

PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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School Principal: Mr Philip Moore
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PROGRAMME FOR THIS WEEK

Monday 19 Nov *No Mass*

Tuesday 20 Nov Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm
Mass: 5.30pm

Wednesday 21 Nov **The Presentation of Our Lady**
Mass: 7am

Thursday 22 Nov **St Cecilia**
Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm
(Reconciliation Available)
Mass: 5.30pm

Friday 23 Nov **St Clement**
Mass: 9.30am

Saturday 24 Nov **The Vietnamese Martyrs**
7.15am: Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help
7.30am: Mass
Reconciliation: 5pm-5.30pm
Vigil Mass: 6pm (*First Communion*)

Sunday 25 Nov **Christ The King**
Masses: 7am, 9am (*First Communion*)
10.45am (*Polish*)

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — YEAR B

18 NOVEMBER 2018

READINGS: Daniel 12:1-3; Hebrews 10:11-14,18; Mark 13:24-32

We are nearing the end of the Church's year and, understandably, today's Readings speak of the end of time. Daniel's vision is remarkable because it contains the Bible's earliest statement of belief in the resurrection of the dead, and the first mention of 'everlasting life' (**FIRST READING**).



True to Jesus' prediction, His disciples suffered persecution almost immediately after His death, and St Mark believed this was a sign that Jesus' Second Coming was imminent. The precise time of the end is known only to God. We must not be misled by false rumours, but instead maintain a constant watchfulness as good stewards of what has been entrusted to us (**GOSPEL**).



NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP

to intercede for more priests
Every Saturday morning up to and including Saturday 22 December

7.15am: Novena Prayers
7.30am: Mass

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Anniversaries

Ronald ZAMPA

Charlie CARBONARA

Bertha & William VARLEY

Frank CORDINA



ROSTERS – NEXT WEEKEND

November	Church Washing	Barbara Faraway	
Sat 24 Nov	Church Cleaning	F Fernandez, B Rice, S Walsh	
	Lawns	J Lonard, H Yates, F Timpano, S Carrigan	
	Acolytes	Lectors	Welcomers
Sat 24 Nov 6pm Mass		R Baxendale	Volunteer
Sun 25 Nov 7am Mass	M Walsh	S Walsh	Walsh Family
Sun 25 Nov 9am Mass	R Klaus, C Carolan	M Rodwell	Y Brunero, S Michielin
Counters	B & P Walker, A Kelly		
Children's Liturgy	K Calvert, M Matos		

Gospel Reflection

Preserve me God, I take refuge in you.
My happiness lies in you alone.
You are my portion and my cup,
you yourself are my prize.
I keep you ever in my sight,
even at night you direct my heart.
With you at my right hand, I shall stand firm.
And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad.
For you will not leave my soul among the dead,
nor let your beloved know decay.
You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence,
at your right hand happiness for ever.

From Psalm 15



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 on 1st weekend of the month



CHURCH MINISTRIES FOR 2019

Have you considered being involved in one of the various ministries of our parish?

Please give consideration to volunteer in one or more of the following ministries in 2019:

Acolytes, Lectors, Children's Liturgy, Welcomers, Church Cleaners, Counters, Church Lawns and Gardens, Church Washing, Ministers of Holy Communion to Aged Care, Choir, Altar Servers, Catechists and Sacramental Team Leaders.

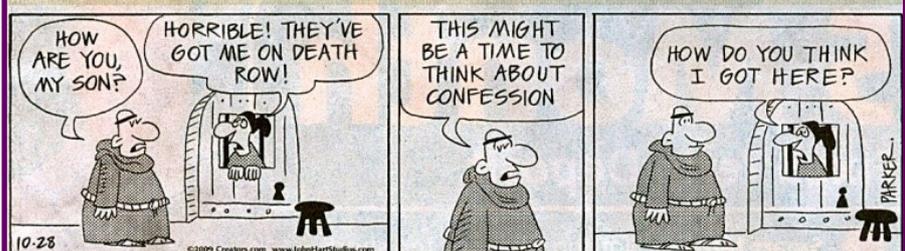
New volunteers will have the opportunity to work with those who have experience. Please indicate your availability to help by putting your name on the relevant sheets, which are located on the middle pew in the church. **Your assistance will be much appreciated!**



ADVENT PROGRAMME 2018

"Saviour" available now —
\$4.00

WIZARD OF ID BY PARKER AND HART





**“Remember we are
but travellers here.”**

St Mary of the Cross — 1867

EPIPHANY PILGRIMAGE

The Epiphany Pilgrimage — The Journey of the Magi

Are you looking for a different way to start the 2019 new year? Maybe to meet some new people, get fit and conclude the Christmas season on a spiritual high? The Epiphany Pilgrimage is a not-for-profit 7-day 110km Catholic pilgrimage through the Blue Mountains which coincides with the Feast of the Epiphany. The pilgrimage begins at Emu Plains on 2 January 2019 and finishes at Bell on 8 January 2019.

Registrations for the full pilgrimage close 9 December 2018



with day walk registrations available on the day. For further information and to register, please go to: www.epiphanypilgrimage.org or for general information and current news, please go to:

www.facebook.com/epiphanypilgrimage

FIRST COMMUNION

Every Blessing to the First Communicants as they spend this final week preparing for their special Sacrament. First Communion will be celebrated next weekend at the Saturday Vigil Mass, and at the 9am Mass on Sunday 25 November.



ST VINCENT DE PAUL GIVING TREE

The Giving Christmas Tree will be placed in the church next weekend full of tags for children's toys and Christmas food. The gifts received from this tree are used by the Unanderra Vinnies Conference to distribute approximately 40 Christmas hampers and toys for about 60 children and to the needy within the Unanderra area.

Gifts need to be placed under the Giving Tree by **Sunday 16 December**, as hampers and toys will be delivered on Tuesday 18 December.

A big thank you to all the generous parishioners who have supported the Vinnies Giving Tree for many years.



THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM — AIRS SUNDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2018 —

This week on The Journey, Fr Mike Delaney reflects on the Gospel of Mark; Sr Hilda Scott asks the question, “Where did you last see God?”; Sam Clear reminds us “Do not fear the future” in his walking the walk God spot; and Fr Dave Callaghan encourages us to “Become what we behold”. Christian music is the soul of the 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 via email



ADVENT WOMEN'S RETREAT

On **Saturday 8 December 9am to 4.30pm**, all women are



invited to spend a day around the theme “My spirit rejoices in God my saviour.” There will be Mass, Adoration, opportunities for Confession and three inspiring talks. Morning tea and lunch will be provided. The retreat is taking place at the **Broadway Campus of the University of Notre Dame** (see flyer near side door of church). It is FREE, but registration is essential: 02 8204 4189 or online www.trybooking.com/YRQW

PLENARY COUNCIL 2020

The Catholic Bishops of Australia have asked us to respond to three questions about the future of the church.

1. What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?
2. What questions do you have about the future of the church for the Plenary Council to consider in 2020?
3. Do you have a story of your experience of faith, or the church, you would like to share?

You are invited to:

- Join a small group discussion;
- Provide written feedback; or
- Make a submission online.

The local animator for our parish is Vera Cleary.



VINNIES CHRISTMAS CARDS AND COLUMBAN CALENDARS



The Unanderra Conference of St Vincent de Paul will be selling Christmas Cards and Columban Calendars each weekend after each Mass until sold out.

Christmas Cards are \$6.00 for a pack of 10.

The 2019 Columban Calendar is \$9.00.

My dear people,

This article appears in the current edition of Madonna Magazine — it makes interesting reading and shows what can be done to combat loneliness in our society:

“Since 1995, the Gethsemane Community at Petersham NSW has co-ordinated a Christmas project. This began by providing Christmas presents and cards to men and women with disabilities living in licensed boarding houses.

These people pay almost all their disability pension in board, so they are very poor. Sixty per cent have no contact with family at all. Most of the others see family members only a few times a year. We decided to provide personalised gift parcels of toiletries, socks, underwear (having ascertained correct sizes) and lollies. We provide sugar-free lollies for those who are diabetic. Since these people never receive personal mail, we devised a way to have Christmas cards sent to each person. Privacy is protected by a coded system.



As some of these people moved to aged care, we followed them. At each new facility, we asked if there were other residents who had no family or friends. Then the deluge began. One nursing home gave us 72 names, another 55, the next 80. Some places gave just a few names the first time, then asked if they had to be restricted just to the most desperate and added more. When we delivered three gifts to one place, staff begged us to provide another ten. We now have 820 people on our list.

When we delivered gifts for the first time to a large facility in the inner west of Sydney, some staff members cried. They said they had been so worried about their residents having nothing special for Christmas that they had been thinking of giving everyone a packet of shortbread biscuits.

At a facility on the northern beaches, our volunteer noticed a man sitting out the front. A staff member said he sat there every day waiting for his son, who never visited.



Another helper delivered a parcel to a place where there were many war veterans. He sat with the recipient for hours as the man recounted war stories, enlivened by having someone to listen. When we checked the list the following year, that man had died.

Seven schools now pack some of the parcels and some have ‘adopted’ the people in the places they visit. Some teachers saw the desperate poverty and loneliness of residents in one inner west aged care hostel and decided to keep in touch with them during the year as well. Most of the residents had mental illness, and came from boarding houses, homeless shelters or the streets.

In winter, children knitted beanies and scarves, delivered them, talked to and sang for the people. Students of another 22 schools donate toiletries and socks and feel part of this process of reaching out to lonely and forgotten people. In a growing number of schools, classes use our address labels to write and send Christmas cards. Parishioners of St Patrick’s Church Hill have, for many years now, donated funds and taken labels to send Christmas cards.

Some insight into the process of distancing from family can be seen in the story of Garry. I first met Garry in 1994 at a sub-standard boarding house in the inner west. Garry had travelled the world, had become an alcoholic and developed some brain damage. When the boarding house closed in 1996, Garry went to another such place a suburb away. I kept contact and followed him to a nursing home nearby, then to another some distance away. Since he had no family contact, Gethsemane bought him clothes each season and I visited when I could. Staff recorded my name and details as next of kin. When Garry was taken to hospital and became frail, I tried to find out any family contact details. He had phone numbers for his father and brother, but none worked. There had not been any contact for many years. When Garry died, I was contacted and organised his funeral. Garry’s ashes are buried under the tree in our front garden.

Peter’s story is even sadder. After a boarding house in Leichhardt closed some years ago, staff from Ageing, Disability and Home Care (ADHC) moved 34 residents to an interim facility and began interviewing them. It turned out there should have been 35 people. Where was the other person? It was now May, and it turned out that when he had died in January, his body had been taken to the morgue and was still there. He had lived at that boarding house for 17 years but the owner took no responsibility. One of the licensing staff from ADHC asked me if I could organise a funeral. I did so. Apart from the funeral directors, a priest friend and I were the only mourners. A chaplain from Rozelle hospital later held a memorial service for Peter, invited former residents of the boarding house and scattered Peter’s ashes over a rose garden in the church grounds.

It has been a slow process, because these clients are very shy, but year by year, more of them are willing to come with staff and join us for lunch on Christmas Day. We invited people from group homes, those living alone and people from a nearby boarding house. A sense of community develops among these isolated people as they share the day.

Mgr Graham Schmitzer

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Parish Priest

The epidemic of loneliness may pervade all parts of our society. It is a challenge to all of us to be alert and to respond with simple kindness whenever we can.” (Myree Harris RSJ)