

Parish and Shrine of the Immaculate Conception Unanderra

48 Princes Highway Post Office Box 14 Unanderra NSW 2526

Parish Priest

Fr Graham Schmitzer

Polish Chaplain

Fr Tomasz Nowak
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Parish Assistant
& Catechist Co-ordinator

Sister Joan Goodwin
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Parish School

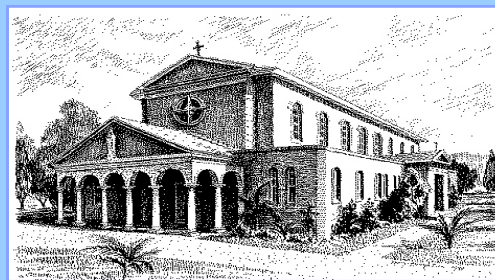
Saint Pius X School
Hargreaves & Cummins Streets
PO Box 358, Unanderra, NSW - 2526
Ph: 4271 3550 | Fax: 4272 2954

School Principal

Mr Philip Moore

Parish Secretary

Mrs Agnes Jerald



Parish Office Hours: Monday, Thursday and Friday: 9:30am—4:00pm

Phone: 4271 1068 | Fax: 4271 1298

Email: unanderra@dow.org.au

Parish website: www.unanderraparish.org.au

PROGRAMME FOR THIS WEEK

Monday	July 31	NO MASS

Tuesday	Aug 1	Adoration: 4:30pm-5:30pm
St ALPHONSUS LIGUORI		Mass: 5:30pm

Wednesday	Aug 2	Mass: 7:00am
St PETER JULIAN EYMARD		

Thursday	Aug 3	Adoration: 4:30pm-5:30pm (Reconciliation available) Mass: 5:30pm
St DOMINIC		

Friday	Aug 4	First Friday Mass: 9:30am
St JOHN VIANNEY		

Saturday	Aug 5	First Saturday Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation 5pm-5:30pm Vigil Mass: 6:00pm
DEDICATION of ST MARY MAJOR		

Sunday	Aug 6	* THE TRANSFIGURATION Masses: 7:00am, 9:00am 10:45am (Polish)

* N.B. Readers take note

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR A

30 JULY 2017

READINGS: 1KG 3-5, 7-12; ROM 8:28-30; MT 13:44-52.

Told by God that he could have any gift he wanted, Solomon chose the gift of wisdom (FIRST READING).

The GOSPEL continues Jesus' parables - what God offers us is so precious that it is worth everything we have.

St Paul's message in the SECOND READING is most comforting - God can use everything in our lives to our spiritual advantage.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased: Helen SMOLENAARS, Fr Anthony REYNOLDS (Classmate of Fr Graham)

Anniversaries: Silvana ANZALONE, John WALSH, Giovanni ZANETTI

Pray for the sick and those unable to get to Mass



Rosters of next weekend

Sat 5 th	Church Cleaning	M Mohr-Peters, G Lord, L Zanetti, S Adams	
	Acolytes	Lectors	Welcomers
Vigil 6pm	R Klaus	R Baxendale	L Klaus
Sun 6 th 7am	L Burns	A Browne	S Brown, A Browne
9am	N Dwyer	C Walsh	E Walker, P Cundy
Counters	B & P Walker, A Kelly		
Children's Liturgy	F Fernandez, M Rodwell		

PARISH ACTIVITIES

Catholic Women's League: 2nd Thursday of the month, 10.30am
St Joseph's room. New members welcome.

Contact: Jan 42714051 or Margaret 42715804

St. Vincent de Paul Conference: Tues, 7.30pm St. Joseph's room

Parish Pastoral Council: 2nd Monday of the month, 7:30pm
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 the Vigil Mass and 9am Mass on 1st weekend of the month.

(Due to the colder weather, it has been decided to cancel Morning Tea on the first Sunday of the month during winter. Monthly Morning Tea will resume in September.)

CONGRATULATIONS!

The older members of the Parish might remember Fr John RACCANELLO, a Scalabrinian Father who served this Parish in its early days. On May 22 this year he celebrated the 65th anniversary of his Ordination. He is now retired at Scalabrini House at Bexley. We wish him every blessing.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND 18 -20

August at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville

Relationship enrichment for married couples. Bookings online at www.wwme.org.au. Adrian and Janet Sullivan: on 0490 774 419 or adrian.janet1@bigpond.com

POSITIONS VACANT FOR 2018 – FAMILY EDUCATORS

Applications are invited for the position of Family Educator based in 24 systemic Catholic primary schools across the Archdiocese of Sydney.

<https://sydcatholicschools.nsw.edu.au> Click on Employment, Positions Vacant. Applications close August 4, 2017.

For further information contact meredith.lemos@syd.catholic.edu.au

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Vincent Van Gogh suffered from ill health. And so he often called on the services of doctors. But he rarely had enough to pay them. On one occasion, after a certain doctor had taken care of him and nursed him back to health, Vincent wanted to show his gratitude. He painted the doctor's portrait. The doctor didn't think much of the painting. He put it in his attic and it ended up covering a broken pane of window glass to keep out the drafts. The doctor had thrown away a treasure. Today it is worth a fortune.

In His love for us, God has given each of us a treasure—our divine dignity as His children.

Let us be careful lest we throw it away.

Mt Carmel Retreat Centre

247 St Andrews Road Varroville, NSW, 2566

Ph: 02 8795 3400 | Email: etreats@carmelite.com

www.carmeliteretreats.com.au

Weekend retreat: Gregorian Chant

Presenter: Mr Tony Vaughan

When: Aug 4 – Aug 6

Cost: \$230 (concessions apply)

Come and experience the beauty & spiritually uplifting sound of Gregorian Chant ... one of the foundations of all Western European music. This sacred oral music can be traced back to the Jewish chant at the time of Christ.

Day retreat: The Practice of the Presence of God: a way through the pain of grief and loss

Day retreat: 5 August (1030am – 400pm)

Registrations from 900am

Presenter: Mr Geoff Stumbles

Cost: \$25.00

Please bring your own lunch.

Pick-ups from Minto train station at 945am and 1000am. How do we pray when we are experiencing loss and grief when God seems to have abandoned us?



NEED HELP AT HOME OR KNOW SOMEBODY WHO DOES?

CatholicCare offers practical aged care services and support so you can continue living a happy, healthy life in the comfort of your own home. If you want to know more call 42549342 and the friendly, experienced staff at CatholicCare will discuss your options so you can live your life, your way.



“May the Heart of Jesus
bring to one and all
it’s own true spirit.”

St. Mary of the Cross 1890

NEEDING AN ADVOCATE? The Holy Spirit is our Advocate, and through God’s grace we are God’s chosen. He does not leave us orphans. God has chosen you; have you considered what special dreams God has for you?

Contact Fr Richard Healey, Vocations Director, on 0401 621 591 or priesthood@dow.org.au

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL 2017

In SYDNEY from 7-9 DECEMBER 2017

It is with great excitement that the registration for ACYF in Sydney from 7-9 December 2017 has been launched!

Groups and Individuals are encouraged to register early to secure their spot at the Festival. As an added incentive groups of ten or more who register before 31 May 2017 will receive a complimentary registrations for their group leaders. Early bird registration closes on 18 August 2017.

The Festival registration process can be found online at www.acyf.org.au.

CCD LEVEL 3 TRAINING COURSE FOR CATECHISTS

Just a reminder to all Catechists about Level 3 Training Course, details are as follows:- Illawarra – Shoalhaven:

Xavier Centre, 38 Harbour Street, Wollongong

Start date: Friday, 4 August (6 week course on consecutive Fridays) 9.30am - 1.30pm

For bookings or questions please contact Mrs Cindy Oliver by 28 July, on 4640 8550 or cindy.oliver@dow.org.au.

There is no cost involved with these courses. Morning tea is provided. Please bring your own lunch.



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 19 August 2017

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

RSVP Maree McCarthy by Friday August 11th

Phone 02 4228 6011 or email maree.mccarthy@stmarys.nsw.edu.au

We look forward to welcoming you back.

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM – AIRS 30 July 2017

This week on the Journey we have some fabulous God Spots including, The Catholic Guy Bruce Downes reminding us “About the promise written in the stars”(Repeat), Sr Hilda with her Wisdom from the Abbey, and Francine Pirolas talks to us about Romance and Mystery in her SMART Loving segment. We are blessed to have such talented Christian music artists helping us to create a show that is all about faith, hope, love and life. Go to www.jcr.org.au or www.itunes.jcr.org.au where you can listen anytime and subscribe to weekly shows by email.

FEAST OF ST MARY OF THE CROSS DIOCESAN MASS, TUESDAY 8 AUGUST, COMMENCING AT 11AM.

St Mary MacKillop Parish Church, 94 Oran Park Drive, Oran Park. A light luncheon will follow the Mass.

KIM LONG PALLIATIVE CLINIC HUE VIETNAM

In 2016, we were successful in raising \$1,000 for the nuns, which was equivalent to 6 months Palliative outreach care for patients in their homes. If you can assist in selling of a box of chocolates in 2017, Please contact Garry or Sandra Woods on 0411295525 / sandra.woods52@gmail.com

FAITH CIRCLES WEEKLY RESOURCE FOR SMALL GROUPS

Small faith-sharing groups are a fun way to build relationships. They provide a place where each person can grow in their faith journey. They focus on the ways in which the Spirit is calling us to live a more active, loving and joyful relationship with God, our Church and our World. Weekly free small group resource called Faith Circles is available based on the Sunday Gospels with two reflections (including one by Pope Francis) as well as accompanying questions and prayer points. It is available to download at www.faithcircles.dow.org.au or have it sent to you each month via email subscription. Click the website link to subscribe to the Faith Circles email list.

TAKE A RISK AND GIVE THE GIFT OF FAITH

In our parish there is a team of volunteers that take a risk and step out in faith. State Government schools do not provide lessons that teach the basic message about Jesus, our faith and the great adventure that life can be with God. We were all given our gift of faith by someone, someone stepped-up for us so that we would know Jesus. Each week of the school year Catechists present 30-minute lessons using a step-by-step lesson plan that helps Catholic children understand their faith, grow in love and maturity and learn what it means to be Catholic. Take a risk and give the gift of faith. Become a Catechist teacher or helper today! For more information, please call 4222 2416 or ask our parish priest for more information.

My dear people,

The arrival of the month of August (besides the winds) reminds us of the coming Feast of Our Lady's Assumption. A reminder to all that it is a Holy Day of Obligation in this country. It falls on a Tuesday. There will be three Masses at different times so as to make it as easy as possible to fulfil the obligation. It should not be an obligation, of course, to celebrate the anniversary of one's mother's death! This is the oldest of Our Lady's Feasts, going back probably to at least the fifth century. It was always the custom of the early Church to mark a Saint's heavenly birthday, the day of their death, as their Feast.



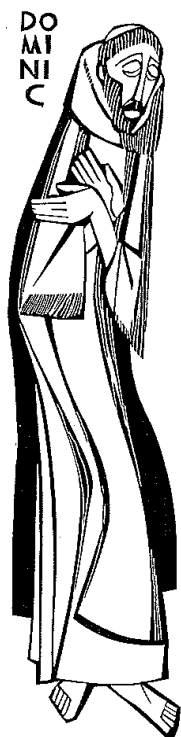
There will be a Vigil Mass on Monday, August 14, at 7:30pm, then two Masses on the 15th itself: 9:30am and 5:30pm.



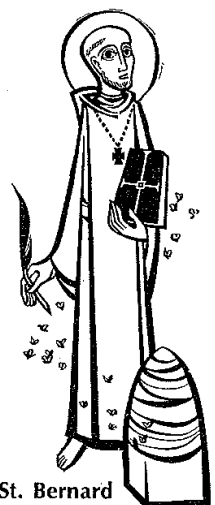
VOCATIONS WEEK always falls during the first couple of weeks of August because of the many feasts of Religious Founders which occur at this time: St Ignatius of Loyola who founded the Jesuits; St Alphonsus Liguori who founded the Redemptorists; St Dominic, founder of the Dominicans; St John Vianney, patron of Parish Priests; St Clare of Assisi who began the Poor Clares; our own St Mary MacKillop, founder of the Josephites; St Peter Julian Eymard, founder of the Blessed Sacrament Congregation.



Over the next 25-30 years the NSW Government intends to establish growth centres on Sydney's urban edge. They will become new communities for up to 500,00 people with 181,000



homes set amid schools, shops, bushland, parks and new or updated infrastructure. The immediate and not-so-far in the future impact on our Diocese will be 200,000 new residents. This represents an additional 56,000 Catholics. If we assume the average Parish Size is 6900 Catholics (2011 Census) then this means an additional 8 to 10 parishes would be needed (we have already established a new parish at Oran Park named after St Mary MacKillop.) We are approaching an almost impossible situation, considering we have only one student in the Seminary, and several of our priests have reached or are approaching 75 years of age. If you were to prepare for the Assumption with a Novena, you would begin this Saturday, August 5. I ask you to consider making a Novena—Mass, the Rosary, or some form of prayer to Our Lady—and including a **big** ask for vocations. They are always an answer to prayer. God is not going to just drop a few priests down from heaven.



Fr Graham Schmitzer

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Parish Priest