



# PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION UNANDERRA



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**Parish Office Hours:** Monday, Thursday and Friday: 9:30am—4:00pm  
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## PROGRAMME FOR THIS WEEK

<b>Monday</b>	Jan 22	No Mass
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<b>Tuesday</b>	Jan 23	Adoration: 4:30-5:30pm Mass: 5:30pm
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<b>Wednesday</b>	Jan 24	Mass: 7:00am
St FRANCIS de SALES		
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<b>Thursday</b>	Jan 25	Adoration: 4:30-5:30pm (Reconciliation available) Mass: 5:30pm
THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL		
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<b>Friday</b>	Jan 26	<b>AUSTRALIA DAY</b> Mass: 8am <i>followed by Breakfast</i>
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<b>Saturday</b>	Jan 27	Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 5 - 5:30pm Vigil Mass 6pm
Sts TIMOTHY and TITUS		
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<b>Sunday</b>	Jan 28	<b>4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b> Masses: 7:00am, 9:00am 10:45am (Polish)

## THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B

21 JANUARY, 2018

**READINGS:** JONAH 3:1-5, 10; 1 COR 7:29-31; MK 1:14-20

We are reading St Mark's Gospel this year on the Sundays of Ordinary Time. Because St Mark's is the first Gospel written (probably about the year 64-65) and in the time when people still alive had witnessed the Passion, the second half concentrates entirely on Our Lord's suffering and death. The first half describes Jesus' ministry of preaching and healing in Galilee (through the eyes of St Peter, for Mark was his secretary).

Jesus begins His preaching by calling on people to repent and embrace the Good News (the meaning of the Word GOSPEL). Taken from the French root, 'repent' means to re-think. Repentance is one of the main themes of the Readings today. The FIRST



READING speaks of Jonah, sent by God to the pagan city of Nineveh. Surprisingly, all in the city, from the king down, listened to Jonah's preaching and were converted. Jesus Himself refers to this episode (LUKE II) and contrasts the lack of response from His own people.

"There is something greater than Jonah here." But today's Gospel highlights the response of the first disciples to Jesus' call. At the beginning of another year, Jesus calls us all once again.

St Paul believed Christ's Second Coming was immanent. We realize now that its time is unknown, but St Paul's message is still relevant - this world is not the be-all and end-all. We are destined for another world.

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

### Recently Deceased

Margaret COMENSOLI

### Anniversaries

Mgr James EVANS, Jakob BROECKMANN, Brian QUETCHER,  
Gilbert GOLLAN, Fortunata OBRA, Lucas & Aquilino ESCOBIA

### Rosters of next weekend

27 <sup>th</sup> Sat	Church Cleaning	G Lord, L Zanetti, S Adams	
	Lawns	Fernandez Family, M Walsh	
	Acolytes	Lectors	Welcomers
Sat 6pm		N Milan	Volunteer
28 <sup>th</sup> Sun 7am	M Walsh	C Walsh	A Browne
9am	R Klaus, C Carolan	A Kelly	B Spain, G Petric
Counters	M Murphy (FT), R Wilson, J Carolan, S Alessi		
Children's Liturgy	Holidays		

### 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.

### PART TIME EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY – PARISH SECRETARY

Unanderra parish is seeking the services of a secretary for 3 days – 18 hours per week Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

The position requires skills administration, bookkeeping and maintaining a database. Good communication skills essential.

The parish secretary needs to be a committed and practising Catholic, embracing the teachings and ethos of the Catholic Church in their daily life.

If interested, please make contact via email to request an application pack for this position

**frances.vanleerdam@dow.org.au**

Applications close Monday 5th February 2018.

## Gospel Reflection

Today we are in danger of being drowned in bad news.

Jesus began His ministry by announcing **good news**.

What was this **good news**?

That the kingdom of heaven had come.

The 'kingdom' stands for the fulfilment of God's promises, a new order of things.

Forgiveness is available. Recovery is possible.

God's love is unconditional,

and is available to us in Christ.

All we have to do is to recognise our need, and seek His help with humility and sincerity.

Unless we repent (re-think)  
we can't hear the Good News.



Friday, 26th January

Mass: 8:00am

Followed by BBQ Breakfast

Do you have any spare agapanthus cuttings with which we could fill the two flower beds on the northern wall of the church?

Contact Gloria Simmonite 4271 3634 or

Bob Lloyd 4271 5804

**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.



"In our unity under God lies our strength"

*St. Mary of the Cross 1871*

### PARISH SEATING AT THE ORDINATION OF BISHOP-ELECT BRIAN MASCORD



Our parish will be seated together as a group at the Ordination of our new Bishop-elect Brian Mascord at 7:00pm on Thursday 22 February 2018 at the WIN Entertainment Centre, Wollongong.

The parish will need to RSVP by 1 February, so could you please fill out your name on the clipboard if you would like to attend the Ordination.

### DIOCESAN CHOIR FOR ORDINATION

The Diocesan Choir will be singing at the ordination of Bishop-elect Brian Mascord. Advice of rehearsal dates and times has been sent to current members of the Diocesan Choir. If you wish to join the Diocesan Choir, please complete the form at the following link: <http://www.liturgydow.org.au/diocesan-choir.html>

### FAITH CIRCLES - CONNECT WEEKLY RESOURCE FOR SMALL GROUPS

Small faith-sharing groups are at the heart of vibrant faith community, 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. A weekly free small group resource called Faith Circles is available based on the Sunday Gospels as well as accompanying questions and prayer points. It is available to download at [www.faithcircles.dow.org.au](http://www.faithcircles.dow.org.au) or have it sent to you each month via email subscription.

### THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM – SUMMER EDITION

This week and right throughout the summer period The Journey Catholic Radio program will continue to bring you weekly Gospel reflections, great music and wonderful inputs from the likes of Sr Hilda Scott, Bruce Downes, The Catholic Guy, Dr Byron and Francine Pirola, Fr Dave Callaghan MGL, Trish McCarthy, Pete Gilmore, Sam Clear and Marilyn Rodriguez. What a great way to prepare for 2018 and the Year of Youth. Go to [www.jcr.org.au](http://www.jcr.org.au) to get weekly updates sent to you.

**ANTIOCH REUNION:** Calling all candidates, oldies, clergy, billet families, musicians, kitchen angels and friends of Antioch. A reunion is set for Saturday 3rd March 2018 at Fairy Meadow including a meet and greet afternoon tea, celebratory Mass and dinner. To register your interest and receive an invitation please email [antioch.wollongongdiocese@gmail.com](mailto:antioch.wollongongdiocese@gmail.com) General enquiries to Dianne Hukins 0412840772 or Ann Packham 0423869803. Musicians wishing to be involved in celebrations please contact Elise (Nicholls) Burns 0407781359.

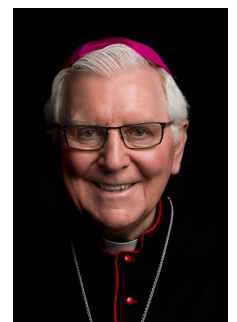
### TAKE A RISK AND GIVE THE GIFT OF FAITH

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.

### REGIONAL FAREWELL MASS FOR BISHOP PETER INGHAM | WEDNESDAY 31 JANUARY

Fr Ron Peters—on behalf of the Northern and Central Illawarra regions of the Diocese—has warmly invited our parish to attend a **farewell Mass for Bishop Peter Ingham at 7:30pm on Wednesday 31 January 2018 at St John Vianney's Co-Cathedral, Fairy Meadow** (Cabbage Tree Lane). Bishop Peter will preside at the Mass and it will be a great opportunity for parishioners to say their farewells. Refreshments will follow immediately after the Mass. No RSVP is necessary.



My Dear People,

Of the four books that record the 'Good News' of Jesus, the first three are so alike that they can be viewed, as it were, at a glance. For this reason Matthew, Mark and Luke are called the 'synoptic' Gospels— 'synoptic' meaning 'with one eye'. It was once thought that Matthew wrote the first Gospel—his is still placed first in our Bibles. But a close examination of the first three Gospels, scholars agree, makes it clear that Matthew and Luke had Mark before them as they wrote. They used his Gospel as the basis into which they fitted extra material. Both Matthew and Luke largely follow Mark's order of events. Of course, before pen was ever put to paper by anyone, an oral tradition of Jesus' life and sayings existed in the early Church. Peter's sermons, as recorded in the Acts of the Apostles, makes this quite clear. The preaching of the Apostles, and other eyewitnesses, would have become stereotyped by constant repetition. During Year B we will read on Sundays from the Gospel of Mark. There will be an interruption, of course, during Lent and Easter time which have their own Readings. Who was Mark, and what is he going to tell us this year?



Mark was the son of a well-to-do lady of Jerusalem whose name was Mary, and whose house became a meeting place for the early Church. It is thought that this may well have been the house where the Last Supper and Pentecost took place. Mark was a cousin of Barnabas, and when Paul and Barnabas set out on their first missionary journey they took Mark with them. When they

reached Perga, Paul proposed to go inland. For some reason Mark left the expedition and went home. On their second journey Barnabas proposed to take Mark again. Paul would not hear of it. This caused an argument and Paul and Barnabas, as far as we know, never worked together again.

Tradition tells us that Mark went to Egypt and founded the Church of Alexandria as its first bishop. This is the origin of the Coptic Church. In the ninth century Mark's body was taken to Venice where it has remained to this day. Back in the Scriptures, Mark reappears when Paul, imprisoned in Rome, says in the Letter to the Colossians that Mark is with him. In his Second Letter to Timothy, Paul writes: "Bring Mark with you; I find him a useful helper in my work". Apparently, things had been patched up between them.

Towards the end of the Second Century a man called Papias gathered all the information he could find about the early days of the Church. Papias is regarded as being very reliable. He tells us that Mark's Gospel is actually a record of the preaching of Peter. Peter called him "Mark, my son", which may mean that Mark was baptised by Peter. Papias writes: "Mark, who was Peter's interpreter, wrote down accurately, though not in order, all that he recollected of what Christ had said or done. For he was not a hearer of the Lord or a follower of His. He followed Peter, as I have said, at a later date, and Peter adapted his instruction to practical needs, without the attempt to give the Lord's words systematically. So that Mark was not wrong in writing down some things in this way from memory, for his one concern was neither to omit nor to falsify anything that he had heard". As Mark wrote shortly after Peter died, then the date of the Gospel would be 65-67 AD.

It embodies the record of what Peter preached and taught about Jesus. Mark is thus the nearest approach we possess of an eyewitness account of Christ's life. Mark is the only evangelist to entitle his book a "Gospel" - a proclamation of the Risen living Christ who becomes present to the reader. Mark sets out in his Gospel to illustrate the supreme paradox - how Jesus, while remaining misunderstood and rejected, was at the same time God's triumphant envoy. **On the one hand** Jesus is the Son of God, acknowledged as such by His father, by the devils, and even by humans, the Messiah claiming to be higher than the angels, taking on Himself the forgiveness of sins, and vindicating His mission by miracles and exorcisms. **On the other hand**, Mark puts great emphasis on Christ's apparent frustration at the hands of His own people - He is mocked by the general public, and is misunderstood even by His disciples, all leading to the shame of the Cross. It is this 'scandal' that the Gospel is intent on explaining. It does by showing that the hostility was itself an integral part of God's mysterious plan. It was necessary that the Christ should suffer and so redeem us, since this had been foretold by the scriptures. Both for Himself and His followers Jesus laid down a way of humility and suffering. But the Jews, expecting a victorious Warrior - Messiah, were ill-prepared for this answer to their hopes.

*Graham Schmitzer*  
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