

PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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Parish Office Hours: Monday, Thursday and Friday: 9am—3.30pm
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Parish Website: www.unanderraparish.org.au

PROGRAMME FOR THIS WEEK

Monday 11 Mar Mass: 7am

Tuesday 12 Mar Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm
Mass: 5.30pm

Wednesday 13 Mar Mass: 7am

Thursday 14 Mar Polish Mass: 11am
Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm
(Reconciliation Available)
Mass: 5.30pm

Friday 15 Mar Mass: 9.30am

Saturday 16 Mar Mass: 7.30am
Reconciliation: 5pm-5.30pm
Vigil Mass: 6pm

Sunday 17 Mar **Second Sunday of Lent**
Masses: 7am, 9am, 10.45am (Polish Mass)

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT — YEAR C 10 MARCH 2019

READINGS: Deuteronomy 26:4-10; Romans 10:8-13; Luke 4:1-13

All the Readings speak of God's faithfulness. The **FIRST READING** describes the ceremony of offering God the first fruits of the harvest – a thanksgiving not only for the harvest but for all God had done in the past, especially the exodus from Egypt. The Reading contains Israel's Creed or profession of faith.

The **SECOND READING** contains a very early form of the Christian Creed. But Creeds must be professed with one's life, not just one's lips.

Jesus, wishing to experience our life to the full, allows Himself to be tempted. He repels the Tempter by quoting from the Book of Deuteronomy, which stresses God's will for Israel.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Michael WILLESEE

Anniversaries

Scott DUNSTAN Richard BAMPTON

Don BUCKNAL Nancy PLENDERLETH

Peter QUETCHER Fortunata OBRA

Demetrio, Aquilino, Enriqueta & Lucas ESCOBIA

Andrea & Cecilio JAGMOC



LENTEN GROUP

Every **Wednesday** during Lent
in **St Joseph's Room**
at **7.30pm.**



ROSTERS — NEXT WEEKEND

March	Church Washing	Fiona Fernandez	
Sat 16 Mar	Church Cleaning	J Allen, J Haywood, A Gollop, S Chavez	
	Lawns	J Lonard, F Timpano, S Carrigan	
	Acolytes	Lectors	Welcomers
Sat 16 Mar	A Carlotto	R Baxendale	B Faraway
Sun 17 Mar 7am Mass	A Michielin	D Ferrer	L Harper
Sun 17 Mar 9am Mass	N Dwyer, C Carolan	J De Battista	P De Battista
Counters	A Gunning, M Cauduro, C Garrett		
Children's Liturgy	M Rodwell, S Michielin		

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

PARISH MORNING TEAS

It has been suggested that morning tea be provided more regularly after the 9am Mass (1st and 3rd Sundays). We are very happy to do this, but in order for it to be successful we need more people to volunteer to help.



It is not a very difficult job. It would involve setting up beforehand, serving the tea and coffee and making sure everything was put away afterwards. (Someone would be available to help all new volunteers).

It is proposed that a roster of volunteers be drawn up for this. Therefore the more volunteers we have, the easier the task for everyone. If you are able to assist, please contact **Sue Briscoe** at the Parish Office at unanderra@dow.org.au or on **4271 1068**. Alternatively, fill in your name and contact number below and place it on one of the collection plates. Thank you in anticipation!

Morning Tea Roster

Name: _____

Contact Ph: _____

Gospel Reflection

*Repentance of itself is not enough —
grace must be available.*

*But if grace is offered and not accepted,
then nothing comes of that either.*

*There is no point in putting up a sail
if there is no wind.*

*There is no point in planting a seed
if the ground is frozen.*

*There is no point in pruning the tree
if spring does not come.*

*It is not enough to cut into people's hearts
in order to save them — they must
be touched by grace.*

*Lord, touch our hearts with Your grace, so
that we may produce the fruits of repentance.*



CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

This month CWL will be hosting a guest speaker. Rebecca from CatholicCare will speak to us about Care of the Elderly. Everyone is invited to come along to hear what Rebecca has to tell us. It is a very important topic as there are many elderly in our community who need assistance.



Morning tea will be served at 10.30am followed by Rebecca's presentation.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

Thursday 14 March — 10.30am — St Joseph's Room



Louise RAY asks your prayers for God's blessing on her marriage to **Ryan POOLE**, which will take place in this church on **Friday 15 March at 3pm**.



“He is a just and merciful God, you may be sure that the trial is sent in love.”

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop (1895)

DIocese GATHERING 2019

An invitation is extended to the faithful of the Catholic Diocese of Wollongong to attend the 2019 Diocesan Gathering on **Saturday 30 March 2019 from 11am-3pm** to be held at **St John the Evangelist Parish Hall, Campbelltown.**

The gathering is an opportunity for people from across the Diocese to reflect on the issues raised in the Plenary Process in our Diocese, hear the experiences of a selection of Local Animators and next steps in the process of listening and discernment.



Mr Peter Gates, Deputy National Director of Catholic Mission and member of the Plenary 2020 National Facilitation Team, will discuss what has been learnt from the listening process and how the next phase of Plenary 2020 will progress. Members of the Diocese of Wollongong steering committee will present a summary of responses originating from our Diocese. Bishop Mascord will offer some reflections on what he has heard, and we will as a Church spend some time in prayer, seeking God's guidance and blessing as we enter the phase of feedback and discernment.

RSVP helen.bennett@dow.org.au or 4222 2403 by Wednesday 27 March 2019 for catering purposes (light lunch provided).

PILGRIMAGE

Would you like to join a Pilgrimage Group to Rome via Malta? Then come to a meeting on **Monday 11 March at 7pm at the Fraternity Club.**

The tour will leave Sydney on 29 December 2019, celebrating New Year's Eve in Valletta and touring Malta before flying to Italy and returning to Australia on 20 January 2020. Enquiries 0415 926 132.



PARISH ROSARY NOVENA

Hello parish prayers,



A slightly belated reminder for those praying the 'Rosary Novena for a Parish Priest for our Parish' – the next novena began last Friday 8 March 2019.

For those who may not have remembered, please start on the day that you read this reminder, and pray it for the next 9 days; the intent is important, not necessarily the start date.

For further details contact Mark Walsh on 0407 604 498

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME

– AIRS SUNDAY 10 MARCH 2019 –

This week on The Journey in our Gospel Luke 4:1-13, we are reminded not to give into temptation. Trish McCarthy reminds us to “Guard our Heart”; Sam Clear, in his Walking the Walk God spot, reminds us of the importance of forgiveness; and Fr Dave Callaghan encourages us to “See the Stars”. One of our music highlights this week the is the Responsorial Psalm from our very own Lenten program TRUST.



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

MASS OF ST JOSEPH, HUSBAND OF MARY

For Faithful and Happy Marriages

I invite all young men and women, single, courting or engaged, to pray together with me at this Mass in honour of St Joseph. We will be praying, through St Joseph's intercession, that everyone will be blessed with a faithful and happy marriage. Please come for this beautiful occasion on **Tuesday 19 March 2019 - 7pm** at **St Francis Xavier Cathedral.**



Fr Bernard Gordon VG

PROJECT COMPASSION

Each year Project Compassion brings together thousands of Australians in schools, parishes and the community to stand in solidarity with the world's most vulnerable communities, to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity.

This year's Project Compassion showcases the many ways Caritas Australia works around the world with our local partners to offer hope to people most vulnerable to extreme poverty and injustice. Through a holistic approach Caritas is working with communities providing hope for a just and fair world regardless of their ethnicity, political beliefs, gender or religion. We are assisting women, children and men to break free from the cycle of poverty whilst ensuring they are the architects of their own development.

Twelve-year-old Thandolwayo would walk seven kilometres each day, threatened by crocodiles, to collect contaminated water for her family. It looked like she would never realise her hope of finishing her education and becoming a nurse, until a Caritas Australia-supported project created access to clean water helping Thandolwayo to stay at school and achieve a future full of hope. **Please donate to Project Compassion 2019 to provide access to clean water and a future full of hope for vulnerable communities in Zimbabwe.**



My Dear People,

Lent, as you know, began last Wednesday. But in the early days of the Church, the preparation for the celebration of Our Lord's Death and Resurrection began at different times in different places. As time went on it began to be solemnly celebrated today, the First Sunday. But then emphasis began to be placed on the forty days (Moses fasted for forty days, and so did Our Lord). From the first Sunday until Easter is six weeks, forty-two days. Sundays are never days of penance, so take out the six Sundays of Lent and thirty-six days are left. So, finally the four days from Ash Wednesday were added, giving us the forty days of penance.

In the 1980s, about twenty years after the Council, a document came out from Rome urging priests and faithful to celebrate this holy season and especially Holy Week with the greatest solemnity. As the American Bishops once wrote to their people, "Good celebrations nurture and strengthen faith, bad celebrations weaken and may even destroy faith." A recommendation from Rome is to return to celebrating the First Sunday of Lent with a certain solemnity - in particular by opening Mass with the singing of the Litany of the Saints, asking the Saints to come to our aid as we begin the warfare of Lent. Once, Papal Masses always began this way. As the Pope walked in procession from his palace at St John Lateran to one of the Churches in Rome the Litany accompanied the procession. Litanies always begin with the "Lord, have mercy", and that is how the "Kyrie" got into the Mass.

Make the most of Lent. In the past, too much emphasis was placed on negatives, 'giving things up' – eg sweets, cigarettes, alcohol. Quite often, this made no effect whatsoever on our spiritual and moral lives. Some people just got used to having tea and coffee without sugar. So what! I've known a few blokes who gave up the grog for Lent and still were drunk for the rest of the year! My Dad once gave up cigarettes for 36 hours (not for a spiritual reason!) and Mum begged him to go back to smoking! She couldn't stand the tension!

The Lenten programme I suggested last Sunday was composed of positives – things to do! So many people fail to see prayer as a penance – it is actually sacrificing free time. And the greatest prayer, of course, is the Mass. The Scripture Readings for Mass during Lent the Church has chosen quite carefully, because in the early Church, Lent was the final preparation for converts entering the Church. For us, already confirmed, Lent is actually a Retreat preparing us to renew the vows of our Baptism at Easter.

Lent must be seen in the perspective of a relationship – God is once more calling me closer to Him. In this sense, Lent can be exciting! I remember a mate of mine telling me once how excited he was about to go on his first date with a particular girl. "I'm quite excited", he said. "I don't know where this is going to lead me." He ended up marrying her. So, if we answer Our Lord's invitation, "Come back to me with all your heart" (JOEL 2), who knows where we might be at the end of Lent!



A LENTEN PROGRAMME:

- **Five minutes prayer each day.**
- **An extra Mass each week.**
- **A good Confession.**
- **Support of Project Compassion.**

Mgr Graham Schmitzer

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Parish Priest