

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	7 Jan	No Mass
Tuesday	8 Jan	Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm Mass: 5.30pm
Wednesday	9 Jan	Mass: 7am
Thursday	10 Jan	Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm (Reconciliation Available) Mass: 5.30pm
Friday	11 Jan	Mass: 9.30am
Saturday	12 Jan	Mass: 7.30am Reconciliation: 5pm-5.30pm Vigil Mass: 6pm
Sunday	13 Jan	The Baptism of Our Lord Masses: 7am, 9am (No Polish Mass)

THE EPIPHANY – YEAR C

6 JANUARY 2019

READINGS: Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6; Matthew 2:1-12

The prophet Isaiah cheers the exiles returning from captivity in Babylon with a vision of Jerusalem restored and free.

The prophecy is fulfilled in Christ and the Church, the new Israel.

(FIRST READING)

In his Letter to the Ephesians, St Paul

expresses the theological meaning of today's Feast – both Jew and Gentiles are invited to share in the salvation brought by Christ. **(SECOND READING)**

Three Gentiles come from a far country to pay homage to the Christ-child, while the Jewish leaders reject Him. **(GOSPEL)**

We must never take for granted the precious gift of our faith in Christ. As stewards of this gift we must do whatever is necessary to strengthen it and be eager to share it with others.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS



Recently Deceased

Mollie ROWE

Anniversaries

Francesco MASI

Sergio CORRADINI

Bruno LIPPARONI

PARISH NOVENA

Hello parish prayers...

Just a small reminder to those praying the 'Rosary Novena for a Priest for our Parish' - the next novena begins on Tuesday 8 January 2019.



For anyone interested in joining this novena, please contact
Mark Walsh on 0407 604 498
for further details.

ROSTERS – NEXT WEEKEND

January	Church Washing	Jackie Allen	
Sat 12 Jan	Church Cleaning	G Lord, L Zanetti, S Adams	
	Lawns	J Lonard, F Timpano, S Carrigan	
	Acolytes	Lectors	Welcomers
Sat 12 Jan	G Attard	M Gillis	C Dean
Sun 13 Jan 7am Mass	M Walsh	C Walsh	Walsh Family
Sun 13 Jan 9am Mass	R Klaus, C Carolan	K Calvert	S Michielin, V Cleary
Counters	A Gunning, M Cauduro, C Garrett		
Children's Liturgy	School Holidays		

THE LONELY EMBER

A member of a certain church, who previously had been attending services regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks, the pastor decided to visit him. It was a chilly evening. The pastor found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire.

Guessing the reason for his pastor's visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a big chair near the fireplace and waited. The pastor made himself comfortable but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the play of the flames around the burning logs.

After some minutes the pastor took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone. Then he sat back in his chair, still silent. The host watched all this in quiet fascination.

As the one lone ember's flame diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and "dead as a doornail". Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting.

Just before the pastor was ready to leave, he picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it. As the pastor reached the door to leave, his host said, "Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery sermon. I shall be back in church next Sunday." *Author - Unknown*



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

NO MORNING TEA — JANUARY —



Sorry, but there will be no morning tea following 9am Mass on **Sunday 6 Jan 2019**.

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE—

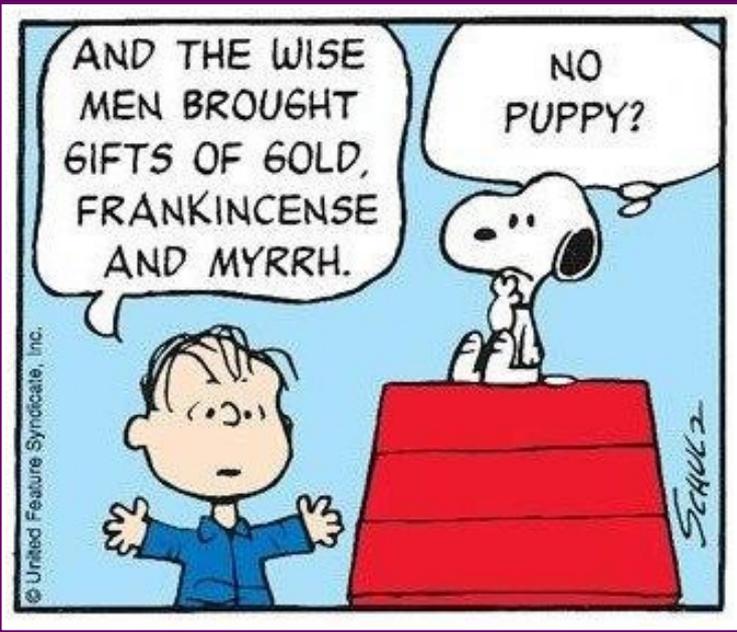
By Dik Browne





**“All will be right with time
and a little patience.”**

St Mary of the Cross — 1878



**THE JOURNEY
CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM**

The Journey Catholic Radio will enter our Summer Series until early February. You can catch up on your favourite people such as Sr Hilda from the Abbey, Bruce Downes The Catholic Guy and many more. We will continue to play amazing contemporary music while our writers, contributors and presenters have a well-earned break.

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 dependent children under 18).

Ticket sales are available online at www.ericgenuistour.com or from **Sue Briscoe** at the **Parish Office** (cash only).

On the weekend of 12-13 January 2019 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

**CATHOLIC CARE
ST PATRICK’S RACE DAY**

The CatholicCare’s St Patrick’s Race Day

will be held on

Saturday 23 March 2019

at Kembla Grange Racecourse

All proceeds from the day go towards supporting families of children with a disability. For more information, or if you have any questions, please contact **Jacqueline McCormack** on **4254 9308** or email jacquelinem@catholiccare.dow.org.au



A VOCATION VIEW

Christ is King ... the faithful Witness. He loved us ... and made us a line of priests, prophets and kings to serve God His Father. Who are we to be called forth as the priests of tomorrow - prayerful men - leaders, ready to preach the Word of God.



**Please contact the
Vocations Team at
priesthood@dow.org.au**

My dear people,

In the days before people had access to calendars, the dates of the important festivals were read out to the people on the Solemnity of the Epiphany, the Twelfth Day of Christmas. This ancient custom has been revived. The proclamation went like this (with local dates added): The glory of the Lord has shone upon us, and shall always be manifest among us, until Jesus comes again. Through the rhythms of times and seasons let us celebrate the mysteries of salvation.



Let us recall, firstly, the climax of the year, the Easter Triduum of the Lord: His Last Supper, His Crucifixion, His Burial and His Rising, celebrated between the evening of 18 April and the evening of 21 April.

Each Easter - as on each Sunday - Holy Church makes present the great and saving deed by which Christ has forever conquered sin and death: From Easter, as a centre point, are reckoned all the days we keep holy.

- Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, will occur on 6 March.
- The Ascension of the Lord will be commemorated on 2 June.
- Pentecost, the joyful conclusion of the season of Easter, will be celebrated on 9 June.
- The feast of the Patron of our Church and Parish, the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady, will be celebrated on Monday 9 December.
- The First Sunday of Advent will occur on 1 December.

Likewise the pilgrim Church proclaims the Passover of Christ in the feasts of the holy Mother of God, in the feasts of the Apostles and Saints, and in the commemoration of the Faithful Departed.

To Jesus Christ, Who was, Who is, and Who is to come, Lord of time and history, be endless praise, for ever and ever. Amen.



As far as is possible, we will venerate the Sacred Heart of Jesus each First Friday of the month, and the Immaculate Heart of Mary each First Saturday. The sacred Liturgy is the most important thing we do in our lives as Jesus' followers. The Liturgy is both the source and the summit of our Christian lives. Everything we do in life is directed towards, and finds its fulfilment, in Christ's sacrifice on the Cross. Everything we do receives its power from Christ's sacrifice.

We are reading on these Sundays of Year C from St Luke's Gospel, often called the Gospel of Hospitality. Each Gospel writer sets his account of Jesus' life within a theme – Luke presents Jesus on a journey to Jerusalem to die. On the way

He pops into people's houses for a meal and uses it as an occasion to preach. In Luke's Gospel the "little" people are prominent: Elizabeth and Zachary, Mary and Joseph, Simeon and Anna, shepherds, prostitutes, the poor and the crippled, the good thief. Our parishes must be centres of hospitality where everyone feels included and wanted. This year try and make contact with a parishioner you have never spoken to before. Do you sit in the same seat at Mass? Perhaps sit somewhere else occasionally. Do you go to the same Mass each weekend? Go to a different Mass now and then and see who the other parishioners are. Support parish initiatives and functions. We are continually urging lapsed Catholics to return "home". We must make sure there is a "home" to come to.

Perhaps you have a friend who is a "lapsed" Catholic. Without being too "heavy", you might gently invite them to come back. Perhaps you have a non-Catholic friend who might just be waiting for that gentle suggestion to join us.

Pray for your priests. Pray for vocations.

Mgr Graham Schmitzer
Parish Priest