

PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

48 Princes Highway (PO Box 14) Unanderra NSW 2526



Parish Priest: Mgr Graham Schmitzer

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

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

Parish School: St Pius X School
Cnr Hargreaves & Cummins Streets
PO Box 358 Unanderra NSW 2526
Phone: 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	27 Aug	No Mass
Tuesday	28 Aug	St Augustine Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm Mass: 5.30pm
Wednesday	29 Aug	The Martyrdom of St John the Baptist Mass: 7am
Thursday	30 Aug	Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm (Reconciliation Available) Mass: 5.30pm
Friday	31 Aug	Mass: 9.30am
Saturday	1 Sep	<i>First Saturday</i> World Day of Prayer for Creation Mass: 7.30am Reconciliation: 5pm-5.30pm Vigil Mass: 6pm
Sunday	2 Sep	22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Masses: 7am, 9am, 10.45am (Polish)

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — YEAR B

26 AUGUST 2018

READINGS: Joshua 24:1-2,15-18; Eph 5:21-32; Jn 6:60-69

Joshua confronts the people with a vital decision – to serve the true God or to serve false gods (**FIRST READING**).

After the teaching on the Eucharist, Jesus' disciples are faced with a decision – to stay with him or leave (**GOSPEL**).

St Paul uses the image of a marriage relationship to express the bond that exists between Christ and the Church (**SECOND READING**).



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Elisabetta MINCONE

Rona DORRIAN

Anniversaries

Mary and Edward SCALLY

Deceased members of the SCALLY and McPAKE families

Lucas, Demetrio and Aquilino FORTUNATO

Des CUNDY; Romeo ZAMPA; Jesse McDANIEL;

Gloria SHEPPARD; Thomas BROWN; Umberto CORRADINI



ROSTERS – NEXT WEEKEND

September	Church Washing	Fiona Fernandez		
Sat 1 Sept	Church Cleaning	W Brown, P & A Browne, L Harper, J Hoxha		
	Lawns	J Lonard, H Yates, F Timpano, S Carrigan		
	Acolytes	Lectors	Welcomers	
Sat 1 Sept 6pm Mass	A Carlotto	N Milan	D Gelfius	
Sun 2 Sept 7am Mass	L Burns	K Calvert	S Brown	
Sun 2 Sept 9am Mass	N Dwyer, C Carolan	C Walsh	K Hertsch, C Hailstone	
Counters	B & P Walker, A Kelly			
Children's Liturgy	K Hertsch, S Walsh			



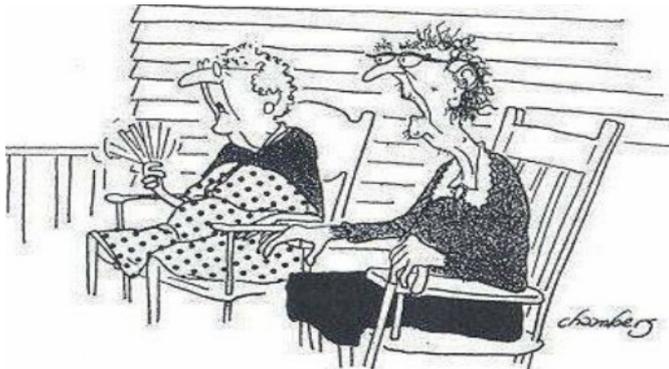
PARISH ACTIVITIES

- Catholic Women's League:** 2nd Thursday of the month - 10.30am in St Joseph's room
New members always welcome!
Please contact: Barbara - 4271 1584
- 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

* Refreshments after 9am Mass will **NOT** be held in September *

Thank you for the party and the pressies.
More importantly, thanks for coming to
Mass on the 16th. Mgr Graham

Thank You

I'm getting so old that all my friends in heaven will think that I didn't make it...

Gospel Reflection

When many of his disciples were leaving Him,
Jesus turned to the apostles and said,
"Will you also leave me?"

These words are addressed to us, too.

It's not the Lord who leaves us,
but we who may leave Him.

But why would we want to leave the Lord,
who alone has the words of eternal life?

We need to make our own
Peter's profession of Faith.

Every Sunday we get a chance to do so.

We need the Lord to strengthen our faith.

We also need to confirm one another.

Lord, confirm our decision to stay with You.

Draw us closer to You in bonds of trust,
so that we may follow You in love and freedom.



SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHILD 0-12 YEARS

A practical course on how we can hand on the Faith
at different stages of a child's development. Based
on the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd approach
developed by Maria Montessori and Sofia Cavalletti.

This short course on the formation of the Catholic
heart, memory, intellect and imagination, will be held
in St Joseph's meeting room at Immaculate
Conception Parish Unanderra.

Mondays 9.30am–11am for 4 weeks: 6, 13, 20 & 27 August 2018

All welcome! Enquiries: Mary Carolan 0423 385 448





“We must teach more by example than by word.”

St Mary of the Cross — 1867

PLENARY COUNCIL 2020

LISTEN TO WHAT THE SPIRIT IS SAYING

Local Animators of the Plenary Council 2020 for the Diocese of Wollongong were welcomed and encouraged at Mass celebrated with Bishop Brian Mascord at St John Vianney Co-Cathedral, Fairy Meadow, on Saturday 18 August 2018.



Most Local Animators for parishes have completed training to enable them to draw parishes into the processes of listening to what the Spirit is saying. As individuals and parish communities, there are some

simple but important things you can do right now to participate.

Visit the website www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au which provides great resources that will enable individuals and groups to learn more, pray for guidance, commence dialogue and subscribe for regular updates.

SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB

Wollongong Spirituality in the Pub invites you to a conversation on **Tuesday 28 August** at the Woonona Bulli RSL Club, from 7.30pm to 9pm. The guest speaker is **Father Noel Connolly**, Co-ordinator of Mission and Culture at the Catholic Institute of Sydney, who will speak on **Pope Francis' Inspiring Vision**. All welcome!

Enquiries: Ann on 0427 235 955 or wollsip@gmail.com

SVDP SOCIETY'S VINNIES NSW DROUGHT APPEAL

The St Vincent de Paul Society NSW has launched its major drought appeal to raise funds for rural communities in need. The appeal will provide individuals and families assistance with groceries, household bill payments, fund the delivery of water and animal feed by partner organisations and organise social events for respite and mutual support.

Donations can be made **online** at:

<https://www.vinnies.org.au/donate#!state=nsw&appeal=159>

or **by calling**

13 18 12

or **drop in to any local Vinnies shop**



THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM — AIRS SUNDAY 26 AUGUST 2018 —

This week on The Journey our Gospel reading is John 6:60-69. Sr Hilda from the Abbey shares her wisdom with us yet again; Fr Dave Callaghan in his God spot, encourages us to ask “What’s under the Bonnet?”; and our very own Trish McCarthy talks to us about Motivation & Discipline in her Milk and Honey segment. Our diverse music selection is such a gift to Journey Catholic Radio program, where faith, hope, love and life come together.



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

ANNUAL CONSOLING MASS

Friday 14 September 2018 — 12.10pm

Mater Dolorosa Church, 48 Balmoral Street Balgownie

Every year, the Lumen Christi Parishes make available a ‘Consoling Mass’ to remember our loved ones who have died in tragic circumstances. There are many people in our communities who have had family members or loved ones die through suicide, murder, tragic car accidents and work accidents and sudden illnesses.

This Mass is an opportunity to pray for the deceased persons as well as be a support to those who carry in their lives the tragedy.

The event is sponsored by the Catholic Women’s League and the students of Holy Spirit College, Bellambi. Hospitality will follow the Mass.



PRAYER FOR RAIN

God Our Father, you created our earth to nourish us and give us life. And Jesus told us to ask and it will be given to us.

We ask now in Faith, Hope and Love that you look with favour on our drought-stricken land, our starving animals and failing produce.

Sustain, strengthen, and give new hearts to our farmers and those affected by this drought.

In your loving providence, send abundant rain soon and renew the Faith of your people and the face of our land.

We make our prayer through Jesus, who gives life to all living things.

Amen.



My dear people,

This Sunday marks the **104th World Day of Migrants and Refugees** and, as is his custom, Pope Francis has written a message. He begins by quoting the Book of Leviticus: "You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt" (19:34). Pope Francis has repeatedly expressed his concern for the lamentable situation of the many migrants and refugees fleeing from war, persecution, natural disasters, and poverty. He says it is undoubtedly a 'sign of the times' which he has tried to interpret.

"Every stranger who knocks at our door is an opportunity for an encounter with Jesus Christ, who identifies with the welcomed and rejected strangers of every age (MATT 25:35-43). The Lord entrusts to the Church's motherly love every person forced to leave their homeland in search of a better future. This solidarity must be concretely expressed at every stage of the migratory experience - from departure through journey to arrival and return. This is a great responsibility, which the Church intends to share with all believers and men and women of good will, who are called to respond to the many challenges of contemporary migration with generosity, promptness, wisdom and foresight. Our shared response may be articulated by four verbs: to welcome, to protect, to promote, and to integrate.



1. Welcoming means, above all, offering broader options for migrants and refugees to enter destination countries safely and legally. This calls for a concrete commitment to increase and simplify the process for granting humanitarian visas and for reunifying families. I hope that a greater number of countries will adopt private and community sponsorship programmes, and open humanitarian corridors for particularly vulnerable refugees. Furthermore, special temporary visas should be granted to people fleeing conflicts in neighbouring countries. Collective and arbitrary expulsions of migrants and refugees are not suitable solutions, particularly where people are returned to countries which cannot guarantee respect for human dignity and fundamental rights. I want to emphasise the importance of offering migrants and refugees adequate and initial accommodation. The situation of migrants, asylum seekers

and refugees requires that they be guaranteed personal safety and access to basic services. We must strive to find alternative solutions to detention for those who enter a country without authorisation.

2. Protecting may be understood as a series of steps intended to defend the rights and dignity of migrants and refugees, independent of their legal status. Such protection begins in the state of origin, and consists in offering reliable and verified information before departure, and in providing safety from illegal recruitment practices. This must be ongoing, as far as possible, in the country of migration, guaranteeing them adequate consular assistance, the right to personally retain their identity documents at all times, fair access to justice, the possibility of opening a personal bank account, and a minimum sufficient to live on. When duly recognised and valued, the potential and skill of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees are a true resource for the communities that welcome them.

The International Convention on the Rights of the Child provides a universal legal basis for the protection of underage migrants. They must be spared any form of detention related to migratory status, and must be guaranteed regular access to primary and secondary education. Equally, when they come of age they must be guaranteed the right to remain and to enjoy the possibility of continuing their studies. Temporary custody or foster programmes should be provided for unaccompanied minors.

3. Promoting essentially means a determined effort to ensure that all migrants and refugees are empowered to achieve their potential as human beings as intended by the Creator. Among these, we must recognise the true value of the religious dimension, ensuring to all foreigners in any country the freedom of religious belief and practice. Many migrants and refugees have abilities which must be appropriately recognised and valued. I encourage a determined effort to promote the social and professional inclusion of migrants and refugees, guaranteeing for all - including those seeking asylum - the possibility of employment, language instruction and active citizenship, together with sufficient information provided in their mother tongue. In the case of underage migrants, their involvement in labour must be regulated to prevent exploitation and risks to their normal growth and development.

4. Integrating concerns the opportunities for intercultural enrichment brought about by the presence of migrants and refugees. Integration is not 'an assimilation that leads migrants to suppress or to forget their own cultural identity. Rather, contact with others leads to discovering their 'secret', to being open to them in order to welcome their valid aspects and thus contribute to knowing each one better.' (JOHN PAUL II). This process can be accelerated by granting citizenship free of financial or linguistic requirements, and by offering the possibility of special legalisation to migrants who can claim a long period of residence in the country of arrival. I wish to stress the special case of people forced to abandon their country of arrival due to a humanitarian crisis. These people must be assured adequate assistance for repatriation and effective reintegration programmes in their home countries.

In line with her pastoral tradition, the Church is ready to commit herself to realising all the initiatives proposed above. Yet in order to achieve the desired outcome, the contribution of political communities and civil societies is indispensable.

The Holy Mother of God herself experienced the hardship of exile (MATT 2:13-15), lovingly accompanied her Son's journey to Calvary, and now shares eternally His glory. To her maternal intercession we entrust the hopes of all the world's migrants and refugees, and the aspirations of the communities which welcome them, so that, responding to the Lord's supreme commandment, we may all learn to love the other, the stranger, as ourselves."

Mgr Graham Schmitzer
Parish Priest