

PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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PROGRAMME FOR THIS WEEK

Monday	3 Dec	St Francis Xavier Mass: 7am
Tuesday	4 Dec	Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm Mass: 5.30pm
Wednesday	5 Dec	Mass: 7am (<i>Convent</i>)
Thursday	6 Dec	Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm (Reconciliation Available) Mass: 5.30pm
Friday	7 Dec	St Ambrose <u>First Friday</u> Mass: 9.30am *Mass: 7.30pm - Solemn Mass in Honour of The Immaculate Conception
Saturday	8 Dec	The Immaculate Conception Novena to Our Lady: 7.15am Mass: 7.30am Polish Mass: 11am Reconciliation: 5pm-5.30pm Vigil Mass: 6pm
Sunday	9 Dec	Second Sunday of Advent Masses: 7am, 9am, 10.45am (<i>Polish</i>)

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT — YEAR C

2 DECEMBER 2018

READINGS: Jeremiah 33:14-16; 1 Thess 3:12-4:2; Luke 21:25-28,34-36

Today's **FIRST READING** points to the first coming of Christ. Jeremiah tells us that the Messiah will be descended from the family of David, and his reign will be marked by wisdom, justice and integrity. The **GOSPEL** deals with Christ's second coming. The early Christians believed it was near, and would be preceded by cosmic signs. The disciples are urged to wait with confidence, vigilance and prayer. St Paul gives the same advice in the **SECOND READING**: we must conduct ourselves in a way pleasing to God, overflowing with love for one another.



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

Annie CLARKE
Henry DUXBURY
Andrea Escobia JAGMOC
Fortunata OBRA
Lucas, Aquilino & Demetrio ESCOBIA



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION FEAST MASS AND SUPPER

We will be celebrating our Patronal Feast - *The Immaculate Conception* - with Sung Mass this coming Friday evening, **7 December** at **7.30pm** with supper to follow.

ROSTERS – NEXT WEEKEND

December	Church Washing	Fiona Fernandez	
Sat 8 Dec	Church Cleaning	G Lord, L Zanetti, S Adams	
	Lawns	B Mannix, W Brown, F Caruana	
	Acolytes	Lectors	Welcomers
Sat 8 Dec 6pm Mass	P Jones	V Cleary	V Cleary
Sun 9 Dec 7am Mass	M Walsh	A Browne	A Browne
Sun 9 Dec 9am Mass	R Klaus, C Carolan	R Green	Y Brunero, S Michielin
Counters	M Murphy (FH), C Stratton, A McQueen, M Winner		
Children's Liturgy	M Rodwell, S Michielin		

Gospel Reflection

The flowers fade,
but will bloom again next year.
But we never get back our youth.
Life is a fragile gift which we enjoy only briefly;
our life is like the warming of oneself in the sun.
We live in a flash of light;
before we know it,
evening comes and night falls.
But the very fleetingness of life makes it all
the more precious.
Lord, may your gentle and sure light guide us on
the unfolding road,
so that we may walk with confidence towards
the Light that never fades and the Life that
never ends.



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

PARISH MORNING TEA



Everyone is welcome to join us **after 9am Mass** this weekend for morning tea in St Joseph's Room.
Hope to see you there!

PLENARY COUNCIL 2020

The last Listening Session for the Plenary Council 2020 will be held on

Tuesday 4 December between 6pm-7.15pm

Parishioners wishing to share any of their experiences of faith, or Spirit-filled views of what God is asking of us in Australia at this time, or have questions they would like the Plenary Council to consider in 2020, are most welcome to attend this last session for 2018.

The Plenary Council Box will remain at the back of the church for any written submissions. We thank those who have submitted responses so far.

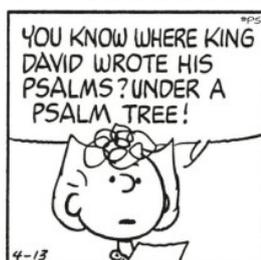


CWL CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

The CWL Christmas Raffle tickets will be on sale over the next two weekends for 3 great prizes.

Tickets are
\$2 each or 3 for \$5

Don't forget to buy your tickets for your chance to win one of the beautiful prizes.





“Let no obstacle deter us from proceeding with courage.”

St Mary of the Cross — 1893

MEMORIAL MONTH'S MIND MASS

Bishop Brian Mascord has arranged a Memorial “Month’s Mind” Mass for his late father, Ron Mascord, who died on 2 November 2018 in Newcastle.

The Mass will be held at **2pm** on **Wednesday 5 December 2018** at **St Francis Xavier Cathedral Wollongong**.

All are most welcome to join Bishop Brian at the Mass to remember and farewell his father, Ron.



THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM — AIRS SUNDAY 2 DECEMBER 2018 —

This week on The Journey, our very own Fr Stephen reflects on the Gospel of Luke; Sr Hilda from the Abbey shares her wisdom Remembering God; Bruce Downes, The Catholic Guy, encourages us to “Change the World”; and Trish McCarthy captivates us with her God Spot entitled “Eyes”. Music soothes all souls and we are lucky to have some amazing Christian music on 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



ST LUKE — EVANGELIST OF THE HOSPITALITY OF GOD WITH FR BRENDAN BYRNE SJ

Wednesday 5 December 7.30pm-9.30pm

Xavier Conference Centre — 38 Harbour St Wollongong

The presentation will discuss the overall vision of St Luke — the great storyteller of the New Testament — and discuss scenes from the Gospel that illustrate Jesus’ quest to recall humanity to the Hospitable Home of the Father. This will be an engaging and informative presentation by one of Australia’s foremost scripture scholars and assist us in preparing to reflect upon Luke’s Gospel during the liturgical year of 2019. **Please RSVP by Monday 3 December to Helen Bennett on 4222 2403 or helen.bennett@dow.org.au**

THE BISHOP’S ANNUAL APPEAL

IN SUPPORT OF THE RETIREMENT AND HEALTH OF CLERGY

Thank you for your generous support of this Appeal. Supporters throughout the Diocese gifted \$68,360. This gift will help Bishop Brian fund programs in our Diocese that support and care for the retirement and health of our clergy. This year’s appeal video can be viewed (and donations can still be made) online via the Diocese of Wollongong’s website www.dow.org.au



“I am very grateful for your support in helping me ensure that we can provide the right care for the retirement and health of our diocesan clergy. God bless you.” Bishop Brian Mascord

PILGRIMAGE TO NATIONAL GALLERY

Milton-Ulladulla Parish is looking to go on a **pilgrimage day to Canberra National Gallery** to view and pray about artistic depictions associated with Christmas. *Date TBA.*

Please register your **interest** by emailing Victoria Amato at v.vamato@yahoo.com.au

ST VINCENT DE PAUL GIVING TREE

The Giving Christmas Tree is now placed in the church 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.

Your gifts need to be placed under the Christmas 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.



MATRIMONIUM SUMMER SCHOOL

A NEW SUMMER SCHOOL EXPLORING THE CHURCH’S TEACHING ON MARRIAGE IS COMING TO TASMANIA

In January 2019, the inaugural Matrimonium Summer School will take place in Hobart. At a time when so much of the Church’s teaching on marriage and the family is contested by the secular culture, it is important that young Catholics take this opportunity to go deeper in their understanding of these key teachings.

The program will provide an opportunity for participants to be engaged at the level of the head and the heart. This deeper knowledge will give you the confidence and knowledge to be an effective Christian witness in our society. It will also help prepare you for whatever vocation that you believe you are called to.

For more information check out the Matrimonium Summer School 2019 website or contact Ben Smith on **03 6208 6036** or ben.smith@aohtas.org.au (see brochure near side door of church).



ADVENT PROGRAMME 2018

“Saviour” available now — \$4.00

VINNIES CHRISTMAS CARDS

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

A pack of 10 Christmas Cards — \$6.00



My dear people,

A new year begins in the life of the Church. I ended my homily last weekend with the thought: our acceptance of Christ as our King will only be real if we go search of Him again this Advent. This Christmas, Christ wants to be born again in our hearts. Those hearts must be made ready if this is to happen. This is why Our Lady is so prominent in the Advent liturgy - Advent is properly her season, said Pope St Paul VI. Mary is our model in listening to God's Word. St Luke twice tells us that she spent her life 'pondering' what His Word meant. In her "the Word became flesh" and we thank her for that. The Word must somehow come into the world again through us. St Augustine said that we have within ourselves the power to become mothers to Christ when we allow Him to come to birth in our own hearts and in the hearts of others.

The Church begins her new year, then, by honouring Our Lady's Immaculate Conception on 8 December, this coming Saturday. The Preface of the Mass gives us two themes. "Full of grace", and with no stain of Adam's original sin, Mary is a sign of what the Church is meant to be - totally oriented to God. Mary is thus our model of holiness, and our advocate with God. We do well to place ourselves under her protection.



Our theme of 'waiting' during Advent is symbolised by the Advent Wreath, a circle of greenery holding four candles. A circle has no beginning or end, and the greenery suggests freshness - the freshness of God's love is never-ending. One candle is lit week by week until, finally, the four candles are alight, a sign of the light of Christ gradually entering our lives. On Christmas Day, some light a fifth candle symbolising Christ Himself.

Because Christmas Day is on a Tuesday, Advent this year is really only three weeks. Advent does not have the penitential character of Lent, although purple vestments are worn. Rather, there is an element of excited joy running through the whole season, for we are preparing for a joyful event. The Gloria is suppressed in the liturgy of Advent only so that, as the song of the angels, it will be fresh again at Christmas. Once, it was only sung at Christmas.

The Liturgy speaks of a 'prayerful watching' during this season, and I encourage you to make an effort to spend some extra time in prayer during the next couple of weeks. Otherwise the season is lost in the midst of the secular 'rush' associated with this time of year. Christmas parties, so-called, are wrongly named - they're simply end-of-year parties. Some recommendations are:

- Attendance at weekday Mass - there will be Mass each day during Advent, with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament during the Christmas Novena which commences on 16 December.
- A little time for meditation each day using the Diocesan Advent Booklet.
- The Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary.
- The Angelus each day.
- Your Christmas gift to the Christ Child - a donation to the St Vincent de Paul Giving Tree.
- A good Confession before Christmas.



Having celebrated First Holy Communion last weekend, I wish to thank everyone involved. It has been a long preparation - half the year, in fact - when the children began their first classes for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Thank you especially to Sister Joan and Sister Margaret, and to Mary Carolan, Sandra Michielin and Michelle Rodwell who led the Masses. Thank you to the choir for accompanying both Masses.

Mgr Graham Schmitzer

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Parish Priest