

Parish and Shrine of the Immaculate Conception Unanderra

48 Princes Highway Post Office Box 14 Unanderra NSW 2526

Parish Priest

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Polish Chaplain

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& Catechist Co-ordinator

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Parish School

Saint Pius X School
Hargreaves & Cummins Streets
PO Box 358, Unanderra, NSW - 2526
Ph: 4271 3550 | Fax: 4272 2954

School Principal

Mr Philip Moore

Parish Secretary

Mrs Agnes Jerald



Parish Office Hours: Monday, Thursday and Friday: 9:30am—4:00pm

Phone: 4271 1068 | Fax: 4271 1298

Email: unanderra@dow.org.au

Parish website: www.unanderraparish.org.au

PROGRAMME FOR THIS WEEK

Monday	July 24	NO MASS

Tuesday	July 25	Adoration: 4:30pm-5:30pm St JAMES Mass: 5:30pm

Wednesday	July 26	Mass: 7:00am Sts JOACHIM and ANNE

Thursday	July 27	Adoration: 4:30pm-5:30pm (Reconciliation available) Mass: 5:30pm

Friday	July 28	Mass: 9:30am

Saturday	July 29	Mass: 7:30am St MARTHA Reconciliation 5pm-5:30pm Vigil Mass: 6:00pm

Sunday	July 30	17th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME Masses: 7:00am, 9:00am 10:45am (Polish)

16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR A

23rd JULY 2017

READINGS: Wis 12:13, 16-19; Rom 8:26-27; Mt 13:24-43

God has both the knowledge and the power to root out evil people if He so desired. The FIRST READING talks about His leniency, and how we ought to imitate it.

The GOSPEL elaborates - the Church, and indeed the world, is like a field in which wheat and weeds grow side

by side until they are separated at harvest.

In the SECOND READING St Paul gives us most important advice - the Holy Spirit helps us to pray when we can't find the right words.



WHILE EVERYONE WAS ASLEEP
THE ENEMY SOWED WEEDS
THROUGH THE WHEAT MT 13:25

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased: Alan BARLOW, Helen SMOLENAARS

Anniversaries: Dulcie & Terry HYNES, Beryl and Charles LLOYD,
Concesa MAMANGLU, Silvana ANZALONE

Pray for the sick and those unable to get to Mass



Rosters of next weekend

Sat 29th	Church Cleaning	M Lloyd, J Allen, J Haywood, S Walsh	
	Acolytes	Lectors	Welcomers
Vigil 6pm	G Attard	A Kelly	A Carlotto
Sun 30 th 7am	N Dwyer	D Ferrer	B Neich, K Rossit
9am	L Haywood,	V Cleary	B Spain, G Petric
Counters	T & L Barnes, J Carolan		
Children's Liturgy	C Hailstone, L Galea		

PARISH ACTIVITIES

Catholic Women's League: 2nd Thursday of the month, 10.30am

St Joseph's room. New members welcome.

Contact: Jan 42714051 or Margaret 42715804

St. Vincent de Paul Conference: Tues, 7.30pm St. Joseph's room

Parish Pastoral Council: 2nd Monday of the month, 7:30pm

St Joseph's room

Nursing Home Masses

Hillside Nursing Home: 1st Tuesday of the month, 2pm

Figtree Nursing Home: 2nd Tuesday of the month, 10:45am

Villa Maria Nursing Home: 3rd Tuesday of the month, 9:30am

Refreshments after the Vigil Mass and 9am Mass on 1st weekend of the month.

(Due to the colder weather, it has been decided to cancel Morning Tea on the first Sunday of the month during winter. Monthly Morning Tea will resume in September.)

LIVING FAITH

Daily meditations—July to September based on the Mass Readings of the day.

There are two editions—for adults, and for children.

Only \$4.

AUSTRALIA NEEDS FATIMA

Special Fatima 100th anniversary Rosary beads and Rosary booklet - \$5 (incl postage & handling).

To order call (02) 9715 2324 or email info@fatima.org.au



St Vincent de Paul Society

The conference would like to thank all the generous parishioners who supported the *Vinnies Winter Appeal* held three weeks ago. A total of \$3140.00 was raised which will be used supporting those in need within the parish.

Conference meetings are held every Tuesday at 7.30pm in St. Joseph's room and all are very welcome to attend.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Reflecting on the years he spent in labour camps, Alexander Solzhenitsyn has this to say:

I learnt one great lesson from my years in prison camps.

I learnt how a person becomes evil

and how he becomes good.

Gradually I came to realise that the line which separates

good from evil passes not between states,

or between classes, or between political parties,

but right through every human heart.

Even in hearts that are overwhelmed by evil,

one small bridgehead of good is retained.

And in the best of all hearts,

there remains an unrooted small corner of evil.

Mt Carmel Retreat Centre

247 St Andrews Road Varroville, NSW, 2566

Ph: 02 8795 3400 | Email: etreats@carmelite.com

www.carmeliteretreats.com.au

Weekend retreat: Gregorian Chant

Presenter: Mr Tony Vaughan

When: Aug 4 – Aug 6

Cost: \$230 (concessions apply)

Come and experience the beauty & spiritually uplifting sound of Gregorian Chant ... one of the foundations of all Western European music. This sacred oral music can be traced back to the Jewish chant at the time of Christ.

Day retreat: The Practice of the Presence of God: a way through the pain of grief and loss

Day retreat: 5 August (1030am – 400pm)

Registrations from 900am

Presenter: Mr Geoff Stumbles

Cost: \$25.00

Please bring your own lunch.

Pick-ups from Minto train station at 945am and 1000am.

How do we pray when we are experiencing loss and grief when God seems to have abandoned us?



NEED HELP AT HOME OR KNOW SOMEBODY WHO DOES?

CatholicCare offers practical aged care services and support so you can continue living a happy, healthy life in the comfort of your own home. If you want to know more call 42549342 and the friendly, experienced staff at CatholicCare will discuss your options so you can live your life, your way.



“God’s presence seems to follow me every where, and makes everything I do or wish to do a prayer.”

St. Mary of the Cross 1870

NEEDING AN ADVOCATE? The Holy Spirit is our Advocate, and through God’s grace we are God’s chosen. He does not leave us orphans. God has chosen you; have you considered what special dreams God has for you?

Contact Fr Richard Healey, Vocations Director, on 0401 621 591 or priesthood@dow.org.au

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL 2017

In SYDNEY from 7-9 DECEMBER 2017

It is with great excitement that the registration for ACYF in Sydney from 7-9 December 2017 has been launched!

Groups and Individuals are encouraged to register early to secure their spot at the Festival. As an added incentive groups of ten or more who register before 31 May 2017 will receive a complimentary registrations for their group leaders. Early bird registration closes on 18 August 2017.

The Festival registration process can be found online at www.acyf.org.au.

CCD LEVEL 3 TRAINING COURSE FOR CATECHISTS

Just a reminder to all Catechists about Level 3 Training Course, details are as follows:- Illawarra – Shoalhaven:

Xavier Centre, 38 Harbour Street, Wollongong

Start date: Friday, 4 August (6 week course on consecutive Fridays) 9.30am - 1.30pm

For bookings or questions please contact Mrs Cindy Oliver by 28 July, on 4640 8550 or cindy.oliver@dow.org.au.

There is no cost involved with these courses. Morning tea is provided. Please bring your own lunch.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND 18 -20

August at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville

Relationship enrichment for married couples. Bookings online at www.wwme.org.au. Adrian and Janet Sullivan: on 0490 774 419 or adrian.janet1@bigpond.com

CATHOLIC CARE STRENGTHEN YOUR RELATIONSHIPS

Just Released: Parenting workshops available from July now taking bookings. To build on your parenting skills and strengthen your family relationships go to the calendar at www.catholiccare.dow.org.au or give CatholicCare a call on 4227 1122.

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM – AIRS 23 July 2017

This week on the Journey we have some fabulous God Spots including, The Catholic Guy Bruce Downes reminding us “About the promise written in the stars”(Repeat), Sr Hilda with her Wisdom from the Abbey, and Francine Pirolas talks to us about Romance and Mystery in her SMART Loving segment. We are blessed to have such talented Christian music artists helping us to create a show that is all about faith, hope, love and life. Go to www.jcr.org.au or www.itunes.jcr.org.au where you can listen anytime and subscribe to weekly shows by email.

SHELLHABOUR CITY ALL SAINTS CHOIR

All Saints Church Choir invite you to 'Raise Your Voice' - a musical /singing night to be held at the Church, College Avenue, Shellharbour City on Sunday 30 July 6pm (after the 5pm evening mass). Some of the songs are: The prayer, Heal the World, Amazing Grace, Millennium prayer, You'll never walk alone and many more. So come along and join us as ONE family in Christ, by the way, bring your big voice along. Top up the night with a warm cuppa.

FAITH CIRCLES WEEKLY RESOURCE FOR SMALL GROUPS

Small faith-sharing groups are a fun way to build relationships. They provide a place where each person can grow in their faith journey. They focus on the ways in which the Spirit is calling us to live a more active, loving and joyful relationship with God, our Church and our World. Weekly free small group resource called Faith Circles is available based on the Sunday Gospels with two reflections (including one by Pope Francis) as well as accompanying questions and prayer points. It is available to download at www.faithcircles.dow.org.au or have it sent to you each month via email subscription. Click the website link to subscribe to the Faith Circles email list.

TAKE A RISK AND GIVE THE GIFT OF FAITH

In our parish there is a team of volunteers that take a risk and step out in faith. State Government schools do not provide lessons that teach the basic message about Jesus, our faith and the great adventure that life can be with God. We were all given our gift of faith by someone, someone stepped-up for us so that we would know Jesus. Each week of the school year Catechists present 30-minute lessons using a step-by-step lesson plan that helps Catholic children understand their faith, grow in love and maturity and learn what it means to be Catholic. Take a risk and give the gift of faith. Become a Catechist teacher or helper today! For more information, please call 4222 2416 or ask our parish priest for more information.

My dear people,

The farmer in Jesus's parable planted good seed in his field and expected a wonderful harvest. Soon the seeds began to sprout, and it looked as if the farmer's expectations would be fulfilled. But then later on he discovered weeds growing among the young shoots of wheat—not just one here and there, but weeds everywhere, much so that the wheat seemed to have disappeared.

Sooner or later, weeds begin to appear in the field of our lives—a friend betrays us, our spouse may prove unfaithful, a business partner takes us 'for a ride'. The badness of bad people we expect, and we can arm ourselves against it. But the badness of good people can take us by surprise and, of course, it hurts us. For a while we can become very negative, tending to see everything as bad.

What was the farmer to do? The obvious answer was to pull the weeds out. But this would be impossible. The weeds were growing so close to the stalks of wheat that one could not be uprooted without the other. So what did he do? Well, firstly, he calmed down. This enabled him to see things in perspective. He would have to be humble and patient. He would have to work hard on the wheat, coaxing and encouraging it with the hope that it would outgrow the weeds.

We must never despair. The world is a mixture of light and darkness, good and evil. Wheat and weeds grow side by side in the same person, you and I included. No one understands this better than Our Lord. Even in His own small garden—the twelve apostles—which He tended carefully for three years, the weeds persisted, yet He did not write it off. Evil, of course, must be resisted, but in such a way that we do not further evil in the process. Evil can only be overcome by good.

The farmer set to work. He concentrated on the wheat. He noticed that it was by reaching and straining upwards that it grew. By making the wheat struggle harder, the weeds were actually having a beneficial effect on the crop.

Because of the existence of evil we have to struggle. It's a lifelong struggle. But it is through struggle that we grow. So, the presence of evil could even be said to be necessary. Unless we had to make choices between good and evil we would never grow in virtue.

On harvest day the farmer separated the weeds from the wheat, reaping a fine harvest—not one hundred percent, but the quality was excellent. He felt this harvest had given him more satisfaction than many others for the victory was hard-won.

This parable of Our Lord is both realistic and optimistic. In the end, good triumphs. Truth and goodness are invincible.



Graham Schmitzer

Fr Graham Schmitzer
Parish Priest