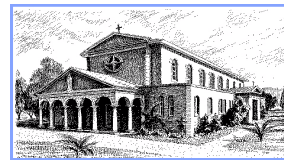


PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

48 Princes Highway (PO Box 14) Unanderra NSW 2526



Parish Priest: Mgr Graham Schmitzer

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

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

Parish School: St Pius X School
Cnr 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	8 Oct	No Mass
Tuesday	9 Oct	St Denis Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm Mass: 5.30pm
Wednesday	10 Oct	Mass: 7am (Convent)
Thursday	11 Oct	St John XXIII Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm (Reconciliation Available) Mass: 5.30pm
Friday	12 Oct	Mass: 9.30am
Saturday	13 Oct	Mass: 7.30am Reconciliation: 5pm-5.30pm Vigil Mass: 6pm
Sunday	14 Oct	28th Sunday in Ordinary Time Masses: 7am, 9am, 10.45am (Polish)

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — YEAR B

7 OCTOBER 2018

READINGS: Genesis 2:18-24; Hebrews 2:9-11; Mark 10:2-16

God made man and woman for each other. The bond of marriage means they are no longer two but one (**FIRST READING**).

The **GOSPEL** reinforces this message, Christ teaching that the marriage bond comes from God and is thus indissoluble.

Christ has become our Brother by entering fully into human life and experiencing the bitterness of death (**SECOND READING**).



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS



Anniversaries

Marta BONCOMPAGNI
Walter VAN DER LINDEN
Giuseppe ROSTIROLA
Pat HEFFERNAN

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

Thank you for your generous support of this appeal. A gift of \$1,179.00 has been forwarded to Bishop Brian as our response to his appeal. This year's appeal video can be viewed online (and donations can still be made) via the Diocese of Wollongong's website www.dow.org.au

"I am very grateful for your support in helping me to ensure that we can provide the for retirement and health care of our clergy. God bless you."

Bishop Brian Mascord

THANK YOU

ROSTERS – NEXT WEEKEND

October	Church Washing	Jackie Allen	
Sat 13 Oct	Church Cleaning	W & J Rodgers, J Andersson	
	Lawns	Fernandez Family, M Walsh	
	Acolytes	Lectors	Welcomers
Sat 13 Oct 6pm Mass	P Jones	L Milan	Volunteer
Sun 14 Oct 7am Mass	M Walsh	C Walsh	Walsh Family
Sun 14 Oct 9am Mass	R Klaus, C Carolan	R Green	Y Brunero, S Michielin
Counters	M Murphy (FH), C Stratton, A McQueen, M Winner		
Children's Liturgy	School 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 on 1st weekend of the month

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE MEETING

The monthly meeting of the CWL will be held on
Thursday 11 October at 10.30am in St Joseph's Room.

Everyone is very welcome to attend!

Join us for a cuppa and
chat before the meeting.
Hope to see you there.



PLENARY COUNCIL LISTENING SESSIONS

The Plenary Council listening sessions with our parish Animator/Plenary Ambassador, Vera Cleary, will be held in the St Joseph Room this week at the following times:

* **Wed 10 Oct - 7pm**

* **Thu 11 Oct - 6pm**

PlenaryCouncil2020
Listen to what the Spirit is saying...



All are welcome to attend a session.

Gospel Reflection

Youth is not a time of life, it is a state of mind.

Nobody grows old merely by living a number of years; people grow old only by deserting their ideals.

Worry, doubt, self-distrust, fear and despair, these are the long, long years that bow the head and turn the growing spirit back to dust.

You are as young as your faith, as old as your doubt; as young as your hope, as old as your despair.

As long as your heart receives messages of beauty, cheer, courage, grandeur and power from the earth, from man, from the infinite, so long are you young.

When the heart is covered with the snow of pessimism and the ice of cynicism, then I am grown old indeed,

and may you, Lord, have mercy on my soul.

General Douglas MacArthur



Plenary Council Prayer

*Come, Holy Spirit of Pentecost.
Come, Holy Spirit of the great South Land.*

*O God, bless and unite all your people in Australia
and guide us on the pilgrim way of the Plenary Council.*

*Give us the grace to see your face in one another
and to recognise Jesus, our companion on the road.*

*Give us the courage to tell our stories
and to speak boldly of your truth.*

*Give us ears to listen humbly to each other
and a discerning heart to hear what you are saying.*

*Lead your Church into a hope-filled future,
that we may live the joy of the Gospel.*

*Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
bread for the journey from age to age.*

Amen.

*Our Lady Help of Christians, pray for us.
St Mary MacKillop, pray for us.*





**“We can all work quietly
doing our best for God.”**

St Mary of the Cross — 1883

FRENCH MASS

The next **Mass in French** will be celebrated at St John's Parish in Campbelltown on **Sunday 14 October at 6pm.**



The celebrant is Fr Jan Chrzczonowicz — you can contact him on 0412 786 245.

INTERFAITH PILGRIMAGE

Parishioners from parishes in the Diocese are invited to an Interfaith Pilgrimage to a Sydney Mosque, the Great Synagogue, and St Mary's Cathedral on Thursday 11 to Saturday 13 October 2018.

Fr Michael Dyer, resident Priest at Milton Parish, will accompany interested parishioners and friends. There are spaces available for this unique experience.

Please contact Milton Parish office milton@dow.org.au 4455 1313 for details.

ANTI-POVERTY WEEK

14–20 OCTOBER 2018

A week where all Australians are encouraged to organise or take part in an activity aiming to highlight or overcome issues of poverty and hardship here in Australia or overseas. For more information go to www.antipovertyweek.org.au



YEAR 5 STUDENTS

Try Year 7 for a Day

at St Mary's College or Edmund Rice College

Thursday 8 November or Friday 9 November 2018

St Mary's College and Edmund Rice College invite Year 5 students to spend a fun day at high school where they will get to try a range of activities in subjects they will actually study in Year 7. Parents/Carers can register on line for their son/daughter to **Try Year 7 For a Day.**

For more information, visit our websites:

Edmund Rice: www.edmundricecollege.nsw.edu.au

St Mary's: www.stmarys.nsw.edu.au

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM — AIRS SUNDAY 7 OCTOBER 2018 —

This week on The Journey, Teresa Brierley - DoMN, reflects on the Gospel of Mark; Our Wisdom from the Abbey with Sr Hilda is inspired from St Jerome; Trish McCarthy, in her Milk and Honey God Spot, reminds us the importance of forgiveness; and Sam Clear reminds us that “Unity Takes Risk” in his segment, Walking the Walk. One piece of music this week in Part 3 is written by our very own Paul Mason and is our Diocesan song for the Plenary 2020 encouraging all of us to “Listen to what the Spirit is Saying”.

Go to www.jcr.org.au or

www.itunes.jcr.org.au

**where you can listen any time and
subscribe to weekly shows via email**



A VOCATION VIEW

Some people do not respond to God's call because they feel they are not worthy to do God's work. But, God still God calls! There is enough ministry for many more. Answer God's call.



**Please contact the
Vocations Team at
priesthood@dow.org.au**

PLENARY COUNCIL 2020

Every Catholic parish in Australia is now involved in responding to the request of the Australian Catholic Bishops to respond to three questions:

- 1. What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?**
- 2. What questions do you have about the future of the Church for the Plenary Council to consider in 2020?**
- 3. Do you have a story of your experience of faith, or the Church you would like to share?**



As individuals and parish communities, here are some simple but important things you can do right now to participate.

Visit the website www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au which provides great resources that will enable individuals and groups to learn more, pray for guidance, commence dialogue and subscribe for regular updates.

You can submit your responses online.

You can respond using one of the forms in the *Feedback Book* located at the side door of the Church. These can be completed at home and returned at your convenience.

You can participate in a group discussion organised by the Parish. Responses can be anonymous if you wish.

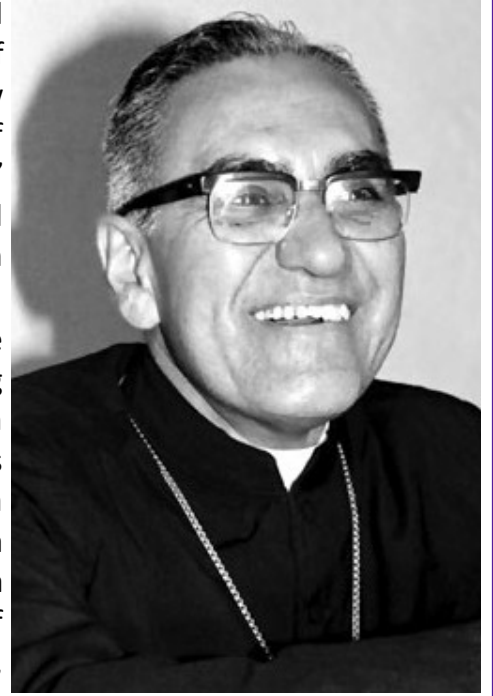
We have until March next year to respond.

The Australian Catholic Bishops are keen to hear from as many people as possible. We urge you to pass on the invitation to friends and relations, whether they attend Church or not.

My dear people,

Next Sunday, during the Synod of Bishops in Rome, Pope Francis will canonise several Saints. One is *Archbishop Oscar Romero*, Archbishop of San Salvador in South America, a modern Thomas à Becket. "We know that every effort to improve society, especially when society is so full of injustice and sin, is an effort that God blesses, that God demands of us." So he ended his homily on 24 March 1980. Minutes later, as he raised the chalice, a hired assassin shot and killed him. His total union with Christ's sacrifice was completed.

This modern martyr was born in El Salvador on the Feast of the Assumption 1917. He was ordained a priest in 1942, eventually becoming Archbishop in 1977, at a time of extreme social and political repression in the country. As a young priest he appeared timid. But what changed this timid lamb into a formidable warrior for Christ was the slaughter of a Jesuit priest within days of his appointment. The shocking incident had a profound effect on the Archbishop. He immediately issued a communiqué criticising the government for interfering in the affairs of the Church, and drafted a Pastoral Letter condemning repression, killings, tortures, disappearances, and other violations of human rights.



His ideas became intolerable to some, but he persisted, saying that he had an obligation to remain on the side of the oppressed. Archbishop Romero found himself in the midst of a struggle he could not avoid. Since 1932, when 30,000 peasants were killed by the army, the slaughter and brutality continued. Two percent of the people owned sixty percent of the land. Seventy-five percent of the country's export earnings went to less than two hundred families. Approximately fifty percent of the population were unemployed. Ninety percent of families earned less than \$100 a year. Four-fifths of the children were underfed.

Torture, murder, mysterious disappearances had been documented by international agencies. The Church itself - clergy, religious, and lay leaders - had been under attack. In 1972 Father Nicholas Rodriguez was arrested by the National Guard. His dismembered body was found four days later. A group of students were jailed and tortured simply for organising a literary class for peasants.

Every Sunday morning at the Cathedral of San Salvador, Romero delivered homilies that were broadcast to the whole country. The challenge, he said, was to empower Christians so "that they will be a ferment and not fermented; that they will be salt; that they be an element of purification in all struggles and in all organisations; that they be a light that illumines the process of change."

"It is inconceivable," he said in a homily on 9 September 1979, "that someone is called 'Christian' and does not give preference to the poor as Christ did. Many believe that when the Church says 'for the poor' she is becoming communist, she is being political. This is not the case. We must take the cause of the poor seriously, for it is indeed the very cause of Jesus Christ."

Violence approached closer. On 13 March 1980, a bomb wrecked the offices of the Commission of Human Rights. On 16 March, seventy-two sticks of dynamite were discovered in the sacristy of the Cathedral. Friends pleaded with him to seek asylum in another country. "As a shepherd," he said, "I am obliged by divine mandate to give my life for those I love, the Salvadorans. I feel that I must be faithful to that calling. There exists a terrible situation among the poor. I felt I had to be the voice of all those people without a voice."

The statement that sealed the Archbishop's fate was his appeal to the armed forces: "In a special manner I would like to issue a call to the men of the armed forces and specifically to the bases of the Guardia Nacional and the police headquarters. Brothers, you are of our same people. You are killing your own brother peasants. And against a man's order to kill, there should prevail the Law of God which says: 'Do not kill'. No soldier is obliged to obey an order against the Law of God. No one has to obey an immoral law." Death was inevitable.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which reads "Mgr Graham Schmitzer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mgr Graham Schmitzer
Parish Priest