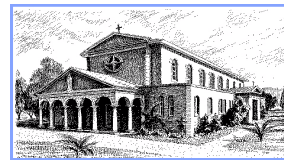


PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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 Secretaries: Mrs Magda Pires (Mondays)
Mrs Sue Briscoe (Thursdays / Fridays)

Parish Office Hours: Monday / Thursday / 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	22 July	St Mary Magdalen Mass: 7am (Convent)
Tuesday	23 July	St Bridget of Sweden Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm Mass: 5.30pm
Wednesday	24 July	St Charbel Mass: 7am
Thursday	25 July	St James Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm (Reconciliation Available) Mass: 5.30pm
Friday	26 July	Sts Joachim and Anne Mass: 9.30am
Saturday	27 July	Mass: 7.30am Reconciliation: 5pm-5.30pm Vigil Mass: 6pm
Sunday	28 July	17th Sunday in Ordinary Time Masses: 7am, 9am, 10.45am (Polish)

16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — YEAR C — 21 JULY 2019

READINGS: Genesis 18:1-10; Col 1:24-28; Luke 10:38-42

Hospitality was, and still is, an esteemed virtue in the ancient world. In the FIRST READING three strangers (a hint of the Blessed Trinity) appear to Abraham. God rewards his hospitality. This sets the scene for Martha and Mary who welcome Jesus to their home. Christ is present in all we meet.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Olive WAKEFORD
Hector VENEGAS
Kay WATERMAN

Anniversaries

Rudy GEYLING
John WALSH
Francesco POMPEI
Helen SMOLENAARS
Renato ANGELINI
Mary & Charlie MICALLES
Connie & Victor TABONE
Rosa & Marino BATTISTA

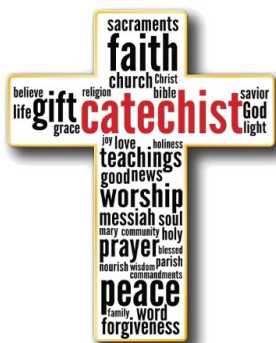


CATECHISTS NEEDED

Have you ever considered being a Catechist?

We have over 150 Catholic children in four state schools within our parish. The lessons are only 30 minutes each week, however the benefits to both Catechists and children are enormous.

Full support and training is provided to carry out this important apostolic work.



For more details please contact Mary Carolan 0423 385 448

ROSTER – NEXT WEEKEND

July	Church Washing	Fiona Fernandez	
Sat 27 July	Church Cleaning	F Fernandez, B Rice, S Walsh	
	Lawns		
	Acolytes	Lectors	Welcomers
Sat 27 July 6pm Mass	G Attard	V Cleary	V Cleary
Sun 28 July 7am Mass	M Walsh	A Browne	Volunteer
Sun 28 July 9am Mass	R Klaus, C Carolan	A Kelly	P Cundy, F Fernandez
Counters	M Murphy (FT), A Kelly, S Alessi		
Children's Liturgy	M Rodwell, S Michielin		



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
(except September due to it being Father's Day)

VOCATIONS

Stop, Revive and Thrive....In car journeys we are constantly being reminded to stop and take stock to ensure we survive the journey – especially if we are the driver! How much more important in our life journey to take time to stop and revive ourselves through prayer and engagement in our faith, so that we can choose a good path to thrive in the vocation God intends.

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

ST JOSEPH'S ROOM

If you are accessing St Joseph's Room at any stage, can the last person to leave PLEASE ensure that the lights are turned off and that the door, screen door and gate are all locked.

Thank you!



Gospel Reflection

*If thou could'st empty all thyself of self,
like to a shell dishabited,
then might He find thee
on some ocean shelf.*

*And say to Himself: This is not dead,
and fill thee with Himself instead.*

*But thou art so full of very thou,
and has such shrewd activity,
that when He comes he says:*

This is enough unto itself. It is so full.

There is no room for Me.

(T Brown, Manx poet)



PLENARY COUNCIL 2020

National Theme for Discernment #6 – How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is Open to conversion, Renewal and Reform?

This National Theme for Discernment is inspired by the voices of the People of God who expressed a desire to do things differently in response to Christ and the experience of our people, accepting that faithfulness to tradition requires change that is both personal and communal.



Find out more at
www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au



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

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop (1890)

POSITIONS VACANT

Plenary Council Discernment & Writing Group Chairs & Members

As we move into the Listening and Discernment stage of our preparation for the Plenary Council 2020, the Bishops Commission for the Plenary Council is seeking people who are willing to be leaders and partners in the process of discernment. Opportunities are available to apply to be the Chair, or to be a member, of one of six Discernment and Writing Groups.

For more information, visit the
Office for Employment Relations website
www.employmentrelations.catholic.org.au
or contact Ms Olivia Lee on (02) 9919 7822 or
olivia.lee@catholic.org.au
Applications close on 22 July 2019

CALLED TO MINISTRY?

UPCOMING LITURGICAL MINISTRY TRAINING EVENTS

*Have you considered serving your parish as an
Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion or
Minister of Communion of the Sick and Homebound?*

The 2019 Diocesan Training courses in these
ministries are scheduled as follows:

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion & Adult Altar Servers:
10am-2pm

- **Sat 10 Aug 2019** — St John the Evangelist Parish Hall, Campbelltown
- **Sat 23 Nov 2019** — Xavier Conference Centre, Wollongong

Members of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission will lead two sessions in the morning covering the common ministry of Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion and one session after lunch for servers.

Morning tea & lunch provided.

Communion of the Sick & Homebound: **10am-2.30pm**

- **Sat 14 Sept 2019** — St Michael's Parish Meeting Room, Nowra
- Prior training as an Acolyte, Adult Altar Server or Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion is a pre-requisite. Led by members of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission. Morning tea and lunch provided.*

For further information visit www.liturgy.dow.org.au or
contact Paul Mason at liturgy@dow.org.au or on 4222 2462.

Registration essential to Anthony Rewak
on 4222 2465 or at anthony.rewak@dow.org.au

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME

— AIRS SUNDAY 21 JULY 2019 —

This week on the Journey, we hear Luke's Gospel 10:38-42. Mother Hilda from the Abbey shares with us Good News; we have the ever-talented Trish McCarthy with her God Spot; and you will hear from some of our other favourites. With amazing Christian music artists, we are blessed to bring you this week's edition of the Journey Catholic Radio Programme.

Go to www.jcr.org.au to make sure you never miss a show, with it sent to you each week as a podcast via email — for free!

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



AN EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

Is anybody happier because you passed this way?

Does anyone remember that you spoke to them today?

Is a single heart rejoicing over what you said or did?

Does a person whose hopes were fading,
now with courage look ahead?

Did you waste the day or lose it;
was it well or poorly spent?

Did you leave a trail of kindness,
or a scar of discontent?

As you close your eyes in slumber,
did you think that God would say:

“You have earned one more tomorrow
by the way you lived today.”



LAST CHANCE TO PURCHASE TICKETS!!

MGR GRAHAM'S GOLDEN JUBILEE / RETIREMENT

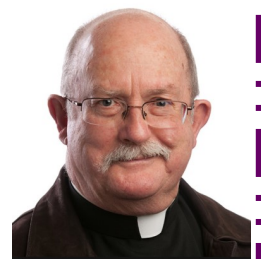
TICKET SALES: **Friday 26 July is the final day for ticket sales** — Please see Sue Briscoe
at the Parish Office **Thursdays/Fridays ONLY 9am-3pm.**

FRIDAY 23 AUGUST 2019

6pm — Mass at Immaculate Conception Church

7.30pm — Reception at Wests Illawarra Leagues Club

\$45 per head (plus drinks to order)



My Dear People,
An old man was talking to himself.....



Approaching old age – the elephant in the room? Some see their final years as containing little grace – the empty lap in the race of our lives. Our legs are tiring. The ground is rising. The applause is muted. The crowd is departing, if not departed. There can be a sense of loneliness, especially if we have survived our friends. As one old lady said: “I’m sure my friends think I haven’t made it!”. In fact, we should see these years as the welcome threshold of our final homecoming.

At the Last Supper, Jesus prayed: “Father, I want those You have given Me to be with Me where I am.” We should think often of those words in prayer, for they define our true lives. Have you ever experienced an emotional tug when, as an adult, you returned to the home of your youth for the first time? You probably felt, in a sense, that you had never left it.

And you probably realised how much your growing up has actually defined who you are now.

Death is our final homecoming. We’ve all heard that expression, but never stopped to think what it is saying. If it is a ‘home’ coming, it means that we’ve been there before. Listen to Jesus again, speaking to the Father about His coming death: “Father, it is time for you to glorify me with that glory I had with you before ever the world was.” (John 17:5). If Pope Benedict ever said anything that really hit me like a ton of bricks, it was his thought that we are all eternal, for we have always been in the mind of God. This means that we never had a beginning, and we will never have an end. Our birth was simply God’s thought of us becoming incarnate. You can see now how Jesus is, in a sense, ‘Everyman’ as the playwright put it. He experienced our humanity to the full so that we would always have a model to follow. He’s been there before us. That’s why the Letter to the Hebrews uses of Him the expression ‘prodromos’. The ‘prodromoi’ were the reconnaissance troops in the Roman army who blazed the trail so that it would be safe for the troops to follow. Christ is our Prodromos who has gone through death not only to show us the way but to be there waiting for us. This is why death is truly a homecoming.

This is why Blessed Piergiorgio Frassati, the modern patron of World Youth Days, who died at the age of 24 after contracting polio from visiting the sick in Milan as a member of the St Vincent de Paul Society, could say in advance: “The day of my death will be the happiest day of my life.” I often pray to him that I may be able to say the same.

Negotiating our advancing years does not mean, of course, that we are not going to feel regrets. However, we must put them in perspective. Old age is like pausing on a mountain top to look back at the way we have come. It will be a different story for all of us, but with many similarities. We will see the rough and the smooth ways we had to travel, the raging torrents we had to cross, the times we despaired and went backwards, and the times we prevaricated and actually went around in circles, and we’ll wonder how we ever got to this stage in our lives ‘with all our marbles’.

Hopefully, we’ll see that the Hand of God was there all the time, even when we feel its absence. St Paul expressed the plea: “We know that by turning everything (ie the good and the bad) to their good, God co-operates with all those who love Him.” (Romans 8:28). And Thomas Merton, a modern contemplative: “I am convinced that the very contradictions in my life are in some strange way signs of God’s mercy to me.”

“There, but for the grace of God, go I” we’ve said as we saw a person who has made a mess of their lives. If God is the Divine Potter, then He has been at work in our lives, shaping and reshaping us until we become the vessel He always intended us to be. The more pain we’ve had in our lives did not mean He had abandoned us (“Why me?”) but the harder He had been at work. Dear Catherine of Siena realised she had been made a new creature in the Blood of Christ, and that God was in love with the beauty He had created in her. In other words, in reality I didn’t do the suffering, Christ did the suffering. In my bad moments I should think of this: “What am I worth? I am worth the Blood of Christ.”

Old age should be a homecoming in the sense that we find out who we really are. So much of our lives is spent avoiding that issue. Sometimes we tend to admire people who are so ‘busy’ doing ‘good’. It may be an escape from the truism ‘charity begins at home’. So many people spend so much time avoiding themselves. We are not what we do – we are who we are. Happiness will come to us when we finally whisper ‘yes’ to the mystery of who we really are, and always have been. At the moment of death, some people’s faces light up with an astonished look of recognition. They were looking into a mirror and liked what they saw – the beloved of God.

Mgr Graham Schmitzer
Parish Priest