

# PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

48 Princes Highway (PO Box 14) Unanderra NSW 2526



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**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** 29 Oct No Mass

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**Tuesday** 30 Oct Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm  
Mass: 5.30pm

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**Wednesday** 31 Oct Mass: 7am

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**Thursday** 1 Nov **All Saints**  
Mass: 11am (Polish)  
Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm (Reconciliation Available)  
Mass: 5.30pm

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**Friday** 2 Nov **All Souls**  
First Friday  
Masses: 9.30am, 11am (Polish)  
Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm  
Mass: 5.30pm

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**Saturday** 3 Nov **St Martin de Porres**  
First Saturday  
7.15am: Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help  
7.30am: Mass  
Reconciliation: 5pm-5.30pm  
Vigil Mass: 6pm

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**Sunday** 4 Nov **31st Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
Masses: 7am, 9am, 10.45am (Polish)



## NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP

to intercede for more priests  
Every Saturday morning up to and including Saturday 22 December

7.15am: Novena Prayers / 7.30am: Mass

## THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — YEAR B

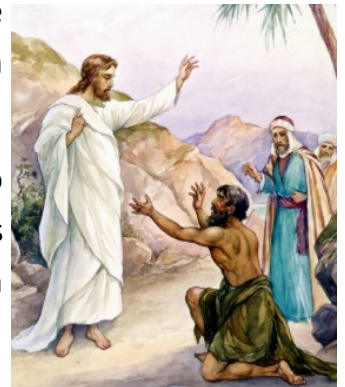
### 28 OCTOBER 2018

**READINGS:** Jeremiah 31:7-9; Hebrews 5:1-6; Mark 10:46-52

Jeremiah foretells the people's return from exile in Babylon. Even the most helpless will share in the joy (**FIRST READING**).

The reading leads us to the **GOSPEL** — Jesus hears the cry of the blind man and restores his sight.

Christ perfectly fulfils the conditions of priesthood (**SECOND READING**).



## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

### Recently Deceased

Jan POWELL  
Joan PREECE

### Anniversaries

Mavis STUBBS  
Josie FENECH  
Bill MICALLEF  
Bonnie GRECH



## ROSTERS — NEXT WEEKEND

November	Church Washing	Barbara Farraway	
Sat 3 Nov	Church Cleaning	G Lord, L Zanetti, S Adams	
	Lawns	Peters Family, Winner Family	
	Acolytes	Lectors	Welcomers
Sat 3 Nov 6pm Mass	A Carlotto	A Kelly	D Gelfius
Sun 4 Nov 7am Mass	L Burns	D Ferrer	Walsh Family
Sun 4 Nov 9am Mass	N Dwyer, C Carolan	C Walsh	C Hailstone, K Hertsch
Counters	M Murphy (FT), R Wilson, J Carolan, S Alessi		
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 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

# Gospel Reflection

Helen Keller, who went blind and deaf at nineteen months, said: "One day I asked a friend of mine who had just returned from a long walk in the woods what she had seen. 'Nothing in particular' she replied. 'How was this possible?' I asked myself. 'When I, who cannot hear or see, find hundreds of things to interest me through mere touch. I feel the delicate shape and design of a leaf. I pass my hands lovingly over the rough back of a pine tree. Occasionally, I place my hand quietly on a small tree, and if I'm lucky, feel the happy quiver of a bird in full song.' The greatest calamity that can befall people, is not that they should be born blind, but that they should have eyes, yet fail to see."



## MORNING TEA — 4 NOV



Everyone is welcome to join us for a cuppa in St Joseph's Room after 9am Mass on Sunday 4 November.  
Hostesses - Dot, Didi & Sandra.

## PLENARY COUNCIL — LISTENING GATHERING —

A Plenary Council listening gathering with our parish Animator/Plenary Ambassador, Vera Cleary, will be held in the St Joseph Room this week after the 5.30pm Mass:

**Thu 1 Nov - 6.15pm**

*All are welcome!*



## 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](http://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 participate in a group discussion organised by the Parish or you can submit your responses online.

You can place your comments in our Plenary Mailbox, located near the side door of the church — there is a brown paper box marked "Plenary Council Responses". Please place your contributions in this box — all correspondence can remain anonymous. These can be completed at home and returned at your convenience.

**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.



***"Let the motive of our actions  
be to please God alone."***

*St Mary of the Cross — 1873*

## PILGRIMAGE TO ABBEY

**PILGRIMAGE to Benedictine Abbey Jamberoo  
Monday 5 November 2018**

with the option of an overnight stay for 6 pilgrims

For further information and/or to reserve your place, please  
contact Victoria Amato: [v.vamato@yahoo.com.au](mailto:v.vamato@yahoo.com.au) / 4454 1460

## TAKE A RISK AND GIVE THE GIFT OF FAITH

In our parish, there is a team of volunteers that take a risk and step out in faith. State Government schools do not provide lessons that teach the basic message about Jesus, our faith, and the great adventure that life can be with God. We were all given our gift of faith by someone — someone who stepped up for us so that we would know Jesus. Each week of the school year, Catechists present 30-minute lessons using a step-by-step lesson plan that helps Catholic children understand their faith, grow in love and maturity, and learn what it means to be Catholic. Take a risk and give the gift of faith. Become a Catechist teacher or helper today! For more information, please call 4222 2416 or ask our Parish Priest for more information.

## MISSION SUNDAY

***"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of  
the messenger who announces peace, who brings  
good news ..."*** Isaiah 52:7

Thank you for supporting this year's Catholic Mission Church Appeal through your kind gifts and prayers, and for being a part of an "education revolution" in Myanmar.

Your generosity makes it possible for programs such as the Pyinya Sanyae Institute of Education, as well as schools like St John's in Hakha, to provide quality, child-centred education to children.

Thank you also to parishioners who have become an integral part of this inspiring work by joining as monthly giving partners.

For more information about the work of Catholic Mission around the world, please contact our friendly team at the freecall number below, or via the website:

**Freecall: 1800 257 296**

**[www.catholicmission.org.au/about-us/contact](http://www.catholicmission.org.au/about-us/contact)**



## THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM — AIRS SUNDAY 28 OCTOBER 2018 —

This week on The Journey, Fr Stephen Varney reflects on the Gospel of Mark; Pete Gilmore shares his vision on the "Greater Things than I am" in his Living the Gospel God Spot; and Marilyn Rodrigues reminds us that we all have "Daily Crosses to Bear" in her segment, The Peaceful Parent. Our uplifting music reminds us of the power of



the spirit and the universal language of prayer in music.

**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 via email**

## PRAYER SERVICE WITH HOLY MASS AND EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Experience the healing love of our God at this spiritually enriching prayer service with Praise & Worship, Holy Mass & Eucharistic Adoration. The services will be conducted by Fr Rony George and Fr Jobi George of the Vincentian Congregation, Divine Retreat Centre, Somersby NSW.

**St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Wollongong**  
**Friday 16 November 2018 - 6pm–9pm**

**St John the Evangelist Catholic Church, Dapto**  
**Saturday 17 November 2018 - 9.30am–1pm**

For more information, please contact  
Josobel on 0425 220 398 (preferably after 5pm)

***All are very welcome!***

## PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

In the midst of the difficulties of our modern world, open the minds of our young people so that they may hear your unmistakable voice gently saying "Come, follow me."



Help them to be generous and sensitive to the needs of others who are crying out for you. Turn their hearts to the radical call of the Gospel so that they might reveal to the world your love.

Call them in kindness and draw them to you! Accept them gently and make them welcome! Entrust them with the truth and keep them safe with you! Amen.

*Pope John Paul II (16 April 1989)*



My dear people,

As you know, October is the month of the Rosary. In 2002 St John Paul II wrote an Apostolic Letter, ***The Rosary Of The Virgin Mary***. He quotes the Second Vatican Council: "When the Mother is honoured, the Son ... is duly known, loved and glorified." To recite the Rosary, he says, is nothing other than to contemplate with Mary the face of Christ. "Lord, show us your face and we shall be saved" is a constant theme of the Psalms.

Our model is Mary. Somehow the face of the Son belongs to His Mother. That face was formed in her womb, and perhaps bore a resemblance to hers. But it points to our even greater spiritual closeness between the two. The eyes of Mary's heart were already turned to Him at the Annunciation, and during His life her gaze never left Him. At times, it would be a questioning look, as at the Finding in the Temple: "Son, why have you treated us so?". Always it was a penetrating gaze, seeking to understand His hidden feelings, and even anticipating His decisions, as at Cana.

At other times, it would be a look of sorrow, especially beneath the Cross. On Easter morning it was a gaze radiant with joy; on Pentecost it was a gaze afire.

"Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart." St Luke twice tells us this, as if to emphasise the point. Mary's life was spent pondering the mystery of Christ for, like us, she did not always fully understand it. "(She) did not understand what he meant" (Luke 2). It was, in a sense, her "rosary" which she recited uninterruptedly throughout her life. Mary desires that we contemplate those same mysteries. In the recitation of the Rosary we enter Mary's memories.

Because of this the Rosary is *contemplative* prayer. Without its contemplative dimension the Rosary would lose its meaning. St Paul VI had clearly pointed this out: "Without contemplation, the Rosary is a body without a soul, and its recitation runs the risk of becoming a mechanical repetition of formulas, in violation of the admonition of Christ: 'In praying do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they will be heard for their many words' (Matthew 6:7). By its nature the recitation of the Rosary calls for a quiet rhythm and a lingering pace, helping the individual to meditate on the mysteries of the Lord's life as seen through the eyes of her who was closest to the Lord."

Christ is, of course, our supreme Teacher in life. It is not first a question of learning *what* He taught but of learning *Him*. Among creatures no one knows Christ better than Mary. Cana clearly presents Mary as a teacher, as she urges the servants to do what Jesus demands. It is not hard to imagine her doing the same for the disciples after Jesus' Ascension. Contemplating the scenes of the Rosary in union with Mary is a means of learning from her to 'read' Christ, to discover His secrets and to understand His messages.

Our Christian life is a life-long struggle to become like Christ. At Baptism the Holy Spirit grafted us onto Christ, like branches on a vine, and made us members of Christ's Body the Church. But our whole lives must be spent trying to appreciate this, and to live out its implications. More and more we must try to put on the 'mind' of Christ so that we begin to think like Him. Our union with Christ can only be described in terms of friendship. By spending time in each other's company, friends tend to develop similar habits. By spending time with Jesus and Mary we can become like them. In fact, because she is our Mother, Mary wants to mould us with the same care with which she looked after the growing Jesus until He is "fully formed" in us (Gal 4:19).

St Paul VI pointed out that the Rosary keeps in our minds the very events we celebrate in the Liturgy. The Rosary, then, serves as an excellent introduction to the Liturgy, or a thanksgiving or 'echo' of it afterwards. It should never be recited during the Sacred Liturgy. Saying the Rosary during Mass is a bit like reading the newspaper during breakfast while someone is trying to have a conversation with you.



*Mgr Graham Schmitzer*

**Mgr Graham Schmitzer**  
Parish Priest

NOVEMBER is a special time to pray for the dead. A plenary indulgence may be gained for the dead, once only, by visiting a church on 2 November and praying the Lord's Prayer and the Creed. Three conditions are required for gaining the indulgence: Sacramental Confession, Holy Communion, and prayer for the Pope's intentions.