



# PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION UNANDERRA



48 Princes Highway, PO Box 14, Unanderra NSW - 2526

*Parish Priest*  
*Polish Chaplain*

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

*Parish School*

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

*Parish Assistant  
& Catechist Co-ordinator*

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

*Parish Secretary*

*School Principal*

**Mr Philip Moore**

**Parish Office Hours:** Monday, Thursday and Friday: 9:30am—4:00pm  
Phone: 4271 1068 | Fax: 4271 1298  
Email: [unanderra@dow.org.au](mailto:unanderra@dow.org.au)  
Parish website: [www.unanderraparish.org.au](http://www.unanderraparish.org.au)

## PROGRAMME FOR THIS WEEK

**Monday, December 18**  
— **Friday, December 22**

**CHRISTMAS NOVENA**  
continues  
Adoration 4:30-5:30pm  
(Reconciliation available)  
Mass: 5:30pm

**Saturday** Dec 23

Mass: 7:30am  
Adoration 4:30-5:30pm  
(Reconciliation available)  
Vigil Mass: 6:00pm

**Sunday** Dec 24

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
Masses: 7:00am, 9:00am  
10:45am (Polish)  
Vigil Mass: 6:00pm

**Monday** Dec 25

**CHRISTMAS DAY**  
Masses: 7:00am, 9:00am  
10:45am (Polish)

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR B

17TH DECEMBER 2017

**READINGS:** Is 61:1-2, 10-11; 1 Thess 5:16-24;  
Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

In the First Reading the prophet declares he has been sent by God to usher in a new age of salvation.

Jesus will later use this prophecy to announce the programme of His own ministry.

In the Gospel we again meet John the Baptizer. He summons all to faith in Jesus the Light.

In the Second Reading St Paul, on a very practical level, tells the Thessalonians how they should live as they await Christ's Second Coming.



## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Joseph OWEN (recently deceased)

Hugh SMALL (recently deceased)

Kathleen GOODWIN (anniversary)

Bruce REEDY (anniversary)

## Rosters of next weekend

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

## Christmas Rosters

	2 Acolytes	2 Lectors	2 Welcomers	2 Servers
<b>Sunday, 24th Dec Vigil 6pm</b>	Mark WALSH	Mary GILLIS Roger BAXENDALE	James AUKCSO Mary AZZOPARDI	
<b>Monday, 25th Dec 7am</b>	Andrew CARLOTTO	Paul GUNNING	Rob BRUNERO Yuonne BRUNERO	
<b>Monday, 25th Dec 9am</b>	Neil DWYER Rob KLAUS	<b>Volunteer needed</b>	Vera CLEARY	Patrick CAROLAN Cormac CAROLAN

### 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

There is a world of difference between  
joy and pleasure.

Pleasure can be planned,  
Joy can't be planned; it comes unexpectedly,  
and is all the sweeter for that.

Pleasure is immediate.

Joy often comes later, and the sweetest joy of all  
is that which follows pain.

Pleasure comes from saying 'yes' to ourselves.

Joy comes from saying 'no' to ourselves.

Pleasure is like a flare in the night: it brightens

things up for a while, but when it's over,  
we feel darker and emptier than ever.

Joy, on the other hand, is like a bright fire  
in the hearth; even when it dies down,  
it leaves a warm glow behind it...



*December 2017*

*On behalf of Mary MacKillop International, I thank you for your generous support in supplying and assisting with used stamps.*

*2017 was another successful year of us raising approximately \$58,000. A great effort from many, many people! From 2001 till now our total is almost \$244,000.*

*It is through your efforts that the legacy of Saint Mary MacKillop continues in Peru today.*

*Sr Helen Saunders*

### ORDINATION OF BISHOP-ELECT BRIAN MASCORD

Please note the date for the Ordination of Bishop-elect Brian Mascord is now confirmed as follows:

**Thursday, 22 February 2018**, on the Feast of the Chair of St Peter, Apostle

**7:00 pm at WIN Entertainment Centre**, Corner Crown and Harbour Streets, Wollongong

**Principal Consecrator:** Archbishop Anthony Fisher

**Assisting Consecrators:** Bishops Peter Ingham and Bill Wright



"The little crosses of every day  
are harder to bear than the  
thumping big ones."  
*st. Mary of the Cross 1884*

**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](mailto:priesthood@dow.org.au)

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL GIVING TREE**

Gifts for the Giving Tree need to be placed under the giving tree by this weekend 17th December. Hampers and toys will be distributed on Tuesday 19th December.

A big thank you to all the generous parishioners who again have supported the Vinnies Giving Tree.

**VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL**

The second collection on all Christmas Day Masses will go to the Vinnie's Christmas Appeal. Envelopes will be available for those wishing to make credit card payments. All money raised will go to St Vincent de Paul Unanderra Conference.

**CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE**

Result of the raffle drawn after 9am Mass on 10th December

- 1st prize** Parrish Family
- 2nd prize** Bob Lloyd
- 3rd prize** Tony Vila.

**ROSTER 2018**

The new Roster is now available at the side door of the Church for collection.

**THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM—AIRS 17 Dec 2017**

This week on the Journey, Fr Graham Schmitzer shares his reflection from the Gospel of John, Sr Hilda shares her Wisdom from The Abbey, and encourages us to Stare at God, Trish McCarthy talks to us about The Word of God in her Milk and Honey segment, and Sam Clear encourages us to Let It Go in his Walking the Walk God spot. Our program is jam packed with inspiration and music, all round we have a great show about faith, hope, love and life. Go to [www.jcr.org.au](http://www.jcr.org.au) or [www.itunes.jcr.org.au](http://www.itunes.jcr.org.au) where you can listen anytime and subscribe to weekly shows by email.

**HOW LONG HAVE WE BEEN MAKING CHRISTMAS CAKES?**



The custom goes way back to medieval times. Christmas was (and still is liturgically) a twelve-day celebration, climaxing at Epiphany, January 6, the Feast of the Three Kings. Precious dried fruits and spices featured heavily from medieval times onwards when Christmas pudding or pottage combined boiled meats and dried fruit with spices introduced by the Crusaders.

Accounts of Twelfth Night feasts in Tudor England include a sweet spiced, fruit-laden bread containing a favour or token. Whoever found it was king for the evening. By Victorian times Christmas feasting in Britain was confined to December 25, but was accompanied by a laboriously prepared and richly dense fruit cake, usually covered in marzipan. A recipe from Cassell's Dictionary of Cookery, published in 1874, specifies the use of currants, candied fruit, almonds, flour, butter and eggs plus cinnamon, mace, ginger and allspice. The cake was finished with brandy and could keep for 12 months. Epiphany is still celebrated in Europe, often with a sweet bread, galette or brioche.

**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.



My Dear People,

It is not difficult to pick up the feeling of the Liturgy on this Third Sunday of Advent - named **Gaudete** (Rejoice) **Sunday** from the first word of the Entrance Antiphon, or Rose Sunday because of the colour of the vestments. We have passed the half-way mark of Advent, and the Church begins to anticipate the joys of the coming Feast.

The readings today spell out the mood of the Church. The prophet Isaiah pictures the people of Israel as a beautiful bride whom God wishes to wed. The period of captivity in Babylon was over (for which Israel herself was to blame), the people had repented of their past unfaithfulness to God, and now they realized with overwhelming joy that God still loved them, God still wanted them for His own. Israel stands for each one of us, and the Church today is reminding us that no matter what our past infidelities have been, God still loves us, God still wants us, as much as a bridegroom wants his beautiful bride. The very thought should fill us with joy.

The Second Reading continues the note of joy, "Be happy at all times" says Saint Paul. As Christians we should be known not just for the love we have for one another but for the **joy** that fills our lives. No trial of suffering should have the power to extinguish that joy. The early Christians spoke of their faith with such joy and excitement that the onlookers thought they were drunk. So they were in time tempted to moderate their manner of witnessing to the Faith. Saint Paul warns them: "Never try to suppress the Holy Spirit", a Spirit of joy. If any word will be used to describe Pope Francis after he goes to his eternal reward, it will have to be **joy**. It enters every homily he gives, it is written all over his face.

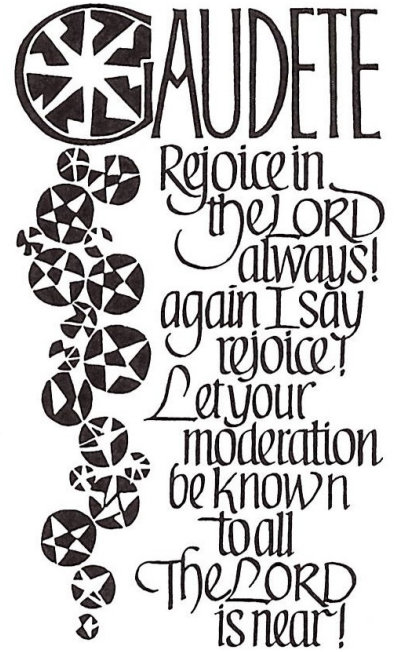
In the Holy Year of 1975, Blessed Paul VI wrote an Encyclical Letter **ON CHRISTIAN JOY**. He gave three clues to help us rediscover the joy of living in Christ.

**Firstly**, we must unite our efforts to secure at least a minimum of relief, well-being, security and justice for the many peoples deprived of them. It would be a strange brand of Christianity whose members boasted of finding their joy "in the Lord" and turned a blind eye to the glaring injustices present in the world. John the Baptist was well aware that the Saviour's mission, and his own mission, was to fulfil the prophecy of Isaiah "to build up hearts that are broken and to bring good news to the poor".

**Secondly**, we need to re-discover the many human joys that God places in our path: the very joy of existence, the joy of chaste and sanctified love, the peaceful joy of nature and silence, the joy of work well done and duty performed, the transparent joy of purity, the demanding joy of sacrifice. "Christian joy presupposes a person capable of natural joy" wrote Pope Paul.

**Thirdly**, our priority must be our spiritual lives. "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in You" said Saint Augustine. Our ultimate joy is becoming more present to God and turning away from sin. And it is in the Eucharistic Banquet that God already gives us a taste of the joy of heaven. "For even here on earth" said Pope Paul, "we find no better way of sharing ourselves and sharing our joy than by inviting our friends to our table, and by opening up our hearts to them".

Pope Paul made an important point when he stressed the need to create a world where both natural joy and spiritual joy exist side by side, and where in fact one will lead to the other.



*Fr Graham Schmitzer*

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