

PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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Parish Secretary: Mrs Sue Briscoe

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Parish Website: www.unanderraparish.org.au

PROGRAMME FOR THIS WEEK

Monday	18 June	No Mass

Tuesday	19 June	St Romuald Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm Mass: 5.30pm

Wednesday	20 June	Mass: 7am

Thursday	21 June	St Aloysius Gonzaga Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm (Reconciliation Available) Mass: 5.30pm

Friday	22 June	Sts John Fisher & Thomas More Mass: 9.30am

Saturday	23 June	Mass: 7.30am Reconciliation: 4.30pm-5.30pm Vigil Mass: 6pm

Sunday	24 June	The Nativity of St John the Baptist Masses: 7am, 9am, 10.45am (Polish)

* **NB Readers:**

There are two Masses for St John the Baptist - Vigil Mass and Day Mass.

ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY

TIME — YEAR B

17 JUNE 2018

READINGS: Ezekiel 17:22-24; 2 Corinthians 5:6-10; Mark 4:26-34

The prophet Ezekiel foretold that God would take a twig and plant it on Mount Zion. There, under God's protective power, it would grow into a great cedar. Ezekiel was dreaming of the day when God would transplant Israel's exiles back home. He glimpsed the coming of a descendant of King David who would establish a universal kingdom.

The prophecy is fulfilled in Jesus. He tells the parables of the seed that grows by itself and the mustard seed to encourage the early Church, which was worried by the slow growth of the Kingdom. The disciples must be patient and not expect instant results.



VINNIES WINTER APPEAL

Vinnies Unanderra Conference will hold its annual Winter Appeal bucket collection **after each Mass on 30 June and 1 July 2018.**

Envelopes will be available for those requiring a receipt and/or credit card payment. All money raised is used by the Unanderra Conference to support local families in need. The Unanderra Conference receives six to ten requests for food, rent assistance or help with electricity every week.

When you give to Vinnies, you're helping our volunteers rebuild lives this winter.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased: Andy KAVANAGH

Anniversaries: Michael EDWARDS
Tamara BARRON



ROSTERS – NEXT WEEKEND

June	Church Washing	Fiona Fernandez	
Sat 23 June	Church Cleaning	W Brown, P & A Browne, L Harper, J Hoxha	
	Lawns	J Lonard, H Yates F Timpano, S Carrigan	
	Acolytes	Lectors	Welcomers
Sat 23 June 6pm Mass		N Milan	Volunteer
Sun 24 June 7am Mass	M Walsh	S Walsh	A Browne
Sun 24 June 9am Mass	R Klaus C Carolan	V Cleary	P Cundy L Klaus
Counters	M Murphy (FH), C Stratton, A McQueen, M Winner		
Children's Liturgy	K Calvert, M Matos		

PARISH ACTIVITIES

Catholic Women's League: 2nd Thursday of the month - 10:30am in St Joseph's room

New members always welcome!

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

** Morning Tea Refreshments will not be held during July, August or September **

POSITION VACANT - WOLLONGONG DIOCESE

Chief Operations Manager

The Catholic Diocese of Wollongong nurtures the spiritual lives of thousands of Catholics through its agencies, ministries and parishes, and supports thousands more in the local community through health and aged care, education, welfare and community services. The Diocese is seeking an experienced and professional manager to lead the operations of the Office of the Bishop and liaise collaboratively with the heads of agencies.

Reporting to the Bishop, the Chief Operations Manager is a key member of the leadership team who works closely with the Vicar General and Diocesan Financial Administrator and together coordinate advice to the Bishop concerning his administrative and pastoral responsibilities of the Diocese. This will involve coordinating the planning and day-to-day operations of the Office of the Bishop and collaborating with heads of diocesan agencies, parish priests, councils and committees to achieve the best outcomes for mission.

The role will ideally suit someone with extensive experience at a senior level, preferably in the not-for-profit sector, in managing the operational and administrative aspects of an organisation, including management of people, resources, compliance and strategic planning.

For a confidential discussion about this position, including the key requirements and to obtain a copy of the Information Pack which contains details about how to apply, please contact: **Anthony Spata, REACH Human Resources, on 0402 210 055 or anthony@reachhr.com.au**

Applications close on **Monday 2 July 2018** - only candidates with the right to work in Australia may apply for this position.



Catholic Diocese of Wollongong
Bearers of Christ's Love

Gospel Reflection

On many an idle day have I grieved over lost time.

But it is never lost, my Lord.

You have taken every moment of my life

in Your own hands.

Hidden in the heart of things

You are nourishing seeds into sprouts,

buds into blossoms,

and ripening flowers into fruitfulness.

I was tired and sleeping on my idle bed

and imagining all work had ceased.

In the morning I woke up

And found my garden full with wonders of flowers.



A VOCATION VIEW

Through the gift of the Holy Eucharist and by the Word of God we are nourished and continue to grow towards fuller maturity.

Like the Church, we are the potential to be like a growing tree, bearing fruit and giving comfort, but always open to further growth.

Please contact Fr Richard Healey - Vocations Director on 0401 621 591 or via email priesthood@dow.org.au



2018 - SIGNIFICANT MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARIES MASS

If you are celebrating **25, 40, 50 or 60 years** of marriage this year and would like an invitation to the Mass to be celebrated by Bishop Brian Mascord at St John Vianney Co-Cathedral, Fairy Meadow on **Sunday 19 August 2018 at 2pm**, please contact **Helen Bennett on 4222 2403 or via email helen.bennett@dow.org.au** at the Office of the Bishop by Friday 13 July 2018 and an invitation will be sent to you.





**“What a Father we have in God.
What a lover we have in Jesus Christ.”**

St Mary of the Cross — 1890

10th ANNIVERSARY OF WORLD YOUTH DAY 2008

**Friday 20 July 2018 for 5.30pm Mass
at St Mary's Cathedral to followed by
WYD08 event at 7pm
at St Mary's Cathedral College Hall**

All welcome to celebrate the 10th anniversary to join Archbishop Anthony Fisher for a special Mass followed by food and cultural performances plus the announcement of a number of new initiatives for youth ministry. Co-hosted by Sydney Catholic Youth, the event will also include the launch of Archbishop Fisher's new book for young people *My Dear Young Friend: Forty letters on youth, faith and future.*



LEGION OF MARY

The Legion of Mary: Immaculate Heart of Mary Wollongong Curia will celebrate its 55th Anniversary with a Thanksgiving Mass on:

**Sunday 22 July 2018 at 2pm
at St Francis Xavier Cathedral**

The Annual Acies will be incorporated in the MASS to be celebrated by Bishop Brian Mascord.

RSVP Tess on 0403 494 774
or Linda on 0422 062 724



CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE NSW STATE CONFERENCE - 2018

Tuesday 4 September - Thursday 6 September 2018

Novotel Hotel, North Wollongong

The Theme is *“Do not be afraid I will help you”*

The Opening Mass will be at

6pm on Tuesday 4 September 2018

at St Francis Xavier Cathedral

Enquiries contact Anne Kelly 0411 260 040



THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM – AIRS SUNDAY 17 JUNE 2018 –

This week on the Journey, Fr Stephen Varney reflects on the parable of The Mustard Seed; Sr Hilda from The Abbey talks to us about “The Giver of Life”; and Fr Dave Callaghan in his God spot, The Call, uses the words “My Sheep, Listen to My Voice”. We bring this all together with music and fun to create a show about faith, hope, love and life.

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www.itunes.jcr.org.au

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Wollongong



For all
enquiries,
please phone
4222 2484

SAVE THE DATE - CURSILLO WEEKEND

The next Cursillo 3-day weekend is being held on
14, 15 and 16 September at Hartzler Park, Bowral

This time away from the stress and busyness of life,
will give you time to reflect on yourself, your God and
the direction your Spiritual life is taking you.

The weekend is very informal, and gives us an opportunity to
meet like-minded people to share our life journey.

The Men's and Women's weekend is run concurrently but separately.

**Contact Ken on 0417 244 059 or Dianne 0418 640 373
for more information**



MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT WEEKEND

17–19 August 2018

at Mount Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville

Take the time to step back from everyday distractions
and rediscover your relationship!

Book online at www.wvme.org.au

or contact Adrian and Janet Sullivan

0490 774 419 or adrian.janet1@bigpond.com

My dear people,

On the Feast of St Joseph this year Pope Francis published a new letter to the Church, REJOICE AND BE GLAD, "on the call to holiness in today's world". We should know the basic points he is trying to make, so over the next five weeks I shall try to summarise the five chapters.

Jesus wants us to be saints and not to settle for a mediocre existence. The Letter to the Hebrews encourages us to "run with perseverance the race that is set before us", and he reminds us that at all times we are surrounded by "a great cloud of witnesses"- the Saints. We all need examples to follow. Those examples are not only the Saints of the past. We can see holiness in those parents who raise their children with immense love, in those men and women who work hard to support their families, in the sick, in elderly religious who never lose their smile. Our next-door neighbours may be saints. Such people are actually making history without knowing it. We will find out on the Last Day. And let us not forget that sanctity does not belong just to the Catholic Church. Pope John Paul once stated that the world's modern martyrs speak more powerfully than the causes of division which produced them.

The Second Vatican Council reminded us that God's call to holiness for each of us is personal, "each in his or her own way". We are not meant to copy someone else's holiness. We must spend our lives trying to discern what God is asking of me, how to use to the full the gifts that He has given only to me. To be holy does not require being a bishop, a priest, or a religious. It is a mistake to think that holiness is only for those who can withdraw from ordinary affairs to spend much time in prayer. We are all called to be holy wherever we find ourselves. "Are you called to the consecrated life? Be holy by living out your commitment with joy. Are you married? Be holy by loving and caring for your husband or wife, as Christ does for the Church. Do you work for a living? Be holy by labouring with integrity and skill in the service of your brothers and sisters. Are you a parent or grandparent? Be holy by patiently teaching your little ones to follow Jesus. Are you in a position of authority? Be holy by working for the common good and renouncing personal gain."

The Pope stresses the "genius of woman" seen in feminine styles of holiness. In times when women tended to be ignored or overlooked, the Holy Spirit has raised up saints whose attractiveness produced new spiritual vigour and important reforms in the Church. We have only to think of Hildegard of Bingen, Bridget of Sweden, Catherine of Siena, Teresa of Avila, and Therese of Lisieux.

Holiness grows through small gestures - refusing to gossip, listening to children even when we are tired, a little time in prayer when we are feeling anxious, a kind word or gesture to a poor person, finding more perfect ways of doing what we are already doing. In the Church we find everything we need to grow towards holiness - the gifts of Scripture, the Sacraments, holy places, living communities, the witness of the Saints and, especially, the beauty of God's love.

Each of us lives in a specific moment of history. We are called to sanctify this moment, and we do this by reproducing Christ's life, constantly dying and rising anew with Him. We must allow Christ to love the world in and through us. "There is only Christ" said St Paul. We reproduce His poverty, His closeness to the outcast, and other ways to He showed His self-sacrificing love.

Christ came to establish His kingdom. Our mission in life is to build with Him that kingdom of love, justice, and universal peace. Our mission is a dual one - we must be both contemplatives and activists. Building the kingdom does not mean ignoring the need for moments of quiet before God. People who are slaves to the endless array of consumer goods risk losing the meaning of their lives. But, at the same time, we do not use prayer as an escape from actively engaging in our mission to the world. Activity without prayer can simply be social work, whereas God is calling us to be evangelisers.

"Do not be afraid of holiness", says Pope Francis. "Do not be afraid to set your sights higher, to allow yourself to be loved and liberated by God. Do not be afraid to let yourself be guided by the Holy Spirit. Holiness does not make you less human. Holiness is an encounter between your weakness and the power of God's grace (my emphasis).

The modern philosopher/theologian, Leon Bloy, wrote that when all is said and done, "the only great tragedy in life is not to become a saint".

Fr Graham Schmitzer

Fr Graham Schmitzer
Parish Priest

