. No one saw, no one knew, no one
woke up; they were all asleep, for a
deep sleep from the Lord had fallen on
them.

David crossed to the other side and
halted on the top of the mountain a
long way off; there was a wide space
between them. David then called out,
'Here is the king's spear. Let one of the
soldiers come across and take it. The
Lord repays everyone for his
uprightness and loyalty. Today the Lord
put you in my power, but I would not
raise my hand against the Lord's
anointed.'

READINGS FOR THIS WEEK**MON:** Gen 4:1-15; Mk 8: 11-13**TUE:** Gen 6:5-8,7:1-5,10; Mk 8:14-21**WED:** Gen 8: 6-13,20-22; Mk 8:22-26**THU:** Gen 9:1-13; Mk 8:27-33**FRI:** 1 Pet 5:1-4; Mk 16:13-19**SAT:** Heb 11:1-7; Mk 9:2-13**PSALM** *Ps 102:1-4. 8. 10. 12-13. R. v.8***(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.**

My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my
being, bless his holy name. My soul,
give thanks to the Lord and never
forget all his blessings. **(R.)**

It is he who forgives all your guilt, who
heals every one of your ills, who
redeems your life from the grave, who
crowns you with love and compassion.

(R.)

The Lord is compassion and love, slow
to anger and rich in mercy. He does not
treat us according to our sins nor repay
us according to our faults. **(R.)**

As far as the east is from the west so
far does he remove our sins. As a
father has compassion on his sons, the
Lord has pity on those who fear him.
(R.)

SECOND READING *1 Cor 15:45-49*

A reading from the first letter of St Paul
to the Corinthians

*Just as we have carried the earthly image,
we must carry the heavenly image.*

The first man, Adam, as scripture says,
became a living soul; but the last Adam
has become a life-giving spirit. That is,
first the one with the soul, not the
spirit, and after that, the one with the
spirit. The first man, being from the
earth, is earthly by nature; the second
man is from heaven. As this earthly
man was, so are we on earth; and as
the heavenly man is, so are we in
heaven. And we, who have been
modelled on the earthly man, will be
modelled on the heavenly man.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Jn 13:34*

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment;
love one another as I have loved you.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL *Lk 6:27-38*

A reading from the holy Gospel
according to Luke

Be merciful as your Father is merciful.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to
you who are listening: Love your
enemies, do good to those who hate
you, bless those who curse you, pray
for those who treat you badly. To the
man who slaps you on one cheek,
present the other cheek too; to the
man who takes your cloak from you,
do not refuse your tunic. Give to
everyone who asks you, and do not
ask for your property back from the
man who robs you. Treat others as
you would like them to treat you. If
you love those who love you, what
thanks can you expect? Even sinners
love those who love them. And if you
do good to those who do good to you,
what thanks can you expect? For even
sinners do that much. And if you lend
to those from whom you hope to
receive, what thanks can you expect?
Even sinners lend to sinners to get
back the same amount. Instead, love
your enemies and do good, and lend
without any hope of return. You will
have a great reward, and you will be
sons of the Most High, for he himself
is kind to the ungrateful and the
wicked.

'Be compassionate as your Father is
compassionate. Do not judge, and you
will not be judged yourselves; do not
condemn, and you will not be
condemned yourselves; grant pardon,
and you will be pardoned. Give, and
there will be gifts for you: a full
measure, pressed down, shaken
together, and running over, will be
poured into your lap; because the
amount you measure out is the
amount you will be given back.'

BAPTISMS THIS WEEKEND**St Leonard's Church**

**William & Violet Ross, Celina
Koura, Maison Taba, Sophie
Stembridge, Lucas Kong &
Alessandro Monaco**

**St Thomas'**

Audrey Berrell & Cristiano Dulay

Latest News...

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Our next Youth lead Mass is **Sunday 3rd March at St Leonards 6:00pm** followed by a BBQ for everyone.

Thanks to everyone who came for our planning meeting, by popular vote the next Youth group gathering on the **17**

March will be Club Games!

There'll be games - Fast Bingo, Fast Trivia Pursuit and Fast Pictionary, from 4pm St Leonard's Hall. For more information call the Parish Office 9958 8846.

BARTELS FAMILY GROUP

Lunch Sunday **10 March** **NOTE CHANGE OF DATE**
12:30pm **Inner Cravings Cafe** Northbridge Plaza Reply by
6 March Kerrie 9958 8837

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS TIMES 6TH MARCH

9:00 am St Thomas-with Primary School

9:00am St Leonards

9:15am St Philip Neri with Primary School

7:00pm St Thomas'

PLENARY COUNCIL 2020 UPDATE

Thank you to all those parishioners who participated in Listening and Dialogue sessions over the last few months. We hope you found them helpful in discerning a response to the Plenary Council. At last count, some 68,000 people had engaged with the Council. There is still time to make your voice heard.

Go to plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au and have your say before the Ash Wednesday deadline.

WHY DO WE CHANGE THE MASS SETTINGS THAT WE SING?

Well, seasonally, as we go through the Church year, we are reminded of special times and seasons, much like the calendar year and its seasons. We change our Mass setting to reflect the changing liturgical focus; in Lent we sing a more reflective, sombre chant setting, which focusses hearts and minds towards Easter. We celebrate with joy then, in the Easter season, with our more upbeat Mass settings. Perhaps, for Masses in Ordinary time, rather than feel it "ordinarily", we focus on the extraordinary which is in our everyday lives, and our mission, as people trying to live our best lives, exemplified by Christ Jesus. We celebrate this in liturgical music, and so, we have settings which are favoured by people of different ages and experiences; Mass of Restoration for Youth and family Mass, Missa Pacem at Christmas, Glendalough Mass, and Mass of St Francis which is very singable for Cantors and Organ. Mass of Glory and Praise, which families enjoy and relate to. There are many Mass settings; remember that whichever one you sing at church, it is your voices collectively, that of the assembly which are raised together in song to lead the music; you are the main music ministers.

Want to find out more? email Lisa at music@lms.org.au



LATEST FROM LETEFOHO

Today is our first biannual LETS collection. This year we will be concentrating on finishing the Eraulo chapel, the education of students and starting the second boarding house later in the year. We, the people of LNSP are making such a difference to the lives of both children and adults in the Parish of Letefoho! Thank you for your wonderful generosity as we continue to support our twinned Parish in Timor Leste.

HIGHLIGHTS OF PARISH MISSIONARY COUNCIL (PMC) MEETING 6 FEBRUARY 2019

Following on from the December 2018 meeting a presentation was made on how the PMC could present the congregation with information about the various ministries in the parish so that more people could become involved in the life of the parish. The template to be used to describe the Ministries was discussed and agreed and then the Ministries were grouped under various thematic headings like 'Celebration of the Mass' and 'Outreach'. Various members undertook to develop Ministry Descriptions using the template for presentation to the next PMC meeting. Fr Vincent is hoping to add a 'Young Adults' group to the Youth Ministry to complement the work being done with the High School cohort. This should happen in March.



The World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome you to join in prayer and action for peace and justice.

It is celebrated annually in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March. The movement aims to bring together women of various races, cultures and traditions in a yearly common Day of Prayer. This year it is being hosted by Willoughby Uniting Church, Clanwilliam St, Willoughby Friday 1st March at 10 a.m.

LENT – TIME FOR REFLECTION

5 nights weekly on Tuesdays from 12 March (except Wed 3 April), 6:30 – 8 pm (refreshments from 6 pm). Come for all, or one.

Theme: **Is Christianity wild? – exploring the relationship of Christianity to the natural world.** 5 compelling speakers.

At the Grail Centre, 22 McHatton St, North Sydney. Contact Alison Healey on 9955 3053 or grailsydney@ozemail.com.au.

Full program <http://bit.ly/GraileLentProgram2019>.

JOIN US FOR A CONVERSATION WITH FR FRANK BRENNAN S.J., A.O.

Discussing a number of important issues facing the church at this critical time in our history as well as sharing his insights on various social justice topics

WHEN: Sunday, 3rd March from 2:30pm to 5:15pm

WHERE: St Brigid's Hall in the Shirley Wallace Parish Centre, first floor, above Holy Family Catholic Church, 2 Highfield Rd Lindfield (lift access in side foyer of church)

BOOKINGS: <https://www.trybooking.com/468555>

WEEKEND MASSES	CHURCH	CLERGY 2 & 3 March
Sat 5:00pm	St Philip Neri	Fr Brian
Sat 6:00pm	St Thomas'	Fr Tomy
Sun 8:00am	St Thomas'	Fr Brian
Sun 9:00am	St Philip Neri	Fr Vincent
Sun 9:30am	St Thomas'	Fr Brian
Sun 10:30am	St Leonard's	Fr Tomy
Sun 6:00pm	St Leonard's	Fr Vincent
Sun 4:00pm	RNSH	Fr Andrew

WEEKDAY MASSES	CHURCH
Mon 9:00am	St Thomas'
Mon 9:15am	St Philip Neri
Tue 9:00am	St Thomas'
Tue 9:00am	St Leonard's
Wed 9:00am	St Thomas'
Wed 9:15am	St Philip Neri
Thu 9:00am	St Leonard's
Thu 9:00am	St Thomas'
Thu 1:00pm	RNSH
Fri 9:00am	St Thomas'
Fri 9:15am	St Philip Neri
Fri 1:00pm	RNSH
Sat 9:00am	St Thomas'
Sat 9:00am	St Leonard's

CHILDREN'S BAPTISM
St Leonard's Church: 12:00noon
 4th Sunday of the month
St Philip Neri Church: 12:00noon
 2nd Sunday of the month
St Thomas' Church: 10:45am
 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month
NO BAPTISMS DURING LENT

BAPTISM PREPARATION
7:00pm Parish Office
2nd & 3rd Tuesdays of the month
 Forms are available from the back of each Church, or our website.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY
St Philip Neri Church -9:00am Mass
 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sundays
St Thomas' Church - 9:30am Mass
St Leonard's Church - 10:30am Mass

HOME ROSARY
 Friday 1st March, 7:30pm
 2/473 Willoughby Road, Willoughby
 If you would like to host a Home Rosary please call
 Cecilia 0466 961 240

MEMORIAL PLAQUES AT ST THOMAS' CHURCH
 If you would like to purchase a memorial plaque for a loved one, please contact the Parish Office.

ADORATION
 Tuesdays after 9:00am Mass at St Thomas' Willoughby concluding with Benediction at 10:30am. **School Term**

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MASS WITH ANOINTING OF THE SICK
9:00am - St Thomas'
 1st Fri of the month
9:00am - St Leonard's
 3rd Sat of the month

RECONCILIATION
St Leonard's Church
 Sat: 9:30am - 9:45am
St Thomas' Church
 Sat: 5:15pm - 5:45pm
St Philip Neri Church
 Sat: 4:45pm

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IF YOU HAVE FELT REGRET, YOU KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO SIN—AND TO GROW

Can you recall some part of your past that you deeply regret? Not simply a spot when something didn't go your way but rather a time when you see yourself as having gone awry. If you can, then you are probably an adult, because one way to understand this sort of regret is to see it as an enlargement of your world. Adults feel regret when we can look upon our past actions and recognize, in the light of our present lives, that our past behaviors were too small, too defensive, too rooted in our own selves. This is what regret reveals.

When Isaiah beholds the glory of the Lord, encounters something very real of God in the temple, he suddenly sees his former world as stunted:

*Woe is me, I am doomed!
For I am a man of unclean lips,
living among a people of unclean lips;
yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts! (6:5)*

Granted, regret is a negative emotion. It does not make us feel good. Indeed, it is a particularly negative emotional experience because we feel bad and view ourselves as responsible for that feeling. Yet regret has a positive pole as well because it represents an insight, a new understanding of who we are. This is what regret reveals.

We feel regret when we recognize that are past behaviors were too small, too defensive, too rooted in our own selves.

Regret is possible only because we have grown in our own humanity since we chose to do those things that now we so deeply regret. One could say regret is what we, living in a larger world of understanding, see and acknowledge when we look back at the world from which we have emerged. This growth in personal perspective explains why adults often report a growing sense of regret as they age.

We have a word for such an experience of regret, one I have held back from using because, like so many of words in Christian discourse, it has become a bit worn with wear and has trouble gaining traction. That word is "sin." Some say that we have lost a sense of sin, but if you have known real regret, then you do indeed have a sense of sin.

The New Testament word for sin is very instructive here. *Harmartía* means "to miss the mark," like an errant arrow would do. Isn't this what we recognize in our own lives when we feel regret? Looking back from where we now are, we can see where we went awry, missed the mark. Isn't this what regret reveals?

This is why children can indeed be sorry, though usually without real regret. They simply have not lived long enough, their worlds of understanding have not expanded enough for them to gain the insight needed to realize regret.

Some say that we have lost a sense of sin, but if you have known real regret, then you do indeed have a sense of sin.

When children come to confession, they compare their actions, according to their abilities, to a list of actions that others have labeled wrong or sinful. Typically, the children themselves have not arrived at a moment of personal insight. They rely on others to tell them when they have done wrong, just as they count upon adults for most of their knowledge about the world.

It is probably not accurate to say that we moderns have no sense of sin. If we have known deep regret, we certainly do. What might be more to the point is that many adults, having found reason to question some of the sins on the list that they inherited, might then be inclined to dismiss the notion of sin itself.

That would be a mistake. We can be wrong about what is indeed sinful, but a healthy adult experiences regret. This was the experience of St. Paul, who had always been fervently religious. He cherished his list of commandments to be kept, but that counts for little if one is not growing, if one's world is not expanding through encounter with the living God. "Last of all, as to one abnormally born, he appeared to me" (1 Cor 15:8).

A blessed boatload of fish blows Peter away. A long list of transgressed commandments does not come cascading into his mind. Yet having seen what he has seen—nothing less than the living God—he recognizes how small his world has been.

He fell at the knees of Jesus and said,
"Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man."

For astonishment at the catch of fish they had made seized him (Lk 5:8-9).

Go back to where we began. Remember one of your own causes for deep regret. It was probably called a sin by our tradition because those who have gone before us arrived at the same place to which you have come. Regret revealed their past as too small, too shallow, too rooted in self. In short, as sinful.

The church speaks of sin because Christians—indeed all humans—have a communal sense for regret. Through the length of countless individual lives, in so many eras and varied states of life, communities come to recognize that some worlds are too small, some actions too far from the mark of what it means to be a disciple, to be a fully engaged human being. And of

You could, of course, insist that you will do your surveying of sin. You will decide what is deeply regretful and what is not. That is a very modern attitude, and few in the modern world would challenge you.

But here is a hunch: At some point, later in your life, you will come to regret your current insistence that you alone understand what is happening in your life. That is the way it is with life. Others help us to learn how to live it.

A LAYWOMAN'S PERSPECTIVE ON THE PLENARY COUNCIL SO FAR

Where are we at now with the Plenary Council 2020 process, set in motion last Pentecost The Listening and Dialogue phase is due to come to an end on Ash Wednesday, 6 March 2019? What can we say about what has happened so far? From my admittedly limited perspective, I can make a few observations.

Clearly, there is a great disparity among the dioceses as to how much support has been given to the Council. I have been fortunate to belong to one of the most proactive of the dioceses (Broken Bay) where plenty of information, resources and support were provided to enable local animators to work with their specific communities. I facilitated quite a number of conversations around the central question, **"What do you think God is asking of us, here and now?"**

It quickly became clear that at a grassroots level, there were strong common concerns. These headed the list:

- The yearning for genuine community marked by inclusiveness, compassion, and care for the vulnerable and marginalised;
- A desire for spiritual renewal; a desire to go back to the gospels for a much deeper understanding of Jesus' life and teaching; and
- A desire for much greater involvement of the laity in decision making of every kind.

On a broader level, reading as much as I can about what has been happening nation-wide, it seems to me that **engaged Catholic women, who have for so long resigned themselves to an unsatisfactory status quo, are suddenly seeing glimpses of new possibilities.** It seems that we are openly talking about women in the context of leadership in the church. It will certainly be an important topic, both formally and informally, at the Council for Australian Catholic Women Colloquium, *Stirring the Waters*, to be held in Adelaide in late February. Three of us from the Sydney Grail will be attending.

It's early days yet but I have a sense that we are starting to wake up. Early cynicism is giving way to fragments of hope. There are many agendas for change being submitted to the Plenary Council, many of them critical of a centuries-old clerical and patriarchal culture on its last legs. The realisation is dawning that there are many of us "out there" who long for a different way of being a church and we are beginning to find one another and talk to one another. **We need to keep the conversations going. We need to begin to imagine what the future could be.**

The other side of this coin is fear – the fear of what it will cost us. As I have been impelled to go deeper and deeper in this process of listening and dialogue, it has become frighteningly clear that if we take our hopes and our responsibility to one another seriously, it will cost us dearly. It is no wonder that many of the bishops give the impression that they just want business as usual. A cultural change of the magnitude that we are hoping for is the work of a lifetime.

Are we up for it?

Patricia Gemmell - Patricia recently graduated with a Masters in Theology, is a member of the Australian Grail National Leadership Team and has been a parishioner of St Leonard's, Naremburn, for 34 years . This article originally appeared on the [Grail Website](#)



Plenary Council 2020

'Listen to what the Spirit is saying...' REV 2:7