

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

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Parish School

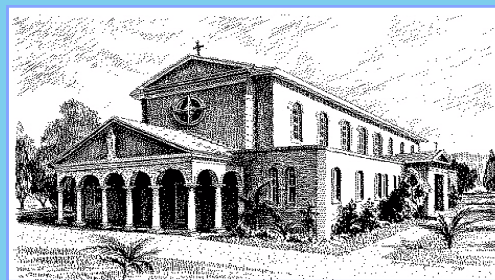
Saint Pius X School
Hargreaves & Cummins Streets
PO Box 358, Unanderra, NSW - 2526
Ph: 4271 3550 | Fax: 4272 2954

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 Aug 14 Vigil Mass for the Assumption
7:30pm

Tuesday Aug 15 **THE ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY**
Holy Day of Obligation
Masses: 9:30am,
11am (Polish)
Adoration: 4:30pm-5:30pm
Mass: 5:30pm

Wednesday Aug 16 Mass: 7:00am (Convent)
St STEPHEN OF HUNGARY

Thursday Aug 17 Adoration: 4:30pm-5:30pm
(Reconciliation available)
Mass: 5:30pm

Friday Aug 18 Mass: 9:30am

Saturday Aug 19 Mass: 7:30am
St JOHN EUDES
Reconciliation 5pm-5:30pm
Vigil Mass: 6:00pm

Sunday Aug 20 **20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
Masses: 7:00am, 9:00am
10:45am (Polish)

19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

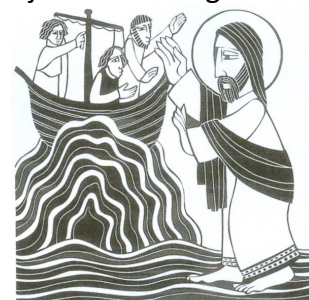
YEAR A

13 AUGUST 2017

READINGS: 1Kg 19:9, 11-13; Rom 9:1-5; Mt 14:22-33.

Fleeing for his life, the prophet Elijah takes refuge in a cave where he encounters God (FIRST READING).

The GOSPEL also speaks of an encounter with God. When they are caught in high winds and rough seas, Jesus comes to the apostles and calms their fears.



St Paul speaks of his sorrow because his fellow Jews refuse to accept Christ (SECOND READING).

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased: Bernard GILLIS, Antonio DI MAMBRO

Anniversaries: Lia De MICHIEL, Joseph FENCH, Ron GANDY, Cecil CLARKE, Beatrice WILLIAMS

Pray for the sick and those unable to get to Mass



Rosters of next weekend

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--|----------------------------|
| Sat 19 th | Church Cleaning | W & J Rodgers, H Hobbs | |
| | Lawns | R Murphy, B Mannix, W Brown, F Caruana | |
| | Acolytes | Lectors | Welcomers |
| Vigil 6pm | P Jones | L Milan | D Gelfius |
| Sun 20 th 7am | G Attard | M Walsh | Walsh Family |
| 9am | R Klaus | M Rodwell | V Cleary, M Mohr-Peters |
| Counters | M Murphy (FH), C Stratton, A McQueen, M Winner | | |
| Children's Liturgy | K Calvert, M Matos | | |

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.

CELEBRATING FATHER GRAHAM'S BIRTHDAY

Morning tea will be served after 9am Mass on

Sunday, 20th of August to celebrate Father's birthday.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Any donation/assistance would be appreciated.

CELEBRATE THE SEASON OF CREATION 2017

(1 SEPTEMBER – 4 OCTOBER)

Spring is almost upon us and Pope Francis invites us to celebrate September as a 'Season of Creation'. This is a time for individuals and communities to "reaffirm their personal vocation to be stewards of creation." It is a "precious opportunity to renew our personal participation in our vocation as custodians of creation." You are invited to take part and over coming weeks more resources will be on offer to support this initiative within our Diocese. Further details on this year's Season of Creation can be found on the Global Catholic Climate Movement website <http://catholicclimatemovement.global/act/>. Further information on Diocesan resourcing can be obtained by calling Darren McDowell on 4222 2463 or darren.mcdowell@dow.org.au

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Like Peter we, too, have often set out confidently across the waters of life.

However, as soon as the winds of trouble rise against us, and the waves of adversity begin to buffet us, we loose our nerve and begin to sink.

Lord, when our faith falters, as it often does, may we hear Your gentle voice saying to us, "Courage! Do not be afraid!"

In that moment, Lord, may Your divine power uphold us, calm our fears, steady our nerves, and enable us to steer our little boat to a place of safety and peace, beyond the wind and the waves.

100+ VOCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO TAKE YOUR SKILLS OVERSEAS!

Palms Australia is devoted to improving the lives of disadvantaged communities in Pacific, Asia and Africa through skill-sharing. These communities are looking for experienced educators, health professionals, community development practitioners, communication officers and more. To ensure sustainable development they prefer those willing to come for two years, but accept that some are only available for 12months. Call us now on 02 9560 5333 or email palms@palms.org.au to find out more.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

24-26 November 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



"Now, what seems to be the trouble with your marriage?"



"Be eager in your desires but humbly patient in their accomplishment."

St. Mary of the Cross 1867

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

LIVE FESTIVAL, 15 SEPTEMBER, ST FRANCIS XAVIER CATHEDRAL PRECINCT

Our Wollongong LIVE Festival is back! For ages 15-35 LIVE Festival will be filled with great live music, food, games and guest speakers as well as heaps of other young people from our Diocese. Festival kicks off at 5:15pm and finishes at 8:30pm. Go to <http://dow.sh/livefestival17> for more information and to register your interest.



The home is the heart of the Church. **CathFAMILY** brings you a selection of activities, prayer rituals, crafts and recipes for free from their website cathfamily.org. Don't miss CathKids, weekly interactive experience with a two-minute animated reflection on the Sunday reading, questions to stimulate discussion, a simple activity and prayer. Families in the Diocese of Wollongong are encouraged to utilise these resources at home to share faith with kids.

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM – AIRS 13 AUG 2017

This week on the Journey the Gospel of Matthew is read by our very own Nick Weir and reflected on by Fr Graham Schmitzer. We hear from Sr Hilda's wisdom from the Abbey in her 90-second testimony about Life with God and Pete Gilmore reminds us to Live Big in his segment Living the Gospel. The music inspired by various Christian artists brings life and joy and enthusiasm our 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.

PALMS INFO SESSION Thursday 7 September 5.30pm-7pm Xavier Centre Conference room, 38 Harbour Street, Wollongong. RSVP joey@palms.org.au or call 9560 5333

Calling for experienced professional, business or trades people. Communities in Asia, the Pacific and Africa seek skilled Australians to mentor local personnel. You will assist to improve and sustain organisations vital in reducing poverty. Learn more about how you will be supported through this exciting, life-changing opportunity.

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.



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.

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.

My dear people,

This week, on Tuesday 15th, we celebrate one of the great articles of our Catholic Faith, the Assumption of Our Lady into heaven. When Pope Pius XII proclaimed this dogma on 1 November 1950, he was not



introducing a new teaching. This had been the belief of Catholics for centuries. Those who listened to the Pope that day had always prayed in the Rosary to Our Lady assumed into heaven. They had observed her Feast as a Holy Day of Obligation.

Even in the earliest centuries, great Saints of the East and the West preached the doctrine of Our Lady's Assumption. The Feast was celebrated in Jerusalem as early as the 4th century. In England, King Alfred the Great ordered that 15 August should be kept as a national holiday in honour of the Assumption of Mary.

So Pope Pius XII was simply confirming a belief held by Catholics from the very beginning. From earliest times people thought there was something repugnant in the idea that the body which had tabernacled the Son of God made Man could ever corrupt in a tomb. They believed that she, who shared in Christ's life in so unique a way, should now share His glory in both body and soul – and that since God had given her to earth in a unique way through her Immaculate Conception so He should take her from earth in a unique way through her bodily Assumption.

The Assumption of Our Lady reminds us of the dignity and sanctity of the human body. Christ redeemed not only our immortal souls but our bodies, too. In the eyes of God the human body is precious. It is not to be misused or exploited, but to be always treated with reverence and respect "Your bodies are the temples of the Holy Spirit who dwells within you" taught Saint Paul.

The Assumption also reminds us of our own destiny. As children of God, and heirs to the kingdom of Heaven, our goal is to be with God as Mary is now. She is the first of the redeemed to enter fully into the final glory which Christ has prepared for those who love Him.

The Second Vatican Council reminds us of this when it taught: "In the bodily and spiritual glory which she possesses in heaven, the Mother of Jesus continues in this present world as the image and the first flowering of the Church as it is to be perfected in the world to come. Likewise, Mary shines forth on earth, until the Day of the Lord shall come, as a sign of sure hope and comfort for the Pilgrim People of God".

Here in Unanderra there will be four Masses for the Assumption: Vigil Mass on Monday 14th at 7:30pm, then on Tuesday at 9:30am, 11am (Polish), and 5:30pm.

Please pray for your priests, pray for vocations.

Fr Graham Schmitzer
Parish Priest

"Neither death nor tomb could hold the Mother of God. She is always ready to intercede for us. Since she is the Mother of Life, Christ lifted her up to life."

BYZANTINE LITURGY OF THE DORMITION
OF THE MOST HOLY MOTHER OF GOD