

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

Fr Tomasz Nowak
Mobile: 0437 677 727
Email: tomasz.n04@gmail.com

Parish Assistant
& Catechist Co-ordinator

Sister Joan Goodwin
Ph: 4272 9980 | Mobile: 0499970074
Email: joan.goodwin@sosj.org.au

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	Nov 20	<u>NO MASS</u>

Tuesday	Nov 21	The Presentation of Our Lady NO Mass at Unanderra <u>7:30PM CATHEDRAL</u> <i>Ordination to the Priesthood of Rev Victor Vincent</i>

Wednesday	Nov 22	Mass: 7:00am SAINT CECILIA

Thursday	Nov 23	Adoration: 4:30pm-5:30pm (Reconciliation available) Mass: 5:30pm SAINT CLEMENT

Friday	Nov 24	Mass: 9:30am THE VIETNAMESE MARTYRS

Saturday	Nov 25	Mass: 7:30am ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA Reconciliation 4:30-5:30pm Vigil Mass: 6:00pm (First Communion)

Sunday	Nov 26	CHRIST THE KING Masses: 7:00am, 9:00am (First Communion) 10:45am (Polish)

33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR A

19 November 2017

READINGS: Prov 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31; 1
Thess 5:1-6; Mt 25:14-30

St Paul believed that Christ's second coming was imminent. St Matthew, writing later, has accepted that we don't really know the time. Even so, he too spoke about the necessity of being watchful. In the



parable of the talents he spells out what this watchfulness consists in: Carrying out the Lord's teaching to the best of one's God-given ability. The First Reading gives us the example of a woman who uses her talents well.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Frank CORDINA (recently deceased)
Charlie CARBONARO (recently deceased)
Leo HAYWOOD (recently deceased)
John RICHARDS (anniversary)
Fr Vince WHITEMAN (anniversary)
Ron ZAMPA (anniversary)

Rosters of next weekend

Sat 25th	Church Cleaning	S & W Brown, J & D Browne, L Harper, J Hoxha	
	Lawns	Mark Walsh, Fernandez Family	
	Acolytes	Lectors	Welcomers
Vigil 6pm	R Klaus	V Cleary	L Klaus
Sun 26th 7am	A Carlotto	M Walsh	B Neich, K Rossit
9am	N Dwyer	M Rodwell	B Spain, G Petric
Counters	M Murphy (FT), J Powell, R Wilson, L Wade		
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: Barbara 42711584 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.

ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD



Parishioners are invited to attend
Rev Victor Vincent's Ordination
on Tuesday, November 21 at 7:30pm
at St Francis Xavier's Cathedral.
Refreshments to follow.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

24 -26 November, Mt Carmel Retreat Centre Varroville.

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

Gospel Reflection

Once upon a time there was a wealthy miser who melted down his hoard of gold into a single lump which he then secretly buried in his garden. Every day he went to look at it, and would spend hours gloating over it. Then one of his servants discovered his secret, and came by night and stole the gold. When the miser discovered that his treasure had been stolen, he was heart-broken. But a friend said to him, "Don't take it so badly. Just put a brick in the hole, and take a look at it every day. You won't be any worse off than before, for even when you had the gold you never used it."

All of us bury some talent which we refuse to use either for our own benefit or for the benefit of others. And what is buried is of no earthly use to anyone.



CHOSEN

Daily Reflections for Advent and Christmas. Produced by the Diocese of Wollongong. Only \$2

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

CHRISTMAS CARD AND COLUMBAN CALENDAR

The Unanderra St Vincent de Paul Conference members will be selling Christmas Cards and the Columban Calendar after each Mass. Christmas Cards are \$6.00 (pack of 10) and the Columban Calendar is \$9.00.



CHURCH MINISTRIES FOR 2018

Have you considered being involved in one of the various ministries of your parish?

Over the next few weeks you will have the opportunity to volunteer for 2018.

Please give careful consideration to participating in one or more of the following ministries -

Acolytes, Lectors, Children's Liturgy, Welcomers, Church Cleaners, Counters, Church Lawns and Gardens, Church Washing, Ministers of Holy Communion to Aged Care, Choir, Altar Servers, Catechists and Sacramental Team Leaders.

New Volunteers will have the opportunity to work with those who have experience.

Your assistance will be appreciated.



“More than ever we should be
humble and patient,
charitable and forgiving.”

St. Mary of the Cross 1874

Message from Bishop Ingham following the vote on SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

The Yes vote has prevailed in the marriage postal survey and while we are disappointed, we accept the result of the survey and the democratic process undertaken. Following an amendment to the Marriage Act, civil marriage will be open to same-sex couples.

The postal survey was never a vote on the worth or dignity of people with same-sex attraction, which is beyond question, but on the meaning of marriage and the unique roles of a husband and wife in a family.

The Catholic Church will continue to promote and practise the tenet of our Faith that marriage is a lifelong union of a man and a woman, open to the possibility of children. The survey has confirmed that this is a position shared by millions of people in this country.

The focus is now on our parliament to ensure that the proper freedoms are legislated to guarantee that the many people who hold to the traditional definition of marriage are free to speak, teach and act on this belief.

Interested in games, good food, live music, and faith?
iSTAND Nights youth group at the **Xavier Centre, Harbour Street, Wollongong. Friday, 7pm. Ages 14-18.** For more info go to YMT Wollongong Facebook page or contact Bridget on 0481 842 530.

POSITION VACANT

CARITAS DIOCESAN DIRECTOR

A part-time position (15 hours a week) is available for commencement as soon as possible for Caritas Australia. The position is based in Wollongong and the successful applicant should be passionate in promoting social justice across the Wollongong Diocese.

Applications close on Monday 20 November.

For information on how to apply for this Role, a Position Description and for further details see the diocesan website: http://dow.sh/jobs_caritas_diocesandirector

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM—AIRS 19 Nov 2017

This week on the Journey we are joined once again by Fr Stephen Varney to reflect on the Gospel for this Sunday. We've also got some of the best Catholic content going around to enrich your day, with Fr Dave Callaghan MGL in his segment The Call, Sam Clear, with reflections on Walking the Walk, Bruce Downes the Catholic Guy, and more! Along with some fantastic Christian music, this is a great episode! Faith, hope, love, and life, you're on The Journey! Go to www.jcr.org.au or www.itunes.jcr.org.au where you can listen anytime and subscribe to weekly shows by email.

VOCATIONS—WHO IS YOUR KING? We sometimes put off thinking about vocation, or what God wants, instead putting our energy into other areas. God is calling; we need to prioritise our response. Pray, talk with others, find out what God wants. Please contact Fr Duane Fernandez on 0414 626 357 or priesthood@dow.org.au

CARITAS GLOBAL GIFTS—GIVE A LITTLE DIFFERENTLY THIS CHRISTMAS

As we welcome the season of Advent, the season of waiting and preparing our hearts for the birth of Child Jesus. May we, as individuals, schools and parishes, act and pray for a more just and fair world, a world full of hope, peace, joy and love. Send a Christmas message to those you love, and give to those in need.

When you choose a Global Gift card to give to family to friends this Christmas, you are bringing a moment to joy and helping create a lifetime of change for some of the world's most vulnerable people.

Order Global Gift cards online at: www.globalgifts.org.au or call us on 1800 024 413

MISSION TO FIGHT POVERTY

Catholic communities all over the world are looking for teachers, health and community development workers, administrators and others to **mentor workers in their fields of expertise**. See more than **40 volunteer positions** at www.palms.org.au/projects/.

The positions would suit anybody with the appropriate qualifications. Healthy retired people find it a most gratifying and stimulating mission. Australian donors cover your costs and outstanding support is provided through the church's single biggest global volunteer mission agency.

Want to hear more from returned volunteers?

Information Session:

Time: Wednesday November 29th, 5:45 - 7:00 pm

Place: Save the Children office, Suite 302 (Level 3)
418a Elizabeth St, Surry Hills

Entrance to the building is on Devonshire St.

My dear people,

During last year's YEAR OF MERCY Pope Francis declared that henceforth a **World Day of the Poor** would be celebrated in the Church each year. Today is the First, and I give you here part of his Message.

"The Son of God's way of loving is well-known. It stands on two pillars: God loved us first, and He loved us by giving completely of Himself, even to laying down His life. Such love cannot go unanswered. Whenever we set out to love as Jesus loved, we have to take the Lord as our example—especially when it comes to loving the poor.

" 'This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him' (Psalm 34). The Church has always understood the importance of this cry. In the very first pages of the Acts of the Apostles, St Peter asks that seven men be chosen for the ministry of caring for the poor (the first Deacons). The earliest community realized that being a disciple of Jesus meant demonstrating fraternity and solidarity, in obedience to the Master's proclamation that the poor are blessed and heirs to the Kingdom of heaven. 'They sold their possessions and goods and distributed them to all, as any had need' (Acts 2:45).

"The Apostle James conveys the same message: "What does it profit, my brethren, if a man says he has faith but has not works? Can his faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and in lack of daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, be warmed and filled', without giving them the things needed for the body, what does it profit? So faith by itself, if it has not works, is dead' (James 2).

"There are times when Christians have not fully heeded this appeal, and have assumed a worldly way of thinking. Yet over two thousand years, how many pages of history have been written by Christians who, in utter simplicity and humility have served their poorest brothers and sisters! The most outstanding example is that of Francis of Assisi. He was not satisfied to **embrace** lepers and give them **alms**, but chose to go to Gubbio to **stay** with them. We may think of the poor simply as the beneficiaries of our occasional volunteer work—what we need is a true **encounter** with the poor and a **sharing** that becomes a way of life. If we wish to truly encounter Christ we have to touch His body in the suffering bodies of the poor. The Body of Christ, broken in the Eucharist, can be seen in the faces and persons of the most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters. St John Chrysostom's admonition remains ever timely: 'If you want to honour the body of Christ, do not scorn it when it is naked; do not honour the Eucharistic Christ with silk vestments, and then, leaving the church, neglect the other Christ suffering from cold and nakedness'.

"We are called, then, to draw near to the poor, to encounter them, to meet their gaze, to embrace them and to let them feel the warmth of love that breaks through their solitude. Their outstretched hand is also an invitation to step out of our certainties and comforts, and to acknowledge the value of poverty itself. Let us never forget that, for Christ's followers, poverty is above all a call to follow Jesus in his own poverty.

"We know how hard it is for our contemporary world to see poverty for what it is. Poverty has the face of women, men and children exploited by base interests, crushed by the machinations of power and money. What a bitter and endless list we would have to compile were we to add the poverty born of social injustice, moral degeneration, the greed of a chosen few, and generalized indifference! Tragically, in our own time, even as ostentatious wealth accumulates in the hands of the privileged few, often in connection with illegal activities and the appalling exploitation of human dignity, there is a scandalous growth of poverty in broad sectors of society throughout our world. Faced with this scenario, we cannot remain passive, much less resigned. All the poor – as Blessed Paul VI loved to say – belong to the Church by 'evangelical right', and require of us a fundamental option on their behalf.

"At the conclusion of the Jubilee of Mercy, I wanted to offer the Church a **World Day of the Poor**, so that throughout the world Christian communities can become an ever greater sign of Christ's charity for the least and those most in need. I invite the whole Church, and men and women of good will everywhere, to turn their gaze on this day to all those who stretch out their hands and plead for our help and solidarity. They are our brothers and sisters, created and loved by the one Heavenly Father. God created the heavens and the earth for all; yet sadly some have erected barriers, walls and fences, betraying the original gift meant for all humanity, with none excluded.

"This new **World Day**, therefore, should become a powerful appeal to our consciences as believers, allowing us to grow in the conviction that sharing with the poor enables us to understand the deepest truth of the Gospel. The poor are not a problem: they are a resource from which to draw as we strive to accept and practise in our lives the essence of the Gospel.



Fr Graham Schmitzer

Fr Graham Schmitzer
Parish Priest