

# 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

<b>Monday</b>	7 May	Mass: 7am
<b>Tuesday</b>	8 May	Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm Mass: 5.30pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	9 May	Mass: 7am
<b>Thursday</b>	10 May	Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm (Reconciliation Available) Mass: 5.30pm
<b>Friday</b>	11 May	Mass: 9.30am
<b>Saturday</b>	12 May	Mass: 7.30am Reconciliation: 5pm-5.30pm Vigil Mass: 6pm
<b>Sunday</b>	13 May	<b>ASCENSION OF THE LORD</b> Masses: 7am, 9am, 10.45am (Polish)

## SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER — YEAR B 6 MAY 2018

**READINGS:** Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48;  
1 Jn 4:7-10; Jn 15:9-17.

The Baptism of Cornelius, the first pagan to receive baptism, shows that God's salvation is open to all (**FIRST READING**).

The **SECOND READING** contains what is probably the most important statement ever made about God.

In the **GOSPEL** Jesus leaves His friends the supreme commandment of love.



## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

**Recently Deceased:** Lyle Kevin BROWN  
Laurie GREENING  
(father of Sue Briscoe)

**Anniversaries:** Peter O'KEEFE  
Arthur VARLEY  
Ronald MONAGHAN  
Moira DOYLE

## PARISH MORNING TEA

Please join us for our monthly Parish Morning Tea  
Sunday 6 May 2018  
After 9am Mass - St Joseph's room  
Helpers: Jan and Fiona.



## ROSTERS — NEXT WEEKEND

Sat 12 May	Church Cleaning	G Lord, L Zanetti, S Adams	
	Lawns	J Lonard, H Yates, F Timpano, S Carrigan	
	Acolytes	Lectors	Welcomers
Sat 12 May 6pm Mass	P Jones	A Kelly	V Cleary
Sun 13 May 7am Mass	M Walsh	C Walsh	Walsh Family
Sun 13 May 9am Mass	R Klaus C Carolan	R Green	C Hailstone K Hertsch
Counters	B & P Walker, A Kelly		
Children's Liturgy	C Hailstone, L Galea		

## PARISH ACTIVITIES

**Catholic Women's League:** 2nd Thursday of the month - 10:30am  
in 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

## Gospel Reflection

*If only the heart was right  
we could give so much more.  
But, alas, the heart is often empty.  
It is often cold and unwelcoming.  
It is often hard and unyielding.  
It is often weighed down with worry.  
It is often sad and lonely.  
It is often in darkness.  
It is often wounded.  
And it is sometimes broken.  
We have to heal the wounds of the heart  
in order to be able to love.  
Lord, touch our hearts and heal them,  
so that we may be able to bear  
the fruits of love.*



## MOTHER'S DAY RAFFLE

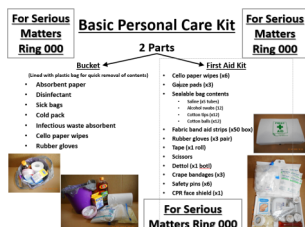
The Mother's Day  
raffle tickets will be sold on  
— **Sunday 5 May and Sunday 13 May** —  
and will be drawn by Father after 9am Mass  
on Mother's Day 13 May

## PERSONAL CARE KIT

The Parish Pastoral Council has compiled a basic personal care kit for use in and around our church. It is located in the northern confessional next to the water dispenser. There are a number of information posters (below) about the kit and what it contains situated as follows:

- First left-hand side support pillar when entering side door of church.
- On door of small cupboard on left-hand side of aisle when entering front door of church.
- Door of northern confessional.
- Wall above location of basic personal care kit in northern confessional.

Please take a moment to familiarise yourself with the contents of this basic personal care kit and make use of its contents when necessary.



## PARISH MINISTRY — CATECHISTS

One of the special ministries in our Parish is the teaching of the Catholic Faith to children in State Schools. The ministry is known as Special Religious Education (SRE). New South Wales is the only state in Australia where teaching of Religion is permitted by State law. Most of the other States have taken Religion off the curriculum.

In our Parish there are four State Schools - Unanderra, Figtree, Farmborough Road and Mount Kembla - that are served by eight catechists, who teach 12 classes each week on Tuesdays and Thursdays. For fifty years generous parishioners have volunteered for this ministry. This year three catechists could not continue and we are in need of replacements - catechists and helpers - to carry on this wonderful and rewarding work.

Jesus commissioned His Apostles to go and teach His message of God's love. We are the ones who must continue to go out. PLEASE consider this ministry to God's little ones as something you could do. The ministry is supported by a training programme and help at all times.

**For further information please contact:**

**Sr Joan Goodwin**

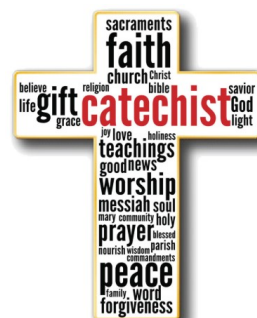
**Catechist Co-ordinator**

**on 4272 9980 or via email**

**at [joan.goodwin@sosj.org.au](mailto:joan.goodwin@sosj.org.au)**

Parishioners, we ask your prayers for this special ministry, for catechists and the children who attend Scripture classes.

*Thank you, Sr Joan Goodwin*





***"Let no obstacle deter us from proceeding with courage."***

*St Mary of the Cross — 1893*

## SOCIAL JUSTICE FOOD FOR THOUGHT

### Australian Bishops on the Economy

Consider where the economy fails your local community. Be mindful that sometimes poverty and exclusion is hidden. Are there particularly vulnerable groups in our churches, workplaces or schools? Parish and community census profiles can help identify groups in need:



**The Australian Bureau of Statistics:**  
[www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

**The Bishops' Pastoral Research Office:**  
<http://pro.catholic.org.au/catholic-social-profiles>

## THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM – AIRS SUNDAY 6 MAY 2018 –

On The Journey this week, we welcome Fr Richard Healey to reflect on the Gospel, proclaiming Jesus' love for us. We also have the wonderful Sr Hilda Scott OSB sharing some new Wisdom From the Abbey, with a wonderful story about finding God. As well as Sam Clear with new reflections from his Walk 4 One and his speaking ministry. And much more fantastic content to enrich your life! Along with some of the best Christian music out there, this is a fantastic episode! Join us to receive some 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.**



## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM THE DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY 3 JUNE 2017

Following Francis Sullivan's address in relation to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (the Royal Commission) at the Diocesan Assembly at Fairy Meadow in June 2017, participants were invited to ask questions. The Professional Standards and Child Protection Team have spent careful and considered time responding to the questions. Some of the questions were very similar and accordingly have been merged to avoid unnecessary repetition.

**The link to the questions and answers are provided here:**  
<https://dow.sh/DioAssembly>

It is hoped these answers will assist many in gaining an understanding with respect to the current policy development regarding child protection and respond to victims and survivors who have been harmed by Catholic Church personnel within the Diocese of Wollongong.

## HOURS OF GRACE

12 hours of prayer and Holy Eucharistic Adoration at Wollongong Hospital

**Date:** 12<sup>th</sup> May 2018

**Time:** 8am to 8pm

An opportunity for the wider community to come along and join in the prayer for the Hospital patients, staff, management, those who are sick and those not cured by any medicine. We will also pray for those who are addicted to drugs and alcohol.

All staff and patients are welcome to meet Jesus during these Hours of Grace.

## MEMORIAL MASS – BR C V BELL

A memorial Mass for the late Br C V Bell cfc will be held at **St Francis Xavier's Cathedral, Harbour Street, Wollongong on Friday 11 May 2018 at 4pm** followed by refreshments in the Xavier Centre.

Christian Brothers, Clergy, relatives, Old Boys of ERC, staff, friends and members of the Wollongong community are welcome to attend.

Enquiries: Trish O'Neill - Edmund Rice College on 4228 4344

## 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>



## PART TIME EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY PARISH SECRETARY – WARRAWONG

Warrawong parish is seeking the services of a part time secretary for 3 days – 13.5 hours per week (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday).

The position requires skills in administration, bookkeeping and maintaining a database. Good communication skills essential.

The parish secretary needs to be a committed and practising Catholic, embracing the teachings and ethos of the Catholic Church in their daily life.

**If interested, please make contact via email to request an application pack for this position:**  
[frances.vanleerdam@dow.org.au](mailto:frances.vanleerdam@dow.org.au)

*Applications close Monday 14 May 2018.*



*My dear people,*

You would be well aware of the ancient custom of dedicating the month of **MAY** to Our Lady. It is Spring in the Northern Hemisphere and the flowers are out. Women love flowers! Many countries will begin the month with a "May crowning". Remember Mary E Walsh's 19th century hymn, "O Mary we crown thee with blossoms today, Queen of the Angels, Queen of the May".

Expressions of love for Our Lady rank among the best of Catholic devotional spirituality at its best. As Jesus assured us from the Cross, Mary is our Mother. In the words of Pope Benedict, "Mary has truly become the Mother of all believers. Men and women of every time and place have recourse to her motherly kindness and her virginal purity and grace, in all their needs and aspirations, their joys and sorrows, their moments of loneliness and their common endeavours. Mary, Virgin and Mother, shows us what love is and whence it draws its origin and its constantly renewed power".

If Mary is mother to us all, it stands to reason that many of us will use a particularly beloved name for Our Mother - it is part of our Catholic devotional patrimony to do so. Whereas Mary has many names and titles, the favoured use of a particular name for her draws each of us individually into greater intimacy with her, and to the mystery represented by the title in question. For example, if a family prays to Mary under the title of "Our Lady Queen of Peace", the title presents an image of Mary on a mission: the mission of peace. People often form friendships when they are engaged in a common project. It is not difficult to imagine a person or a family praying to Our Lady of Peace eventually becoming peacemakers themselves.

A special bond exists between Our Lady and various nations through the unique titles by which she is known in certain lands. For years Slovakia was victim to invasion and pillaging from foreign sources, and was sustained in hope through the devotion of her people to Our Lady of Sorrows. She who had endured suffering throughout her own life lent strength to a nation that was all too familiar with suffering. 17th century Luxembourg, afflicted by plague, famine and the Thirty Years War, turned for consolation to Mary as Comforter of the Afflicted. Under atheistic communism the Faith flourished among the Polish people knowing that their nation was ruled not by politics but by Our Lady, Queen of Poland. Whatever name a nation uses most commonly for Our Lady creates special bonds for them with Mary, for in having their own unique name for her, they possess a special sign of intimacy with her.

Religious Orders also frequently honour Mary under a particular title: the Dominicans, Our Lady of the Rosary; the Franciscans, Our Lady of the Angels; the Redemptorists, Our Lady of Perpetual Help; the Schoenstatt Sisters, the Mother Thrice Admirable. Every Cistercian abbey has its own title for Mary.

Families, too, can place their homes and family life under the patronage of Our Lady using a particular name or title, and when they do so they are responding to Our Mother's desire to grow closer to each of us and to have us assist her in her work. Migrant families might find that their home culture as well as the faith that flourishes in that culture is strengthened by claiming Our Lady under the title of the country they have left. A family trying to overcome woundedness among its own members may find that Our Lady of Consolation helps to establish healing in that home. Families expecting a new child soon will find that Our Lady of the Visitation teaches them to continue to care for others while they devote attention to the health of the mother and to preparation in the home for the new arrival. Families in crisis may well find grounding in Our Lady of the Flight into Egypt, the Sorrowful Mother of Our Lady of Hope.

It can be a highly significant sharing time for a family to sit together and discuss which title for Mary is the most appropriate one for their family. Listening to the other members of the family might elicit some surprises! Next, the family will want to choose a statue, picture, icon or other image of Mary under the title chosen. This may well become the focus of prayer in the home. Each title of Mary has its own feast day. This could become the occasion to attend Mass as a family and to prepare a family feast with specially chosen guests, the children's godparents for example.

When Catholic neighbours or friends learn about this custom in their home, they too might want to establish it in their own homes. What a fine gift it would be to Our Lady to tell her that you were somehow responsible for encouraging devotion to her in another's home.



*Fr Graham Schmitzer*

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