

Parish and Shrine of the Immaculate Conception Unanderra

48 Princes Highway Post Office Box 14 Unanderra NSW 2526

Parish Priest

Fr Graham Schmitzer

Polish Chaplain

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**Parish Assistant
& Catechist Co-ordinator**

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Parish School

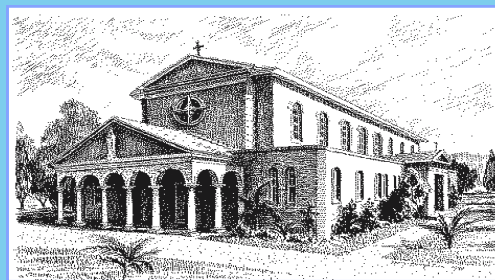
Saint Pius X School
Hargreaves & Cummins Streets
PO Box 358, Unanderra, NSW - 2526
Ph: 4271 3550 | Fax: 4272 2954

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	Sep 4	Mass: 7:00am

Tuesday	Sep 5	Adoration: 4:30pm-5:30pm Mass: 5:30pm

Wednesday	Sep 6	Mass: 7:00am

Thursday	Sep 7	Adoration: 4:30pm-5:30pm (Reconciliation available) Mass: 5:30pm

Friday	Sep 8	Mass: 9:30am

Saturday	Sep 9	Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation 5pm-5:30pm Vigil Mass: 6:00pm

Sunday	Sep 10	23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Masses: 7:00am, 9:00am 10:45am (Polish)

22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR A

3 September 2017

READINGS: JER 20:7-9; ROM 12:1-2; MT 16:21-27

The prophet Jeremiah was faithful to his God-given mission, no matter what it cost him. It is an image we see repeated in the GOSPEL—Jesus demands the same fidelity of those who would follow Him.



Peter rejects out of hand the revelation that Jesus is to be a suffering Messiah. He represents the typical Christian caught between faith and doubt, and for whom the Cross is a stumbling block.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS



Recently Deceased: Walter PIKE, Alfred BEVITT, Joseph TIEN (father of Fr Peter TIEN)

Anniversaries: Lila MASTERSON, Frank PETRIC

Deceased fathers and grandfathers of our Parish.

Pray for the sick and those unable to get to Mass

Rosters of next weekend

Sat 9 th	Church Cleaning	M Mohr-Peters, G Lord, L Zanetti, S Adams	
	Lawns	J Lonard, H & J Yates, F Timpano	
	Acolytes	Lectors	Welcomers
Vigil 6pm	A Carlotto	N Milan	D Gelfius
Sun 10 th 7am	M Walsh	S Walsh	Walsh Family
9am	N Dwyer	C Nughes	V Cleary, M Mohr-Peters
Counters	B & P Walker, A Kelly		
Children's Liturgy	P Chrostowski, K Hertsch		

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 9am Mass on 1st weekend of the month.

Do we have a PLUMBER in the house?

Could you contact Father Schmitzer.

POSTAL PLEBISCITE ON "SAME-SEX MARRIAGE" ANNOUNCED

The Australian Government has announced there will be a postal plebiscite on whether the definition of marriage in the Marriage Act 1961 should be changed to include "same-sex marriage". Ballot papers will be sent out to households on Tuesday, 12 September and all votes must be received back by Tuesday, 7 November.

To keep marriage as a unique relationship between a woman and a man, vote NO.

CATHEDRAL BOOKS & GIFTS

A great range of excellent quality religious gifts are available from Cathedral Books and Gifts.

A beautiful selection of bibles, books, missals, rosaries, plaques, crucifixes, medals, statues and greeting cards, candles, etc. perfect to commemorate Confirmation, Communion and Baptism.

Enter the store via Crown St, Xavier Centre, Wollongong.

Enquiries phone 4222 2484.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

There is a way of losing by gaining.

You can win an argument but lose a friend.

Through competition and promotion

I may advance in my profession, but in terms of relationships I am impoverished.

My energies are so focused on efficiency and success that I haven't time to grow emotionally and to develop my capacity for relationships.

In one's drive to attain power, a person may sacrifice friendships and loyalty, so much so that one ends up alone.

Lord, let me never forget your haunting words:

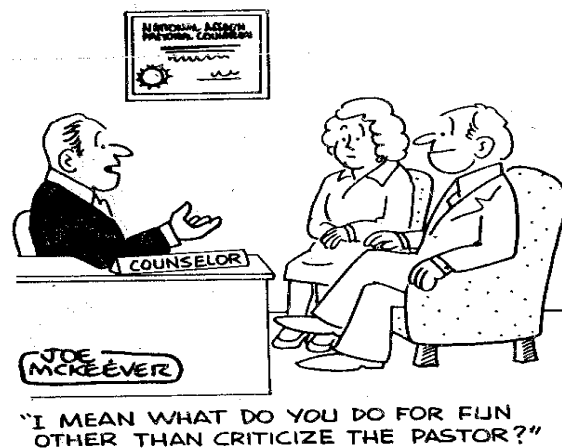
'What good will it do you to gain the whole world if you lose your soul?'

CHILD PROTECTION SUNDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 2017

"SEE ME, HEAR ME"

As has become the custom each year the Child Protection Sunday, and the preceding week beginning Monday 4 September, provides a focus reminding each of us to play a part in protecting our children. This year our theme is "See Me, Hear Me". The question is how do we, Immaculate Conception Parish Unanderra, play our part in listening to children to ensure they are kept safe? This year the National Committee for Professional Standards have commissioned a video and brochure through the Australian Catholic University reflecting on research around what children think about their safety. They have also prepared a number of resources to help us explore the focus question.

Visit www.acu.edu.au/icps





Novena Prayer

Ever generous God,
 You inspired Saint Mary MacKillop
 to live her life faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ,
 and to be constant in bringing hope and encouragement
 to those who were disheartened, lonely or needy.
 With confidence in Your generous providence
 we join with Saint Mary MacKillop
 and ask that You grant our request.

Healing for Fr David Catterall

May our faith and hope be fired afresh
 by the Holy Spirit so that we too, like
 Mary MacKillop, may live with courage,
 trust and openness.
 Ever generous God hear our prayer.
 We ask this through Jesus Christ. Amen

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

PALMS INFO SESSION Thursday 7 September 5.30pm-7pm
Xavier Centre Conference room, 38 Harbour Street,
Wollongong. RSVP joey@palms.org.au or call 9560 5333

Calling for experienced professional, business or trades
 people. Communities in Asia, the Pacific and Africa seek
 skilled Australians to mentor local personnel. You will assist
 to improve and sustain organisations vital in reducing
 poverty. Learn more about how you will be supported
 through this exciting, life-changing opportunity.

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.

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM – AIRS 3 Sep 2017

This week on the Journey, the Gospel of Mathew is read to us
 by Nick Weir. We hear from Sr Hilda with her Wisdom from the
 Abbey on God's Choice, the inspirational Sam Clear encourages
 us to ask the question 'How Far to the Shops?' in his Walking
 the Walk segment, and Fr Dave Callaghan reminds us of The
 Words In Our Lives. Our carefully selected music helps 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.

LIVE FESTIVAL, 15 SEPTEMBER, ST FRANCIS XAVIER CATHEDRAL PRECINCT

Our Wollongong LIVE Festival is back! For ages 15-35 LIVE
 Festival will be filled with great live music, food, games and
 guest speakers as well as heaps of other young people from
 our Diocese. Festival kicks off at 5:15pm and finishes at
 8:30pm. Go to <http://dow.sh/livefestival17> for more
 information and to register your interest.

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.

CONSOLING MASS

Our annual Consoling Mass will be held at
 Mater Dolorosa, Balgownie on Friday 15 September at
 12.10pm.
 This is the Mass where we continue to pray for our
 loved ones who have died in tragic circumstances.
 Families touched by tragedy are warmly invited to
 participate in this Mass.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND 24-26 November 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

My dear people,

Parishes in our Diocese this week are joining with all other Dioceses around NSW to oppose a Bill to be presented to the NSW parliament on 14 September to legalise Assisted Suicide. Human dignity is honoured in living life, not in taking it. In a recent publication the Australian Bishops answer six common myths.

Myth 1: Euthanasia can be legislated for safely. The fact is that euthanasia and assisted suicide can never be safe. Because terminally ill people are vulnerable to powerful feelings of fear, depression, loneliness, not wanting to be a burden, and even coercion from family members, no law can adequately protect them from succumbing to euthanasia if it is available. Experience in other countries has shown clearly that it is impossible for government - authorised killing to be made safe.

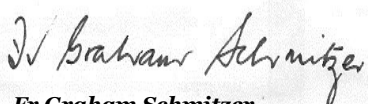
Myth 2: Dying with dignity. The fact is that our dignity is not dependant on our usefulness or health, but simply on our humanity. Our society should be judged by how well we care for the sick and vulnerable. Everyone should be loved, supported and cared for until they die. There is nothing truly dignified about being killed or assisted to suicide, even when the motive is compassion for suffering. Suicide is always a tragedy. People at a very low ebb are not helped by being told by our laws that we think they would be better off if they were dead. The community is rightly concerned about the high level of suicide in Australia, and much effort is put into reducing it. To then introduce government-authorised killing on request, would be to create a dangerous double standard.

Myth 3: Euthanasia is an issue of personal liberty and personal choice. The fact is that euthanasia always involves a second person and is therefore a public act with public consequences. Euthanasia would forever change the nature of doctor-patient relationships, from one of a duty to care and heal and comfort, to one where a doctor is given the power to kill or to help you kill yourself.

Myth 4: It's worked well in other places, like the Netherlands, Belgium, and Oregon in the US. The overseas models are not working well. The so-called strict guidelines are failing badly, with deadly consequences. When euthanasia was introduced in Belgium in 2002 it was considered only for terminally ill adults, deemed to be in their right mind, with full consent given. A little over a decade later, the Belgian Parliament has now legalised euthanasia for children of all ages and dementia patients. In a study in Flanders, 66 of 208 cases of euthanasia occurred without explicit consent. The Dutch government's own statistics show that more than 300 people die each year without explicit consent. Euthanasia in the Netherlands now includes the unconscious, disabled babies, children aged 12 and over, and people with dementia and psychiatric illnesses.

Myth 5: Euthanasia should be legalised because opinion polls support it. But Parliaments don't legislate on opinion polls alone. Parliaments are elected to consider all the relevant arguments, to legislate in favour of the common good, to endorse responsible action and to protect the vulnerable, whose voices and concerns are often not heard in opinion polls. When parliaments across the world have had a chance to examine all the evidence and all the dangers of euthanasia, the great majority of them have voted against it, even in the face of strong opinion poll support.

Myth 6: Euthanasia is necessary to relieve pain. Good palliative care, not killing, is the answer to relieving pain for the dying. Palliative Care Australia says that good, well-resourced palliative care gives people the ability not only to live well in their illness, but to die well too, "free from pain, in the place of their choice, with people they wish to be present, and above all, with dignity". Great medical gains are being made in palliative care and many families speak of palliative care as providing very precious time with their loved one. But the fact is that palliative care is not offered to many dying people in Australia and in some places there would be no opportunity to receive it, even if a person in great pain asked for it. No one should be talking about euthanasia in Australia until we have righted this wrong.



Fr Graham Schmitzer
Parish Priest