

PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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Mr Philip Moore

Parish Secretary:

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PROGRAMME FOR THIS WEEK

Monday	16 April	NO MASS
Tuesday	17 April	Holy Communion: 5.30pm
Wednesday	18 April	NO MASS
Thursday	19 April	Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm (Reconciliation Available) Mass: 5.30pm
Friday	20 April	Mass: 9.30am
Saturday	21 April	Mass: 7.30am (Anniversary of Bishop Murray's death) Reconciliation: 5pm-5.30pm Vigil Mass: 6pm
Sunday	22 April	FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER <u>Vocation Sunday</u> Masses: 7am, 9am, 10.45am (Polish)

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER — YEAR B 15th APRIL 2018

READINGS: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19; 1 Jn 2:1-5; Lk 24:35-48.

St Peter explains the Passion to his listeners (**FIRST READING**).

St John tells us we show that we know God by keeping His commandments (**SECOND READING**).

The risen Christ appears to the apostles and commissions them to preach the Gospel to all nations (**GOSPEL**).



WELCOME TO OUR PARISH

Please welcome into the Church:

- **Orlando Mario PASSILONGO** -

son of Corrado and Christina (Molinaro)

- **Dominic Joseph MASI** -

son of Daniel and Heidi (Wilkinson)

- **Mila Marie KOLEGA** -

daughter of Matthew and Sarah (Tolhurst)

who were baptised last Sunday.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased: Daniel PEARCE

Anniversaries: Bishop William MURRAY

Annie Julia ROBINSON

Fortunata OBRA ESCOBIA

As Well As: Lucas, Aquilino, Demetrio and
Andrea ESCOBIA JAGMOC

ROSTERS — NEXT WEEKEND

Sat 21 Apr	Church Cleaning	W & J Rodgers, J Andersson	
	Lawns		
	Acolytes	Lectors	Welcomers
Sat 21 Apr 6pm Mass	A Carlotto	L Milan	Volunteer
Sun 22 Apr 7am Mass	A Michielin	D Ferrer	Walsh Family
Sun 22 Apr 9am Mass	N Dwyer C Carolan	R Green	B Spain G Petric
Counters	M Murphy (FT), R Wilson, J Carolan, S Alessi		
Children's Liturgy	Holidays		

PARISH ACTIVITIES

Catholic Women's League: 2nd Thursday of the month - 10:30am
St Joseph's room
New members welcome!
Contact: Barbara 4271 1584
or Margaret 4271 5804

St Vincent de Paul Conference: Tues 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 the 9am Mass on 1st weekend of the month

PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL

The Parish Finance Council has approved the recent external Audit of the Parish. The Parish's balance sheet for 2017 may be viewed on the noticeboard located in the side porch of the church. Don't be fooled by the final numbers - that represents the worth of the Parish property on paper. In reality, we are just keeping our head above water.

A NEW PARISH VENTURE

— A CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS LIBRARY —

At this week's Parish Pastoral Council meeting a suggestion was put forth to establish a Children's Religious Library.

Today, children seldom have the opportunities to read good, interesting, enticing and challenging religious books that can help them develop and expand their knowledge of their Catholic Faith, Jesus' teaching, learn stories from the Bible, lives of the Saints and the teachings of the Catholic Church.

The suggestion met with 100% approval. A number of fundraising activities will be organised to raise money to purchase books. The library will cater for children from the age of 3 years up to young teenagers. It will operate after the Sunday Masses.

Any family who would like to donate religious books in good condition could leave them in a box under St Anne's Statue at the back of the Church. Further information will be provided as the project gets underway.

Sr Joan Goodwin



Gospel Reflection

Those who care about others pick up a lot of wounds.

There may be no great wounds,

only a multiplicity of little ones -

a host of scratches, wrinkles and welts.

But there can also be a lot of invisible wounds:

the furrows left on the mind and the heart

by hardship, worry and anxiety,

disappointments, ingratitude, and betrayal.

These wounds are not things to be ashamed of.

They are badges of our love.

Jesus didn't hide His wounds.

Neither should we.

By His wounds we are healed.

RAFFLE PRIZE DONATIONS NEEDED!

Donations of prizes are required for the Mother's Day Pamper Pack Raffle! The raffle is to help raise funds for Sr Joan to acquire books about the Saints for the library being set up in St Joseph's room.

For any enquiries regarding donations, contact Gloria Simmonite (4271 3634) or Helen Murphy (4271 2069).

A box will be provided in the church each weekend for any donated prizes (eg soaps, perfumes, chocolates, etc) - please provide your donated prizes before 29 April.

The Mother's Day raffle tickets will be sold on Sunday 5 May and Sunday 13 May — and will be drawn by Father after 9am Mass on Mother's Day 13 May 2018.



— CONGRATULATIONS —

ROB AND LORRAINE KRAUSE

Congratulations to **Rob and Lorraine Krause** who this month celebrate the Golden Jubilee of their marriage. They have served this Parish well - for that we thank them and, above all, for the witness they have given before the world to faithful Christian marriage. *"Christian families give priceless testimony to Christ before the world by remaining faithful to the Gospel and by providing a model of Christian marriage throughout their lives."* (Vatican II).





“Lean on God.”

St Mary of the Cross — 1871

CONGRATULATIONS — PEG McENTEE

Congratulations to **Peg McEntee** of our Diocese
who has been awarded

Dame of the Order of St Gregory The Great by Pope Francis.

Peg was for many years Diocesan President of Catholic Women’s League, and she has been a tireless advocate of the League. Forty years ago she took up the cause of the Canonisation of Mother Mary MacKillop, and inspired the CWL in every Diocese in Australia to do the same. On many occasions Peg represented the Catholic Women of Australia at international Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) meetings.

I take this opportunity to encourage Catholic Women to join the League. Catholic Women’s League Australia is a member of the World Union of Catholic Women’s Organisations (WUCWO). Together they have a seat at the United Nations!

Catholic Women, you have a say!

MEN’S WEEKEND

5—6 May 2018

Xavier Conference Centre, 38 Harbour St Wollongong

menALIVE Weekend for Men is SOON. It is happening on 5-6 May at the Xavier Centre, Wollongong. 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 to register.

Details and registration forms are available in the church foyer or go to www.menalive.org.au to book.

Enquiries: Contact Ian Boorman on 0427 006 021 or email Jude Hennessy at jude.hennessy@dow.org.au

FAITH CIRCLES – CONNECT: WEEKLY RESOURCE FOR SMALL GROUPS IN PARISHES

Want to help transform your Parish into a place where people are known, loved, challenged and supported? Small groups or ‘communities of communities’ hold the key. Connect is a weekly small group resource and is available for free download with a Leader’s guide, weekly reflection questions for the Sunday Gospel and accompanying prayer points.

It is available to download at www.faithcircles.dow.org.au or have it sent to you each month via email subscription.

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM – AIRS SUNDAY 15 APRIL 2018 –

This week on the Journey Catholic Radio, our Gospel reflection is narrated by Fr Mike Delaney and reflects on the Gospel of Luke. Pete Gilmore asks us “How Do You Want to Start Tomorrow?” and Marilyn Rodrigues, reminds us of the importance of “Having a Team Around You.” Music is Joy! and it our music that helps us to create a show about faith, hope, love and life.

**Go to www.jcr.org.au or
www.itunes.jcr.org.au
where you can listen any time
and subscribe to weekly
shows by email.**



Youth: Get Along To iSTAND CAMP #1:

25—27 APRIL 2018

The Wollongong YMT will be running the first iSTAND camp of the year at The Venue Conference Centre in Bellambi this school holidays! The camp is jam-packed with games, music, dramas, sport, prayer, recreation time and more, and is a great way to make some new friends. If you or someone you know is a high schooler between years 9-12 and would be interested in a couple of days away during the school holidays to learn more about yourself, others and God, we would love to have you!

Head to www.ymt.com.au/rego-wollongong to register and for more information, or call Louisa on 0433 636 359.

A VOCATION VIEW

What could convince someone to turn to God? That God became man and is the sacrifice that takes our sins away. Let us pray - Lord Jesus, make Your word plain to us and set our hearts on fire with love when You speak. Enable us to respond to the call to be witnesses of Your love.

Please contact Fr Richard Healey, Vocations Director, on 0401 621 591 or via email at priesthood@dow.org.au

ONE MILLION ROSARIES FOR UNBORN BABIES

The 2018 One Million Rosaries For Unborn Babies global prayer event is scheduled for **4, 5 and 6 May**. Persons participating will pray at least one Rosary for the protection of unborn babies. For details and to register go to:
<http://www.saintmichaelthearchangelorganization.org/>



My dear people,

Some years ago the 'Sydney Morning Herald' carried the headline "The Great Betrayal". It followed the discovery of a major act of cheating in Rugby League. The article began, "There's a little boy who got a footy jumper for Christmas. He can't wait to wear it at the season kick-off or the first bounce in a few weeks. It doesn't matter whether it is a Manly jumper or an Essendon jumper. Every night he goes to sleep, he gazes at his team's poster, dreaming of the day he grows up into that line-up. Now? A cloud hangs over every poster of every team in every young child's bedroom." Now, a mother writes in last week's 'Herald' of the devastation her 8-year-old son feels. Steve Smith was his idol.

Yes, there has been a betrayal, and the terrible message being given to a younger generation is that sport is always about winning - that message is bad enough, but winning at any cost?

All this is actually part of something bigger. Australia has a reputation world-wide as one of the great sporting nations. But it is gaining a reputation, too, as a secular or God-less nation. Our sporting arenas are overflowing at the weekend, while many churches are half-empty. The cost of a family going to a sporting fixture would far outweigh what they would have put on the 'plate' at church. The 'Herald' article also noted that "despite tightening budgets, (families) pay Foxtel \$100 a month to watch it all." It is the story of Cain and Abel all over again - when we cheat God, we start to cheat each other. Ultimately, we are cheating ourselves. "What if one should gain the whole world, and lose one's soul?"

But I think the Greater Betrayal is a spiritual one - Catholic parents who are hiding the treasure of the Faith from their children. It could be said that today's young parents are not to blame - they seem not to have been taught the basics of the Faith. And it seems their parents weren't, either. Something happened when Religious left the schools, and the Bishops did not foresee the consequences. I am certainly forever grateful to the nuns who taught me the Faith.

However, there are still many opportunities for the modern parent to deepen their faith. Most parishes are still staffed by priests who provide Mass and the Sacraments on a regular, if not daily, basis. Many parishes provide faith programmes. Sacramental programmes are constantly offered with the opportunity for parent and child to learn together. (Thank God for Sister Joan). And many parents still have the example of their own faith-filled parents and grandparents to emulate. They are not living in a vacuum.

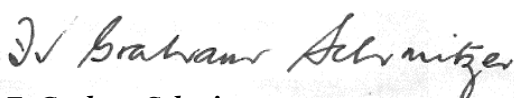
But there seems a great unwillingness among the younger population to change their ways, caught up as they are in a secular society. As adults they are, in a sense, free to do what they like. But once they present a child to the Church for Baptism, everything changes. "Do you promise to do everything in your power to bring up your child in the practice of the Faith?" the priest asks. "We do," vow the parents (provided this does not interfere with Little Nippers, Junior Football or dancing lessons).

I see a problem in parents confusing their children - enrolling them in a Catholic school, then teaching them by their example that the Commandments are not really necessary. I single out three: the First, that nothing comes before God, neither family, nor work, nor recreation; the Third, keeping holy the Lord's Day by attending Mass (so easier now with Vigil Masses); and the Sixth, I not infrequently listen to children telling me about Mummy's new boyfriend or Daddy's new girlfriend. (When I was a child, a Court would have removed children from such 'moral danger').

Then there is the terrible example children see of adults in a state of serious sin approaching the altar for Holy Communion without prior Confession. Some time ago Pope Benedict spoke to priests about the need to remind their people that God should not be treated in such a casual manner.

I see a problem, too, in Catholic schools staffed by non-practising Catholics. The school can hardly be seen, then, as a force for evangelisation.

Yes, I think the modern Catholic child is being betrayed. A Benedictine Nun said to me recently, "For the first time in Christianity, one generation is not passing the Faith on to the next."



Fr Graham Schmitzer
Parish Priest