

# 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

<b>Monday</b>	29 July	<b>St Martha</b> Mass: 7am
<b>Tuesday</b>	30 July	<b>St Peter Chrysologus</b> Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm Mass: 5.30pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	31 July	<b>St Ignatius of Loyola</b> Mass: 7am
<b>Thursday</b>	1 Aug	<b>St Alphonsus Liguori</b> Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm (Reconciliation Available) Mass: 5.30pm
<b>Friday</b>	2 Aug <i>First Friday</i>	<b>St Peter Julian Eymard</b> Mass: 9.30am
<b>Saturday</b>	3 Aug <i>First Saturday</i>	<b>St Dominic</b> Mass: 7.30am Reconciliation: 5pm-5.30pm Vigil Mass: 6pm
<b>Sunday</b>	4 Aug	<b>18th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Masses: 7am, 9am, 10.45am (Polish)

## PARISH VISIT — BISHOP BRIAN



Bishop Brian Mascord will be celebrating  
**9am Mass**  
at Immaculate Conception Parish  
on Sunday 4 August 2019

The Bishop will address parishioners on the future of our parish and a written statement will also be made available.

## PARISH MORNING TEA

Next Sunday 4 August 2019 after  
9am Mass in St Joseph's Room



## 17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — YEAR C — 28 JULY 2019

**READINGS:** Genesis 18:20-32; Col 2:12-14; Luke 11:1-13



In the FIRST READING we see Abraham interceding with God on behalf of Sodom, a city full of evil. Troubled by the idea of the innocent being punished along with the guilty, he begins to bargain with God. The story highlights the importance of intercessory prayer, and the mercy of God. This prepares us

for the GOSPEL, which shows Jesus at prayer. Jesus urges the disciples to go on asking for what they need with persistence and confidence. In the SECOND READING St Paul declares that through Baptism a Christian rises to a new way of life.

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

### Recently Deceased

Adrian SARTOR

### Anniversaries

Marguerite HILMAN

Joseph SCHEMBRI

Christiana BLATTMAN

Mary BLATTMAN

Barbara HOWARD

Pilar VILLANUEVA

Concesa MAMANGLU

Jose MAMANGLU

Manuel MANANGLU



## ROSTER – NEXT WEEKEND

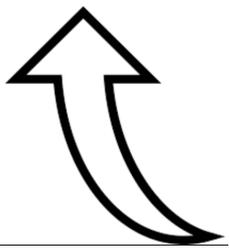
August	Church Washing	Helen Murphy	
Sat 3 Aug	Church Cleaning	J Allen, J Haywood, A Gollop, S Chavez	
	Lawns	B Mannix, W Brown, F Caruana, R Murphy	
	Acolytes	Lectors	Welcomers
Sat 3 Aug 6pm Mass	A Carlotto	R Baxendale	D Gelfius
Sun 4 Aug 7am Mass	L Burns	P Gunning	S Brown
Sun 4 Aug 9am Mass	N Dwyer, C Carolan	K Calvert	Davis Family
Counters	M Murphy (FH), C Stratton, M Winner		
Children's Liturgy	K Hertsch, S Walsh		



## 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)



## ASCEND CATHOLIC YOUTH

We are looking forward to seeing you all after the 6pm Mass on  
**Saturday 3 August 2019**

## 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to  
**Anne and Gerry Kelly**  
who this year celebrate 50 years of marriage!

50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



# Gospel Reflection

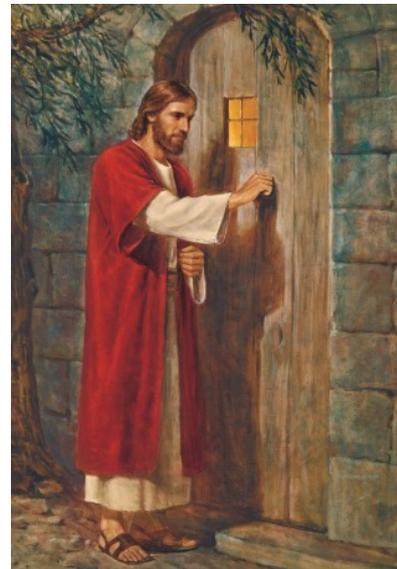
*Jesus urges us to ask, seek, and knock.  
This means our faith has to be an active one.  
However, sometimes we are too proud to ask,  
so we don't receive;*

*we are too lazy to seek, so we don't find;  
and we are too timid to knock,  
so the door doesn't open to us.*

*We mustn't wait for things to happen,  
or to fall into our hands.*

*We must be humble and trustful,  
yet bold and energetic,*

*if we are to receive good things  
from our Father in heaven.*



## ST VINCENT DE PAUL

The Unanderra Conference of St Vincent de Paul society would like to thank all parishioners who supported our Winter Bucket Appeal.

A total of \$2,481.35 has been raised to date.  
Donations can still be made by using the poor box in the church or by placing an envelope addressed to St Vincent de Paul Society Unanderra Conference in the Mass collection plate.

All monies raised are used to support the poor of our parish. The Unanderra Conference receives more than ten request for food, rent assistance or help with electricity every week. Your support is much appreciated and the society supports you in prayer.





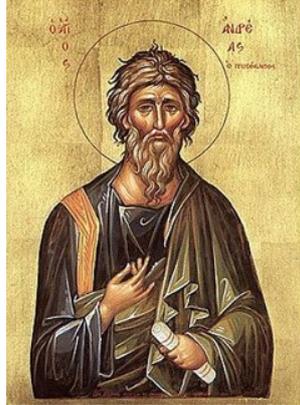
**“Keep up your courage,  
we do not live here forever.”**

*St Mary of the Cross MacKillop (1877)*

## A MEDITATION

“Why then, man, are you so worthless in your own eyes and yet so precious to God?

Why render yourself such dishonour when you are honoured by Him? Why do you ask how you were created and do not seek to know why you were made? Was not this entire visible universe made for your dwelling? And the Creator still works to devise things that can add to your glory. He has made you in His image that you might in your person make the invisible Creator present on earth.”



*St Peter Chrysologus  
(born 406AD – his Feast occurs this week)*

## FORMING INTENTIONAL DISCIPLES

Members of the parish community leadership team are warmly invited to participate in a workshop on the theme of Forming Intentional Disciples to be held at:

**Xavier Centre in Wollongong (10am-3:30pm)**

**Saturday 31 August 2019**

The keynote speaker for this workshop will be Sherry Weddell, author of the book “Forming Intentional Disciples: The Path to Knowing and Following Jesus”.

The book was designed to help Church leaders, parish staff and all Catholics transform parish life from within.

The workshop will explore the theme of conversion, applying it to those whom parish leaders serve and practical steps to evaluate parish life and the first steps in becoming parishes of intentional disciples.

**SATURDAY 31 AUGUST 2019**

**10am–3:30pm (lunch and morning tea included)**

**38 Harbour Street, Wollongong, Xavier Conference Centre  
(adjacent to the cathedral)**

**Registration only: \$30**

**Registration and Forming Intentional Disciples Book: \$60**  
(to take up this offer, please register by 9 August)

To secure your place, payments are to be made via EFT as follows:

BSB: 066-711

Account Number: 001860

Account Name: Office of the Bishop

Payment identification: FID Last Name Initial

**RSVP Essential by 26 August 2019 to  
helen.bennett@dow.org.au or on (02) 4222 2403**

## THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME

– AIRS SUNDAY 28 JULY 2019 –

This week on the Journey, Fr Mark De Battista breaks open the Gospel; and there is a great piece from Peter Gilmore on evangelisation. All your favourites, including Mother Hilda from the Abbey, will be on the show along with some great Christian Music.

Go to [www.jcr.org.au](http://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](http://www.jcr.org.au) or [www.itunes.jcr.org.au](http://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 who share common values, to network and engage with each other and leaders representing the diocese.

CBC will gather four times a year for lunch and to listen to guest speakers chosen to inspire with their unique story and share how they relate their work and spiritual life experience to the context of living in a modern world.

The third CBC luncheon will be held on

**Thursday 22 August 2019**

at Rydges Hotel Campbelltown

(12pm–2pm)

Mr Greg Sheridan AO, foreign editor of

The Australian, will be speaking on

“Is God good for you?”.

**For more information on CBC and how to join,  
please visit [www.cbc.dow.org.au](http://www.cbc.dow.org.au)**

**or contact Debbie Gates,**

**Diocesan Director of Development and**

**Community Engagement on (02) 4222 2446.**

(Please note that membership rates are pro rata and concessional rates are available)

*RSVP for August luncheon is Thursday 15 August.*



**Catholic  
Business  
Connections**

DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG

My Dear People,

When announcing the coming of the Second Vatican Council, Pope John XXIII prayed that the Church would experience a new Pentecost. As with prophets of old, Pope John probably had no idea where this was leading. Inspired by the Spirit, he simply made the prediction. Pope John died after the first session of the Council. He didn't even see its results. Three more sessions would follow under Pope Paul VI. But when they began to see where the Council was heading, some theologians predicted that the Church would grow smaller in numbers for some time. Life in the Church, they said,



would become harder, for the Council called for real conversion of hearts. It is easy to belong to an institution – more difficult to belong to a community where members actually take responsibility for each other. Much more difficult to live by love than by law – law has limits; love does not. And so, these theologians saw a future as smaller in numbers, but a Church which would once more be a light to the world as the early Church was.

In its two thousand years the Church has faced many storms: the early persecutions, the split between East and West at the end of the first millennium, the threat of Islam, the Protestant Reformation, and now the scandals which are wreaking harm on the Church's credibility. It can be said, of course, that many of these problems the Church has brought on herself. And yet she is still Christ's Bride for whom He still willingly sacrifices Himself each day on our altars.

There is a medieval phrase which describes the Church, and it is still valid. *Ecclesia reformans sed semper reformanda* – a Church which seeks to reform but which is always in need of reform herself. The Church is holy because her Founder is holy and wishes to make us holy, but the Church is made up of sinners like you and me. Reformation of the Church begins with you and me – this is the hard task of being a follower of Christ. Christ wants disciples, not hangers-on. The word 'disciple' means to listen and to learn.

The following is a quotation from Joseph Ratzinger, later Benedict XVI, written in 1969 following the close of the Second Vatican Council – it is indeed a prophecy which could well have been written recently:

"From today's crisis, a Church will emerge tomorrow that will have lost a great deal. She will be small and, to a large extent, will have to start from the beginning. She will no longer be able to fill many of the buildings created in her period of great splendour.

"Because of the small numbers of her followers, she will lose many of her privileges in society. Contrary to what has happened until now, she will present herself much more as a community of volunteers ... As a small community, she will demand more from the initiative of each of her members and she will certainly also acknowledge new forms of ministry and will raise up to priesthood proven Christians who have other jobs ...

"It will make her poor and a Church of little people. All this will require time. The process will be slow and painful."

Some years ago Carlo Carretto, a renowned Italian Spiritual writer, in his old age wrote this Ode to the Church:

*"How much I must criticise you, my Church, and yet how much I love you!*

*You have made me suffer more than anyone, and yet I owe more to you than to anyone.*

*I should like to see you destroyed, and yet I need your prescience.*

*You have given me much scandal, and yet you alone have made me understand holiness.*

*Never in this world have I seen anything more compromised, more false,*

*and yet I have never touched anything more pure, more generous or more beautiful.*

*Countless times I have felt like slamming the door of my soul in your face –*

*and yet, every night, I have prayed that I might die in your sure arms!*

*No, I cannot be free of you, for I am one with you, even if not completely you.*

*Then, too – where would I go?*

*To build another Church?*

*But I could not build one without the same defects,  
for they are my defects.*

*And again, if I were to build another Church,  
it would be my Church, not Christ's Church.*

*No, I am old enough.*

*I know better!"*



*Mgr Graham Schmitzer*

**Mgr Graham Schmitzer**  
**Parish Priest**