

# PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

48 Princes Highway (PO Box 14) Unanderra NSW 2526



**Parish Priest:** Mgr Graham Schmitzer

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**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>	19 Aug	<b>St John Eudes</b> Mass: 7am
<b>Tuesday</b>	20 Aug	<b>St Bernard</b> Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm Mass: 5.30pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	21 Aug	<b>St Pius X</b> <u>Patron of our Parish School</u> Mass: 7am Mass: 9.30am
<b>Thursday</b>	22 Aug	<b>The Queenship of Our Lady</b> Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm (Reconciliation Available) Mass: 5.30pm
<b>Friday</b>	23 Aug	<b>St Rose of Lima</b> (*No 9.30am Mass) Jubilee Mass: 6pm
<b>Saturday</b>	24 Aug	<b>St Bartholomew</b> Mass: 7.30am Reconciliation: 5pm-5.30pm Vigil Mass: 6pm
<b>Sunday</b>	25 Aug	<b>21st Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> (Unanderra) Masses: 8am, 10.45am (Polish) (West Wollongong) Masses: 10am, 5pm

## 20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — YEAR C 18 AUGUST 2019

**READINGS:** Jer 38:4-6,8-10; Heb 12:1-4; Luke 12:49-53

The FIRST READING describes the persecution of the prophet Jeremiah. Having tried in vain to save his people, Jeremiah is abandoned to his enemies. Christians have always seen him as a figure of Christ.

The GOSPEL makes it clear that to follow Christ is to make decisions – choices, which may lose us friends.

The author of Hebrews exhorts his readers to persevere in their faith, drawing strength from Christ and the Saints.



## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

### Recently Deceased

Philip WAKEFORD  
Clarice REID  
Glennie JORDAN

Joseph FENECH  
Joseph DAVIS  
Des CUNDY

Ron GANDY  
Thomas BROWN  
Alex SMITH

Beatrice WILLIAMS  
Nancy BUGEJA  
Bara & Josip OPAT

Gloria SHEPPARD  
Mary EVANS

Clarence & Colleen SCHMITZER

Deceased members of the DE MICHIEL, DA PRA and ZANETTI families



## ROSTER – NEXT WEEKEND

August	Church Washing	Helen Murphy	
Sat 24 Aug	Church Cleaning	W & J Rodgers, J Andersson	
	Lawns	Fernandez Family, M Walsh	
	Acolytes	Lectors	Welcomers
Sat 24 Aug 6pm Mass	A Carlotto	M Gillis	B Faraway
Sun 25 Aug 8am Mass	R Klaus, C Carolan	S Walsh, M Matos	P Cundy, F Fernandez
Counters	M Murphy (FH), C Stratton, M Winner		
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)

## NEW ROSTERS

New rosters have now been prepared for the 8am Mass that will commence in our parish next weekend (24-25 August).

There will be two acolytes rostered for the 8am Mass.

There will also be two lectors for each Mass:

the first lector will read the 1st Reading and the second lector will read the 2nd Reading, the Alleluia and the Prayers of the Faithful.

Thank you for your co-operation during this time of change for Immaculate Conception and St Therese Parishes.

*Please pick up your new roster from the side door.*



## Gospel Reflection

*A swamp may look nice on the surface,  
but its depths are full of rotten things.*

*Peace that is based on  
injustice is like that.*

*It is a false peace and Jesus  
came to disrupt it.*

*But then there is true peace –  
a peace in which all of God's children  
have their basic rights respected, and  
are able to live in freedom and dignity.*

*This is the peace Jesus came to bring.*

*But peace like this doesn't happen;  
it has to be made.*

*Sometimes the peacemakers  
will be branded troublemakers.*

*But Jesus had another name for them:  
he called them "children of God".*



## ST MARY STAR OF THE SEA COLLEGE REUNION MORNING TEA

St Mary Star of the Sea College

Invites ex-students & staff to our  
Decades Reunion Morning Tea  
Alumnae celebrating 10, 20, 30,  
40, 50 years and beyond are



especially invited to attend

**Saturday 24 August 2019**

**10.30am to 12.30pm** in the College's SGN Hall  
Harbour Street, Wollongong

**RSVP Maree McCarthy by Tuesday 20 August**

**Phone 02 4228 6011 or email**

**maree.mccarthy@stmarys.nsw.edu.au**

We look forward to welcoming you back.



***"I am full of confidence  
in our good God's mercy  
that by working together, the  
common good will be secured."  
St Mary of the Cross MacKillop (1874)***

## PLENARY COUNCIL 2020

We now, as the Australian Catholic Church, move into phase two of preparation for the plenary council in 2020. During the next two months, local animators will take part in training to provide opportunities in their local faith communities for discernment of the themes which have been the result of the Australia-wide listening and dialogue.

The current Journey Magazine has an article which highlights the response of the Diocese of Wollongong to Bishop Brian Mascord's invitation on Pentecost 2018 to, "Sincerely pray with, and for each other, as we open ourselves to this process of expressing our loves, disappointments, hurts and hopes for who we are as Church. Together, let's see what the Holy Spirit is saying to us."



## ANNUAL CONSOLING MASS

Fr Victor Vincent of Lumen Christi invites you to the Mass of Consoling held at **Mater Dolorosa, Balgownie on Friday 13 September at 12.10pm.**

This is the Mass where we continue to pray for our loved ones who have died in tragic circumstances.

Let your families and friends know of this moving event.

**RSVP by 6 September  
wollongong@dow.org.au  
or phone 4211 0500**



## MENALIVE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS WEEKEND

**21-22 September 2019, Bowral Parish**

Like thousands of other Catholic men who have already been on menALIVE weekends, you will be inspired and encouraged to renew your faith and rediscover God's

purpose in your life. Experienced leaders from menALIVE team will be running the weekend. There is still time for men to register for this Southern Highlands region weekend. Those who were looking to attend the Milton 7-8 September weekend are now being encouraged to attend this Bowral weekend.

**Bookings and enquiries, ring Jude Hennessy 4222 2407  
or Ian Boorman 0427 006 021  
or go to [www.menalive.dow.org.au](http://www.menalive.dow.org.au)**



## THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME

**– AIRS SUNDAY 18 AUGUST 2019 –**

This week on the Journey, we hear Luke's Gospel 12:49–53, reminds us to bring "Peace, not division"; the one and only Mother Hilda from the Abbey uses her sage words yet again to guide us; and Bruce Downes, The Catholic Guy, inspires us with his God Spot on "Thundering Joy"; and many of your other favourites.

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## 2019 MEN'S BOOTCAMP— STANDING FIRM

A combined initiative of the churches of Northern Illawarra. In the company of a cross-generational male community, Bootcamp 2019 will challenge and equip you to reconsider what you choose to stand for and stand firm. "If you don't stand for something, you'll fall for anything."

**When: 7.30pm–9.30pm Wednesdays  
in August (14, 21 and 28).**

**Where: Upstairs, "The Deck" at Ryans Hotel,  
cnr Phillip St and George St Thirroul.**

**Cost: \$20 pizza opening night / \$10 other nights  
plus own drinks from bar.**

August 14: Foundations for Identity / Standing firm on the basis of your identity, not your performance.

August 21: Better Together: Standing firm in community, as a brotherhood that draws the best out of each other.

August 28: Community Engagement: Rob Killham—standing firm in your workspace and community without being a jerk.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT CATHEDRAL BOOKS & GIFT SHOP

If you are free to volunteer for half a day (morning or afternoon) on a Wednesday — and occasionally on other days when required —



at the Cathedral Book & Gift Shop located at the Xavier Centre in Wollongong, please contact **Wendy Giles on 0457 023 556**

My Dear People,

There are many reasons why I should never have become a priest – I wasn't even born a Catholic. But God obviously had His reasons. I often reflect on a passage from St Paul – how God can use everything that happens in our lives, good and bad, for His own purpose: "We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love Him, with all those that He has called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28). Somehow God arranged circumstances and people to come together so that I am where I am now.

On the Schmitzer side, Grandmother was a living saint. She was still alive when I entered the Seminary (it happened to be on her birthday that year!). My mother became a Catholic when I was in my fourth year at Springwood. Four more years followed at Manly. It seemed such a long time in those days, and now I have been a priest six times that. Life was tough in those days, even a bit cruel. There were three hundred students in the two colleges combined – most left. (Some should never have entered). I remember the advice a senior student gave me once when I was thinking of leaving, advice I have often put into practice – never make a major decision when you're feeling emotional: give yourself some time and then, if you're feeling the same, take it for granted that your feelings are genuine.

I had grown up in Port Macquarie, and was taught by the Sisters of St Joseph of Lochinvar. They were good teachers. I thank them for giving me an appreciation of the basics of the Faith – a devotion to the Mass and the Blessed Sacrament, to Our Lady and the Saints, especially St Joseph. I sat for my Leaving Certificate after two years at Wauchope High. Going to a State School in those days was like stepping on to another planet. I was the only Catholic in my class.

Although she had always wanted me to be a priest, the last nun who taught me (Sr Columbkille) persuaded me to sit for the Public Service Exam – just in case! Perhaps the Bishop was testing my vocation – he thought I was perhaps a bit young to enter the Seminary at sixteen. The Public Service offered me a job in the Department of the Attorney General and of Justice. I had three postings in two years – North Sydney Court, Phillip Street Traffic Court, and Taree Court. In those days we had to learn to touch type (God knew I would later become a Bishop's Secretary!).

So, I entered the Seminary in 1962, the year the Second Vatican Council began. Church wise, they were exciting years. No-one really had any idea of what the Council would bring about. Then, having left the Seminary, it was a case of putting the Council's ideas into action, especially regarding the Liturgy.

I was ordained by Bishop John Toohey of Maitland in Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Taree. It was his first Ordination in English, and it was Taree's first Ordination in one hundred years. My first appointment was to Campbelltown – there were four priests there at that time: Fr Tom Grant, the Administrator, Fr Vince Whiteman, Fr Michael Healy, and myself. (That parish is now four parishes!). I was there for seven years. In that time, Bishop McCabe had retired, and Bishop Murray was ordained Wollongong's second Bishop. Bishop Murray took me to the Cathedral in 1977, and I was assistant for over three years. In 1980 I became Administrator until 1984. During that time I organised the Marian Congress of 1981, a wonderful event and a great expression of Faith. I will always be thankful for the help of the Catholic Women's League. We raised the entire cost of the Congress by selling whisky glasses and silver spoons!

In 1984 Bishop Murray asked me to become his Secretary, a role that continued for the next thirteen years. At that same time I was Chancellor of the Diocese, and for some years directing the work of the Marriage Tribunal. At night and weekends I was Parish Priest of Gwynneville and then Unanderra. Bishop Murray retired and Bishop Wilson replaced him. I asked to be relieved of Chancery work and went to the States for a short sabbatical – a wonderful experience. I then became Parish Priest of Albion Park, then later back to the Bishop's House for a second stint as Administrator (and part-time cook, it turned out to be!).

I have been through difficult times, but do not regret my vocation as a priest. I would have to say that it gets harder as time goes on – an increasingly secular society that no longer feels it needs God. A great disappointment is the seeming abandonment of the Church by the majority of families who make up our Catholic School Communities. I think we must face the fact that once our present congregations at Mass have gone to their eternal reward, their places will not be filled. I guess that somehow this is all in God's plan.

I hope I have made some small contribution to the life of the Church. With all my faults I can only marvel at God's patience with me. "If mercy has been shown to me, it is because Jesus Christ meant to make me the greatest example of his inexhaustible patience." (1 Timothy 1:16).



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