

PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

48 Princes Highway (PO Box 14) Unanderra NSW 2526



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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
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Parish Website: www.unanderraparish.org.au

PROGRAMME FOR THIS WEEK

Monday 17 Dec Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm
to Friday 21 Dec (Reconciliation Available)
Mass: 5.30pm

Saturday 22 Dec Novena to Our Lady: 7.15am
Mass: 7.30am
Reconciliation: 4.3pm-5.30pm
Vigil Mass: 6pm

Sunday 23 Dec **Fourth Sunday of Advent**
Masses: 7am, 9am, 10.45am (Polish)
Adoration of the Blessed
Sacrament: 4.30pm-5.30pm

Monday 24 Dec Mass: 7am
Vigil Mass: 6pm

Tuesday 25 Dec **The Nativity of Our Lord**
Masses: 7am, 9am, 10.45am (Polish)

NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP

to intercede for more priests

Saturday 22 December

7.15am: Novena Prayers

7.30am: Mass



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Anniversaries

Ian RITCHIE
Bruce REEDY



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR C

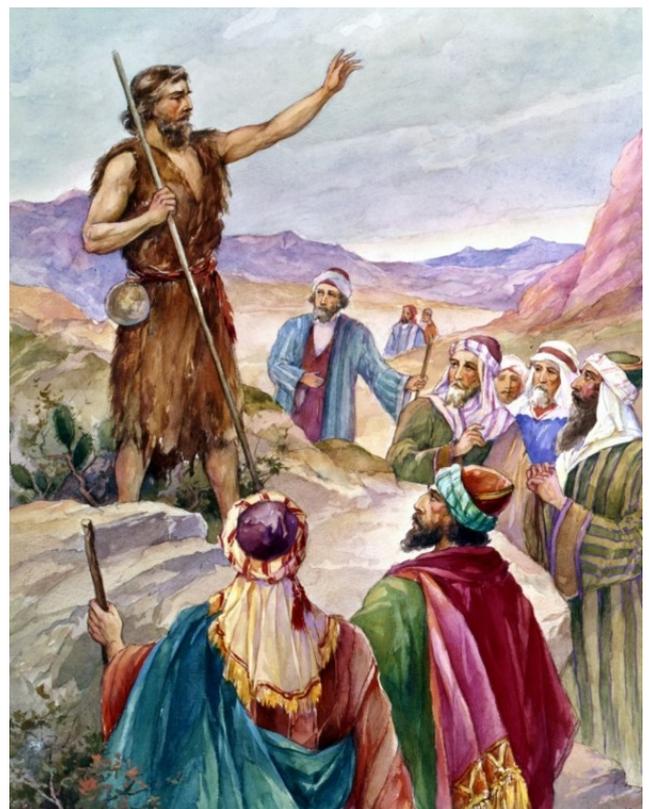
16 DECEMBER 2018

READINGS: Zeph 3:14-18; Phil 4:4-7; Luke 3:10-18

The prophet Zephaniah, writing in the seventh century BC, bids Jerusalem rejoice because her salvation is near. God stands in her midst and will deliver her from her enemies (**FIRST READING**).

God is portrayed not only as a king and warrior, but as the loving bridegroom of an unfaithful bride. St Paul calls on the faithful at Philippi to rejoice because the Lord is near, Paul believing that the Second Coming was imminent (**SECOND READING**).

St John the Baptist spells out for the people what they must do to prepare for the Messiah (**GOSPEL**).



ROSTERS – NEXT WEEKEND

December	Church Washing	Fiona Fernandez	
Sat 22 Dec	Church Cleaning	W & J Rodgers, J Andersson	
	Lawns	J Lonard, H Yates, F Timpano, S Carrigan	
	Acolytes	Lectors	Welcomers
Sat 22 Dec 6pm Mass		L Milan	V Cleary
Sun 23 Dec 7am Mass	M Walsh	D Ferrer	A Browne
Sun 23 Dec 9am Mass	R Klaus, C Carolan	M Rodwell	P Cundy, L Klaus
Counters	B & P Walker, A Kelly		
Children's Liturgy	School Holidays		

Gospel Reflection

There is a clear note of joy in today's Liturgy.
 Joy is a blend of laughter and tears.
 It consists of having a love affair with life.
 It is having a heart aglow with warmth for all one's companions on the road of life.
 It is looking for the happiness that comes in small packages,
 knowing that big packages are few and far between.
 It is making the most of the present, enjoying what is at hand right now.
 Joy is love bubbling over into life, and it can co-exist with pain.
 Joy is the flag we fly when Christ, the Prince of Peace, has taken up residence in our hearts.



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

2019 VOLUNTEER ROSTERS FOR PARISH MINISTRIES



Can all 2019 volunteers please remember to pick up your Roster Booklet for 2019 — they are currently located on the shelf underneath the Perpetual Succour near the baptismal font.





**“Keep up your courage ...
we do not live here forever.”**

St Mary of the Cross — 1877

NATIVITY NAIVETY

Loretta Plenkinsop was the newest and youngest teacher at St Gretelburger’s Parish School. She did not seem to notice that when the principal, Mark Greenbank, asked at the staff meeting “Who would like to direct the Nativity play this year?” all her colleagues—every man and woman—looked down at the table and began to shuffle papers.

Loretta, with the idealism born of innocence and inexperience, said she would love to do it. A collective sigh of relief came from the rest of the staff as her offer was unanimously accepted. The first rehearsal was held the next day.

Loretta began with the customary warning: “You must be very good at these practices. Any child who is naughty won’t be allowed to stay. Anna Maria, you can be Mary, and Damian will be Joseph. Shane will be the innkeeper and the shepherds are ... now everybody has a part. No, Thomas, you are one of the sheep, you can’t be an elephant - there were no elephants at Bethlehem. How do I know? Well, it’s not in the Bible. Of course they didn’t forget to write it in. Don’t be silly.

...
“Now, Damian, you knock on the door and say ‘My wife is having a baby. Can we stay here for the night...?’ . No, the innkeeper won’t let you stay even if you give him some money, I don’t care what your dad said to the motel manager in the holidays ...

“The angels can wait at the side until it is time to come in. Ben, you can’t carry a sword ... it doesn’t matter that the angels on the war memorial in High Street have swords—you are an angel of peace. Don’t be silly, you won’t be bringing peace by killing all the bad people.

“We’ll start from the beginning, again ...

“There’s the bell. Please come here tomorrow as soon as the dinner bell goes.”

2019 — PLANNED GIVING

The Parish Finance Council (PFC) recommend and implement cost saving and efficiency initiatives, that make better use of contributions, and limit costs incurred by the running of our Parish.

We will shortly be ordering and paying for next year’s envelopes for the Envelope Contribution Scheme.

The PFC would like to suggest our parishioners can assist by changing from the Envelope Contribution Scheme to the Direct Debit System to save some costs in Envelope production.

Please fill out a Direct Debit Planned Giving Form located in this week’s bulletin and submit it to the Parish Office, and we will organise the changes. (NB: *Planned giving via Visa or Mastercard IS available at our parish.*)

For parishioners who wish to newly participate in the ongoing support schemes, please fill out the Direct Debit Planned Giving Form and submit it to our Parish Office.

We appreciate the generous contributions our parishioners provide, and all giving — whether via direct debit or envelope — is most welcome and appreciated.

Please discuss your thoughts at any time with the members of the Parish Finance Council, who include Wayne Rodgers, Henry Fernandez and Gloria Simmonite.

The Parish Finance Council



THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM — AIRS SUNDAY 16 DECEMBER 2018 —

This week on The Journey, we share in the joy of Luke’s Gospel; Trish McCarthy in her Milk and Honey God spot talks about the ‘Purity of Heart’; and Sam Clear reminds us that ‘Trouble Will Come’. Our music is such a fabulous showcase of Christian Music, we are proud to have such talented artists 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

ERIC GENUIS CONCERT — IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH UNANDERRA

Eric Genuis Concert

Immaculate Conception Church Unanderra

Wednesday 27 February 2019 — 7pm

Looking for a Christmas gift for the person who has everything? Why not buy them tickets to an experience you can share as well as help your Parish community?

A rare opportunity to listen to a pianist of exceptional talent who brings with him a world class violinist, cellist and soprano playing in our parish church. The ‘Opera House’ is coming to our parish! All original compositions together with powerful testimonies outlining the inspiration behind each piece with true stories of life transformations destined to make a deep impression upon all who hear them. A message of hope for all.

Tickets: \$30 adult; \$25 pensioner/concession; \$70 family (parents with dependant children under 18). Online tickets sales at www.ericgenuistour.com On the weekend of 12-13 January 2018 Fr Mark De Battista will be here promoting the concert in our parish. A parish event not to be missed. Your support will support our parish.

With kind regards, Mgr Graham Schmitzer



My dear people,

Many of the pictures of Our Lady are great works of art, painted by famous artists. Some statues have fascinating histories, either because of the circumstances of their discovery, or for the miracles they have wrought, or the beauty of their composition.

But an Italian peasant called Bartolo Longo, who wanted to build a shrine to Our Lady at Pompeii, had no money at all, and he knew his fellow peasants were also without means, so a fundraising campaign would have had little result.

The year was 1872. Bartolo believed he was being called to say the Rosary and should ask others to do so. He knew that in order to establish a Confraternity where they could pray together, the group should possess an image of Our Lady. Bartolo decided not to wait until he had sufficient funds—he went to a junk shop in Naples and bought a picture of Our Lady which cost less than a dollar. The picture was insignificant, its author unknown. It showed the Blessed Virgin and the Holy Child giving the Rosary to St Domini and St Catherine of Siena. And in addition to its nondescript appearance, there was a large hole in the canvas.



When Bartolo returned to Pompeii with his purchase, his friends turned up their noses at the picture, and refused to accept it as the official image of their circle. But Bartolo began his little shrine, and even embellished the painting he had found in the Naples junk shop. Relying on Divine Providence, he built an orphanage for over a thousand girls next to the shrine, and created a printing, cabinetmaking and leather workshop to provide jobs for the neglected sons of criminal prisoners. As the fame of his little Sanctuary grew, a well-known Neapolitan painter restored Our Lady's image. Now it is considered one of the loveliest Madonnas in Italy.

Today in Pompeii stands a lovely Basilica visited by a million pilgrims each year. The significance of the Pompeii shrine is enormous. It is one of those centres which reveals the social message of the Gospel. There are very

few regions of Europe which have been so poverty-stricken as the provinces of Southern Italy. This Sanctuary has sprung entirely from the hearts of the people of the province of Naples. The Basilica was built from their pennies, yet at the same time, it has become the source of their hope.

When I was here in the nineties, Antonia Marciano received a visit from a friend who lived in Pompeii. She noticed we did not have a picture of Our Lady of Pompeii, and promised to send us a copy—a gift from one Shrine to another. In due course it arrived—a copy on canvas, the same size as the original. In all this time it has had its home in St Joseph's Room, part of which used to be a chapel. I thought it should be enshrined in the Church. It is now over the front door under the choir gallery.

Bartolo Longo was beatified by Pope John Paul II on 26 October 1980.



Mgr Graham Schmitzer

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Parish Priest