

# PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

48 Princes Highway (PO Box 14) Unanderra NSW 2526



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**Polish Chaplain:** Fr Tomasz Nowak  
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**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

<b>Monday</b>	3 Sep	No Mass
<b>Tuesday</b>	4 Sep	Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm Mass: 5.30pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	5 Sep	Mass: 7am (Convent)
<b>Thursday</b>	6 Sep	Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm (Reconciliation Available) Mass: 5.30pm
<b>Friday</b>	7 Sep	<b><u>First Friday</u></b> Mass: 9.30am Adoration: 10am-10.30am
<b>Saturday</b>	8 Sep	<b>The Nativity of Our Lady</b> Mass: 7.30am Reconciliation: 5pm-5.30pm Vigil Mass: 6pm
<b>Sunday</b>	9 Sep	<b>23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> <b><u>Child Protection Sunday</u></b> Masses: 7am, 9am No Polish Mass during September

## TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — YEAR B

**2 SEPTEMBER 2018**

**READINGS:** Deut 4:1-2, 6-8; James 1:17-48, 21-22, 27;  
Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23

Moses urges the people to be faithful to God's law which is not a burden to be endured but a source of life (**FIRST READING**). Jesus tells the Pharisees they have substituted their own laws for God's Laws (**GOSPEL**).

St James advises, it is not enough to listen to the Word of God — we must put it into practice (**SECOND READING**).



## PARISH DROUGHT APPEAL

Next weekend, the St Vincent de Paul Society will be collecting donations from our Faith Community here at Immaculate Conception to raise funds for drought affected rural areas. Please also continue to keep those most affected by this drought in your prayers.



## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

### Recently Deceased

Bruno BALLESI  
Alice Gonzales DE PARDINA  
Mario ZIPILIVAN

### Anniversaries

David POWELL; Nancy CROWE;  
Joseph DAVIS; Nancy BUGEJA;  
Mary EVANS; Lila May MASTERSON  
Colleen and Clarence SCHMITZER



## ROSTERS — NEXT WEEKEND

September	Church Washing	Fiona Fernandez	
Sat 8 Sept	Church Cleaning	W & J Rodgers, J Andersson	
	Lawns	Peters Family, Winner Family	
	Acolytes	Lectors	Welcomers
Sat 8 Sept 6pm Mass	P Jones	L Milan	Volunteer
Sun 9 Sept 7am Mass	M Walsh	A Browne	A Browne
Sun 9 Sept 9am Mass	R Klaus, C Carolan	M Rodwell	B Spain, G Petric
Counters	M Murphy (FT), R Wilson, J Carolan, S Alessi		
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!*  
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 \*

## UPCOMING EVENT

The Legion of Mary Annual Retreat to be held here at Immaculate Conception on **Saturday 15 September 2018.**

All are invited.

The programme will be in next week's Bulletin.



## Gospel Reflection

Today pollution has become a big issue, and rightly so. People want clean water, clean air, and clean food.

But we should be even more concerned about the most dangerous pollution of all, namely evil.

Pride, anger, hate, lust, greed, envy - all these are dangerous pollutants:

So what must we do?

We must purify the source;

The heart is the source.

It is the well-spring from which all our thoughts, words, and deeds flow.

If the heart is clean, all that flows from it will be clean.

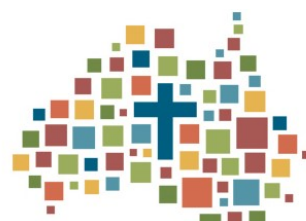
Blessed are the clean of heart;

They shall see God.



## PLENARY COUNCIL ANIMATOR

Our Unanderra Parish/Faith Community will be invited to participate in the Plenary Council 2020 Input by trained Parish Animator **Vera Cleary**. All the faithful will be asked to discern what the Holy Spirit is asking of the Church in this country. Vera will be leaving for Rome on 4 September and upon return will organise opportunities for us to meet, listen, engage and invite people to dialogue about what God is asking of us. In the mean time you are encouraged to visit the website at [www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au](http://www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au)



**Plenary Council 2020**  
Listen to what the Spirit is saying...

Of course one of the drawbacks of this job is that you have to work every weekend!







***“There where you are,  
you will find God.”***

*St Mary of the Cross — 1871*

## 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.

## PRAYING IN THE CLOUD

**Saturday 8 September 2018 — 10am-4pm**

**Benedictine Abbey at Jamberoo**

A silent retreat day spent with the Cloud of Unknowing and the practice of Centering Prayer which was born out of the wisdom of this spiritual classic. There will be two teaching sessions from the Cloud of Unknowing and several Centering Prayer practices (please see flyer on noticeboard).



## PLENARY COUNCIL 2020

***Listen To What The Spirit Is Saying!***

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](http://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.



## THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM — AIRS SUNDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2018 —

This week on The Journey, our Gospel reading is Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23. Sr Hilda shares her wisdom from the Abbey with her question of ‘Where Should We Look?’; Bruce Downes, the Catholic Guy, encourages us in ‘Hearing God Speak’; and Marilyn Rodrigues, ‘The Peaceful Parent’, reminds us the importance of ‘Family Retreats’. We are blessed to have such talented Christian music artists on our show, where faith, hope, love and life come together.

Go to [www.jcr.org.au](http://www.jcr.org.au) or

[www.itunes.jcr.org.au](http://www.itunes.jcr.org.au)

where you can listen any time and  
subscribe to weekly shows by email



## SEPTEMBER RETREATS

**Mt Carmel Retreat Centre - 247 St Andrews Road Varroville**

**Phone 8795 3400 / Email [retreats@carmelite.com](mailto:retreats@carmelite.com)**

**Website [www.carmeliteretreats.com.au](http://www.carmeliteretreats.com.au)**



**Icon painting at Mt Carmel**

14-16 Sept 2018 / Cost: \$600 (concessions apply)

Presenter: Anna Prifti



**Working with our shadow using Carl Jung and St John of the Cross**

14-16 Sept 2018 / Cost: \$250 (concessions apply)

Presenter: Anne Donald

*“And all who are free, tell me a thousand graceful things of you...”*

*Spiritual Canticle of St John of the Cross*

**Deep into the thicket**

28-30 Sept 2018 / Cost: \$250 (concessions apply)

Presenter: Sr Nory Ordiz CM

*St John of the Cross is our guide in the journey of love  
which calls us to enter deeply into God’s fullness*

## FATHER / SON CAMP

**Growing Good Men – Diocese of Wollongong**

**2—4 November 2018**

A life-changing father and son weekend will be held from **Friday 2 to Sunday 4 November 2018** at Cataract Scout Camp, Appin. Spots are limited to just 15 fathers with their son aged between 12-16.

One of the most important influences in the lives of men is the relationship they had with their father, or significant father figure. The encouragement and affirmation that this relationship could and should provide is a key ingredient for how young men view themselves and embrace their gifts as they take their place in the world.

This is a unique opportunity for dads and their sons to embark on a quest of discovery with Robert Falzon and the team from menALIVE. You don’t get this time back, so make this opportunity a priority!

Contact **Jude Hennessy**

on **4222 2407** or at

[jude.hennessy@dow.org.au](mailto:jude.hennessy@dow.org.au)

to register or ask any questions.



My dear people,

In recent days Pope Francis has written an unprecedented Letter to the People of God. It can be downloaded at [www.dow.sh/francisletter](http://www.dow.sh/francisletter) — I give here some significant passages:

“‘If one member suffers, all suffer together’ (1 COR 12:26). These words of St Paul forcefully echo in my heart as I acknowledge the suffering endured by many minors due to sexual abuse perpetrated by a significant number of clerics and consecrated persons - crimes that inflict deep wounds of pain and powerlessness, primarily among the victims, but also in their family members and in the larger community of believers and unbelievers alike. Looking back to the past, no effort to beg pardon and to seek to repair the harm done will ever be sufficient. Looking ahead to the future, no effort must be spared to create a culture able to prevent such situations from happening, but also to prevent the possibility of their being covered up. The pain of the victims and their families is also our pain.



In recent days, a report was made public which detailed the experiences of at least a thousand survivors, victims of sexual abuse, the abuse of power and of conscience at the hands of priests over a period of approximately seventy years. Even though it can be said that most of these cases belong to the past, nonetheless as time goes on we have come to know the pain of many of the victims. We have realised that these wounds never disappear and that they require us forcefully to condemn these atrocities and join forces in uprooting this culture of death. The heart-wrenching pain of these victims, which cries out to heaven, was long ignored, kept quiet, or silenced. But their outcry was more powerful than all the measures meant to silence it, or sought even to resolve it by decisions that increased its gravity by falling into complicity. The Lord heard that cry and once again showed us on which side He stands.

With shame and repentance, we acknowledge as an ecclesial community that we were not where we should have been, that we did not act in a timely manner, realising the magnitude and the gravity of the damage done to so many lives. We showed no care for the little ones; we abandoned them.

The extent and the gravity of all that has happened requires coming to grips with this reality in a comprehensive and communal way. While it is important and necessary to acknowledge the truth of what has happened, in itself this is not enough. Today we are challenged as the People of God to take on the pain of our brothers and sisters wounded in their flesh and in their spirit. If, in the past, the response was one of omission, today we want solidarity to become our way of forging present and future history. And this in an environment where conflicts, tensions and, above all, the victims of every type of abuse can encounter an outstretched hand to protect them and rescue them from their pain. Such solidarity demands that we in turn condemn whatever endangers the integrity of any person. A solidarity that summons us to fight all forms of corruption, especially spiritual corruption. St Paul's exhortation to suffer with those who suffer is the best antidote against all our attempts to repeat the words of Cain: ‘Am I my brother's keeper?’ (GEN 4:9).

I am conscious of the effort and work being carried out in various parts of the world to come up with the necessary means to ensure the safety and protection of the integrity of children and of vulnerable adults, as well as implementing zero tolerance and ways of making all those who perpetrate or cover up these crimes accountable. We have delayed in applying these actions and sanctions that are so necessary, yet I am confident that they will help to guarantee a greater culture of care in the present and future.

We all need a conversion that makes us see things as the Lord does. I invite the entire holy faithful People of God to a penitential exercise of prayer and fasting, following the Lord's command (MATT 17:21). This can awaken our conscience and arouse our solidarity and commitment to a culture of care that says “never again” to every form of abuse.

It is always helpful to remember that in salvation history, the Lord saved one people. We are never completely ourselves unless we belong to a people. That is why no one is saved alone, as an isolated individual. Rather, God draws us to himself, taking into account the complex fabric of interpersonal relationships present in the human community. God wanted to enter into the life and history of a people. Consequently, the only way that we have to respond to this evil that has darkened so many lives is to experience it as a task regarding all of us as the People of God. This awareness of being part of a people will enable us to acknowledge our past sins and mistakes with a penitential openness that can allow us to be renewed from within. Without the active participation of all the Church's members, everything being done to uproot the culture of abuse in our communities will not be successful in generating the necessary dynamics for sound and realistic change. The penitential dimension of fasting and prayer will help us as God's People to come before the Lord and our wounded brothers and sisters as sinners imploring forgiveness and the grace of shame and conversion.

Let us beg forgiveness for our own sins and the sins of others. An awareness of sin helps us to acknowledge the errors, the crimes and the wounds caused in the past and allows us, in the present, to be more open and committed along a journey of renewed conversion. Penance and prayer will help us to open our eyes and our hearts to other people's sufferings and to overcome the thirst for power and possessions that are so often the root of those evils.

**Mgr Graham Schmitzer**  
Parish Priest

May fasting and prayer open our ears to the hushed pain felt by children, young people and the disabled - a fasting that can make us hunger and thirst for justice - a fasting that shakes us up. We must show clearly our calling to be ‘a sign and instrument of communion with God and of the unity of the entire human race’ (VATICAN II).”