

PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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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	29 Apr	St Catherine of Siena Mass: 7am (Convent)
Tuesday	30 Apr	St Pius V Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm Mass: 5.30pm
Wednesday	1 May	St Joseph The Worker Mass: 7am
Thursday	2 May	St Athanasius Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm (Reconciliation Available) Mass: 5.30pm
Friday	3 May	Sts Philip and James <u>First Friday</u> Mass: 9.30am
Saturday	4 May	<u>First Saturday</u> Mass: 7.30am Reconciliation: 5pm-5.30pm Vigil Mass: 6pm
Sunday	5 May	Third Sunday of Easter Masses: 7am, 9am, 10.45am (Polish Mass)

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER — YEAR C 28 APRIL 2019

READINGS: Acts 5:12-16; Apc 1:9-13,17-19; John 20:19-31

The **FIRST READING** (always from the Acts of the Apostles during Easter-time) tells of the high regard in which the apostles were held by the ordinary people, and of the cures they worked for the sick.

Today, and on the next five Sundays, we read from the Book of the Apocalypse for the **SECOND READING**. Christ reveals Himself through an angel to an apostle we presume is Saint John. The Book describes the battle between good and evil, and assures believers that good (God) will triumph.

By seeing and touching the wounds of his risen Lord, Thomas the doubter is cured of his unbelief (**GOSPEL**).



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Anniversaries

Ronald STUBBS	Ana & Ramon OBRA
Jane ROCHE	Brian QUETCHER
Ron BISHOP	Aquilino & Demetrio ESCOBIA
Carmen VELLA	Fortunata OBRA
Victor GREACH	Andrea JAGMOC

MOTHER'S DAY RAFFLE TICKETS FOR SALE

The Mother's Day Raffle tickets will be for sale for the next two weekends (4-5 May and 11-12 May) - and the raffle will be drawn by Mgr Graham on Mother's Day (12 May)!



All money raised will go towards Mgr Graham's Golden Jubilee celebrations in August.

ROSTER – NEXT WEEKEND

May	Church Washing	Jackie Allen	
Sat 4 May	Church Cleaning	P & A Browne, W & S Brown	
	Lawns		
	Acolytes	Lectors	Welcomers
Sat 4 May	A Carlotto	M Gillis	D Gelfius
Sun 5 May 7am Mass	L Burns	A Browne	S Brown
Sun 5 May 9am Mass	N Dwyer, C Carolan	K Calvert	Davis Family
Counters	M Murphy (FT), A Kelly, S Alessi		
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

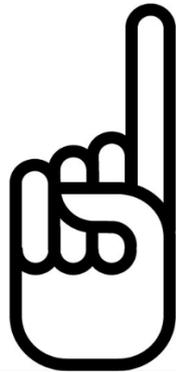
ASCEND CATHOLIC YOUTH

Looking forward to seeing you all **after 6pm Mass on Saturday 11 May!**

Please remember to return your permission notes if you haven't already done so, and please bring a gold coin donation for food.

For more info, please email:

ascendcatholicyouth@gmail.com



**TO BE REALLY ALIVE,
TO BE HOLY,
ONE NEEDS,
DISCIPLINE,
ARTISTRY,
AND A LITTLE
FOOLISHNESS.**

Gospel Reflection

While Jesus was alive,
Thomas was as strong as an oak.

But when Jesus was put to death,
he became a reed shaking
in the winds of doubt.

The truth was, though he didn't realise it
at the time, that it was the Master
who was the oak.

He was a mere sapling growing in His shade.

When the oak fell he was defenceless.

All of us are shaken by the winds of doubt.

We need to look at the Lord's wounds
and hear His gentle voice saying to us:
'Cease doubting and believe'.

Then with Thomas we shall make bold
to say: 'My Lord and my God'.



CATHOLIC BISHOPS' FEDERAL ELECTION STATEMENT

The bishops call for respect in public debate, share Catholic social teaching and detail some key issues to reflect on before you vote. "Politics in service of peace: a statement by the Catholic bishops of Australia for the 2019 federal election" can be found at www.catholic.org.au





“God is merciful and knows we are weak.”

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop

“In spite of everything, I still believe that people are really good at heart.”

(Anne Frank)



VOCATIONS

BEING EASTER PEOPLE

“Let no soul, even the most miserable, fall prey to doubt; for, as long as one is alive, each one can become a great saint, so great is the power of God’s grace. It remains only for us not to oppose God’s actions.” - St Faustina.

There are many ways to live God’s call to be saints of today. Need guidance?

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



MANY CULTURES MASS

FIRST PREPARATION MEETING

Our first meeting to prepare this year’s Many Cultures One in Christ Mass will be on **Wednesday 29 May 2019 at 7.30pm**. The meeting will be held at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish Meeting Room, 193 St Andrews Road Varroville.

Please indicate your attendance to Helen Bennett on 4222 2403 or helen.bennett@dow.org.au by Monday 27 May 2019.

HOSPITAL MASSES

HOLY MASS is held **every Friday** on the 3rd level in **Wollongong Private Hospital** at 9.30am and **every Saturday** in **Wollongong Public Hospital** at 9.30am in the ground floor chapel. Please come to pray for our sick.



THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME

– AIRS SUNDAY 28 APRIL 2019 –

On this Divine Mercy Sunday, our Gospel is John 20:19-31. Mother Hilda shares with us her Wisdom from the Abbey and “The Unexpected Gift”; Trish McCarthy talks to us about “Natures Healing Balm”; and Bruce Downes, the Catholic Guy, encourages us with his words “Living Your List”. Our music this week is a fitting accompaniment to all our God spots.

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



HOLY HOUR FOR YOUNG ADULTS (AGED 18-30)

You are invited to Holy Hour in 2019 at St Francis Xavier’s Cathedral in Wollongong as well as the brand new Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church in Rosemeadow.

Each night will include Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, praise and worship (various styles), Reconciliation, Liturgy of the Word, short teachings, silence and benediction. This will be followed by fellowship and a meal.

When and where?

Wednesday evenings 6.30pm–7.30pm
(followed by a meal)

ST FRANCIS XAVIER CATHEDRAL, WOLLONGONG:
8 May / 10 July / 14 August / 9 October

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS CATHOLIC CHURCH, ROSEMEADOW:
24 April / 22 May / 24 July / 28 August / 23 October

PILGRIMAGE – LANDS OF ST PAUL

Fr Christopher Sarkis will be leading a 10-night pilgrimage as chaplain to the Lands of St Paul, following the path of his missionary journey.

Visiting Athens, ancient Corinth, Meteora, Philippi, Thessaloniki, Patmos and Ephesus, with an optional extension to Malta where St Paul was shipwrecked on his way to Rome where he was martyred.

It departs 15 July 2019.

For further information, please contact Harvest Journeys:

Freecall: 1800 819 156 or

Email: info@harvestjourneys.com or

Visit: www.harvestjourneys.com



My Dear People,

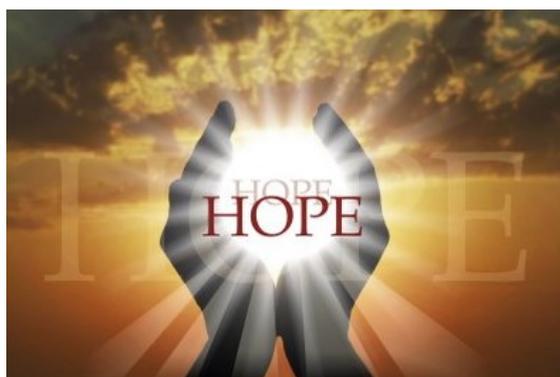
The Church is a body. When one part of the body rejoices, the whole body rejoices. When one part of the body hurts, the whole body hurts. The joy of Easter has been tempered by the revelation of scandals throughout the world committed by trusted members of the Church and our Diocese has not been immune. Today, the Second Sunday of Easter, also has the title SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY given to the Liturgy by Pope John Paul II. Let us use the Liturgy today, and our own prayers, to implore God's Divine Mercy on the victims of sexual abuse throughout the world, especially those in the household of the Faith, and also on the perpetrators of these crimes.

The Church as a whole has come in for a large amount of unfair criticism, as if everyone were involved. I am comforted by Pope Francis' words to the priests of the world some years ago: "Remember," he said, "that a falling tree makes much more sound than the rest of the forest that continues to stand." Having been involved as Chancellor in our own Gethsemane some years ago, my advice is to beware of trial by media. May those who have been unjustly condemned weather the storm. Our prayers should be that justice is always done and seen to be done.

Easter always confronts us with the challenge that ultimately each of us must face Christ alone. He is calling me to follow Him, not others, and the Church's credibility starts with me. Bishop Ingham's message to the priests of the Diocese has some helpful thoughts.

"Seeing the light at the end of a tunnel confirms our hope of emerging safely from the frightening darkness. Hope is positive, it looks to a better future, to what is possible. But hope can bring with it a difficult journey, because many hurdles still have to be cleared to reach our objective. John F Kennedy said, 'We should not let our fears hold us back from pursuing our hopes.' 'There are no hopeless situations; there are only people who have grown hopeless about them.' (Clare Booth Luce)

Many of Christ's disciples had their hopes dashed, when Jesus was arrested and crucified. Yet Jesus' glorious resurrection from the dead and sending his Holy Spirit put fresh heart into the disciples, encouraging them to tell the Good News that all are saved, redeemed, forgiven and loved by our God more than we could ever imagine.



As modern day disciples, you and I deal in hope, because Jesus conquered our two greatest enemies at Easter – sin and death. Jesus Christ is our anchor. (Heb8:16-19) Our vision through our faith determines how strong the chain on Jesus our anchor really is. From this faith comes hope that confident assurance and serenity that, as we go about our living each day, trying to act as God asks of us, because of Christ our anchor we will not drift away from heaven, from being with God, the one Person who can completely satisfy every yearning we have.

There is a desperate need for hope in our world. For us, as disciples of Jesus Christ, hope is not only a virtue, it is also a Person. Jesus is our hope made flesh.

The events of Holy Week and Easter invite you and me to revitalise our hope; to recognise yet again, that whatever our past, hope is indeed the remedy, the gateway to limitless mercy. Whatever our failures, weaknesses and sins, or whenever life gives us a raw deal may we never despair but always focus on Jesus our crucified and Risen Lord because Jesus Christ is our true and only hope.

Mgr Graham Schmitzer
Parish Priest