

# 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  
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**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](mailto:unanderra@dow.org.au)

Parish website: [www.unanderraparish.org.au](http://www.unanderraparish.org.au)

## PROGRAMME FOR THIS WEEK

<b>Monday</b>	Nov 13	<u>NO MASS</u>
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<b>Tuesday</b>	Nov 14	<b>Anniversary of Dedication of our Parish Church</b> Adoration: 4:30pm-5:30pm Mass: 5:30pm
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<b>Wednesday</b>	Nov 15	Mass: 7:00am St ALBERT the GREAT
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<b>Thursday</b>	Nov 16	Adoration: 4:30pm-5:30pm St MARGARET OF SCOTLAND (Reconciliation available) Mass: 5:30pm
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<b>Friday</b>	Nov 17	Mass: 9:30am St ELIZABETH of HUNGARY
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<b>Saturday</b>	Nov 18	Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation 5:00-5:30pm Vigil Mass: 6:00pm
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<b>Sunday</b>	Nov 19	<b>33rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b> Masses: 7:00am, 9:00am 10:45am (Polish)

## 32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**YEAR A**

**12 November 2017**

**READINGS:** Wis 6:12-16; 1 Thess 4:13-18; Mt 25:1-13

The FIRST READING sings the praise of Wisdom, which can be found by those who seek it.



St Paul consoles his converts at Thessalonika who are worried about the fate of their loved ones who have died before Christ's return (SECOND READING).



We are urged to stay awake because we do not know the day or the hour of Christ's coming (GOSPEL).

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS



**Recently Deceased:** Leo HAYWOOD

**Anniversaries:** Bruno CORBANESE, Bertha VARLEY, William VARLEY

**Pray for the sick and those unable to get to Mass**

### Rosters of next weekend

Sat 18 <sup>th</sup>	Church Cleaning	M Mohr-Peters, G Lord, L Zanetti, S Adams	
	Lawns	Peters Family, Winner Family	
	Acolytes	Lectors	Welcomers
Vigil 6pm	G Attard	R Baxendale	A Milan
Sun 19 <sup>th</sup> 7am	P Jones	A Campbell	L Harper, A Campbell
9am	R Klaus	K Calvert	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: Barbara 42711584 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 9am Mass on 1st weekend of the month.**

### ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD



Parishioners are invited to attend  
**Rev Victor Vincent's Ordination**  
on Tuesday, November 21 at 7:30pm  
at St Francis Xavier's Cathedral.  
Refreshments to follow.

### WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

**24 -26 November, Mt Carmel Retreat Centre Varroville.**

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

## Gospel Reflection

The foolish have no oil in their lamps.

They burn themselves out  
through a life of self-seeking  
and dedication to worldly cares and vanities.

They do not think of the Lord,  
much less wait for His coming.

The wise, on the other hand,  
have oil in their lamps.

They are detached from themselves  
and from the cares of the world,  
and are full of charity,  
they are waiting for the Lord,  
and desire nothing else but His coming.

Let us keep our minds alight with faith,  
our souls alight with hope,  
and our hearts alight with love,  
as we wait in joyful hope  
for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

### NOVEMBER MASSES

- \* Saturday, November 18, 11am **Lakeside Memorial Park**
- \* Saturday, November 25, 10am **West Dapto Catholic Cemetery** (In case of rain, the Mass will be celebrated at St John's, 24 Jerramatta Street, Dapto.)

### ST VINCENT DE PAUL

#### CHRISTMAS CARD AND COLUMBAN CALENDAR

The Unanderra St Vincent de Paul Conference  
members will be selling Christmas Cards and the  
Columban Calendar after each Mass starting from  
next weekend. Christmas Cards are \$6.00  
(pack of 10) and the Columban Calendar is \$9.00.



## CHURCH MINISTRIES FOR 2018

Have you considered being involved in one of the various ministries of your parish?

Over the next few weeks you will have the opportunity to volunteer for 2018.

Please give careful consideration to participating in one or more of the following ministries -

**Acolytes, Lectors, Children's Liturgy, Welcomers, Church Cleaners, Counters, Church Lawns and Gardens, Church Washing, Ministers of Holy Communion to Aged Care, Choir, Altar Servers, Catechists and Sacramental Team Leaders.**

New Volunteers will have the opportunity to work with those who have experience.

Your assistance will be appreciated.



"God won't ask you how others do the work committed to them, but will ask you how you have done yours and in what spirit."

*St. Mary of the Cross 1874*

### VOCATION – MANY PATHS, ONE AMAZING GOD

*Loving God, grant me a discerning heart to hear your call in my life, and grant me the courage to surrender my life to you every day. Amen.*

To help with your reflection, contact Fr Duane Fernandez on 0414 626 357 or [priesthood@dow.org.au](mailto:priesthood@dow.org.au)

### PRAYER SERVICE AND HEALING MASS

Experience the healing touch and love of our God at this very uplifting Prayer Service and Healing Mass! The services will be conducted by Fr Rony George and Fr Jobi George of the Vincentian Congregation, Directors of the Divine Retreat Centre, Somersby NSW.

Dates:

St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Wollongong:

Friday 24th November 2017 from 6pm – 9pm.

St Francis of Assisi Church, Warrawong:

Saturday 25th November 2017 from 10am – 1pm.

For more information, please contact Josobel on 0425 220 398.

All are very welcome!

### POSITION VACANT

#### CARITAS DIOCESAN DIRECTOR

A part-time position (15 hours a week) is available for commencement as soon as possible for Caritas Australia. The position is based in Wollongong and the successful applicant should be passionate in promoting social justice across the Wollongong Diocese.

Applications close on Monday 20 November.

For information on how to apply for this Role, a Position Description and for further details see the diocesan website: [http://dow.sh/jobs\\_caritas\\_diocesandirector](http://dow.sh/jobs_caritas_diocesandirector)

### CATHEDRAL BOOKS & GIFTS

A great range of excellent quality religious gifts are available from Cathedral Books and Gifts. A beautiful selection of bibles, books, missals, rosaries, plaques, crucifixes, medals, statues and greeting cards, candles, etc. perfect to commemorate Confirmation, Communion and Baptism.

Enter the store via Crown St, Xavier Centre, Wollongong. Enquiries phone 4222 2484.

### THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM—AIRS 12 Nov 2017

This week on the Journey, we are blessed to have some fabulous and inspirational God spots from some truly talented supporters of our show.

To enhance our program, we have carefully selected music to help us create a show for you that is all about faith, hope, love and life. 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 anytime and subscribe to weekly shows by email.



### SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT

Don't leave it to others: this is everyone's business and we all have a part to play! Join your parish social justice group or organise a special meeting. Discuss social issues of your local community. Identify needs. Invite experts and guest speakers. Address issues that concern you. Join campaigns of like-minded groups. <http://dow.sh/socialjustice2017>

### MISSION TO FIGHT POVERTY

Catholic communities all over the world are looking for teachers, health and community development workers, administrators and others to **mentor workers in their fields of expertise**. See more than **40 volunteer positions** at [www.palms.org.au/projects/](http://www.palms.org.au/projects/).

The positions would suit anybody with the appropriate qualifications. Healthy retired people find it a most gratifying and stimulating mission. Australian donors cover your costs and outstanding support is provided through the church's single biggest global volunteer mission agency.

Want to hear more from returned volunteers?

Information Session:

Time: Wednesday November 29<sup>th</sup>, 5:45 - 7:00 pm

Place: Save the Children office,

Suite 302 (Level 3), 418a Elizabeth St,

Surry Hills

Entrance to the building is on Devonshire St.



### PEER SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

#### Wollongong Essential Employment – Peer Support

**Group.** Wednesday 22 November 2017, 10:30am-12:30pm, 304 Crown Street, Wollongong. Come along to hear from our guest speaker Elicia Ford from the National Disability Coordination Officer Program who will be joining us to discuss Disability and Employment. Anyone with a disability is welcome. To register your interest, contact Sharon Holz on 0448 964 296 or [sharon.holz@pdcnsw.org.au](mailto:sharon.holz@pdcnsw.org.au)

My dear people,

This week the NSW Parliament will discuss a Bill on assisted dying or euthanasia. Such a Bill was passed last year by the Canadian Parliament, “a shocking, appalling landmark decision to the utter failure of government, and indeed all society, to care truly, authentically and humanely for the suffering and vulnerable in our midst” commented the Vatican Newspaper.

Wrote the Canadian Bishops: “No institution, person, ideology or legislation is entitled to threaten or undermine the sacredness of both the dignity of each individual person and the very gift of life itself. We are called, as a community of compassionate individuals, to respect and protect the continuum of life from conception to natural birth, honouring a vision of the human person on his/her present earthly existence as well as life beyond the grave. Catholics and indeed all people of good will have a moral and societal obligation to protect the vulnerable, comfort the suffering, and accompany the dying”.

“The intentional taking of any human life—be it an elderly person, a child, a vulnerable adult, an embryo, a dying person—is truly a grave and morally unjustifiable act. Our society needs to reject all offences against life itself: murder, genocide, suicide, abortion, euthanasia, and physician-assisted dying. The purposeful termination of human life via a direct intervention is not a humane action whatsoever. We ought to look instead to minimizing the pain and suffering of the dying and those who are tempted to end their lives, not eradicate their existence. Let us strive to help the sick and incapacitated find meaning in their lives, even and especially in the midst of their suffering. Let us comfort those facing terminal illness or chronic conditions through our genuine presence, human love and medical assistance. Let us, as a society and as individuals, choose to walk with them, in their suffering, not contribute to eliminating the gift of life.”

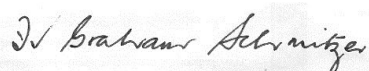
Most people who think that euthanasia and assisted suicide should be legal are not thinking the whole issue through. They think about what it would be like to suddenly become incapacitated, and consider such a life as undignified or worthless. Perhaps they consider severely disabled people as having no quality of life. **Our dignity and quality of life don't come from what we can or cannot do.** Dignity and quality of life are not matters of efficiency, proficiency and productivity. They come from a deeper place—from who we are and how we relate to each other. Pope Francis beautifully illustrated this point when honouring Pope Benedict on his 65th anniversary as a priest. Pope Benedict is spending his final years in a life of prayer for the Church. This is a great service to the Church, said Pope Francis.

Our Society, of course, has lost sight of the sacred nature of human life. When people today speak about a “good death”, they usually refer to an attempt to control the end of one's life. The Christian notion of good death, however, is death not as a good end but a good transition, that requires faith, proper acceptance and readiness. The dimension of the Paschal mystery of suffering, death and resurrection has been absent from our end of life conversation and discussion. When life is not respected, then other rights will sooner or later be threatened. As St John Paul II wrote: “a right to die will inevitably give way to the duty to die”.

Pope Francis has criticized those who support a right to euthanasia for people suffering painful or terminal illness, saying that they spread the “lie” that lives affected by such illnesses are not worth living. He speaks of the value of spending time with “these brothers and sisters who, thanks to our closeness and affection, feel more, loved and comforted”.

Mercy Killing strikes to the very core of who we are and what we believe. Euthanasia must be called a false and misguided mercy. True compassion leads to sharing another's pain, not killing the person whose suffering we cannot bear. The best way to know if we are a Christian society is to see how we treat our most vulnerable people, the ones with little or no claim on public attention, the ones without beauty, strength or intelligence. The historian Eusebius noted that during a time of plague in Rome, the well-to-do fled the city. It was the Christians who stayed behind to care for the sick, at great risk to their health. “All day long some of them tended to the dying and to their burial, countless numbers with no one to care for them. Others gathered together from all parts of the city a multitude of those withered from famine and distributed bread to them all.” The Emperor Justinian complained to one of his pagan priests, “(They) support not only their poor, but ours as well”.

The legalization of euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide does not render physician assisted suicide and euthanasia morally right. They remain grave sins against the love to God, and stand as an affront to human life and dignity. We must continue to advocate for new and major initiatives in palliative care—the only truly human answer to end of life challenges.



**Fr Graham Schmitzer**  
**Parish Priest**