



PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION UNANDERRA



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Fr Graham Schmitzer

Parish School

Saint Pius X School

Polish Chaplain

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Parish Secretary

Mrs Agnes Jerald

School Principal

Mr Philip Moore

Parish Office Hours: Monday, Thursday and Friday: 9:30am—4:00pm
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Email: unanderra@dow.org.au
Parish website: www.unanderraparish.org.au

PROGRAMME FOR THIS WEEK

Monday (Saint Damasus)	Dec 11	Mass: 7:00am (Convent)

Tuesday	Dec 12	Adoration: 4:30pm-5:30pm Mass: 5:30pm

Wednesday Saint LUCY	Dec 13	Mass: 7:00am

Thursday St JOHN of the CROSS	Dec 14	Adoration: 4:30pm-5:30pm (Reconciliation available) Mass: 5:30pm

Friday	Dec 15	Mass: 9:30am

Saturday	Dec 16	Christmas Novena begins Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation 5:00-5:30pm Vigil Mass: 6:00pm

Sunday	Dec 17	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Rose Sunday) Masses: 7:00am, 9:00am 10:45am (Polish)

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR B

10TH DECEMBER 2017

READINGS: Is 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Pet 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

Both the prophet Isaiah and John the Baptist urge the people to prepare a way for the Lord who is coming to save them. This involves finding time in our busy lives and space in our busy hearts. St Peter reminds us that if the Lord seems to be slow in coming, it is to give us more time to ready ourselves.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Joseph OWEN (recently deceased)
Joan and Stan WILLIAMS (anniversary)
Norman BRANSGROVE Snr (anniversary)
Jan RITCHIE (anniversary)
John McMahan (anniversary)

Rosters of next weekend

Sat 16 th	Church Cleaning	M Lloyd, J Allen, J Haywood, S Walsh	
	Lawns	Peters Family, Winner Family	
	Acolytes	Lectors	Welcomers
Vigil 6pm	G Attard	R Gandy	K Rossit
Sun 17 th 7am	N Dwyer	S Walsh	L Harper, A Campbell
9am	R Klaus	C Nughes	B Spain, G Petric
Counters	T & L Barnes, J Carolan		
Children's Liturgy	<i>Not held during the school holidays</i>		

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.

Gospel Reflection

The voice of John the Baptist was a lonely voice which many of his contemporaries ignored.

There are many lonely voices in our world.

Somewhere at this moment a child is crying—
crying for love or maybe simply for bread.

Somewhere a young person is crying—
crying for a listening ear or an understanding heart.

Somewhere an old person is crying—
crying for a visit or a word from his/her children.

There are a thousand unheard cries in our world,
coming from the victims of injustice and neglect.

Lord, help us to listen to these voices.

Above all, help us to listen to Your voice,
whispering to us in the wilderness of our hearts,
telling us that we are loved by You,
and that we are to love one another.



ST VINCENT DE PAUL GIVING TREE

The church "Giving Tree" will continue operating this week too. There will be tags on the Christmas Tree for Christmas food and children toys, these gifts need to be returned by 17th Dec(3rd Sunday of Advent) with the tag attached. Hampers and toys will be distributed on Tuesday 19th December.

Unanderra St Vincent de Paul Society supports on average 40 local family and 8 single people with Christmas hampers and toys for the children.



CATHFAMILY The home us the heart of the Church. CATHFAMILY brings you a selection of activities, prayer rituals, crafts and recipes for free from their

website cathfamily.org. Don't miss CathKids, weekly interactive experience with a two-minute animated reflection on the Sunday reading, questions to stimulate discussion, a simple activity and prayer. Families in the Diocese of Wollongong are encouraged to utilise these resources at home to share faith with kids.

<http://cathfamily.org/advent-wreath-banner/>

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

Acolytes, Lectors and Welcomers are now needed for the Christmas Masses.

If you are able to assist please write your name on the sheet in the centre aisle of the Church.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Same as Sunday: Vigil 6pm Sunday, December 24

7:00am, 9:00am, 10:45am (Polish) Monday, December 25





"Never correct when you are angry..."

St. Mary of the Cross

VOCATIONS—HOW ARE YOU PREPARING? 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 Richard Healey, Vocations Director, on 0401 621 591 priesthood@dow.org.au

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.

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.

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM—AIRS 10 Dec 2017

This week on the Journey, Fr Richard Healy shares his reflection from the Gospel of Mark, Sr Hilda shares her Wisdom from The Abbey, and encourages us to believe The Good News; Pete Gilmore reminds us of a God of the details in his Living the Gospel segment. Some great music this week too! Put it all together and you have an inspiring show full of 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.

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

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.

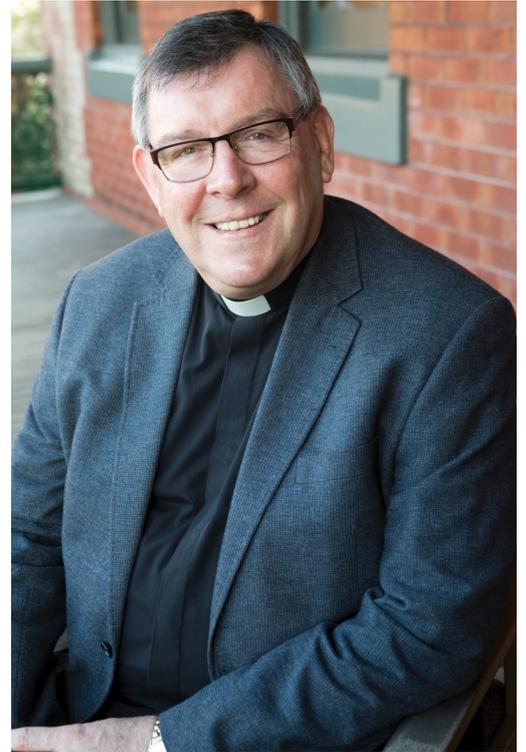


THE LIFE OF BRIAN

On Thursday, November 30, Pope Francis appointed Father Brian Gregory Mascord fifth Bishop of the Diocese of Wollongong. Bishop-elect Brian was born in Newcastle on 30 January 1959. He was educated by the Sisters of St Joseph of Lochinvar (who taught Bishop Wilson and myself). After achieving a Diploma of teaching at the Catholic College of Education in Castle Hill, he spent six years teaching in a Catholic primary school.

Having felt a vocation to the priesthood, our new Bishop entered St Patrick's College at Manly in 1986 and there obtained a Bachelor of Theology. He was ordained a priest on 31 October 1992 in Sacred Heart Church in Hamilton by Bishop Leo Clarke. From 1993 to 1996 he worked as Assistant Priest and Administrator in the Parishes of Taree, Hamilton and Stockton. He served as Parish Priest in Cardiff; East Maitland and Morpeth; Maitland, Lochinvar and Rutherford.

Since 2007 Fr Brian has been Vocations Director for his Diocese. Since 2008 he has worked as Administrator for the Parishes of Nelson Bay, as well as Mayfield and Mayfield West. Since 2012 he has been Vicar General for the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.



Bishop-Elect Brian has said, "I look up to Bishop Ingham as a pastoral priest and a pastoral bishop, and the example he gives in his ministry and life as priest and bishop is something I've admired. I hope and pray that I will be able to continue with his example, build on what he has done in the Diocese and what he has achieved for the Diocese. I look forward to encountering people who have that 'down-to-earthiness' that comes with the diversity of the people who live in coastal, city and rural areas. As Bishop-Elect of Wollongong, meeting the people of the Diocese, getting to know them and sharing in their faith journey is my first priority".

In announcing Bishop-Elect Mascord's appointment, Pope Francis also accepted Bishop Ingham's resignation. Bishop Ingham will serve as Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese until Bishop-Elect Mascord's Episcopal Ordination at the Wollongong Entertainment Centre on Thursday evening, February 22, the Feast of the Chair of St Peter.

We warmly welcome Bishop-Elect Brian to our Diocese, and pray in the words of last Sunday's Responsorial Psalm, "May your hand be on the man You have chosen" (Psalm 79).

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fr Graham Schmitzer". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Fr Graham Schmitzer
Parish Priest