



# PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION UNANDERRA



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*Polish Chaplain*

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*Parish Assistant  
& Catechist Co-ordinator*

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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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Parish website: [www.unanderraparish.org.au](http://www.unanderraparish.org.au)

## PROGRAMME FOR THIS WEEK

<b>Monday</b>	Feb 12	No Mass
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<b>Tuesday</b>	Feb 13	<b>SHROVE TUESDAY</b> Adoration: 4:30-5:30pm (Reconciliation available) Mass: 5:30pm
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<b>Wednesday</b>	Feb 14	<b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b> <b>Day of Fast and Abstinence</b> Masses: 7:00am, 9:30am, 11am(Polish Mass), 7:00pm
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<b>Thursday</b>	Feb 15	Adoration: 4:30-5:30pm (Reconciliation available) Mass: 5:30pm
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<b>Friday</b>	Feb 16	Mass: 9:30am
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<b>Saturday</b>	Feb 17	(Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order) Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 5 - 5:30pm Vigil Mass 6pm
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<b>Sunday</b>	Feb 18	<b>FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT</b> Masses: 7:00am, 9:00am 10:45am (Polish)

## SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B 11TH FEBRUARY, 2018

**READINGS:** LEV 13:1-2, 44-46; 1 COR 10:31 - 11:1;  
MK 1:40-45.

Leprosy is the theme of both the First Reading and the Gospel. Leprosy was the ultimate uncleanness, making the victim an outcast not only socially, but also in the religious sphere.



Jesus broke through all the religious and social taboos and reached out a loving and healing hand to the leper. In this way we see how a Christian community should deal with sinners and people whom society rejects. Besides, a Christian is one who has been 'cleansed' by Christ in baptism, and who ought to spread the 'good news'.

In the Gospel we have an early instance of what scholars call Mark's 'Messianic Secret' - Jesus seems to hide His identity as the Messiah and Son of God until it becomes apparent after His death and resurrection.

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Michaele ABBATANTUONO (anniversary)

Brian BROOKS (anniversary)

Pat ROGAN (anniversary)

## Rosters of next weekend

Sat, 17 <sup>th</sup>	Church Cleaning	F Fernandez, B Rice, S Walsh	
	Lawns	Peters Family, Winner Family	
	Acolytes	Lectors	Welcomers
Sat 6pm	A Carlotto	M Gillis	Volunteer
Sun, 18 <sup>th</sup> 7am	A Michielin	A Browne	A Browne
9am	N Dwyer, C Carolan	A Kelly	G Petric, B Spain
Counters	B & P Walker, A Kelly		
Children's Liturgy	K Calvert, M Matos		

## 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 alternate months, 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

Many of us are afraid to touch other people.

We give a few pennies to a beggar,  
but make sure there is no contact between us,  
not even eye-contact.

Jesus didn't stand off or keep His distance.

He wasn't afraid to touch others.

He touched lepers, sinners, sick people,  
and even the dead.

Physical contact is precisely what gives people,  
especially sick and wounded people,  
a sense of warmth and joy.

By the very act of touching another person  
we accept that person exactly as he or she is.

Lord, give us a warm heart and kind hands.

### PARISH TEACHERS COMMITMENT MASS

All teachers of Religion in our Parish, Sacramental Leaders, Children's Liturgy Leaders, Catechists, St Pius X Teachers and Secondary School Teachers are invited to the *Parish Teachers Commitment Mass* to be held on *Sunday 18th February at the 9am Mass*.

Morning Tea to follow in St Joseph's Room.

## PARISH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, UNANDERRA SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2018

The reception of the Sacraments of Confirmation, Penance and Eucharist in the Diocese of Wollongong are conducted at a Parish level.

Enrolment for the following Sacraments, Confirmation, Penance and Eucharist will take place at the following Masses:

Sunday, February 18th at the 7am and 9am Mass

Sunday, February 25th at the 7am and 9am Mass

Sunday, March 4th at the 7am and 9am Mass

Enrolment should be made by a parent

Children are prepared in the following School Terms for the Sacraments

Term 2 Confirmation (date unknown until new Bishop is installed)

Term 3 Penance Reception of Sacrament readiness of the child

Term 4 Eucharist Reception Feast of Christ the King, 25th November

Confirmation requirements: Child in Year 6 or High School. They should be practising their Faith and have the desire to receive the Sacrament.

Penance and Eucharist requirements: Year 3, practising their Faith and attending Mass.

- Sr Joan Goodwin, Sacramental Co-Ordinator

Tel: 4272 9980 | Email: joan.goodwin@sosj.org.au



*“All depends on prayer.  
Begin with it and end with it.”*

*St. Mary of the Cross 1890*

### Lenten Penance

- ✦ All who have completed their 18th year and have not yet begun their 60th year are bound to **fast and abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.**
- ✦ All who have completed their 14th year are bound to **abstain from meat** on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
- ✦ Pastors, teachers, parents are to ensure that even those who, by reason of their age, are not bound by the law of fasting and abstinence from meat, are taught the true meaning of penance.

**Paschal Precept:** Each of the faithful is obliged to receive Holy Communion at least once a year. This is to be done between Ash Wednesday (14 February 2018) and Trinity Sunday (27 May 2018) unless for a good reason it is done at another time during the year. All the faithful are obliged to confess their grave sins at least once a year.

### ARISE SISTERHOOD NATIONAL CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

16-18th March 2018 at Stanwell Tops Helensburgh. Sisterhood is a National Catholic Women's movement that seeks to support women from all walks and stages of life. The Sisterhood conference aims to empower women to return to their own parish, community, family and work-place to make a difference. For more information and registration visit [www.sisterhood.org.au](http://www.sisterhood.org.au)

### FR GRAHAM'S LENTEN TIPS

- \* 5 minutes prayer each day
- \* An extra Mass each week
- \* A good Confession
- \* Generosity to the poor through Project Compassion



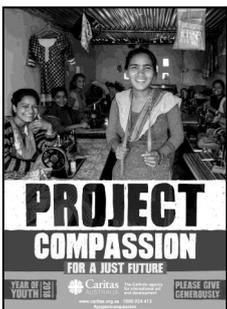
**RESPONDING TO GOD'S CALL** Once we embrace Jesus Christ as the Lord of our life, the next question is to ask what is God calling us to be and do? Please contact Fr Richard Healey, Vocations Director, on 0401 621 591, [Priesthood@dow.org.au](mailto:Priesthood@dow.org.au).

Would you like to join the **CARMELITE PRAYER GROUP?** Our next meeting will be on **Saturday, 17 February 2018**, between **10:30-12 noon** at **The Cottage, 12 Farmborough Road, Unanderra**. For further information please call 4271 3140.

### 2018 LITURGICAL MINISTRY TRAINING:

- Acolytes, Altar Servers & Extraordinary Ministers  
Wollongong Sat, 14 April
  - Communion of the Sick & Homebound  
Wollongong Saturday 16 June
- For more information, please visit our website <http://www.liturgydow.org.au> or contact Paul Mason, Liturgy Coordinator [paul.mason@dow.org.au](mailto:paul.mason@dow.org.au) or Helen Bennett [helen.bennett@dow.org.au](mailto:helen.bennett@dow.org.au)

### PROJECT COMPASSION FOR A JUST FUTURE



## Project Compassion Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2018

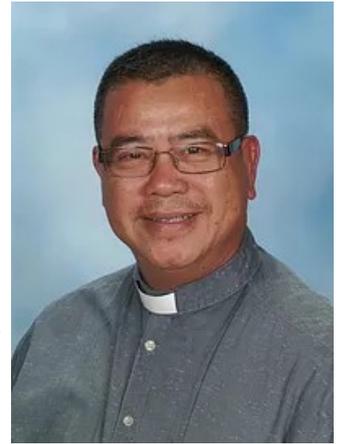


Please take home a Project Compassion box and/or a set of donation envelopes and support Caritas Australia this Lenten season themed "A Just Future". You will be empowering young people to build a just future for themselves, their families and their communities.

**A Just Future starts with your support!** You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, or by phoning 1800 024 413 or visiting [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion).

## AUSTRALIA DAY HONOUR FOR HUMBLE DAPTO PRIEST

Fr Francis Tran, parish priest at St John the Evangelist Catholic Parish Dapto, has been awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to the Catholic Church in Australia and the community.



Fr Francis said his receipt of the Australia Day honour is something that took him “completely by surprise”, but for the various communities he has served, this award is a just recognition for an amazing life of humble service dedicated to the formation of nurturing communities.

Fr Francis has had a tremendous impact on numerous parishes and communities in the Catholic Diocese of Wollongong, having spent time in Nowra, Fairy Meadow, Wollongong, Mittagong, Moss Vale, Vincentia, Milton-Ulladulla, Helensburgh and Dapto throughout his 22 years as a priest.

Bishop Peter Ingham describes Fr Francis as a much-loved priest who never tires of working to build community. “The Office of the Bishop has received an unprecedented number of letters of commendation from members of the parish and school communities where Fr Francis has ministered over the years, and I have seen first-hand the way Fr Francis builds up and truly loves the people he serves,” Bishop Peter said.

When asked why he was so surprised by his receipt of the Australia Day honour, Fr Francis said, “Because I live a very simple life. I am a normal human being. I never do big things. I just live a normal life amongst the community as a working man.”

Fleeing Communist Vietnam at a time of serious persecution for members of the Church, he came by boat to Australia in 1987 and was welcomed to the hostel in Villawood for refugees (now Villawood Immigration Detention Centre). Fr Francis said, “I worked in factories and farms for nearly three years doing manual labour—two jobs a day, working and working. I felt called to be a priest, but I had no English, so I stopped working and studied English for six months at Liverpool TAFE. It was hard. It had been many years since I had been to school. But I learnt it, entered the seminary and was ordained in 1995 at Fairy Meadow.”

Even before joining the seminary, Fr Francis had a strong desire to learn and adapt as he tried to embrace his new home. “I read a lot about Australian history. If you don’t know the history, you don’t know the people. I always heard Australians say, ‘You can take the boy out of the village, but you can’t take the village out of the boy.’ That’s true in many ways, but it was important to me to become very involved with the Australian Community—learning and growing—so I could serve people and build up communities where people feel like they belong.”

Parishioners attest to Fr Francis as being a man who rolls-up his sleeves and gets his hands dirty, especially on projects that bring people together. Fr Francis is dedicated to building facilities that allow people to come together. Working alongside parishioners, he has become quite a “handyman”, building pergolas, gardens, fish ponds, barbeque areas and spaces for hospitality and welcome. “I want the parish and my house to be a place where people of all ages can come together, and they do in big numbers,” Fr Francis said.

It is this desire to bring people together in genuine friendship that was central to his OAM recognition. Fr Francis describes himself as “humbled by the award” but he accepted it as something that recognises the way he lives his life. Fr Francis said, “I love the community. In whatever I do I think of the community. Even if I’m mentally and physically tired, I keep on working as I want to offer the community something and make people feel they belong and that they have a brighter tomorrow.

“In Australian culture today, it is very easy for people to become isolated and disconnected. In my role here, I’m trying to get it back the old way of life—a community life. I want people to know each other, to be friendly with each other, to see the value of family, and so I try to create spaces and opportunities to bring people together—a cup of coffee after Mass, dinners here, sports nights, gathering for celebrations, watching footy together. I want people to know and love each other. Worshipping God in the Church will not make sense if we don’t have a true sense of community and of belonging.”