



CATHOLIC
PARISH OF
LOWER NORTH SHORE

Parish Missionary Plan

2024 - 28

Guided by the Holy Spirit, we are the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-27) who comes together, united in the love that Jesus gives to us in his commandment to “love one another” (John 13:34). We go out into the world to make disciples (Matthew 28:19-20).

We express our mission in the following statement:

Together, in Christ’s love, for others.

We enact our Mission through:

- Growing and strengthening our community
- Assisting parishioners to build a stronger relationship with God
- Worshipping the Lord
- Missionary action
- Leadership, nurturing and communication

Our Vision: To know and love God, and be Christ to one another.

We commit to be a welcoming, nurturing and vibrant Catholic community, that embodies the teachings and example of Jesus Christ, reaching outwards, bringing the joy of the Good News to all people and being attentive to the needs of others.

Our Mission and Vision will guide our missionary activities.

A Message from our Parish Priest

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

From time to time, every parish needs to take time out to review its journey, to see what is going well and what still needs to be done. Our parish did just that in 2023, when we engaged in an extensive Pastoral Discernment process across our three communities. All parishioners were invited to give us honest feedback about our progress as a community of Christian disciples, and submissions were welcomed at five pastoral discernment sessions:

- St Philip Neri Church, Northbridge, on 26 February
- St Thomas' Church, Willoughby on 7 March
- St Leonard's Church, Naremburn on 15 March
- St Thomas' Primary School, Willoughby on 17 March.

A final, whole-parish session was also held at St Thomas' Church Hall, Willoughby on 9 May, at which the feedback from the previous sessions was reviewed and discussed. The attendance was very pleasing.

A summary of all the information collected was then carefully reviewed by our Parish Missionary Council, and resulted in this *Parish Missionary Plan 2024-28*.

Among other things, our discernment process clearly identified a hunger for more faith formation, a desire for our three communities to be more welcoming and inclusive, the need for a closer engagement with our parish schools, clearer communications, and beautiful liturgical celebrations.

I now commend this Plan to you for your reflection and prayer. At its heart is the call of Jesus Christ to lovingly share his Gospel message, and to nurture in our community a culture of active discipleship that brings joy and hope to all.

I hope you will now join with me in bringing this Plan to life.

Sincerely yours, in Christ,

Fr Jose Philip OSH

Parish Priest

Priorities	Objectives
1. Growing and strengthening our Catholic community	1.1 Warmly welcome everyone, where all can experience a deep sense of belonging. 1.2 Be an inclusive community where all are safe, loved, respected and welcome. 1.3 Reach out to those not engaged in our Parish and to those who have lost touch with the Church. 1.4 Grow our Children, Youth and Young Adults' Ministry. 1.5 Embody unity amidst our cultural diversity, as a powerful sign of the Holy Spirits actions amongst us. 1.6 Strengthen our connection with our Parish school communities and recognise them as an integral part of the Parish community.
2. Faith formation	2.1 Develop faith formation programs and pathways that grow our love for God. 2.2 Review and strengthen the delivery of our Sacramental, SRE and RCIA programs. 2.3 Offer training and support to Leaders and those involved in Ministries within the Parish.
3. Worship the Lord	3.1 Foster active participation in the Liturgy and the sacraments. 3.2 Sustain an active, informed Music Ministry, to support our liturgies. 3.3 Develop our Children's Liturgy Program. 3.4 Offer opportunities for worship and devotional prayer. 3.5 Inspiring homilies.
4. Missionary Action	4.1 Nurture a culture of missionary discipleship, that reflects the love of Christ to all we encounter. 4.2 Continue to support our Twinned Parish of Letefoho, Timor Leste. 4.3 Identify and foster the gifts/charisms people bring to our Parish. 4.4 Enable everyone to serve according to their capacity and gifts. 4.5 Foster vocations. 4.6 Support programs for the disadvantaged and those in need.

Priorities	Objectives
5. <i>Leadership, nurturing and communication</i>	5.1 Develop a culture of leadership and participation. 5.2 Be good stewards of parish resources. 5.3 Strengthen parish communications. 5.4 Align with Diocesan policies and procedures.