

PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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PROGRAMME FOR THIS WEEK

Monday	9 April	THE ANNUNCIATION <i>(transferred from 25 March)</i> Mass: 7am
Tuesday	10 April	Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm Mass: 5.30pm
Wednesday	11 April	ST STANISLAUS Mass: 7am — Convent
Thursday	12 April	Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm (Reconciliation Available) Mass: 5.30pm
Friday	13 April	Mass: 9.30am
Saturday	14 April	Mass: 7.30am Reconciliation: 5pm-5.30pm Vigil Mass: 6pm
Sunday	15 April	THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER Masses: 7am, 9am, 10.45am (Polish)

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER — YEAR B 8th APRIL 2018

READINGS: Acts 4:32-35; 1 Jn 5:1-6; Jn 20:19-31.

The reading from THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES gives a picture of a Christian community entirely faithful to the Gospel. It is a community of shared faith and shared possessions.



For the GOSPEL Jesus appears to His apostles, showing them His wounds and bestowing peace on them. Giving them the gift of the Spirit and the power to forgive sin. Thomas' profession of faith, "My Lord and my God", is the supreme Christological statement of St John's Gospel.

The SECOND READING stresses the Christian vocation to love. Through faith in Christ, Christians have become children of God. They will show their love for God by keeping His Commandments. And if they love God they will surely love their fellow Christians. Keeping the Commandments is not difficult because through baptism we share in Christ's victory over the powers of evil.

EASTER RAFFLE

Congratulations to Fiona Fernandez
who was the winner of the raffle!
— Thank you all for your support —



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Anniversaries: William DREDGE
Janina and Tadeusz SEWERYN
Elizabeth RAY
Dorris MURPHY

ROSTERS – NEXT WEEKEND

Sat 14 Apr	Church Cleaning	W Brown, P & A Browne, L Harper, J Hoxha	
	Lawns	Fernandez Family, M Walsh	
	Acolytes	Lectors	Welcomers
Sat 14 Apr 6pm Mass	P Jones	N Milan	Volunteer
Sun 15 Apr 7am Mass	M Walsh	K Calvert	S Brown
Sun 15 Apr 9am Mass	R Klaus, C Carolan	M Rodwell	Y Brunero, S Michielin
Counters	B & P Walker, A Kelly		
Children's Liturgy	Holidays		

PARISH ACTIVITIES

Catholic Women's League: 2nd Thursday of each month-10.30am in St Joseph's room

UPCOMING MEETING: **The next meeting will be held on: Thursday 12 April at 10:30am** in St Joseph's Room.

Everyone is welcome to join us for morning tea at 10.30am - the meeting will follow morning tea.
Contact: Barbara 4271 1584
or Margaret 4271 5804

St Vincent de Paul Conference: Tues 7.30pm in St Joseph's room

Parish Pastoral Council: 2nd Monday of alternate months
7.30pm in 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

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

The next meeting of the Council is this coming Monday night, **9 April 2018 at 7.30pm - St Joseph's room.**

Is there a matter of pastoral concern you would like to place before the Council? You could contact one of the members: Mark Walsh (Chair), Father Graham, Sister Joan, Philip Moore (Principal, St Pius X Primary School), Simon Carrigan (St Vincent de Paul), Wayne Rodgers (Finance Council), Barbara Faraway (Catholic Women's League), Lucy Salway, Alan Davis, Monica Mohr-Peters, Joe Carolan and Fiona Fernandez.

FAITH CIRCLES – CONNECT: WEEKLY RESOURCE FOR SMALL GROUPS IN PARISHES

Want to help transform your Parish into a place where people are known, loved, challenged and supported? Small groups or 'communities of communities' hold the key. Connect is a weekly small group resource and is available for free download with a Leader's guide, weekly reflection questions for the Sunday Gospel and accompanying prayer points.

It is available to download at www.faithcircles.dow.org.au or have it sent to you each month via email subscription.

Gospel Reflection

Defending the Christians before the Emperor Hadrian, Aristides, a non-Christian, said of them:

"These Christians love one another.

They never fail to help widows.

They save orphans from those who would hurt them.

If a man has something,

he gives freely to the man who has nothing.

If they see a stranger, Christians take him in their homes.

And treat him as a brother.

And if they hear that one of them is in jail, or persecuted for professing the name of their redeemer,

They all give him what he needs.

If it is possible, they bail him out.

If one of them is poor and there isn't enough food

To go around, they fast several days to give him the food he needs.

We are dealing with a new kind of person,

There is something divine in them."

MEN'S WEEKEND

5—6 May 2018

Xavier Conference Centre, 38 Harbour St Wollongong

Real men don't do church? Wrong, but living out your faith can be pretty tough, and most of us need help.

If you are a bloke over 18, consider this: On 5-6 May, experienced leaders from menALIVE Team will be running a menALIVE weekend at the Xavier Centre in Wollongong for Catholic men. Come along and be inspired, encouraged, and rediscover God's purpose for your life.

Details and registration forms are available in the church foyer or go to www.menalive.org.au to book.

Enquiries: Contact Ian Boorman on 0427 006 021 or email Jude Hennessy at jude.hennessy@dow.org.au

SOCIAL JUSTICE FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Political will needed to end homelessness

It's hard not to get a feeling of *Déjà vu* when you see the homeless count from the 2016 Census, according to St Vincent's Health Australia chief Toby Hall. As with previous counts, the results are damning. The number of homeless Australians jumped 14 per cent in the five years to 2016. In almost every category, homelessness has grown worse. Contact your local MPs to ensure addressing homelessness.

For more info go to:

<http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>



*“Always try to have success
in your work, but remember
God is often glorified in your
failure.”*

St Mary of the Cross — 1874

VOCATIONS

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 or via email at priesthood@dow.org.au

- FREE WORKSHOP -

JESSICA LOCKHART

HEALING AFTER ABORTION

Saturday 12 May 2018

10am - 3.30pm

at Good Samaritan Centre, 2 Avenue Road, Glebe

Rachel's Vineyard, Sydney is hosting a workshop with Jessica Lockhart, author of *The Woman at the Tomb, Abortion and Redemption*, and Rachel's Vineyard Retreat ministry to hear about spiritual and emotional healing after an abortion. All welcome - priests, pastoral carers, parish teams, professional health practitioners and those suffering post abortion stress in their own life.

Limited numbers, RSVP essential for catering - info@rachelsvineyard.org.au or 0400 092 555.

Detail available at: rachelsvineyard.org.au

CATHFAMILY

CATHFAMILY brings you a selection of activities, prayer rituals, crafts and recipes for free from their website.

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/7-ways-to-enjoy-easter-eggs/>



THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM - AIRS SUNDAY 8 APRIL 2018 -

This week on the Journey Catholic Radio, Sr Hilda Scott shares her wisdom from the Abbey with *The Story of the Blame Game*; Sam Clear with his *Walking the Walk* segment reminds us of Silence, and Fr Dave Callaghan helps us discover *Who is My Family*. Listen to Journey Catholic Radio where it's all about the faith, hope, love and life.

Go to www.jcr.org.au or www.itunes.jcr.org.au where you can listen any time and subscribe to weekly shows by email.



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, greeting cards, candles, etc — perfect to commemorate Confirmation, Communion and Baptism. Enter the store via Crown Street, 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.



EDMUND RICE COLLEGE ENROLLING NOW FOR YEAR 7 — 2019

Applications for enrolment are now being taken and must be returned to the College no later than **Friday, 13 April 2018**. To book a tour or obtain an enrolment application package, contact the College Office on 4228 4344 or visit the website at www.edmundricecollege.nsw.edu.au

My dear people,

On behalf of the Franciscan Friars, I thank you for your generous contribution to the **Good Friday Collection**, which amounted to nearly \$3,500. Our Diocese has always been in the forefront in this Collection, perhaps because the Friars are so well-known in the Diocese. The Franciscans, a time-honoured presence in the Holy Land, have been there since the time of St Francis himself. This money is used to help the upkeep of the various shrines, but also to assist struggling Christians, who are a minority group, to afford housing, education and healthcare.



Such assistance by non-government organisations is becoming more and more important as Australia's government sadly keeps lowering the level of its foreign aid. On Wednesday, Matt Wade wrote an opinion piece in the 'Sydney Morning Herald':

***“How Australia has changed.** Back in 1995, as the economy recovered from the deep recession earlier that decade, we reached a ranking of 9th on the international league table of overseas aid donors measured by the share of gross national income devoted to overseas development assistance. That year Australia contributed 34 cents for every \$100 of national income to help poorer nations.*

“Now, after more than a quarter of a century of uninterrupted growth, we've slipped to 17th place on that donor ladder. Despite being richer than ever, Australia can now muster only 22 cents in aid for every \$100 of national income. Defending the foreign aid budget is always tough. No voters are directly affected when it is cut and any changes don't need to go before parliament. It is the easiest of targets for any government when savings are needed.

“That's why aid spending has fallen as a share of national income under seven of Australia's last 10 foreign ministers. But the incumbent Julie Bishop stands out. On her watch, Australian overseas aid commitment has gone from modest to miserly. Overseas development assistance as a share of gross national income has fallen by 38 per cent since Bishop became foreign minister. That easily surpasses the previous record of a 17 per cent fall under Labor's Bill Hayden during the mid-1980s.

“Bishop's experience is in stark contrast to one of her Liberal predecessors, Tony Street, who served as foreign minister in the Fraser government during the early 1980s. Street left office with overseas aid as a share of national income 8 per cent more generous than when he was sworn in. Australian aid also experienced a brief revival last decade when both major parties committed to an increase in the wake of the Millennium Development Goals and co-ordinated global campaigning. Overseas aid as a share of gross national income rose by 16 per cent while Labor's Stephen Smith was foreign minister. That share rose another 5 per cent during Kevin Rudd's tenure between 2010 and 2012. Australia's aid budget reached an all-time high (in dollar terms) of \$5.05 billion in 2012-13 but is now wallowing more than \$1 billion below that mark following cuts since 2014.”

Interestingly, Wade reports that there are signs that the Australian public, and not just the government, is finding it harder to give to the needy in other parts of the world, and the trend looks set to continue. This comes despite a plethora of international humanitarian crises - ongoing conflicts in Syria and Iraq, and major hunger emergencies in Somalia, South Sudan, Nigeria and Yemen. The United Nations described these together as the biggest humanitarian crisis since the Second World War. The public response in Australia has been strangely muted.

Interestingly, Thursday's 'Herald' sprouted an opinion piece by Peter Martin, "Morrison awash in extra cash". There has been a huge and unexpected jump in revenue. "By the end of February the government had taken in \$5.5 billion more than it had expected in predictions made just three months earlier." There are plans now not only to reduce company tax but individual income tax.

As I said, the work of NGOs is becoming more essential. In a month or so Catholic Mission will conduct the 2018 Propagation of the Faith Appeal. This year the focus will be on Myanmar, suffering severely under its current government.

Fr Graham Schmitzer
Parish Priest