

PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

48 Princes Highway (PO Box 14) Unanderra NSW 2526



Parish Priest: Mgr Graham Schmitzer

Parish School: St Pius X School
Cnr Hargreaves & Cummins Streets
PO Box 358 Unanderra NSW 2526
Phone: 4271 3550 | Fax: 4272 2954

Parish Assistant & Catechist Co-ordinator: Sister Joan Goodwin
Phone: 4272 9980
Mobile: 0499 970 074
Email: joan.goodwin@sosj.org.au

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 21 Jan *No Mass*

Tuesday 22 Jan **St Vincent of Saragossa**
Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm
Mass: 5.30pm

Wednesday 23 Jan Mass: 7am

Thursday 24 Jan **St Francis de Sales**
Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm
(Reconciliation Available)
Mass: 5.30pm

Friday 25 Jan **The Conversion of St Paul**
Mass: 9.30am

Saturday 26 Jan **Australia Day**
Mass: 8am
(followed by Breakfast - see below)
Reconciliation: 5pm-5.30pm
Vigil Mass: 6pm

Sunday 27 Jan **3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)**
Masses: 7am, 9am, 10.45am (Polish Mass)

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — YEAR C 20 JANUARY 2019

READINGS: Isaiah 62:1-5; Corinthians 12:4-11; John 2:1-11

The prophet Isaiah announces a message of hope for God's people at one of the lowest moments in their history. Jerusalem lay in ruins. Israel, once God's bride, was now like a widow bereft of her children. But there will be a new wedding feast, and God and His people will be like newlyweds again (**FIRST READING**).

The prophecy is fulfilled in Jesus who replaces the old order with the new, symbolised by the changing of water into wine.

In the Incarnation God has wedded heaven to earth (**GOSPEL**).

In the **SECOND READING** St Paul emphasises that the gifts we have been given by God are not for ourselves alone, but are meant to be put at the service of the community.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Rita BRISCOE-HOUGH

Anniversaries

Doreen BLATTMAN

Margaret COMENSOLI

Tomo MARVSIC

William BUTLER Snr

William BUTLER

Gilbert GOLLAN



AUSTRALIA DAY MASS AND BREAKFAST



The Parish Australia Day Mass and breakfast will be held on Saturday 26 January 2019 — Mass will be at 8am, followed by breakfast in St Joseph's room — all welcome.

ROSTERS – NEXT WEEKEND

January	Church Washing	Jackie Allen	
Sat 26 Jan	Church Cleaning	W & J Rodgers, J Andersson	
	Lawns	B Mannix, W Brown, F Caruana, R Murphy	
	Acolytes	Lectors	Welcomers
Sat 26 Jan	G Attard	V Cleary	V Cleary
Sun 27 Jan 7am Mass	M Walsh	S Walsh	Volunteer
Sun 27 Jan 9am Mass	R Klaus, C Carolan	M Matos	P Cundy, F Fernandez
Counters	M Murphy (FH), C Stratton, M Winner		
Children's Liturgy	School Holidays		

Gospel Reflection

Jesus brought the wine of God's love into the world.

Everywhere he went the old was made new. For the couple at Cana He changed water into wine.

For the widow of Nain He changed tears into joy.

For Zacchaeus He changed selfishness into love.

For the thief on Calvary He changed despair into hope.

And on Easter morning He changed death into life.

Lord, be present with us today and throughout our lives.

And when through human weakness the wine of love is found wanting, touch our hearts and strengthen our wills, so that we may taste the wine of unselfish love.



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

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 assistance or help with electricity every week.

Your support is much appreciated and the Society supports you in prayer.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE SICK

Mass to celebrate the World Day of Prayer for the Sick (Our Lady of Lourdes) will be on **Saturday 9 February at 11am** with anointing of the sick — Mass will be followed by lunch.



**“Let not your Crosses
make you unhappy.”**

St Mary of the Cross — 1890



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

CALLING ALL BUSINESS PEOPLE

Bishop Brian Mascord recently launched Catholic Business Connections (CBC) — an opportunity for business women and men in our diocese (active and retired) who share common values, to network and engage with leaders representing the diocese. CBC will gather three or four times a year for lunch and to listen to guest speakers chosen to inspire with their unique story.

The next gathering is on **Tuesday 19 February 2019** at Rydges Hotel, Campbelltown (12pm–2pm). Robert Fitzgerald AM will be speaking on Trust and Integrity — Touchstones for Success in Private and Public Life.

For more information on CBC and how to join, visit dow.sh/cbc — don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity.



Catholic Business Connections

DIocese of WOLLONGONG

A VOCATION VIEW

What could convince someone to turn to God?

That God became man and is the sacrifice that takes our sins away. Let us pray - Lord Jesus, make Your word plain to us and set our hearts on fire with love when

You speak. Enable us to respond to the call to be witnesses of Your love.

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

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,

You are probably aware that the Orthodox Church places more emphasis on the Feast of the Epiphany (6 January) than on the Feast of Christmas (25 December). The Church's prayer-life always reflects her theology. The Jewish people always considered themselves the Chosen People - chosen by God as His very own, to the exclusion of all other peoples. But Saint Paul teaches that Christ is Lord of all. This was made so obvious when Christ manifested Himself at His Birth not only to Jews (represented by the shepherds) but also to the pagan Magi (representing the non-Jewish world).

The Greek word Epiphany actually means 'manifestation', and the early Church saw this spelt out in three events in Christ's life: the visit of the Magi when Christ 'shows' Himself to the peoples of the world; the Baptism when the Father presents His Son to the world with the words: "This is my Son in whom I am well pleased"; and Christ's first miracle at Cana which causes the disciples to first believe in Him. The three events are all celebrated by the Orthodox in the one feast of the Epiphany. The Roman Church celebrates the three events in three feasts. Today's Gospel is a relic of that ancient custom, and so while we have resumed the Ordinary Time of the Year, the Readings of this Second Sunday actually belong to the event we call the 'Epiphany'.

Today's Gospel mentions Our Lady. Only twice in his Gospel does Saint John refer to her, at the beginning and the end of Jesus' public life. Jesus refers to His Mother not by name but by title, 'woman'. For she is the woman spoken of in the Book of Genesis who would be the enemy of mankind's enemy because of her obedience to God. In the only words she speaks in Saint John's Gospel, Mary encourages us to imitate her obedience: "Do whatever he tells you".



The Church this week has begun again what we call Ordinary Time - it will be interrupted in March for three months as we celebrate the very centre of our Faith, the Paschal Mystery, over Lent and Eastertime. The Church dons green again - a sign that we should be daily growing in Christ.

For a Catholic, this growth is impossible without the Mass. The Mass is the summit towards which our lives are oriented, and the fount from which all our blessings flow, for the Mass brings Christ to earth. In His Sacrifice which becomes present on our altars, Christ daily renews His covenant of love with us. In the Blessed Sacrament in our tabernacles, He unceasingly intercedes to His Father for us.

Every Sunday is a privileged moment for us on our journey. Every Sunday is an Easter. In our country, sadly, weekend sport and recreation has become a modern 'god'. This fact is not unknown to the Pope. In 2004, while speaking to the Bishops of New Zealand, Pope John Paul said "When Sunday becomes subordinate to a popular concept of 'weekend' and is unduly dominated by entertainment and sport, rather than being truly sanctified and revitalised, people remain trapped in a relentless and often meaningless pursuit of novelty and fail to experience the freshness of Christ's 'living water' (John 4:11)."



Compared to less recent times when, because of the fast from midnight before, Mass could only be celebrated during the morning, it is now relatively easy to attend Mass. Pope Pius XII with the reduced fast introduced evening Masses, and the Second Vatican Council ushered in the concept of celebrating Vigil Masses for Sundays and Feasts. This was really nothing new in the history of Christianity. During the first three centuries while persecution raged and Christians were under curfew, and Sunday was still a workday in pagan Rome, Mass was always celebrated on Saturday evening, the Vigil of the Lord's Day, just as Jews began their Sabbath on Friday evening.

The point is that observing the obligation to attend Mass on the Lord's Day has been made much more easy.

Mgr Graham Schmitzer

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Parish Priest

For those who are on the road, or involved in essential services, or planning some celebration on a Sunday, Mass is usually available on Saturday evening as a Vigil. Some people, through work commitment to which they are tied, absolutely cannot attend Mass some weekends. My advice is to attempt to attend Mass during the week on their day off, so as to maintain the essential communion with Christ. Please pray for your priests, pray for vocations.