

PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

48 Princes Highway (PO Box 14) Unanderra NSW 2526



Parish Priest: Mgr Graham Schmitzer

Polish Chaplain: Fr Jerzy Slowinski
Mobile: 0410 225 975
Email: slowinski54@gmail.com

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

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

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 4 Mar *No Mass*

Tuesday 5 Mar **Shrove Tuesday**
Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm
(Reconciliation Available)
Mass: 5.30pm

Wednesday 6 Mar **Ash Wednesday**
Day of Fast and Abstinence
Mass: 7am
Liturgy of the Word (School): 9.30am
Polish Mass: 11am
Mass: 7pm

Thursday 7 Mar **Sts Perpetua & Felicity**
Polish Mass: 11am
Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm
(Reconciliation Available)
Mass: 5.30pm

Friday 8 Mar **St John of God**
Mass: 9.30am

Saturday 9 Mar **St Frances of Rome**
Mass: 7.30am
Reconciliation: 5pm-5.30pm
Vigil Mass: 6pm

Sunday 10 Mar **First Sunday of Lent**
Masses: 7am, 9am, 10.45am (*Polish Mass*)

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — YEAR C 3 MARCH 2019

READINGS: Sirach 27:4-7; 1 Cor 15:54-58; Luke 6:39-45

Just as an orchard is judged by the quality of its fruit, so a person's talk shows what kind of person he is (**FIRST READING**).

This links with what Jesus says in the **GOSPEL:**

"A tree is known by its fruit ... the words of the mouth flow out of what fills the heart." In the Gospel it is no longer a question of love of enemies, as last week, but love of one's brothers and sisters in the community.

But we can't guide others unless we have found the way ourselves. Self-criticism must precede criticism of others.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Anna TRAN (sister-in-law of Fr Francis)

Anniversaries

Guillermo PARDINA

Alice GONZALEZ DE PARDINA

Deceased members of GONZALEZ,
PARDINA and BRACCO families

LENTEN GROUP

Each **Wednesday**

in **St Joseph's Room** at **7.30pm**
commencing Ash Wednesday.

ROSTERS – NEXT WEEKEND

March	Church Washing	Fiona Fernandez	
Sat 9 Mar	Church Cleaning	F Fernandez, B Rice, S Walsh	
	Lawns		
	Acolytes	Lectors	Welcomers
Sat 9 Mar	G Attard	M Gillis	C Dean
Sun 10 Mar 7am Mass	M Walsh	S Walsh	Walsh Family
Sun 10 Mar 9am Mass	R Klaus, C Carolan	K Calvert	S Michielin, V Cleary
Counters	M Murphy (FH), C Stratton, M Winner		
Children's Liturgy	L Galea, V Cleary		



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 TEAS

It has been suggested that morning tea be provided more regularly after the 9am Mass (1st and 3rd Sundays). We are very happy to do this, but in order for it to be successful we need more people to volunteer to help.



It is not a very difficult job. It would involve setting up beforehand, serving the tea and coffee and making sure everything was put away afterwards. (Someone would be available to help all new volunteers).

It is proposed that a roster of volunteers be drawn up for this. Therefore the more volunteers we have, the easier the task for everyone. If you are able to assist, please contact **Sue Briscoe** at the Parish Office at unanderra@dow.org.au or on **4271 1068**. Alternatively, fill in your name and contact number below and place it on one of the collection plates. Thank you in anticipation!

Morning Tea Roster

Name: _____
Contact Ph: _____

Gospel Reflection

When I was young and fired with the love of God, I thought I would convert the whole world. But soon I discovered that it would be quite enough to convert the people who lived in my town, and I tried for a long time to do that, but did not succeed.

Then I realised that my program was still too ambitious, so I concentrated on those in my own household.

But I found that I could not convert them either. Finally, it dawned on me: I must work on myself. When people complain about what's wrong with the world, they are usually blaming somebody else.

They should look at themselves first.

That way, they will know they are making a difference in at least one life.

We can't take anyone farther than we've gone ourselves.



ASCEND CATHOLIC YOUTH

Thank you to all the amazing young ladies and gentlemen who attended ASCEND last Saturday — we hope you all had a great time!

Looking forward to seeing you all again at our next ASCEND night — **Saturday 30 March 2019**.

To our parishioners: We greatly appreciate prayer warriors and patrons — please keep the ASCEND kids and leaders in your prayers.

Bethany, Flick, Nick & Liz



LENTEN PROGRAMME

The Lenten Programme is now available for \$5.00.



“Let us ever remember that we have been called by God, and God has a right to our perfect service.”

(St Mary of the Cross MacKillop 12.3.1899)

LENTEN PENANCE OBLIGATION

- All who have completed their 18th year and have not yet begun their 60th year are bound to **fast and abstain from meat** on **Ash Wednesday** and **Good Friday**.
- All who have completed their 14th year are bound to **abstain from meat** on **Ash Wednesday** and **Good Friday**.
- Pastors, teachers, parents are to ensure that even those who, by reason of their age, are not bound by the law of fasting and abstinence from meat, are taught the true meaning of penance.

Paschal Precept: Each of the faithful is obliged to receive Holy Communion at least once a year. This is to be done between Ash Wednesday (6 March 2019) and Trinity Sunday (16 June 2019) unless for a good reason it is done at another time during the year. All the faithful are obliged to confess their grave sins at least once a year.



WAIT ON THE LORD

We sometimes put off thinking about vocation, or what God wants, instead putting our energy into other areas. God is calling; we need to prioritise our response. Pray, talk with others, find out what God wants.

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

HOLY HOUR FOR YOUNG ADULTS (18–30)

This new regular event will commence on **Wednesday 13 March 2019** at **St Francis Xavier Cathedral Wollongong** at **6.30pm**

It will bring young people from around the Diocese together for a night of worship and fellowship. Come join Bishop Mascord for adoration, worship, teaching and benediction.

Afterwards, those gathered will be invited to share time together over a meal and refreshments in the Xavier Centre.

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM

– AIRS SUNDAY 3 MARCH 2019 –

This week on The Journey, our Gospel is Luke 6:27-38, where we are reminded to “Do unto others as you would have them do to you”. Trish McCarthy inspires us with her God Spot about “Using Your Words”; and Bruce Downes, The Catholic Guy, talks to us about “Friends You Can Rely On”. Our music this week is uplifting and inspiring and a fabulous testament to our Christian Faith.



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

CELEBRATING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH

Please come and be inspired and encouraged as you listen to the amazing personal witness, faith testimony of Deacon Peter Presdee. Peter is a married Deacon in our Diocese and has been ministering to the inmates at the Correctional Centre in Nowra for a number of years. He is a gifted speaker and has a very special faith journey to share that is sure to inspire and encourage us.

Date: **Sunday 7 April 2019**

Time: **3pm start**

Where: **Sts Peter & Paul Parish Hall, Kiama**

RSVP: **Sheelagh Abela on 0409 562 830 or smabela@bigpond.com**

Enjoy tea, coffee, refreshments and fellowship afterwards in the hall.

Gold coin donation.

Everyone is invited and most welcome to attend!

BISHOP BRIAN MASCORD'S STATEMENT REGARDING CARDINAL GEORGE PELL

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ

I wish to make a short statement in relation to the news of Cardinal George Pell's conviction on charges of sexual abuse, which will be met with mixed emotions. Given that Cardinal Pell is appealing his conviction, it is inappropriate for me – out of respect for natural and procedural justice – to make any comment except to say that I hope the outcome will be marked by truth, justice, and healing for everyone involved. I invite you to join with me in praying for all those who have been abused and their loved ones. We commit ourselves to doing everything possible to ensure that the Church is a safe place for all, especially the young and vulnerable.

Bishop Brian Mascord DD
Bishop of Wollongong

2019 LENTEN MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS

“For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God” (Rom 8:19)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Each year, through Mother Church, God “gives us this joyful season when we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery with mind and heart renewed... as we recall the great events that gave us new life in Christ” (Preface of Lent I) . We can thus journey from Easter to Easter towards the fulfilment of the salvation we have already received as a result of Christ’s paschal mystery - “for in hope we were saved” (Rom 8:24). This mystery of salvation, already at work in us during our earthly lives, is a dynamic process that also embraces history and all of creation. As Saint Paul says, “the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God” (Rom 8:19). In this perspective, I would like to offer a few reflections to accompany our journey of conversion this coming Lent.



1. *The redemption of creation*

The celebration of the Paschal Triduum of Christ’s passion, death and resurrection, the culmination of the liturgical year, calls us yearly to undertake a journey of preparation, in the knowledge that our being conformed to Christ (cf. Rom 8:29) is a priceless gift of God’s mercy.

When we live as children of God, redeemed, led by the Holy Spirit (cf. Rom 8:14) and capable of acknowledging and obeying God’s law, beginning with the law written on our hearts and in nature, we also benefit creation by cooperating in its redemption. That is why Saint Paul says that creation eagerly longs for the revelation of the children of God; in other words, that all those who enjoy the grace of Jesus’ paschal mystery may experience its fulfilment in the redemption of the human body itself. When the love of Christ transfigures the lives of the saints in spirit, body and soul, they give praise to God. Through prayer, contemplation and art, they also include other creatures in that praise, as we see admirably expressed in the “Canticle of the Creatures” by Saint Francis of Assisi (cf. *Laudato Si’*, 87). Yet in this world, the harmony generated by redemption is constantly threatened by the negative power of sin and death.

2. *The destructive power of sin*

Indeed, when we fail to live as children of God, we often behave in a destructive way towards our neighbours and other creatures - and ourselves as well - since we begin to think more or less consciously that we can use them as we will. Intemperance then takes the upper hand: we start to live a life that exceeds those limits imposed by our human condition and nature itself. We yield to those untrammelled desires that the Book of Wisdom sees as typical of the ungodly, those who act without thought for God or hope for the future (cf. 2:1-11). Unless we tend constantly towards Easter, towards the horizon of the Resurrection, the mentality expressed in the slogans “I want it all and I want it now!” and “Too much is never enough”, gains the upper hand.

The root of all evil, as we know, is sin, which from its first appearance has disrupted our communion with God, with others and with creation itself, to which we are linked in a particular way by our body. This rupture of communion with God likewise undermines our harmonious relationship with the environment in which we are called to live, so that the garden has become a wilderness (cf. Gen 3:17-18). Sin leads man to consider himself the god of creation, to see himself as its absolute master and to use it, not for the purpose willed by the Creator but for his own interests, to the detriment of other creatures.

Once God’s law, the law of love, is forsaken, then the law of the strong over the weak takes over. The sin that lurks in the human heart (cf. Mk 7:20-23) takes the shape of greed and unbridled pursuit of comfort, lack of concern for the good of others and even of oneself. It leads to the exploitation of creation, both persons and the environment, due to that insatiable covetousness which sees every desire as a right and sooner or later destroys all those in its grip.

3. *The healing power of repentance and forgiveness*

Creation urgently needs the revelation of the children of God, who have been made “a new creation”. For “if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away; behold, the new has come” (2 Cor 5:17). Indeed, by virtue of their being revealed, creation itself can celebrate a Pasch, opening itself to a new heaven and a new earth (cf. Rev 21:1). The path to Easter demands that we renew our faces and hearts as Christians through repentance, conversion and forgiveness, so as to live fully the abundant grace of the paschal mystery.

This “eager longing”, this expectation of all creation, will be fulfilled in the revelation of the children of God, that is, when Christians and all people enter decisively into the “travail” that conversion entails. All creation is called, with us, to go forth “from its bondage to decay and obtain the glorious liberty of the children of God” (Rom 8:21). Lent is a sacramental sign of this conversion. It invites Christians to embody the paschal mystery more deeply and concretely in their personal, family and social lives, above all by fasting, prayer and almsgiving.

Fasting, that is, learning to change our attitude towards others and all of creation, turning away from the temptation to “devour” everything to satisfy our voracity and being ready to suffer for love, which can fill the emptiness of our hearts. Prayer, which teaches us to abandon idolatry and the self-sufficiency of our ego, and to acknowledge our need of the Lord and his mercy. Almsgiving, whereby we escape from the insanity of hoarding everything for ourselves in the illusory belief that we can secure a future that does not belong to us. And thus to rediscover the joy of God’s plan for creation and for each of us, which is to love him, our brothers and sisters, and the entire world, and to find in this love our true happiness.

Dear brothers and sisters, the “Lenten” period of forty days spent by the Son of God in the desert of creation had the goal of making it once more that garden of communion with God that it was before original sin (cf. Mk 1:12-13; Is 51:3). May our Lent this year be a journey along that same path, bringing the hope of Christ also to creation, so that it may be “set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the glorious liberty of the children of God” (Rom 8:21). Let us not allow this season of grace to pass in vain! Let us ask God to help us set out on a path of true conversion. Let us leave behind our selfishness and self-absorption, and turn to Jesus’ Pasch. Let us stand beside our brothers and sisters in need, sharing our spiritual and material goods with them. In this way, by concretely welcoming Christ’s victory over sin and death into our lives, we will also radiate its transforming power to all of creation.

From the Vatican, 4 October 2018 (Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi)