

Parish and Shrine of the Immaculate Conception Unanderra

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Parish School

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School Principal

Mr Philip Moore

Parish Secretary

Mrs Agnes Jerald



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

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Parish website: www.unanderraparish.org.au

PROGRAMME FOR THIS WEEK

Monday	Oct 2	<u>NO MASS</u>
Tuesday	Oct 3	Adoration: 4:30pm-5:30pm Mass: 5:30pm
Wednesday	Oct 4	Mass: 7:00am ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI
Thursday	Oct 5	Adoration: 4:30pm-5:30pm (Reconciliation available) Mass: 5:30pm
Friday	Oct 6	First Friday ST BRUNO Mass: 9:30am
Saturday	Oct 7	First Saturday OUR LADY OF ROSARY Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation 5:00-5:30pm Vigil Mass: 6:00pm
Sunday	Oct 8	27th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Masses: 7:00am, 9:00am 10:45am (Polish)

26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR A

1st October 2017

READINGS: Ezek 18:25-28; Phil 2:1-11; Mt 21:28-32

The parable of the two sons was addressed to the chief priests and the elders of the people. Its purpose was to defend Jesus' invitation of sinners and outcasts to the Kingdom, in the face of the sneers of the religious establishment.



The first son represents sinners who then repented and so gained entry into the Kingdom. The second son represents the chief priests and the elders - they promised to work for God but failed to do so. This is a favourite theme of St Matthew - the split in the religious person between **saying and doing...**

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased: Ellen BROWN, Antonio PIACENTIN, Ella WINNER, Vincenzo MASSARELLA

Anniversaries: Rosa MARCIANO, Anna LAMAKA

Victor LAMAKA

Pray for the sick and those unable to get to Mass



Rosters of next weekend

Sat 7 th	Church Cleaning	M Lloyd, J Allen, J Haywood, S Walsh	
	Lawns	R Murphy, B Mannix, W Brown, F Caruana	
	Acolytes	Lectors	Welcomers
Vigil 6pm	A Carlotto	L Milan	A Milan
Sun 8 th 7am	L Burns	M Walsh	S Brown, A Browne
9am	R Klaus	M Rodwell	V Cleary, M Mohr-Peters
Counters	T & L Barnes, J Carolan		
Children's Liturgy	Not held during the school holidays		

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.

COALITION FOR MARRIAGE – CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

More than 3000 people have volunteered to assist in the campaign to uphold the current definition of marriage. The Coalition for Marriage are currently looking for volunteers for the campaign. If you are interested in finding out some simple ways you can assist, please go to at www.coalitionformarriage.com.au/volunteer.

ENCOURAGING PEOPLE TO GET INVOLVED IN NO CAMPAIGN THROUGH CONVERSATIONS AND LETTERBOX DROPS

The No campaign is encouraging supporters of traditional marriage to get involved in personal conversations about what is at stake in the marriage survey. Those looking to get involved in letterbox drops are encouraged to contact the AFA through Joe Carolan on 0403 822 534.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND- 24-26 NOV 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

Gospel Reflection

'A father had three sons.

One day he said to them,

'Go and work in the vineyard today'.

The first said, 'Sure, Dad'.

But he didn't go.

The second said, 'I won't go'.

However, later in the day he changed his mind and went grudgingly.

The third said, 'Sure, Dad'.

And went immediately and willingly.

Which of the three sons will feel closest to the father at the end of the day ?

The third, of course.

The more we do the will of God out of love, the more we will appreciate His love for us.

Lord, save us from the darkness of broken promises,

and help us to walk in the light of faithfulness.

THE BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL – IN SUPPORT OF SICK AND RETIRED CLERGY

Thank you for your generous support of this appeal last weekend. A gift of \$ 1134.00 has been forwarded to Bishop Peter as our response to his appeal.

This gift will help fund programs in our Diocese that support and care for our sick and retired clergy. Donations are still being gratefully received via today's first collection and can be made using the special envelopes provided. For your convenience, this year's appeal video can be viewed, and donations can be made, online via the Diocese of Wollongong's website www.dow.org.au

"I am very grateful for your support in helping me to ensure that we can provide the right care for our sick and retired clergy. God bless you."

Bishop Peter Ingham

LIVING FAITH

Daily meditations—October to December based on the Mass Readings of the day.

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

Only \$4.



“See and be grateful.”

St Mary of the Cross 1884

The month of OCTOBER is, of course, the month of Rosary. The Bishops are asking us to pray and fast during this month for **MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE**.

A prayer they suggest for this week:

“Heavenly Father,
grant that our families may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel, and small domestic Churches. Make us ever more mindful of the sacredness and beauty of the family in God’s plan.”

ORGAN RECITAL & WORKSHOPS, SATURDAY 28 OCTOBER

St Francis Xavier Cathedral 36 Harbour Street Wollongong
At 10:30am, Organ Teacher, Godelieve Ghavalas, will conduct a workshop on organ playing to show how pianists can easily develop the skills to readily play the new Allen digital pipe organs. Then, at 2:00pm, come and hear a recital by Allen Organ Scholarship recipient Cassandra Cordero playing a new Allen digital pipe organ at Wollongong Cathedral.

STRENGTHEN YOUR RELATIONSHIPS

Parenting workshops available from October 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 1 Oct 2017

This week on the Journey, the Gospel of Matthew is reflected on by our very own Fr Stephen Varney of Shellharbour City Parish. Wisdom from the Abbey with Sr Hilda encourages ‘To believe the Good News, Trish McCarthy asks us in her Milk & Honey segment, ‘Are we doing too much?’ and Fr Dave Callaghan talks to us about ‘Dealing with the enemy’. We are truly blessed to have such amazing Christian music artists helping us to create a show for you 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.

VOCATION – MANY PATHS, ONE AMAZING GOD

Loving God, grant me a discerning heart to hear your call in my life, and grant me the courage to surrender my life to you every day. Amen. To help with your reflection, Contact Fr Duane Fernandez on 0414 626 357 or priesthood@dow.org.au

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.

ARE YOU NEW TO THE PARISH?

Welcome to Immaculate Conception Parish! May you find a true home in Christ among us. If you would like to let us know you have ‘arrived’ please fill out the form below and place it on a collection plate at Sunday Mass.

NAME/S:

ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE: MOBILE:

EMAIL:

My dear people,

To mark the 25th year of his Pontificate, and the 120th anniversary of Pope Leo XIII's Encyclical Letter on the Rosary, St John Paul II wrote his Apostolic Letter THE ROSARY OF THE VIRGIN MARY in October, 2002. He took up the theme of Pope Paul VI who commented "the Rosary is an unceasing praise of Christ". "To recite the Rosary is nothing other than to contemplate with Mary the face of Christ", wrote Pope John Paul.

" 'And he was transfigured before them and his face shone like the sun' (MAT 17:2). To look upon the face of Christ is the task of all His followers. To look at Christ is to experience the love of the Father and the joy of the Holy Spirit. "Lord, show us your face and we shall be saved' is a constant theme of the Psalms. Our model is Mary. Somehow the face of the Son belongs to His Mother. That face was formed in her womb, and perhaps actually bore a resemblance to hers. It points to an even greater spiritual closeness. The eyes of her heart were already turned to Him at the Annunciation, and during His life her gaze never left Him. At times it would be a questioning look, as at the finding in the Temple: 'Son, why have you treated us so?' (LK 2:48). Always it was a penetrating gaze, seeking to understand His hidden feelings and even anticipating His decisions, as at Cana. At other times it would be a look of sorrow, especially beneath the Cross. On Easter morning it was a gaze radiant with joy; on Pentecost it was a gaze afire.

" 'Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart.' St Luke twice tells us this, as if to emphasize the point. Mary's life was spent pondering the mystery of Christ. Like us, she did not always understand it. It was, in a sense, her 'rosary' which she recited uninterruptedly throughout her earthly life. Mary desires that we contemplate those same mysteries. In the recitation of the Rosary we enter Mary's memories. Because of this the Rosary is **contemplative** prayer. Without its contemplative dimension the Rosary would lose its meaning. Pope Paul VI clearly pointed this out: 'Without contemplation, the Rosary is a body without a soul, and its recitation runs the risk of becoming a mechanical repetition of formulas, in violation of the admonition of Christ: 'In praying do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think they will be heard for their many words' (MAT 6:7). By its nature the recitation of the Rosary calls for a quiet rhythm and lingering pace, helping the individual to meditate on the mysteries of the Lord's life as seen through the eyes of her who was closest to the Lord'.

"Christ is our supreme Teacher—He is the revealer and the One revealed. It is not just a question of learning what He taught but of learning **Him**. Among creatures no one knows Christ better than Mary. Cana clearly presents Mary as a teacher, as she urges the servants to do what Jesus demands (JOHN 2:5). It is not hard to imagine her doing the same for the disciples after Jesus' ascension. Contemplating the scenes of the Rosary in union with Mary is a means of learning from her to 'read' Christ, to discover His secrets and to understand His message.



"Jesus invited us to turn to God in prayer, confident that we will be heard: 'Ask, and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you' (MATT 7:7). The basis for prayer's power is the goodness of the Father, and the mediation of Christ Himself, and the fact that the Holy Spirit continually intercedes for us. Mary supports our prayers. The Gospel of the wedding at Cana clearly shows the power of Mary's intercession as she makes known to Jesus the needs of others. The Rosary is, then, both meditation and supplication. Prayer to the Mother of God is based on our confidence that her motherly intercession can obtain all things from the Heart of her Son. In her Rosary Our Lady continues her work of proclaiming Christ."

Fr Graham Schmitzer

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Parish Priest