

Parish and Shrine of the Immaculate Conception Unanderra

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Parish School

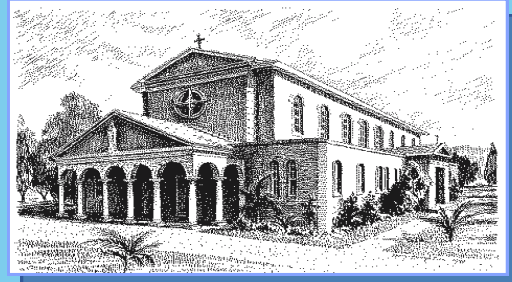
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Ph: 4271 3550 | Fax: 4272 2954

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	Nov 27	<u>NO MASS</u>
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Tuesday	Nov 28	Adoration: 4:30pm-5:30pm Mass: 5:30pm
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Wednesday	Nov 29	Mass: 7:00am
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Thursday	Nov 30	Adoration: 4:30pm-5:30pm (Reconciliation available) Mass: 5:30pm
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Friday	Dec 1	First Friday Mass: 9:30am
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Saturday	Dec 2	First Saturday Mass: 7:30am (Spring clean-up of Church in preparation for Christmas 8am. All welcome.) Reconciliation 5:00-5:30pm Vigil Mass: 6:00pm
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Sunday	Dec 3	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT Masses: 7:00am, 9:00am 10:45am (Polish)

* **Readers Note:** Advent begins Year B. "Break Open the Word" for Year B is available in cupboard at side door.

CHRIST THE KING, YEAR A

26th November 2017

READINGS: Ezek 34:11-12, 15-17; 1 Cor 15:20-26, 28;
Mt 25:31-46

God is portrayed by the prophet not so much as judge but as a shepherd of all His people (FIRST READING).

At the end of time Christ will reign as King of the universe having overcome all hostile forces, including death (SECOND READING).

We don't know exactly how the Last Judgement will happen, but we do know on what Jesus' followers will be judged (GOSPEL).



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Frank CORDINA (recently deceased)

Leo HAYWOOD (recently deceased)

Winifred STAUNTON (anniversary)

Annie CLARK (anniversary)

Henry DUXBURY (anniversary)

Rosters of next weekend

Sat 2 nd	Church Cleaning	W & J Rodgers, H Hobbs	
	Lawns	R Murphy, B Mannix, W Brown, F Caruana	
	Acolytes	Lectors	Welcomers
Vigil 6pm	A Carlotto	L Milan	V Cleary
Sun 3 rd 7am	L Burns	P Gunning	S Brown, A Browne
9am	L Haywood	A Kelly	E Walker, P Cundy
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: 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.

There will be **NO** morning tea after the 9am Mass next Sunday, 3rd December.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL GIVING TREE

The church "Giving Tree" will start operating next weekend (1st Sunday of Advent) There will be tags on the Christmas Tree for Christmas food and children toys, these gifts need to be returned by 17th December (3rd Sunday of Advent) with the tag attached. Hampers and toys will be distributed on Tuesday 19th December. Unanderra St Vincent de Paul Society supports on average 40 local family and 8 single people with Christmas hampers and toys for the children.

Gospel Reflection

Mother Teresa of Calcutta once said:

"Many today are starving for ordinary bread.
But there is another kind of hunger -
the hunger to be wanted, to be loved,
to be recognised.

Nakedness, too, is not just the want of clothes,
but also about loss of dignity, purity,
and self respect.

And homelessness is not just want of a house;
there is the homelessness of being rejected,
of being unwanted in a throwaway society.

The biggest disease in the world today
is the feeling of being unwanted and uncared for.

The greatest evil in the world is lack of love,
the terrible indifference towards one's neighbour."

Lord, warm our cold hearts with Your grace,
so that we Your disciples may produce
the fruits of love.

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.

Christmas Cards are \$6.00 (pack of 10) and the Columban Calendar is \$9.00.



Catholic Women's League Christmas Raffle

Over the next two weeks (2nd/3rd and 9th/10th December) the CWL will be selling tickets for their Christmas Raffle. There will be 3 great prizes.

Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5.

Raffle will be drawn after 9am Mass on 10th December.

CHOSEN

Daily Reflections for Advent and Christmas. Produced by the Diocese of Wollongong.
Only \$2.



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Same as Sunday: Vigil 6pm Sunday, December 24

7:00am, 9:00am, 10:45am (Polish) Monday, December 25



"May the heart of Jesus bring to one and all its own true spirit"

St. Mary of the Cross 1890

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL MASS,

6:30pm Saturday 9 December, The Domain, Sydney

The biggest Catholic youth event in this country since World Youth Day in 2008 is fast approaching. The Australian Catholic Youth Festival will finish with a Mass for all participants in The Domain in Sydney. An invitation has also been extended to all surround diocese to attend. There is no age restriction on the final Mass, and it is hope that as many faithful as possible will attend this truly spectacular celebration of our Catholic Faith. For more information go to: www.acyf.org.au

CATHOLICCARE'S Foster Care Program is urgently looking for two separate forever homes. Jenna*, 13, is an outgoing girl who plays netball and enjoys bike riding. She has a mild disability and attends a support unit in a mainstream school. Alice*, 7, is a happy and social girl who loves learning. Both girls need homes with no other children.

If you or someone you know could provide a loving home for Jenna* or Alice*, please call 4227 1122 or email enquiries@catholiccare.dow.org.au *Not their real names.

ISTAND NIGHTS youth group at the **Xavier Centre, Harbour Street, Wollongong. Friday, 7pm. Ages 14-18.**

Interested in games, good food, live music, and faith? For more info go to YMT Wollongong Facebook page or contact Bridget on 0481 842 530.

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM—AIRS 26 Nov 2017

This week on the Journey, Fr Stephen Varney reflects on the Gospel of Matthew. Bruce Downes, The Catholic Guy talks about Finding Our Awe, Marilyn Rodrigues, The Peaceful Parent encourages us to Know Our Neighbours and we have a take on King Lear that only Sr Hilda from the Abbey could come up with. We have some fabulous music, put it all together and you have a show 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.

VOCATIONS—WHO IS YOUR KING? We sometimes put off thinking about vocation, or what God wants, instead putting our energy into other areas. God is calling; we need to prioritise our response. Pray, talk with others, find out what God wants. Please contact Fr Duane Fernandez on 0414 626 357 or priesthood@dow.org.au

CARITAS GLOBAL GIFTS—GIVE A LITTLE DIFFERENTLY THIS CHRISTMAS

As we welcome the season of Advent, the season of waiting and preparing our hearts for the birth of Child Jesus. May we, as individuals, schools and parishes, act and pray for a more just and fair world, a world full of hope, peace, joy and love. Send a Christmas message to those you love, and give to those in need.

When you choose a Global Gift card to give to family to friends this Christmas, you after bringing a moment to joy and helping create a lifetime of change for some of the world's most vulnerable people.

Order Global Gift cards online at: www.globalgifts.org.au or call us on 1800 024 413

Congratulations to the children receiving their First Holy Communion this weekend

Saturday Night 25th Nov

ATINGA Nayeema	MARTIN Hope
BONHAM Miller	O'NEILL Charlotte
CAMACHO Emily	PALMA Sienna
COLLINET Emily	PALMA Chiara
CHROSTOWSKI Ellie	PHILLIPS Sean
CREMONESI Tahlia	SMITH Bowen
CUADRA Bethany	STARCIC Isabella
D'ANGELO Dillon	SANTALAB Tahlia
EDGAR Riley	SHANAHAN Kiara
HARB Amalia	THOMPSON Kai
JONES Matilda	THOMPSON Josh
KATSELAS Mayah	VOLPATO Olivia
KELLY Delaney	WARD Bronte

Sunday 26th Nov

ALEXOPOULOS Dion	STIGLER Anthony
BELSITO Luca	TOWLE Baxter
BEASLEY Dawson	VANEGAS Valentina
CAROLAN Benedict	VINCENT Angelique
DAVIS Luke	VISELLI Charlotte
HAILSTONE Joshua	WRIGHT Dylan
HORAN Makayla	YEO Christian
HERTSCH Harry	
MARTIN Brody	
MASSARELLA James	
PUGIN Mireille	
ROBAARD Hamish	
STORMON Dominic	

My dear people,

NOVEMBER is probably a good time to share some thoughts on the celebration of Catholic funerals. At the time of the death and burial of a loved one, emotions can run high. So, before we have to face this traumatic event in our lives, we should be quite clear as to procedures. What does the Church teach regarding its funeral rites?

What should be kept in mind?

Firstly, and most importantly, the Church's liturgy (i.e. her official worship, which includes funerals) centres on Christ—His life, death, and resurrection, what we call His Paschal (or Passover) mystery. Into this mystery we were plunged at Baptism, and we were given the promise of immortality. This is why the Paschal Candle, marked with Christ's Five Wounds, is lit both at our Baptism and our funeral. The light of Christ scatters the darkness of our lives and especially, the darkness of death. The climax of our lives in Christ during our earthly existence is the reception of Holy Communion, and so it is most appropriate that our funeral take place during the celebration of Mass.



The celebration of Mass, of course, is strictly controlled so that our priorities stay clear. The deceased, no matter how much we loved them, are not the centre of the Mass—Christ is the centre. We bring our loved ones to the Church so that we may celebrate their union with the Crucified and risen Christ. They have shared His death; we pray that they may also share His resurrection. You might notice that, at the funeral, the deceased take the same place they had at Mass: a priest faces the congregation, lay people face the altar.

Does this mean that the Church is insensitive to the emotions of the mourners? Not at all. Many are not aware that the Church proposes that the funeral liturgy be celebrated in three stages:

- 1) A vigil the night before, either at the house of the deceased, the funeral parlour, or the church. Hymns and Scripture readings may be interspersed with the sharing of memories. The form of the ceremony is very flexible.
- 2) The celebration of the Funeral Mass. The family is invited to liaise with the priest as to the selection of hymns and Biblical readings, and the composition of the Prayers of the Faithful. The music **must** be religious. Remember, this is the Church's Worship.
- 3) The burial, or service at the Crematorium. The Church allows cremation on the condition that the ashes are treated with the same reverence as the body. They should be buried reverently.

If there is to be no Funeral Mass, then a Liturgy of the Word is celebrated. The ideal and presumption, of course, is to celebrate a Mass. The Mass is the making present of Christ's death and resurrection, the very source of our redemption. (When there is no Mass, I always offer my Mass that day for the soul of the deceased.) A growing problem today is that, in many cases, the deceased's family no longer practise their Faith, and so the actual mechanics of arranging and celebrating Mass proves to be a problem.

The Ritual for the celebration of part (2) of the Liturgy—i.e Mass or a Liturgy of the Word—gives the instruction, "A member or a friend of the family may speak in remembrance of the deceased". Tensions can arise when the family think they can combine part (1) with part (2). This, then causes an imbalance in the Liturgy when the eulogy or eulogies take precedence over the Word of God and the priest's Homily, and even the Eucharistic Prayer. (I was told recently of a Funeral Mass where the eulogy went for 74 minutes! You can see what I mean.)

You read sometimes in the newspapers, and on the front of funeral booklets, "Celebration of the life of _____". The Mass is not the celebration of the life of the deceased—the Mass is the celebration of the life of Christ, and the deceased's participation in that life. The deceased's life can be celebrated at the Vigil the night before. Many Catholics, sadly, have forgotten these basics of our Faith, and are often influenced by their attendance at non-Catholic funerals. Without in any way disparaging our Protestant brethren, it is a simple fact that many Confessions do not believe in praying for the dead, therefor their funerals are simply a remembrance of the life of a loved one. Catholic tradition has always been that, according to the Second Book of Maccabees (12:45), "it is a holy and wholesome thought that we should pray for the dead, so that they may be released from their sins".

Fr Graham Schmitzer

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Parish Priest