

# PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

48 Princes Highway (PO Box 14) Unanderra NSW 2526



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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

<b>Monday</b>	10 Dec	Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm Mass: 5.30pm
<b>Tuesday</b>	11 Dec	Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm Mass: 5.30pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	12 Dec	Mass: 7am
<b>Thursday</b>	13 Dec	<b>St Lucy</b> Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm (Reconciliation Available) Mass: 5.30pm
<b>Friday</b>	14 Dec	<b>St John of the Cross</b> Mass: 9.30am
<b>Saturday</b>	15 Dec	Novena to Our Lady: 7.15am Mass: 7.30am Reconciliation: 5pm-5.30pm Vigil Mass: 6pm
<b>Sunday</b>	16 Dec	<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b> <i>Christmas Novena begins</i> <u>Rose Sunday</u> Masses: 7am, 9am, 10.45am (Polish) Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 4.30pm-5.30pm

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT — YEAR C

9 DECEMBER 2018

**READINGS:** Baruch 5:1-9; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Luke 3:1-6

The Prophet Baruch delivers a comforting message to Jerusalem. Her sorrows are ended, and her children who had been carried off into exile in Babylon will be restored to her. God will even level a highway to facilitate their return. There will be a new era. (**FIRST READING**). This leads us to the **GOSPEL**. John the Baptist announces the coming of the Messiah. The people must prepare for His coming by repentance. St Luke stresses the universality of salvation by setting the event in the framework of world history. In the **SECOND READING** St Paul urges us to prepare now for Christ's Second Coming by living pure and blameless lives. Until Christ returns to take us to Him we must use well the gifts He has given us.



## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS



### Anniversaries

Hugh SMALL  
Ellen WALSH  
Noman BRANSGRÖVE Snr  
Fr Andrew APOSTOLI

## 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



## ROSTERS — NEXT WEEKEND

December	Church Washing	Fiona Fernandez	
Sat 15 Dec	Church Cleaning	W Brown, P & A Browne, L Harper, J Hoxha	
	Lawns	Fernandez Family, M Walsh	
	Acolytes	Lectors	Welcomers
Sat 15 Dec 6pm Mass	A Carlotto	N Milan	Volunteer
Sun 16 Dec 7am Mass	A Michielin	K Calvert	S Brown
Sun 16 Dec 9am Mass	N Dwyer, C Carolan	C Walsh	B Spain, G Petric
Counters	A Gunning, M Cauduro, C Garrett		
Children's Liturgy	K Hertsch, S Walsh		

# Gospel Reflection

In Autumn the trees are loaded with golden leaves,

though pretty to look at, they rob us of the world beyond.

Once the leaves have fallen we are able to look through the skeletal branches to the deep blue sky beyond.

Teach us, Good Lord, how to take care of our material needs without neglecting our spiritual needs;

how to take care of ourselves without neglecting others;

and how to live joyfully in this world without losing sight of the world to come.



## 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 CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

The CWL Christmas Raffle tickets will be on sale this weekend for 3 great prizes to be won.

Tickets are **\$2 each or 3 for \$5**

Don't forget to buy your tickets for your chance to win one of the beautiful prizes.



## 2019 MINISTRY ROSTERS

Can all volunteers for the various ministries please collect their roster booklets from the shelf located underneath the Perpetual Succour near the baptismal font.



## VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

**Looking for volunteers** — please put your name down on the Christmas roster, which is currently located on the middle pew of the church.





***"When I could not see my way  
God kept my heart full of trust  
to make all come right."***

*St Mary of the Cross — 1883*

## **POSITION VACANT JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO (JCR) PROGRAM CO-ORDINATOR (CASUAL)**

Diocese of Wollongong — The Office of the Bishop is seeking to appoint a Journey Catholic Radio (JCR) Program Co-ordinator on a casual basis to produce a weekly radio show and podcast and manage related promotions.

Applications must include a resume outlining qualifications, skills and experience, and outlining your personal commitment to the ethos and values of the Catholic Church. The names and contact details of at least two referees should be provided. The position description is available at [www.jobs.dow.org.au](http://www.jobs.dow.org.au)

Applications should be addressed to Mr Jude Hennessy, Director, Office of Renewal and Evangelisation, Office of the Bishop, PO Box 1239, Wollongong NSW 2500 or emailed to [helen.bennett@dow.org.au](mailto:helen.bennett@dow.org.au)

Any enquiries should be directed to  
**Mr Jude Hennessy 4222 2407**

**Applications close Monday 10 December 2018**



## **ST VINCENT DE PAUL GIVING TREE**

The Giving Christmas Tree is now placed in the church full of tags for children's toys and Christmas food. The gifts received from this tree are used by the Unanderra Vinnies Conference to distribute approximately 40 Christmas hampers and toys for about 60 children and to the needy within the Unanderra area.

Your gifts need to be placed under the Christmas Giving Tree by next weekend **Sunday 16 December**, as hampers and toys will be delivered on Tuesday 18 December.

*A big thank you to all the generous parishioners who have supported the Vinnies Giving Tree for many years.*



## **A VOCATION VIEW**

'As I keep the Lord ever in my sight ... my heart rejoices, my soul is glad ... You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in Your presence.' Let our Vocation be, to be one with God - forever.

Please contact the Vocations Team at [priesthood@dow.org.au](mailto:priesthood@dow.org.au)

## **THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM — AIRS SUNDAY 9 DECEMBER 2018 —**

This week on The Journey, the Gospel reflection is from the Dioceses of Wollongong Advent reflection booklet; Marilyn Rodrigues, The Peaceful Parent, reminds us of the importance of "One On One Time"; and The Pirolas in their "Smart Loving" God spot encourages us to make a change for the better. Our music selection goes hand in hand with our Journey Catholic Radio program, where faith hope, love and life come together.



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

## **ERIC GENUIS CONCERT — IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH UNANDERRA**

**Eric Genuis Concert**

**Immaculate Conception Church Unanderra**

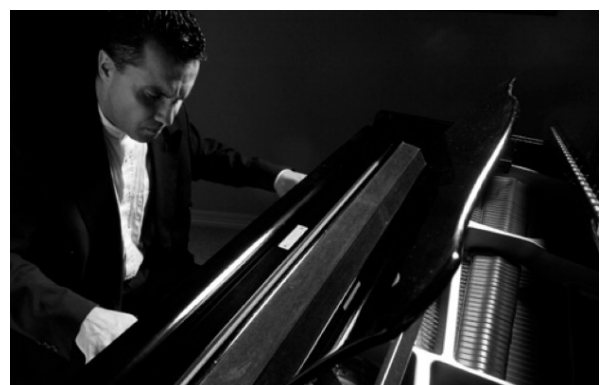
**Wednesday 27 February 2019 — 7pm**

**Looking for a Christmas gift for the person who has everything? Why not buy them tickets to an experience you can share as well as help your Parish community?**

A rare opportunity to listen to a pianist of exceptional talent who brings with him a world class violinist, cellist and soprano playing in our parish church. The 'Opera House' is coming to our parish! All original compositions together with powerful testimonies outlining the inspiration behind each piece with true stories of life transformations destined to make a deep impression upon all who hear them. A message of hope for all.

Tickets: \$30 adult; \$25 pensioner/concession; \$70 family (parents with dependant children under 18). Online tickets sales at [www.ericgenuistour.com](http://www.ericgenuistour.com) On the weekend of 12-13 January 2018 Fr Mark De Battista will be here promoting the concert in our parish. A parish event not to be missed. Your support will support our parish.

With kind regards, Mgr Graham Schmitzer



My dear people,

The season of Advent (at first sight) appears a bit confusing. This relates to our living in the Southern Hemisphere. Christmas appears at the end of our working year, and Christmas celebrations “down under” are actually end-of-year parties with no religious content whatsoever. The commercial world is interested only in making money from the buying of gifts – and many of these gifts are simply “payment” for favours received from each other during the year. For many, Christmas simply heralds the beginning of our summer holiday. Advent easily gets lost in the hustle and bustle.

In the Northern Hemisphere, the end of the working year is 30 June, and Christmas is more easily recognisable as a great religious festival – and Advent sits more comfortably as a spiritual preparation. The Latin word ADVENTUM simply means ‘coming’, but as the Liturgy spells it out, the term more accurately refers to ‘comings’. It is important to understand this in order to discover what the Church is trying to say.

The first part of Advent (from the first Sunday to 16 December) features the coming of Jesus at the end of time. It speaks of His coming in majesty and glory, as Judge of the living and the dead. This emphasis doesn’t exactly have a Christmas ring to it! The message is rather fearful and forceful. “Be constantly on the watch! Stay awake! You do not know when the appointed time will come!” (MARK 13:33). The Church is not interested in the false sentimentality that surrounds Christmas. For the first half of Advent the Church is showing us why this Child has come into the world – He has come not to bring peace but a sword. His teaching will divide the world. From the time of the Incarnation we are judged by our acceptance or rejection of this Child.

The Second Coming at the end of time will happen as surely as did the first at Bethlehem. So having set her sights on the reason for this coming, the Church from 17 December until 24 December looks back to Bethlehem and acts as if she were awaiting His birth for the first time. The people of those days did not know what to expect – we do, with 2,000 years of insight.

We know that this baby is actually the Second Person of the Holy Trinity and, sent by His Father, He freely comes into our world to offer Himself in sacrifice – “for us and for our salvation” as we recite in the Creed. From Christmas to Epiphany, the Church will stand in wonder and awe at this tremendous expression of love on the part of God.

Advent, then, is a kind of reverse order, but it makes sense when you discover the reason. The early Fathers of the Church also speak of a Third Coming – the coming of Christ each day into our lives, especially in the Holy Eucharist. It is by no coincidence that BETHLEHEM in Hebrew means “the House of Bread”, and that the English word CHRISTMAS means “Christ’s Mass”. We celebrate Christ’s birth by offering to the Father Christ’s death. For this little baby came to die. The Orthodox Christians make this very obvious in their Christmas icons. Mary places the child not in a manger but in a miniature tomb, the swaddling clothes reminding us of the shroud and the linen cloths used for wrapping the bodies of the dead.

How best can we observe Advent, especially in the midst of a secular culture? It is not a season of penance like Lent. Rather, it is a time of special prayerfulness and reflection. We can follow the Church’s liturgy more carefully than usual, attending Mass and devotions more often, spending more time in private prayer. This will help us to open our hearts to the moving accounts of Christ’s birth and the people who prepared for it. It will help us face courageously the powerful significance of Christ’s Second Coming – for most of us it will be the moment of our death. So as we look to the past to Christ’s birth, and as we look to the future to His coming at the end of time, we realise that we live, realistically, only now. We are Christians now. To be a real force, Advent must help us recognise Christ’s presence now. If the celebration of Advent and Christmas does not touch my real life today, then it is no more than a pretty picture hanging on the wall or a card in the post. It is up to us to make Advent a time of spiritual renewal, a time to begin again – a time to pray more, to help more, to give more, to love more.



*Mgr Graham Schmitzer*

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Parish Priest