



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

182 High St, North Willoughby NSW
(02) 9958 8846

✉ office@lns.org.au

🌐 www.bbcatholic.org.au/lns

OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Friday: 9:00am - 4:00pm

CLERGY

Fr. Jose Philip, OSH (Parish Priest)

jose.philip@bbcatholic.org.au

Fr. Biju Mathew, AP

biju.mathewK@bbcatholic.org.au

Fr. Vincent Trung Nguyen, AP

vincent.nguyen@bbcatholic.org.au

Fr. Emmanuel Obiche, AP

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Fr. Peter Dowd (RNSH Chaplain)

peter.dowd@bbcatholic.org.au

PARISH STAFF

Secretary

Ursula O'Hare (Mon - Fri)

Dionne Soares (Mon & Fri)

Children's Sacrament

Co-ordinator

Natalie Wood (Mon, Tue & Thur)

sacraments@lns.org.au

Catechist Co-ordinator

Henny Theodorus (Tue)

ccd@lns.org.au

Finance (bookkeeper)

Ilona Dudek (Fri)

accounts@lns.org.au

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"

**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
31st DECEMBER 2023**

"The parents of
Jesus took him
up to Jerusalem
to present him
to the Lord."

Luke 2:22



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we gather on this New Year's Eve to bid farewell to the old and welcome the possibilities of the new, let us take a moment to reflect on the profound words found in Luke Gospel. In this passage, we encounter the presentation of Jesus at the temple— an event that encapsulates the essence of hope, faith, and anticipation.

As we embark on a new year, may we, like Simeon and Anna, open our hearts to the divine presence in our midst.

Simeon's patient anticipation and Anna's faithful devotion serve as beacons of inspiration. They recognized the infant Jesus as the fulfillment of God's promises, a light to enlighten the world. In the same way, let us approach the coming year with hope, acknowledging the potential for renewal and transformation. Just as Simeon held the Christ child in his arms, embracing the promise of salvation, may we too embrace the opportunities that lie ahead. Let the light of Christ illuminate our path, guiding us through the unknown terrain of the future. As we reflect on the past year's joys and challenges, let us carry forward the lessons learned. As a community let us be like Anna, who dedicated her life to worship and service, may we resolve to live with purpose, contributing to the well-being of those around us. In the midst of celebration and festivity, may we also find moments of quiet contemplation, allowing the spirit of Christmas to linger in our hearts. Let us approach the new year with gratitude for the past, faith in the present, and hope for the future. May the grace of God envelop you, and may the journey of 2024 be filled with blessings, growth, and the unwavering presence of God's divine love.

Fr Jose Philip OSH

Please Note the Parish Office will be closed from 22nd December and re-open on the 8th January. For emergencies & Funerals please phone the parish office on 99588846 and leave a message for one of the clergy to return you call.

SUNDAY'S READINGS

Entrance Antiphon *Luke 2:16*

The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

First Reading *Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3*

The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision, 'Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great'.

'My Lord,' Abram replied 'what do you intend to give me? I go childless.' Then Abram said, 'See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir'. And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, 'He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be of your own flesh and blood'. Then taking him outside he said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said, and did what he had promised her. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised. Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had given birth.

Responsorial Psalm *104:1-6, 8-9*

(R.) The Lord remembers his covenant forever.

Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name, make known his deeds among the peoples. O sing to him, sing his praise; tell all his wonderful works! **R.**

Be proud of his holy name, let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice. Consider the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face. **R.**

Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, the judgements he spoke. O children of Abraham, his servant, O sons of the Jacob he chose. **R.**

He remembers his covenant for ever, his promise for a thousand generations, the covenant he made with Abraham, the oath he swore to Isaac. **R.**

Second Reading *Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19*

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going.

It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore.

It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead; and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

Gospel Acclamation *Hebrews 1:1-2*

Alleluia, alleluia!

In the past God spoke to our fathers through the prophets; now he speaks to us through his Son.

Alleluia!

Gospel *Mark 1:1-8*

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord - observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord - and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

'Now, Master,
you can let your servant go in peace,
just as you promised;
because my eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared for all the nations to see,
a light to enlighten the pagans
and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected - and a sword will pierce your own soul too - so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem. When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

LITURGY of THE WEEK

Mon	1st	Mary, the Holy Mother of God
Tue	2nd	Sts Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen
Wed	3rd	The most Holy name of Jesus
Thurs	4th	Thursday before the Epiphany
Fri	5th	Friday before the Epiphany
Sat	6th	Saturday before the Epiphany

Thank You to all our volunteers from Fr Jose

As the echoes of Christmas joy still linger in our hearts, I want to take a moment to express heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you who dedicated your time, energy, and passion to make our Christmas Masses truly special.

Your commitment to service has illuminated our community, turning moments into memories and transforming our places of worship into a sanctuary of love and warmth. From the meticulous decorations that adorned our parish churches to the seamless coordination during the Masses, your efforts did not go unnoticed.

To my fellow priests and office staff, thank you! To all those who greeted our visitors and parishioners with smiles, the choir whose harmonies lifted our spirits, the decorators who created a festive atmosphere, the readers who shared the sacred words, and all those behind the scenes—your contributions were invaluable. The spirit of Christmas was palpable, and it was made possible through your selfless acts of kindness and devotion.

In the spirit of the season, your generosity has been a gift to us all. Your willingness to give of yourselves has created a sense of unity and community that extends far beyond the walls of our church. It is through your dedication that the message of love and joy, embodied in the birth of Christ, has been shared with everyone who entered our doors.

As we move forward into the new year, let the warmth of the Christmas season linger in our hearts. Thank you for being the heart and soul of our Lower North Shore Parish community. May your kindness and generosity continue to inspire us all.

Fr Jose Philip



Farewell Fr Emmanuel

The Parish would like to wish our wonderful Fr Emmanuel every blessing for 2024 as he heads back to Nigeria after having one year sabbatical in our parish. We are sincerely grateful for his support to the parish over the past year. We will miss his charismatic personality which overflowed with energy and enthusiasm in his homilies. Please keep Fr Emmanuel in your prayers during this time of transition, his last day in the Parish will be Sunday 14th January. The Parish will have a farewell celebration morning-tea on Sunday January 14h after the 10.30am Mass at St Leonards. Please join us in thanking Fr Emmanuel for his ministry here in Lower North Shore over the past year.

Date: Sunday 14th January

Time: 10.30am Mass + morning tea

Place: St Leonard's Church Naremburn



Farewell Fr Biju

Last week we received news from the Bishop that Fr Biju will be sadly concluding his appointments with us here at Lower North shore to assume a new appointment as Assistant parish Priest of Frenches Forest. The parish would like wish our wonderful Fr Biju Mathew every blessing for his new appointment at Frenches Forest. We have been greatly blessed and enriched by Fr Biju's ministry here in lower North Shore for the past three years. His new appointment will be effective from Friday 9th February 2024. To thank Fr Biju the parish have a farewell celebration morning-tea on Sunday January 28th after the 9.30am Mass at St Thomas'. Please join us in thanking Fr Biju for his ministry here in lower North Shore over the past three years.

Date: Sunday 28th January

Time: 9.30am Mass + morning tea

Place: St Thomas 'Church Willoughby

HEALING MASS

*Including Anointing of the Sick and
Novena to the Sacred Heart*

JANUARY

- 9am Friday 5th Jan St Thomas' Church
- 9am Saturday 20th Jan St Leonard's

Cuppa N' Conversation



We gather in the Front Room of the Parish Hall every Wednesday between 9.30am and 11.00am. All welcome.

Marie Harris 0417 077 020

HOLY HOUR EVENING



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

TIME

DATE

LOCATION

7.30pm

9th Jan

St Leonard's Naremburn

ARRIVE FROM 7PM FOR A CUPPA

Discover Peace in His Presence
Uplifting Melodies that Stir the Soul
A Moment for Your Innermost Prayers
Escape and Encounter



Rosary

Please join us for the Rosary every Wednesday at St Thomas' Church
7pm

We will be kept safe by ADULTS who...

CARE

for us as we are a precious gift from God



COMMUNITIES OF SAFETY AND CARE



We are committed to the
NATIONAL CATHOLIC SAFEGUARDING STANDARDS

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 (Youth Mass)	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 (Divine Mercy & Adoration)	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 (during school term)		9.00am 4 th Sunday (Family Mass)
Rosary	8.30am Mon-Fri 7.00pm Wednesday	9.30am Tue, Thu, Sat	9.45am Mon, Wed, Fri

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DR GEORGE DRAGASEVICH, CHIROPRACTOR

OUR LOCATION :

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

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