

Parish and Shrine of the Immaculate Conception Unanderra

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Parish Priest

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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
Phone: 4271 1068 | Fax: 4271 1298
Email: unanderra@dow.org.au
Parish website: www.unanderraparish.org.au

PROGRAMME FOR THIS WEEK

Monday	Oct 9	<u>NO MASS</u>
Tuesday	Oct 10	Adoration: 4:30pm-5:30pm Mass: 5:30pm
Wednesday	Oct 11	Mass: 7:00am (Convent) ST JOHN XXIII
Thursday	Oct 12	Adoration: 4:30pm-5:30pm (Reconciliation available) Mass: 5:30pm
Friday	Oct 13	Mass: 9:30am
Saturday	Oct 14	Mass: 7:30am ST CALLISTUS Reconciliation 5:00-5:30pm Vigil Mass: 6:00pm
Sunday	Oct 15	28th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Mission Sunday Masses: 7:00am, 9:00am 10:45am (Polish)

27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR A

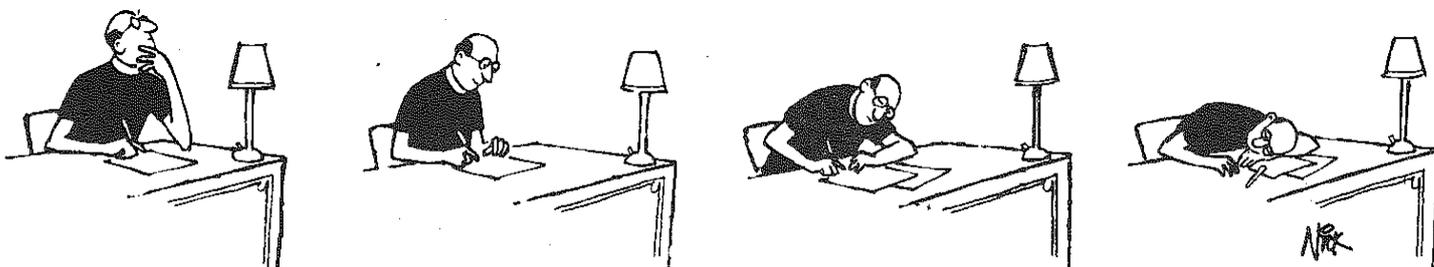
8th October 2017

READINGS: IS 5:1-7; PHIL 4:6-9; MT 21:33-43.

The Old Testament tells us that God cared for His people as a good gardener cares for his vineyard, yet they failed to produce the desired fruits. We are the new People of God, the vineyard planted and cared for by Christ. He looks to us to produce the fruits of justice, holiness, and peace. It is a privilege but also a challenge.



THE SUNDAY SERMON!



Rosters of next weekend

Sat 14 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	P Jones	C Nughes	M Mohr-Peters
Sun 15 th 7am	A Carlotto	P Gunning	A Campbell, L Harper
9am	L Haywood	R Green	Walker, P Cundy
Counters	B & P Walker, A Kelly		
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 9am Mass on 1st weekend of the month.



Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
in you we contemplate
the splendour of true love:
to you we turn with trust.

Heavenly Father,
grant that our families too
may be places of communion
and prayer,
authentic schools of the Gospel
and small domestic churches.

Heavenly Father,
may families never again
experience violence, rejection
and division;
may all who have been hurt
or scandalised find ready comfort
and healing.

Heavenly Father,
make us once more mindful of
the sacredness
and inviolability of the family,
and its beauty in God's plan.
Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
graciously hear our prayer.

Amen

Gospel Reflection

Lord, You planted me on this earth,
You fenced me around
with the love of family and friends.

Their care towered over me.
In the shelter of this tower I grew in
safety and peace.

I put out early blossoms; I filled up with leaves.

People had great hopes for me.

You had great hopes for me

But now the years of my life are passing.

The harvest is approaching.

What fruit have I to show?

What if, after all this care

I had nothing to offer but sour grapes?

May You, Lord, have mercy on me,

And with Your patient urging

help me to produce the fruits of love.

PUBLIC ROSARY to celebrate the Centenary of
Our Lady's apparitions at Fatima:
St John the Evangelist Church, Dapto
Saturday, Oct 14 at 10:00 am

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

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.

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.



“In God alone I trust”

St Mary of the Cross 1874

OCTOBER : *Month of Prayer and Fasting for Marriage and the Family*

This week the Bishops suggest we pray for all families in distress.

“Heavenly Father, grant healing to all families in distress, especially those burdened with strained relationships. Draw close to all families who have experienced violence, upheaval, illness or division: May all who have been wounded find ready comfort and healing.”

AGEING AND AWAKENING: GOD’S SURPRISING GIFTS! WEEKEND RETREAT

Time and age are the gifts of the second half of life. As the worn oak wine barrel produces mellow wine so the second half of life allows us time to notice and reflect on the richness of our experience of life – awakening us to God’s surprising gifts on our journey.

- DATE:** October 27-29
- VENUE:** Benedictine Abbey, 695 Mountain Road, Jamberoo
- ARRIVAL:** Friday, 27 October, 3 pm
- DEPARTURE:** Sunday, 29 October, afternoon
- PRESENTER:** Sr. Kerin Caldwell sgs
- COST:** \$50 for the talks, plus accommodation fees (Hermitage \$200 or Shared Cottage \$120)
- BOOKINGS:** Petrina 0242360533 cottageretreats@jamberooabbey.org.au

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM-AIRS 8 Oct 2017

This week on the Journey, This week on the Journey, we are blessed to have some fabulous and inspirational God spots from some truly talented supporters of our show. To enhance our program, we have carefully selected music to help us 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.

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.

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,

Many parents may relate to this story. Peter and Anne raised their four children but are now alone. They feel disappointed and sad. Anne tells us why.

“We did everything we could for those children. We wanted them to have the things we didn’t have. We bought a house, and Peter had to work overtime to be able to keep up with the mortgage repayments. Life was a constant struggle, but the children never lacked anything. They had a lot of illness when they were very young but, thank God, in time they grew out of them. Though we saw some of our neighbours going out regularly, and others going abroad for their holidays, we could never afford that. But we gladly sacrificed these things for the sake of the children.

“We sent them to good schools. They never lacked money for books or school outings. They were always well dressed. We taught them good values. We taught them their religion, and we tried to give them good example. Look how they have repaid us. They say that good example rubs off. Well, in our case, it didn’t.

“John the eldest, quit university and went into the pub business. He now owns three pubs. But money has become his God. He sends us a couple of bottles at Christmas, but we hardly ever see him. Anne, a teacher, married a fellow with a big job. They don’t believe in having children. We get cards from them from exotic places, but they rarely come to see us. Peter has three children and seemed to be happily married. But then he suddenly left his wife and went to live with a young girl. He never shows up. Paul, our baby, is still unmarried. He’s touring the world like a hippie and doesn’t believe in working or settling down. None of them go to church. What more could we have done for them?”

There is great heart-break in religious parents who see their children abandoning the Faith and/or adopting a lifestyle which they regard as immoral. It is only natural to expect a return to love, and hurtful when it doesn’t come. It is terrible to feel taken for granted or even used. What hurt Peter and Anne most was not the ingratitude of their children, but rather the way their children turned out. They are sad for themselves but even more sadder for their children.

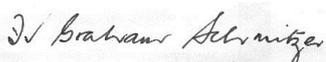
Today’s Mass Readings seem to suggest that even God sometimes feels like this. The words of the First Reading, “What more could I have done for my vineyard that I have not done?” is a cry from the heart. (It is the theme of a hymn called the Reproaches which the Church sings on Good Friday.) In spite of all the love He showed His people, Israel, all God received in return was utter ingratitude.

What sort of fruit did God expect from His people? He looked for peace and got war; for true worship and got idolatry; for justice in their dealings with one another, and got injustice, corruption, and the exploitation of the poor and the weak; for goodness, and got evil; for sharing, and got greed; for community, and got snobbery; for humility, and got pride; for godly living, and got a pagan lifestyle.

Israel’s story is to some extent our story too. God wants us to make the best use we can of the gifts and opportunities He has given us so that we may grow as His children. We often fail to respond to this love. Yet God never writes us off. He gives us chance after chance.

We fail, of course, not just as individuals but as Church. The Church is the vineyard Christ planted and tended with such care that He gave His life for it. He looks to us, His followers in every age, the tenants of His vineyard, to produce the fruit of justice, love, and peace. It’s a great privilege, but a great challenge too.

As a comment on the story of Peter and Anne, I often think that too many parents wrongly blame themselves for the way their children turn out. Parents can only do their best, and only they know if they have done their best. They can only give their children the tools they need for facing life. It is up to the children to use those tools. And on the question of faith, we can’t give the Faith to others. Faith is a gift from God, a personal relationship. Parents can only guide. The rest is up to the child. And never forget the power of prayer. Look at St Monica - her good life and her prayers brought her husband, her mother-in-law, and her son to the Faith.



Fr Graham Schmitzer
Parish Priest