

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
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Email: tomasz.n04@gmail.com

Parish Assistant & Catechist Co-ordinator: Sister Joan Goodwin
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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
Phone: 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 16 July No Mass

Tuesday 17 July Mass: 7am

Wednesday 18 July No Mass

Thursday 19 July Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm
(Reconciliation Available)
Mass: 5.30pm

Friday 20 July Mass: 9.30am

Saturday 21 July Mass: 7.30am
Reconciliation: 5pm-5.30pm
Vigil Mass: 6pm

Sunday 22 July **16th Sunday in Ordinary Time**
Masses: 7am, 9am, 10.45am (Polish)

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased: Sheila DWYER

Anniversaries: Br George CUSACK MSC
Mary Anne BLATTMAN
Barbara HOWARD
Andrew VAN DER LINDEN
Jason MOU
Jacob SMITH
Hans LAMBERT



**FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME — YEAR B**
15 JULY 2018

READINGS: Amos 7:12-15; Eph 1:3-14; Mk 6:7-13.

The prophet Amos faithfully accepts the task God gives him, but is rejected by those to whom he is sent (**FIRST READING**).

The Reading leads in to the **GOSPEL**, Jesus sending out the apostles as His representatives.

St Paul sings a hymn of thanksgiving to God for the spiritual gifts He has given us in Christ (**SECOND READING**).



**NOTICE TO PARENTS WITH
CHILDREN ENROLLED IN THE
SACRAMENT OF PENANCE
(RECONCILIATION) PROGRAM**

PARENTS' MEETING TIMES:

Monday 23 July 2018 - 7pm

Tuesday 24 July 2018 - 4.30pm

Wednesday 25 July 2018 - 7pm

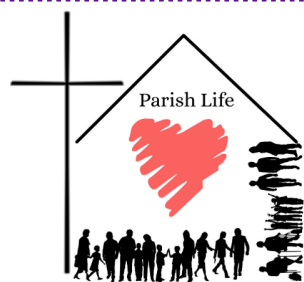


Located in **St Joseph's Room**
at the back of the Church.

It is compulsory for a parent to attend one of these meeting.

ROSTERS – NEXT WEEKEND

July	Church Washing	Jackie Allen	
Sat 21 July	Church Cleaning	G Lord, L Zanetti, S Adams	
	Lawns	Peters Family, Winner Family	
	Acolytes	Lectors	Welcomers
Sat 21 July 6pm Mass		A Kelly	V Cleary
Sun 22 July 7am Mass	M Walsh	K Calvert	S Brown
Sun 22 July 9am Mass	R Klaus C Carolan	C Walsh	B Spain G Petric
Counters	M Murphy (FH), C Stratton, A McQueen, M Winner		
Children's Liturgy	Holidays		



PARISH ACTIVITIES

- Catholic Women's League:** 2nd Thursday of the month - 10.30am in St Joseph's room
New members always welcome!
Please contact: Barbara - 4271 1584
- St Vincent de Paul Conference:** Every Tue 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 9am Mass ***
*** will NOT be held during ***
*** July, August or September ***

Gospel Reflection

*To do the work of Christ is really quite simple.
It means to be faithful in little things,
for to be faithful in little things is a big thing.
It means to do one's task, no matter how humble,
not only thoroughly but joyfully.
It means to make oneself available,
yet never to seek the limelight.
It means to make oneself useful,
without seeking to push oneself.
It means to carry one's own burden, without,
as far as possible, becoming a burden on others.
In a word, it means to be at one's post,
helpful and faithful, loyal and constant.
Lord, make me an instrument
for the building of your kingdom.*



FATHER GRAHAM'S 75th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

A great event occurs on Thursday 16 August 2018 - Father Graham turns 75!

Come and celebrate this milestone occasion with him, beginning with Mass at 5.30pm, followed by dinner at 6.30pm.
Depending on numbers, the location and cost for dinner will be finalised and notified closer to Fr Graham's birthday.

Please RSVP to Sue Briscoe (Parish Secretary)

before 3.30pm Monday 6 August 2018

either by email to unanderra@dow.org.au

or phone on 4271 1068

(Parish office hours: Monday, Thursday and Friday 9am–3.30pm)

Please provide Sue with name(s), contact phone number
and number of people attending Mass and/or dinner.

*Blessed by God
for 75 years*





"Pray that God's holy will may be done, whether it be in accordance with our wishes or not."

St Mary of the Cross — 1873

A VOCATION VIEW

In today's First Reading, Amos says he did not choose to be a prophet. God selected him. Maybe God is asking you to reconsider what you are doing and do His work instead.

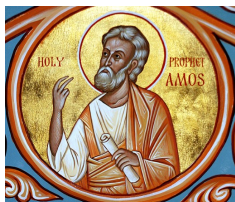
Please contact

Fr Richard Healey

Vocations Director

priesthood@dow.org.au

0401 621 591



EMERITUS BISHOP PETER INGHAM'S EPISCOPAL ANNIVERSARY

In the year of the 54th anniversary of his priesthood, Bishop Peter's celebrates 25 years as Bishop. This is a significant milestone in his life, and in the life of the Diocese of Wollongong and the Lumen Christi Parishes.

At the **10.30am Sunday Mass** at the Cathedral on **22 July 2018** there will be the opportunity to congratulate Bishop Peter for his leadership in the Church over this time.



There will be refreshments served in the Xavier Centre after the Mass.

All are welcome!



SOCIAL JUSTICE FOOD FOR THOUGHT

NAIDOC Week - July: Reconciliation Statement -

Together with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in your faith community, draw up a statement expressing a formal commitment to the work of reconciliation. This statement could be framed and placed in a prominent place and referred to in mission statements. *"Before the coming of this faith, we were held in custody under the law, locked up until the faith that was to come would be revealed. So the law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith. Now that this faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian."* Galatians 3:23-25

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM — AIRS SUNDAY 15 JULY 2018 —

On the Journey this Sunday, we present you some of the best Catholic content from around Australia.

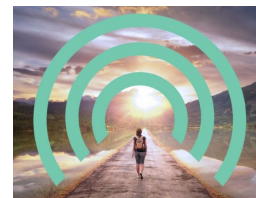
Our very own Fr Graham Schmitzer joins us to reflect on the Gospel for this week which is all about Christ sending the Apostles out; Trish McCarthy shares her Milk & Honey segment; Bruce Downes, the Catholic Guy, joins us to talk about sharing our faith, and much more!

As always the music this week is fantastic, and we hope that you get something out of the show this week!

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.



JOURNEY
CATHOLIC RADIO

BENEDICTINE ABBEY JAMBEROO DAY RETREAT

Does the Forest pray? Daily prayers are delivered on the lips of breaking waves, the whisperings of grasses, the shimmering of leaves. (Terry Tempest Williams)

A contemplative awareness of our environment and ecology can bring healing and hope. This is a day retreat where we can listen to the Spirit and explore our monastic tradition to refocus our concerns for ecology and pray within the forest. Bring a good pair of walking shoes as we take a stroll in our forest.

Saturday 28 July 2018

Benedictine Abbey - 695 Jamberoo Mt Road, Jamberoo 2533

Contact: cottageretreats@jamberooabbey.org.au or 4236 0533

Cost: \$30

Morning and afternoon tea provided. Bring your own lunch.

Presenter: Sr Veronica osb (see flyer on noticeboard)

SIGNIFICANT MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARY MASS

If you are celebrating **25, 40, 50 or 60 years** of marriage this year and would like an invitation to the Mass to be celebrated by Bishop Brian Mascord at **St John Vianney Co-Cathedral, Fairy Meadow** on **Sunday 19 August 2018 at 2pm**, please contact **Helen Bennett** on **4222 2403** or via email at helen.bennett@dow.org.au at the Office of the Bishop by Friday 20 July 2018 and an invitation will be sent to you.



DIOCESAN MASS - FEAST OF ST MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP

The Annual Diocesan Mass to celebrate the Feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop will be held on

Wednesday 8 August 2018 at 11am

at Immaculate Conception Parish, Unanderra

Bishop Brian Mascord will celebrate the Mass along with Fr Graham Schmitzer (Parish Priest Unanderra) and Fr Patrick Vaughan (Chaplain to Catholic Women's League).

Lunch will be available following Mass and will be hosted by the Unanderra Branch of Catholic Women's League.



My dear people,

In the final chapter of his letter REJOICE AND BE GLAD, Pope Francis speaks of the Christian life as a constant battle - not a battle just against the world or even our human weaknesses, but a constant struggle against the devil, the prince of evil. We will not admit the existence of the devil if we insist on regarding life by empirical standards alone. Only the existence of the devil enables us to understand how evil can have such destructive force. He is present in the very first pages of the Scriptures, which end with God's victory over the devil. It would be a mistake to think of the devil only as a figure of speech. This would lead us to let down our guard. The devil does not need to possess us. He poisons us with the venom of hatred, envy, and vice. "Like a roaring lion, he prowls around, looking for someone to devour" (1 PETER 5:8).



Those who deny that holiness is a constant battle fall prey to failure or mediocrity. Our weapons are prayer, meditation on the Word of God, the celebration of Mass, Eucharistic adoration, the sacrament of Reconciliation, works of charity. If we become careless, the false promises of evil will easily seduce us.

How can we know if something comes from the Holy Spirit or the spirit of the world or the spirit of the devil? The only way is through discernment, which calls for something more than intelligence or common sense. It is a gift which we must implore. God will surely give us this gift if we confidently ask the Holy Spirit, and then seek to develop it through prayer, reflection, reading, and good

counselling. The gift of discernment has become all the more necessary today, since contemporary life offers immense possibilities for action and distraction, and the world presents all as good. All of us, especially the young, are immersed in a culture of zapping. Without the wisdom of discernment we can easily become prey to every passing trend.

Discernment is necessary not only at extraordinary times when we need to resolve grave problems and make crucial decisions - we need it at all times to help us recognise God's timetable, lest we fail to hear the promptings of His grace and disregard His invitation to grow. We must all strive for all that is great, better, and more beautiful. "For this reason," says Pope Francis, "I ask all Christians not to omit, in dialogue with the Lord, a sincere daily 'examination of conscience'."

God speaks to us in a variety of ways. We cannot do without the silence of prolonged prayer, which enables us better to perceive God's language. Nevertheless, it is possible that, even in prayer itself, we could refuse to let ourselves be confronted by the Holy Spirit who acts as He wills. Prayerful discernment is born of a readiness to listen - to the Lord and to others, and to reality itself, which always challenges us in new ways. Only if we are prepared to listen will we have the freedom to set aside our partial or insufficient ideas. God may be asking us to accept a call that can shatter our security, but lead us to a better life. It is not enough that everything be calm and peaceful. God may be offering us something more and we do not recognise it.

Naturally, this attitude of listening entails obedience to the Gospel as the ultimate standard, and the treasury of the Church's teaching. Discernment is a growing understanding of God's patience and His timetable, which are never our own. It entails a readiness to make sacrifices, even to sacrificing everything. The Holy Spirit liberates us - He expels the fear that makes us ban Him from certain parts of our lives. God asks everything of us, but he also gives everything to us. He does not want to enter our lives to cripple or diminish them, but to bring them to fulfilment.

The Holy Father concludes his letter by reflecting on Mary because she lived the Beatitudes as none other. "She is that woman who rejoiced in the presence of God, who treasured everything in her Heart, and who let herself be pierced by a sword. She is the Saint among the Saints, blessed above all others. She teaches us the way of holiness and she walks ever at our side. She does not let us remain fallen, and at times she takes us into her arms without judging us."

Fr Graham Schmitzer

Fr Graham Schmitzer
Parish Priest

