

PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

48 Princes Highway (PO Box 14) Unanderra NSW 2526



Parish Priest: Mgr Graham Schmitzer

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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
Email: unanderra@dow.org.au
Parish Website: www.unanderraparish.org.au

PROGRAMME FOR THIS WEEK

Monday 14 Jan No Mass

ORDINARY TIME begins — it is Week 1 of the Year (Year 1 for weekday readings)

Tuesday 15 Jan Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm
Mass: 5.30pm

Wednesday 16 Jan Mass: 7am

Thursday 17 Jan **St Antony**
Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm
(Reconciliation Available)
Mass: 5.30pm

Friday 18 Jan Mass: 9.30am
(Requiem Mass for Ingrid Drmota)

Saturday 19 Jan Mass: 7.30am
Reconciliation: 5pm-5.30pm
Vigil Mass: 6pm

Sunday 20 Jan **2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)**
Masses: 7am, 9am (No Polish Mass)

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD — YEAR C

13 JANUARY 2019

READINGS: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7;
Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

The prophet Isaiah assures the Jewish exiles in Babylon that God is coming to save them. The promise was fulfilled from the most unexpected quarter — the pagan King Cyrus of Persia rescued the Chosen People and led them back to Jerusalem.

But Isaiah's prophecy was ultimately fulfilled in Jesus the Saviour. At His Baptism the Father places His seal of approval on Him: "You are my beloved Son". Jesus' mission has begun. The Spirit will again appear in visible form as He descends on the apostles at Pentecost as their mission begins. In each of us, our mission began when the Spirit descended on us at our Baptism.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Laura PUTRINO
Mollie ROWE
Ingrid DRMOTA



Anniversaries

Leo DOYLE
Hazel FARRAWAY
Phyllis STANIFORTH
Roland STUBBS
Ernie KURTZ

ROSTERS – NEXT WEEKEND

January	Church Washing	Jackie Allen	
Sat 19 Jan	Church Cleaning	P & A Browne, W & S Brown	
	Lawns	Winner Family, P Briscoe, A Gollop	
	Acolytes	Lectors	Welcomers
Sat 19 Jan	A Carlotto	R Baxendale	B Farraway
Sun 20 Jan 7am Mass	A Michielin	M Walsh	L Harper
Sun 20 Jan 9am Mass	N Dwyer, C Carolan	J De Battista	P De Battista
Counters	M Murphy (FT), A Kelly, S Alessi		
Children's Liturgy	School Holidays		



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

Gospel Reflection

Baptism was not over and done with the day we were taken to the font.

We are baptised by all that happens in life.

We are baptised by hardship - in its turbulent waters we are purified of all that is false and useless.

We are baptised by suffering - in its murky waters we grow in humility and compassion.

We are baptised by joy - in its gurgling waters we experience the goodness of life.

We are baptised by love - in its singing waters we blossom like flowers in the sun.

Baptism is like the planting of a seed.

It will take a lifetime for this seed to grow and ripen.



ST VINCENT DE PAUL UNANDERRA CONFERENCE — THANK YOU —

The Conference would like to thank all the generous parishioners who again supported the Vinnies Giving Tree and the Vinnies Christmas Appeal — 41 Christmas hampers were distributed and toys given to 83 children supporting those in need within the parish area.

The Vinnies Christmas Appeal raised \$3,064.75 from the three Christmas Masses. All money raised is used to support the poor of the parish. The Unanderra Conference receives over 10 requests for food, rent

Thank You!

assistance or help with electricity every week. Your support is much appreciated and the Society supports you in prayer.

THE CATHOLIC CARE 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





**“God gives me strength
for what is necessary.”**

St Mary of the Cross — 1877

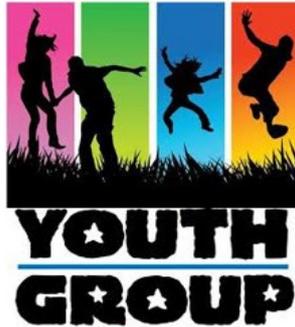
PARISH YOUTH GROUP

As a follow-up to the Expression of Interest meeting held last year, it was decided to try forming a Youth Group for our Parish.

The name of the Youth Group is **Ascend** and its patrons are Our Lady and Blessed Pier Giorgio.

Members plan to meet once a month and anyone attending High School would be most welcome to attend.

Parents wishing to include their son or daughter, or those requiring more information, are encouraged to contact Bethany Parrish, Josh Natoli, Felicity Carolan or to phone 0415 926 132.



PLENARY COUNCIL 2020

Please continue to place any written responses to the Plenary Council in the Plenary Council 2020 box located at the back of the church.

Responses need to be based on your reflection, listening and dialogue about what you think God is asking us in Australia at this time. You may also like to include any questions you have about the future of the Church for the Plenary Council to consider in 2020.

The box will be removed in two weeks.

If you have any future contributions, you will be able to continue making them online at:

plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au

before 6 March 2019 (Ash Wednesday).



Plenary Council 2020

‘Listen to what the Spirit is saying...’ REV 27



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

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)

A parish event not to be missed. *Your* support will support *our* parish.

With kind regards, Mgr Graham Schmitzer

My dear people,

Today's feast of our Lord's Baptism, part of our celebration of His Epiphany or 'manifestation' as God in human form - and the conclusion of the Christmas Season - prompts me to speak about the sacrament of Baptism and how the Church understands it. When I was a young priest at Campbelltown, Baptisms were at 4pm on Sundays. The priest went up to the church and baptised the babies of anyone who was waiting. We've come a long way since those days. People nowadays hear of a priest hesitating or even refusing to baptise the children of non-practising Catholics. Why the change?

A simple answer is that new religious, social and cultural attitudes of modern society require a change in the Church's practice in order to safeguard the fundamental understanding of the sacrament which the Church has always proposed. A generation which has inherited a lively and practical faith will have different needs from a generation which is poorly instructed, minimally practising, and subject to strong outside secular pressures.

When parents present their child for Baptism they are doing something much more significant than having the child's name inscribed in the Parish Register, or guaranteeing the child a place in the local Catholic School. The birth of a child is only the beginning of parents' responsibility to care for its needs for food, clothing, affection and education. Likewise, Baptism is the beginning of a new divine life given to the child by God and intended by Him to be nourished and developed by the Church and the believing parents.



The Second Vatican Council called for a revision of the ceremonies of Baptism so that the roles of the parents and godparents and their duties should be more apparent. And so, at the beginning of the celebration, the priest addresses the parents in these terms: "You have asked to have your child baptised. In doing so, you are accepting the responsibility of training him (her) in the practice of the Faith. It will be your duty to bring him/her up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbour. Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?"

Later on, just before the actual pouring of the water, the priest again says to the parents and godparents: "You must make it your constant care to bring this child up in the practice of the Faith. See that the divine life which God gives him/her is kept safe from the poison of sin, to grow always stronger in his/her heart. If your faith makes you ready to accept this responsibility, renew now the vows of your own baptism. Reject sin, profess your faith in Christ Jesus."

The obvious question raised by these statements of the Church is: how can parents who are not practising their Faith and who have no intention of changing their ways honestly answer 'yes' to this challenge? We would be faced with a strange contradiction were the Church to say one thing about the meaning of what she is doing in celebrating the Sacrament, and the parents to think something quite different. The explanation could only be misunderstanding or hypocrisy. In order to avoid misunderstanding, the ritual for Baptism insists on a proper preparation for parents for the baptism of their children.

Is the Church proposing something new? No. The Church has always insisted on the essential link between Baptism and the upbringing in the Faith. An adult cannot be baptised without his or her free desire to receive the sacrament and after proper instructions in the teachings and practice of the Faith and a desire to live these out. An infant will rely on the Church community and his/her family to gradually bring him/her to the stage when he or she can express a personal act of faith. From earliest times the Church did not consider lawful the baptism of infants unless there was a guarantee of Catholic upbringing.

We must be careful not to distort the Church's attitude. The Church does not give a blunt refusal on first approach by parents who have ceased to be practising Catholics. She is always anxious that both parents and child should share the gifts which Christ offers through Baptism and the other sacraments. She will strive to show the patience and compassion of Christ for those whose faith may have grown weak. They must be shown the true meaning of Baptism as Christ entrusted to the Church. Time for reflection and prayer is what is being proposed so that parents might appreciate the true mind of Christ. Both the Church and its individual members must be faithful to the authentic teaching of Christ. The fact that the parents still ask to have their child baptised is the sign of some element of faith which must then be brought to an adequate degree of responsibility for the Catholic upbringing of the child.

In all honesty, we must admit that a few generations ago, when there was a stronger Christian presence in society and when the practical faith of grandparents and other relatives was more real in the extended family, the Catholic upbringing of children caused less concern. That situation has changed and bishops, priests and parents must recognise it. We must accept the fact that Baptism must be accompanied by a founded hope of effective discipleship within the community of believers which we call the Catholic Church.

Mgr Graham Schmitzer
Parish Priest