

PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

48 Princes Highway (PO Box 14) Unanderra NSW 2526



Parish Priest: Fr Graham Schmitzer

Polish Chaplain: Fr Tomasz Nowak
Mobile: 0437 677 727
Email: tomasz.n04@gmail.com

Parish Assistant & Catechist Co-ordinator: Sister Joan Goodwin
Ph: 4272 9980
Mobile: 0499 970 074
Email: joan.goodwin@sosj.org.au

Parish School:

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

School Principal:

Mr Philip Moore

Parish Secretary:

Mrs Sue Briscoe

Parish Office Hours: Monday, Thursday and Friday: 9am—3:30pm
Phone: 4271 1068 | Fax: 4271 1298
Email: unanderra@dow.org.au
Parish Website: www.unanderraparish.org.au

PROGRAMME FOR THIS WEEK

Monday	25 June	No Mass
Tuesday	26 June	Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm Mass: 5.30pm (Sacrament of Confirmation: 7.30pm)
Wednesday	27 June	Our Lady of Perpetual Help Mass: 7am (Sacrament of Confirmation: 7.30pm)
Thursday	28 June	St Irenaeus Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm (Reconciliation Available) Mass: 5.30pm
Friday	29 June	Sts Peter and Paul Mass: 9.30am
Saturday	30 June	First Martyrs of the Roman Church Mass: 7.30am Reconciliation: 5pm-5.30pm Vigil Mass: 6pm
Sunday	1 July	13th Sunday of Ordinary Time Masses: 7am, 9am, 10.45am (Polish)

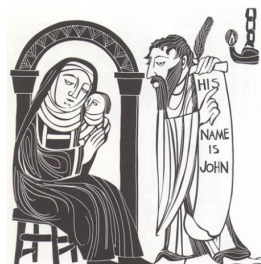
THE BIRTH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

24 JUNE 2018

READINGS: Vigil: Jer 1:4-10; 1Pet 1:8-12; Lk 1:5-17.

Day: Is 49:1-6; Acts 13:22-26; Lk 1:57-66, 80.

The Feast dates back to the fourth century, ie. to the period immediately following the great persecutions, the time when the Church began to openly profess the Faith. The biblical accounts of the striking events that accompanied John's entrance into the world, and the statements of Jesus Himself about His Precursor, make it understandable that the early Church should have esteemed and venerated the Baptist so highly.



According to Jesus, John is more than a prophet; "I tell you, of all the children born to women, there is no one greater than John" (LUKE 7:28). John's martyrdom won him veneration equal to that shown to the apostles and St Stephen.

In the Western Church the Feast occurs on 24 June, six months before the feast of Our Lord's birth (cf LUKE 1:36). By the sixth century the feast already had a Vigil, and three Masses used to be celebrated on the day itself as at Christmas.

VINNIES WINTER APPEAL

Vinnies Unanderra Conference will hold its annual Winter Appeal bucket collection **after each Mass next weekend**

Envelopes will be available this weekend for collection next weekend, 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: Judith CROWE

Anniversaries: Marie BISHOP

Danny BRANSGROVE

Frank RICE



ROSTERS – NEXT WEEKEND

July	Church Washing	Jackie Allen	
Sat 30 June	Church Cleaning	W & J Rodgers, J Andersson	
	Lawns		
	Acolytes	Lectors	Welcomers
Sat 30 June 6pm Mass	A Carlotto	L Milan	D Gelfius
Sun 1 July 7am Mass	L Burns	M Walsh	S Brown
Sun 1 July 9am Mass	N Dwyer C Carolan	M Rodwell	C Hailstone K Hertsch
Counters	A Gunning, M Cauduro, C Garrett		
Children's Liturgy	C Hailstone, L Galea		

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: Every Tue 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 ***

CONFIRMATION - THIS WEEK

Please keep our 50 Confirmation candidates
in your prayers this week as they celebrate the
Sacrament of Confirmation
with Bishop Brian Mascord
at Immaculate Conception Church on the nights of
Tuesday 26 June and Wednesday 27 June 2018.



LIVING FAITH - DAILY DEVOTIONS

Daily Devotions July / August / September now
available - \$4.00. There are two versions:
one for adults and one for children.



A Prayer for Today's Feast

From his mother's womb, O God of Israel,
You called John the Baptist to be Your Son's herald,
and in the solitude of the desert
You fashioned him into your polished arrow,
placing Your words in his mouth,
to uproot and to pull down,
to destroy and to overthrow,
to build and to plant.
As John's preaching shook the world
from its indifference,
and prepared Your people
for the advent of the Christ,
so let our celebration of his birth
confront our complacency with the Call to conversion
and prepare us for the day of Christ's glorious return.



FAREWELL AND THANK YOU

Bob and Margaret LLOYD

Pat and Jill PEIRCE

Bob and Margaret Lloyd and **Pat and Jill Peirce** have recently moved from our parish. Both couples have made a significant contribution to our community and, on your behalf, I thank them most sincerely.

Bob has been a member of the St Vincent de Paul Conference and a most loyal gardener. Margaret was a member of our local Catholic Women's League. Both have served on the Parish Council and both were for some years Antioch parents. Margaret has also served on the Church cleaning roster.

Pat was also a member of the St Vincent de Paul Conference. Jill was for many years on the Parish Finance Council and a member of the Parish Council. Both couples also for many years prepared the parish banking.

So, you can see, the contribution of both couples has been enormous. Not much more could be asked of any parishioner.

They leave a large gap in parish life which I hope will be filled by more willing parishioners.

Fr Graham Schmitzer





"No duty is too little to be done well."

St Mary of the Cross — 1873

MENALIVE - MACARTHUR

MACARTHUR REGION MenALIVE WEEKEND for MEN

4-5 August 2018

**Parish Hall, St John the Evangelist Church
35 Cordeaux Street, Campbelltown**

What are you doing on 4-5 August? Could you benefit from a weekend, conducted by experienced leaders from menALIVE Team, featuring talks, personal testimonies, opportunities for discussion, and space to reflect? Since menALIVE commenced in 2003, thousands of Catholic men have been encouraged and inspired at weekends across Australia.

**Enquiries contact Ian Boorman 0427 006 021 or
email Jude Hennessy jude.hennessy@dow.org.au**



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

at St Francis Xavier Cathedral

Enquiries contact Anne Kelly 0411 260 040

MT CARMEL RETREATS - JULY 2018

Lord, what do you want of me?

Presenter: Br Emmanuel Noel, OCD

Cost: \$250 (concessions apply)

When: 6 July 6pm — 8 July 1.30pm

Am I being called to the priesthood or the religious life? Should I remain single, or get married?

Mary, Beauty of Carmel

Presenter: Fr Ferdinand de la Cruz, OCD

Cost: \$30.00

When: 7 July 10am—4.30pm (registrations from 9am and please remember to bring your own lunch).

Pick-ups from Minto train station at 9.30am and 10am.

As listener to and the bearer of the Word made flesh, Mary is a model and a teacher.

Seeking a more intimate union with Jesus

Presenter: Bishop David Walker

Cost: \$750.00 (concessions apply)

When: 9 July 6pm — 15 July 1.30pm

How do I grow in my faith life?

Contact: 8795 3400

Email: retreats@carmelite.com

www.carmeliteretreats.com.au

Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, 247 St Andrews Road, Varroville



THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM — AIRS SUNDAY 24 JUNE 2018 —

This week on the Journey Fr Steve Varney reflects on the Gospel of Luke; Sr Hilda shares her Wisdom from The Abbey about "The Sun is Rising"; Pete Gilmore reminds us to "Be Still" in his Living the Gospel God spot; and Bruce Downes, The Catholic Guy, talks to us about "Overcoming Busyness". We have some great music this week, creating a show about 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.**



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 at priesthood@dow.org.au**

DAY OF MEDITATION

The Australian Christian Meditation Community (NSW) invites you to A day of meditation, input and reflection — Christians learning from interfaith perspective

BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD

**Dr Susan Murphy, Zen Rishi, author,
film-maker, environmentalist....**

Susan will explore Zen Koans and the interchange with Jesus/ Christianity. She will suggest using Koans as a way to unlock the Scriptures.

Saturday 7 July - 9.30am to 3pm

St Matthew's Church Hall, Chapel Lane, Jamberoo

To avoid disappointment please book early, as places are limited

Suggested donation: \$15-\$20/ as able

Books and other resources for sale

BYO lunch. Tea and coffee provided

Dress warmly

RSVP Michele Broad 0400 324 708/ michele.broad@outlook.com

Maria Baden 0408 245 212/ mariakazimierabaden@gmail.com

Monica Dowdell 0412 056 877 / dowdellmonica8@gmail.com



ST MARY'S COLLEGE IS NOW ENROLLING YEAR 7 - 2020

Here are some important dates:

Friday 29 June 2018 — Applications due for first round offers

Monday 13 August 2018 — Interviews commence

Friday 31 August 2018 — First Round Offers

For more information, visit our website

www.stmarys.nsw.edu.au

Or call us - 4228 6011

St Mary's is a Catholic
Secondary College for girls

Central location:

**15 Harbour Street, Wollongong
(directly opposite South Beach)**



My dear people,

In Chapter Two of his latest Letter to the Church, REJOICE AND BE GLAD, Pope Francis speaks of two subtle enemies of true holiness - they are not new and have been present in the Church since earliest times. The first is Gnosticism. Put simply, it means reducing religion to something of the mind and not of the heart. "Thanks be to God", says Pope Francis, "throughout the history of the Church it has always been clear that a person's perfection is measured not by the information or knowledge they possess, but by the depth of their love." 'Gnostics' do not understand this. They think they are superior to others because they are more highly educated and understand theology better. In point of fact, the more we know should always motivate us to respond more fully to God's love. We learn so as to live better. Theology and holiness are inseparable.



This is brought out well in the life of St Anthony of Padua. When his great gift of preaching was discovered, St Francis wrote to him and asked if he would teach theology to the Brothers, but warned him not to destroy their devotional life. St Francis recognised the temptation to turn Christianity into a set of intellectual exercises. And St Bonaventure, regarded as the second founder of the Franciscans, added that true Christian wisdom can never be separated from mercy towards our neighbour.

We do not have a monopoly on God. Gnosticism is a sinister ideology. It unduly exalts knowledge, considering its own vision of reality to be perfect. "When somebody has an answer for every question, it is a sign that they are not on the right road" says Pope Francis. What he means is that while knowledge is important in our understanding and practice of the Faith, we must always remember that God is mystery. We do not control God. He is present everywhere, and even in the lives of persons whose lives seem to be wrecked. St Augustine once remarked that when we think we have understood God, it is not God we have understood.

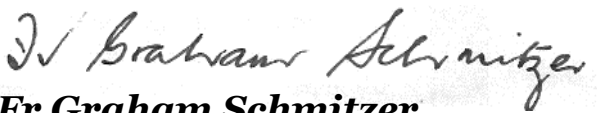
The second enemy to true holiness is Pelagianism (named after its proponent). The same power that the Gnostics attributed to the intellect, others now began to attribute to personal effort. They forgot the teaching of St Paul that everything "depends not on human will or effort, but on God who shows mercy" (ROMANS 9:16). We cannot buy grace, no matter how many Commandments we keep. Everything is a pure gift from God. We cannot earn His love for He has "first loved us" (1 JOHN 4:19).

Those who believe they are responsible for their own salvation become obsessed with the law and with "little things", they acquire a certain vanity about their ability to manage their lives, and are excessively concerned with programmes of self-help and personal fulfilment. "Some Christians spend their time and energy on these things," says Pope Francis, "rather than letting themselves be led by the Spirit in the way of love, rather than being passionate about communicating the beauty and the joy of the Gospel and seeking out the lost among the immense crowds that thirst for Christ."

Some groups of Christians give excessive importance to certain rules and ways of acting. The Gospel then tends to become constricted, deprived of its simplicity and allure. The life of grace becomes subject, then, to certain human structures. This can affect groups and movements, and explains why so often they begin with an intense life in the Spirit, only to end up fossilised - or corrupt! Even St Thomas Aquinas taught that the precepts added to the Gospel by the Church should be imposed with moderation "lest the conduct of the faithful become burdensome". Our religion would then become a form of servitude, something Our Lord criticised His own Church for.

God is the object and motive of our lives, and "love is the fulfilment of the law" (ROMANS 13). The face of God is reflected in so many other faces - the least, the most vulnerable, the defenceless, those in need. "Indeed," says Pope Francis, "with the scraps of this frail humanity, the Lord will shape His final work of art". What riches will never disappear? God and our neighbour.

These aberrations of Gnosticism and Pelagianism take various shapes, weighing the Church down and blocking her progress on the path to holiness. "So I encourage everyone to reflect and discern before God whether they may be present in their lives."


Fr Graham Schmitzer
Parish Priest