

# PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

48 Princes Highway (PO Box 14) Unanderra NSW 2526



**Parish Priest:** Fr Graham Schmitzer

**Polish Chaplain:** Fr Tomasz Nowak  
Mobile: 0437 677 727  
Email: tomasz.n04@gmail.com

**Parish Assistant & Catechist Co-ordinator:** Sister Joan Goodwin  
Ph: 4272 9980  
Mobile: 0499 970 074  
Email: joan.goodwin@sosj.org.au

**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 Sue Briscoe**

**Parish Office Hours:** Monday, Thursday and Friday: 9am—3:30pm  
Phone: 4271 1068 | Fax: 4271 1298  
Email: unanderra@dow.org.au  
Parish Website: www.unanderraparish.org.au

## PROGRAMME FOR THIS WEEK

**Monday** 23 April Mass: 7am

**Tuesday** 24 April Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm  
Mass: 5.30pm

**Wednesday** 25 April **ANZAC DAY**  
Requiem Mass: 8am  
*followed by breakfast*

**Thursday** 26 April Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm  
(Reconciliation Available)  
Mass: 5.30pm

**Friday** 27 April Mass: 9.30am

**Saturday** 28 April Mass: 7.30am  
Reconciliation: 5pm-5.30pm  
Vigil Mass: 6pm

**Sunday** 29 April **FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
Masses: 7am, 9am, 10.45am (Polish)

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR B 22 APRIL 2018

**READINGS:** Acts 4:8-12; 1 Jn 3:1-2; Jn 10:11-18.

The theme running through all three Readings can be seen as the great love God has shown us in what He has done for us in Jesus, the Good Shepherd, our one and only Saviour. In heaven we shall see Him as He really is.



## CATHFAMILY

CATHFAMILY brings you a selection of activities, prayer rituals, crafts and recipes for free from their website.

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.

<https://cathfamily.org>



## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

### Anniversaries:

Fr Leo STEVENS

Anita JOHANSSON

Kenneth VARLEY

Beverly HOLDING

## 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

## NEXT MORNING TEA

**Sunday 6 May 2018**  
**After 9am Mass - St Joseph's room**  
Helpers: Jan and Fiona.



## UNANDERRA CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

The most recent meeting of the Unanderra CWL was held on Thursday 12 April - points of interest discussed were:

- \*ANZAC Day Mass and Breakfast - Immaculate Conception.
- \*NSW CWL State Conference 4,5&6 Sep - Novotel Wollongong.
- \*World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations (WUCWO) Mass - 11.30am Friday 11 May at Port Kembla.
- \*Kiama 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass & Luncheon - 11am Wed 9 May.
- \*Diocesan Retreat Day - 9.30am Wed 23 May at Gerringong.

**The next meeting for the CWL will be held on:**

**Thursday 10 May 2018 at 10.30am (St Joseph's room)**

New members are always welcome — so if you'd like to know more about the above events or joining the CWL, please contact:

**Barbara on 4271 1584 or Margaret on 4271 5804**



## Gospel Reflection

*Compassion is not learned without suffering.*

*Unless we have suffered and wept  
we really don't understand what compassion is  
nor can we comfort someone who is suffering.*

*Unless we have walked in darkness,  
we can't help wanderers to find their way.*

*But if we have suffered,  
we become pathfinders for others  
and it is by reaching out to others  
that we ourselves are healed.*

*Jesus bore the marks of our violent world on His body.*

*Those wounds were the proof of His love.*

*They were the mortal wounds the Good Shepherd  
picked up in caring for His sheep.*

*The wounds of Jesus are a source of consolation,  
courage, and hope to us in our sufferings.*

*By His wounds we are healed.*

## DIAMOND WOMEN'S SUPPORT INFO NIGHT

You are warmly invited to attend:

Diamond Women's Support Information Night with  
Diamond founder and Executive Director, Jenny Gurry.

**7pm Thursday 26 April** - at St Brigid's Primary School Hall  
located at 2 Vickery Street, Gwynneville.

Refreshments will be provided, and it is expected  
that the evening will conclude at around 8:30pm.

Diamond is a not-for-profit organisation that provides help and support to women and families facing an unplanned pregnancy. DWS offers practical assistance in the way of baby and maternity goods, emotional and spiritual support through counselling and group classes to train and equip women and families facing an unplanned pregnancy. DWS is based in the centre of Western Sydney and provides support services in other locations across New South Wales.

Women and families across Wollongong and the Illawarra region would benefit greatly from such a service and it is our hope that this information night will be the first step towards establishing a women's support service in Wollongong. This event has been arranged by a group of local families hoping to assist women in our area.

**Please RSVP to Joe Carolan: joseph.carolan@gmail.com**



## 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, please 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.



***"Have Courage,  
no matter what your crosses are."***

*St Mary of the Cross — 1890*

## CALLED TO MINISTRY?

### — UPCOMING LITURGICAL MINISTRY TRAINING EVENTS —

Have you considered serving your parish as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, or an Adult Altar Server, or a Minister of Communion of the Sick and Homebound?

The 2018 Diocesan Training courses in these ministries are scheduled as follows:

*(Please note: Date change for Campbelltown)*

**Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion 10am-1pm,  
Servers continue 10am-3pm**

- CAMPBELLTOWN, Saturday 23 June 2018 - St John the Evangelist Parish Hall, Campbelltown

- NOWRA, Saturday 7 July 2018 - St Michael's Parish Hall, Nowra  
*Members of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission will lead two sessions in the morning covering the common ministry of Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion and one session after lunch for servers. Morning tea and lunch provided.*

*Dates now confirmed for Campbelltown and Nowra*

**Communion of the Sick and Homebound 10am-2.30pm**

- WOLLONGONG, Saturday 16 June 2018 - Xavier Conference Centre, Wollongong

- CAMPBELLTOWN, Saturday 28 July - St John the Evangelist Parish Hall, Campbelltown

- NOWRA, Saturday 4 August - St Michael's Parish Hall, Nowra

*Pre-requisite of prior training as an Acolyte, Adult Altar Server or Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. Led by members of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission.*

*Morning tea and lunch provided.*

**For further information:  
visit [www.liturgy.dow.org.au](http://www.liturgy.dow.org.au)**

**Registration essential to:  
Anthony Rewak on 4222 2465 or  
via email [anthony.rewak@dow.org.au](mailto:anthony.rewak@dow.org.au)**



## RETREAT

Mt Carmel Retreat Centre

May Retreat at: 247 St Andrews Road Varroville NSW 2566

***"Faith without works is dead"* (James 2:17)**

**Presenter: Deacon Peter Presdee**

**When: Saturday 5 May 2018**

**10am – 4.30pm**

**Cost: \$30.00**

Contact: 02 8795 3400  
[retreats@carmelite.com](mailto:retreats@carmelite.com)  
[www.carmelites.com.au](http://www.carmelites.com.au)

***Please remember to bring your own lunch***

Pick-ups from Minto train station at 9.30am and 10am

## THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM — AIRS SUNDAY 22 APRIL 2018 —

This week on the Journey Catholic Radio, our Gospel reflection is spoken to us by Fr Steven Varney. Sr Hilda Scott reminds us not to get caught up in the Blame Game with her Wisdom from the Abbey, The Catholic Guy, Bruce Downes Calls us to Forgive and Sam Clear ponders Silence. We are truly blessed to have amazing Christian Music artists that helps us to create a show 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 any time**

**and subscribe to weekly**

**shows by email.**



## A VOCATION VIEW

This is World Day of Prayer for Vocations. The world needs worthy leaders, Good Shepherds of the 21st Century, caring unselfishly for the needs of God's people. Please pray for Vocations.

**Please contact Fr Richard Healey**

**Vocations Director**

**on 0401 621 591**

**or via email at [priesthood@dow.org.au](mailto:priesthood@dow.org.au)**



## PILGRIMAGE OF HOPE TO EUROPE

Fr Praveen Paul would like to invite you for a 17-day pilgrimage that he is leading featuring Avila, Fatima, Santiago, Santander, Lourdes, Milan, Padua, Assisi and Rome departing on 15 Aug 2018 for an all-inclusive price of \$7,200. Call now for early-bird discount of \$1,000. Optional extension to Medjugorje / Padre Pio & Lanciano available. Next pilgrimage to Europe departs on 7 Oct 2018 at same price. This fare includes return airfares + local transfers + stay in 4-star hotels + all breakfasts and dinners. Tips and single supplements not included.

**For enquiries & bookings call 0385 622 246 or  
email [pilgrimage@magiholidays.com.au](mailto:pilgrimage@magiholidays.com.au)**

## MOTHER'S DAY DINNER

**St Mary Star of the Sea College**



**6.30pm for 7pm Friday 11 May 2018**

**Villa D'Oro Function Centre**

**39-41 Flinders Street, Wollongong**

All ex-students, Mothers of ex-students, Mothers of present students and Friends of the College are warmly invited to attend our annual Mother's Day Dinner.

Pre-dinner drinks, sumptuous dinner, lucky door prizes, silent auction and great raffle prizes to be won.

**Tickets \$65.00**

***Bookings need to be made by Friday 4 May 2018.***

**For more information, please contact Marie Pulford or Maree McCarthy at the College on 4228 6011.**



My dear people,

Throughout the Church, today is VOCATION SUNDAY. It was established by Pope Paul VI after the Second Vatican Council as an occasion to reflect on God's plan for the Church and the World. God has allowed Himself to need us. Not that He cannot, He will not save the world without us. So it was that during His short life on earth, Jesus gathered around Him a little band who would form the nucleus of the Church. To the outsider it would have seemed total madness – Jesus did not exactly choose influential people to continue His work. Even Jesus' miracles and teaching were not enough to convert them. Seeing is obviously not necessarily believing.

It was the direct action of God which changed these first disciples – Pentecost for the Apostles, and the appearance of the Risen Lord to Paul on his way to Damascus. Saint Paul would emphasise over and over again – it is all God's initiative. He has a plan both for the world at large and for each of us individually. This was the theme of Pope Benedict's message a few years ago.

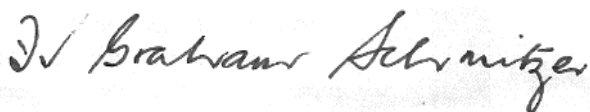
The Holy Father wrote: *"The vocation to the priesthood and to the consecrated life constitutes a special gift of God which becomes part of the great plan of love and salvation that God has for every man and woman and for the whole of humanity. Saint Paul says: 'Blessed be God.. he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him' (Eph 1:4)."*

To achieve this God chose some to follow His Son more closely. *"The divine Master personally called the Apostles. They, in turn, gathered other disciples around them as faithful collaborators in this mission. Over the centuries countless ranks of priests and consecrated persons placed themselves totally at the service of the Gospel in the Church. Even today He continues to call together workers into His vineyard, persons of every culture and of every age and invites them to follow Him according to the mysterious plans of His merciful love."*

The entire Christian people must grow in trust in God, continued Pope Benedict, convinced that the Lord of the harvest does not cease to ask some to place their entire existence freely at His service. God still calls – we must pray that those He is calling will listen carefully with prudent discernment. God's free initiative must be met with free response. No one, of course, is worthy. And no one can respond purely on the human level. Look at the Apostles! Without the Holy Spirit they were completely ineffective.

That same Spirit is still at work turning the timid into the strong. Men and women can still do this, remembering the words of Jesus, *"Pray the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest"* (Matt 9:38). It is one of the few things Jesus asked us specifically to pray for, and we must take His request seriously, praying for vocations not just today but continuously, and encouraging those in our care to think about a vocation. Like Our Lady, said the Pope, we must cultivate the ability to be astonished by God.

Pray for your priests, pray for vocations.



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

**YOU  
HAVE NOT  
CHOSEN  
ME#  
I HAVE  
CHOSEN  
YOU#**

**POPE FRANCIS – MESSAGE FOR 2018  
WORLD DAY OF VOCATIONS**

*"It will not fill our hearts if we keep standing by the window with the excuse of waiting for the right time, without accepting this very day the risk of making a decision. Vocation is today! The Christian mission is now! Each one of us is called to become a witness of the Lord, here and now."*

*"We should not wait to be perfect in order to respond with our generous "yes", nor be fearful of our limitations and sins, but instead open our hearts to the voice of the Lord."*

**A prayer request**

You might know of a young person in the parish, in your family or an acquaintance whom you think would make a good priest or religious. Why not pray for them by name on a regular basis? Carry them with you 'spiritually' to Mass on Sunday. Sometimes the Lord uses us as his instruments to encourage vocations.