

PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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PROGRAMME FOR THIS WEEK

Monday 25 Mar The Annunciation
Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm
Mass: 5.30pm

Tuesday 26 Mar Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm
Mass: 5.30pm

Wednesday 27 Mar Mass: 7am

Thursday 28 Mar Polish Mass: 11am
Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm
(Reconciliation Available)
Mass: 5.30pm

Friday 29 Mar Mass: 6pm - **Beginning 24 Hours for
for the Lord***see note below
Stations of the Cross: 9pm
(Followed by Reconciliation)

Saturday 30 Mar Mass: 7.30am
Reconciliation: 4.30pm-5.30pm
Vigil Mass: 6pm

Sunday 31 Mar **Fourth Sunday of Lent**
Masses: 7am, 9am, 10.45am (Polish Mass)
Rose Sunday 2pm: ACIES Ceremony of
Commitment to Our Lady

24 HOURS FOR THE LORD

This is an initiative of Pope Francis — a day of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, with chance for Lenten Confession, preceding Rose Sunday — this will take place here in this Church **6pm Friday to 6pm Saturday**.

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT — YEAR C 24 MARCH 2019

READINGS: Exodus 3:1-8,13-15; 1 Corinthians 10:1-6,10-12; Luke 13:1-9

God shows His concern for His people, oppressed in Egypt, by choosing Moses to rescue them. It is a turning point in the Old Testament (**FIRST READING**).

Moses prefigures Jesus Himself who will rescue us through the waters of Baptism. But salvation is not automatic. Jesus calls for repentance. The barren fig tree symbolises barren Israel.

But God is patient. There is still time to repent, though that time is getting short (**GOSPEL**).

St Paul gives a similar message in the **SECOND READING**.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Fr Lauro RUFO cs

Anniversaries

Wally SERELAK

Fr Patrick LANDERS

Mary GALVIN



ROSTERS — NEXT WEEKEND

March	Church Washing	Fiona Fernandez	
Sat 30 Mar	Church Cleaning	P & A Browne, W & S Brown	
	Lawns	Winner Family, P Briscoe, A Gollop	
	Acolytes	Lectors	Welcomers
Sat 30 Mar	A Carlotto	V Cleary	V Cleary
Sun 31 Mar 7am Mass	A Michielin	P Gunning	Volunteer
Sun 31 Mar 9am Mass	C Carolan	M Rodwell	Volunteer
Counters	M Murphy (FH), C Stratton, M Winner		
Children's Liturgy	K Calvert, M Matos		



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



LENTEN GROUP

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

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Sacrament of Confirmation — Saturday 15 June 2019.

Information night for parents —

Tuesday 2 April 2019 at 7.30pm in the Church.

Attendance at the meeting
is important.

Children wishing to receive
the Sacrament must be in
Year 6 or older and
practising their faith.



Gospel Reflection

*It isn't the things you do,
it's the things you leave undone,
which give you a little heartache
at the setting of the sun.*

*The gentle word forgotten,
the letter you didn't write;
the flowers you might have sent,
are your haunting ghosts tonight.*

*The stone you might have lifted
out of your brother's way;
the little heart-felt counsel
you were hurried too much to say.*

*The tender touch of the hand,
the gentle and kindly tone
which we have no time or thought for,
with troubles enough of our own. (Anon)*



LIVING FAITH

Daily Devotions: April—June

Two versions: Adult and Children

\$4.00

ASCEND YOUTH GROUP

ASCEND is back for round 2!
Looking forward to seeing you
all **after 6pm Mass** on

Saturday 30 March 2019!

Also, please remember to
complete your permission
forms and bring them
with you on the night!

For more info — please contact:
ascendcatholicyouth@gmail.com





“Make no reserves with God.”

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop (1890)

24 HOURS OF ADORATION FOR THE LORD

In preparation for Easter — begins with

6pm Mass on Friday 29 March

until 6pm Vigil Mass on Saturday 30 March

at Immaculate Conception Parish Unanderra.

All are welcome to spend some silent time before the Blessed Sacrament to pray especially for our families, parishes and the world.

FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION

In recent times the Feast of the Annunciation has become the occasion to focus on the defenceless unborn child. The Church defends life from conception



to natural death. In Australia the unborn child is the most victimised member of our society.

The slaughter

of the Innocents under King Herod continues through time. Mary is especially the Mother of those children unwanted by their human mothers. It is interesting to note that the first person to recognise the Incarnation was himself an unborn child—John the Baptist, who leaped in his mother’s womb at the presence of the Saviour in His mother’s womb. Mass on Monday at 5.30pm—it being Lent, make a special effort to attend.

PROJECT COMPASSION

Peter is thrilled to now have clean water on tap at his boarding school. Long walks to unsafe water sources were tiring for Peter, who is living with a disability. With more free time and fewer illnesses caused by dirty water, Peter can fulfil his hope of focusing on his studies, providing him with a brighter future.



Peter, Solomon Islands

Please donate to Project Compassion 2019 and help young people with disabilities gain access to clean water in the Solomon Islands, providing hope for a brighter future.

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME

— AIRS SUNDAY 24 MARCH 2019 —

This week on The Journey, our Gospel Luke 13:1-9 reminds us that we are all sinners; our Men Alive



programme that runs within our diocese talks to us about “God’s Currency”; our very own Trish McCarthy inspires us with her God Spot on “Gifts of Nature”; and this goes hand-in-hand with track 7 -

Wonder of Wonders. We are blessed to be able to use our Lenten programme TRUST as our Responsorial Psalm, “The Lord is Kind and Merciful”.

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

CARMELITE RETREATS

Praying with St John of the Cross

Saturday 6 April 2019 — 10am–4pm

Cost: \$30 (please remember to bring your lunch)

Pick-ups from Minto train station at 9.30am and 10am

Presenter: Barbara Stenning OCDS

“For well I know the spring that flows and runs although all is night”

Finding life and joy in today’s world:

A retreat using worship from Taizé

12–14 April 2019

Cost: \$300 (concessions apply)

Facilitated by Annemarie Nichol

“The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it”

Contact www.carmeliteretreats.com.au

retreats@carmelite.com or (02) 8795 3400

MEN’S LENTEN RETREAT DAY

Notre Dame Broadway — Saturday 13 April 9am–4pm

The day will include Mass, time for reflection and reconciliation, lunch and afternoon tea, and inspiring talks from three speakers. The retreat will take place at

The University of Notre Dame Broadway campus.

The event is free, however registration is essential:

sydney.chaplaincy@nd.edu.au or (02) 8204 4189 or

www.trybooking.com/475522

EASTER RAFFLE

Over the next two weekends (30–31 March / 6–7 April)

we will be selling raffle tickets at every Mass to win some Easter goodies — to be drawn after the 9am Mass on Palm Sunday. All money raised will go towards the celebrations of Monsignor Graham’s Golden Jubilee dinner later this year.



My Dear People,

Today I would like to introduce to you someone who might first only be a name to you. The anniversary of her death occurs tomorrow. Her Cause for Canonisation was publicly suggested in an Australian newspaper as far back as 1920. In 1966 the non-Catholic historian M H Ellis argued in the *Bulletin* magazine that this woman was well qualified to join the Saints. She had been publicly praised and supported by Charles Dickens and Florence Nightingale, and like St Mary MacKillop she worked in our own local area. Have you guessed?

It is Caroline Chisholm (nee Jones), a convert to the Catholic Faith, born to Anglican parents in Northampton,



England, on 30 May 1808. She had already made a name for herself as a friend of the poor before she married Archibald Chisholm, a Catholic Scot, and a Captain in the East India Company army. Caroline told her future husband that she would not marry him unless he agreed to her continuation of the public charitable work which she understood to be her special vocation. When they both moved to Madras in 1834 she started the Female School of Industry for orphaned and illegitimate daughters of British soldiers. Archibald's health took them on sick leave to Australia in 1838.

Caroline soon recognised the problems facing many immigrants in the Colony, especially single girls. She lobbied the Government and the newspapers and attempted to galvanise public support during 1841. She met opposition, including from fellow Catholics who thought she should only look after members of her own Faith. On Easter Sunday that year while at Mass in the

old St Mary's Cathedral, Caroline privately vowed *"to know neither country nor creed, but to serve all justly and impartially. (I) resolved that to accomplish this, I would in every way sacrifice my feelings – surrender all comfort – nor, in fact, consider my own wishes or feelings, but wholly devote myself to the Work I had in hand."*

Despite Governor Gipps' opposition, Caroline struck a bargain with him, assuring him that no State funds would be needed. He gave a disused barracks building in Bent Street and there in 1841 the Female Immigrants' Home was established. In the first year alone, it served 1,400 women, helping settle most in settlements in the bush. She travelled extensively and by the end of 1842 had set up 16 branch homes. That year she wrote *"A Brief Account of the Sydney Immigrants Home"*, the first book published in Australia by a woman.

Caroline became folklore. On her white horse 'Captain' she would accompany girls into areas where many feared to tread because of Aborigines, bushrangers, and the unknown. She took immigrant women into her own home, caring for them and finding them work; she successfully petitioned the British Government to grant free passage to Australia for Irish orphans and the wives and families of convicts whose sentences were served; she established the Colony's first employment register and obtained work for 2,000 women in country towns. She began to concentrate on settling whole families of immigrants on land of her own, and she established her own system of immigration, supported by the colonial government – the Family Colonisation and Loan Society whose first ship in 1850 brought 250 families to Australia, a figure that later grew to 30,000. The Society's ships were revolutionary, featuring hygiene, privacy, good rations, competent surgeons, and hospital facilities for nursing mothers.

In 1843 Caroline brought 23 families, 240 persons, to Shellharbour where Captain Robert Towns offered her 4,000 acres of land on the Peterborough Estate. Each family was given a six to seven year clearing lease to clear the land and set up self-sufficient farms, growing wheat, potatoes, and establishing dairy farms. One such family, Matthew Dorrough and his wife and children, farmed the area known today as Shell Cove. The story is told that having landed, the families could not find fresh water. Caroline chose a spot and said *"if you dig here I think you will find water"*, which is exactly what happened.

Having returned to London, Caroline still continued her work, advocating the end of transportation to Australia for criminals, criticising the inadequacy of safety provisions, the high cost of bank remittances from Australia, unaffordable postal rates. For almost all of these her advocacy was influential, and the Passenger Act of 1852 came into being.

Caroline and Archibald lived out their remaining years quietly and privately in relative poverty. They had had nine children, three dying as infants, and two adult sons predeceasing them. They had never owned their own home. Any money Archibald had earned in the army they had spent on good works. Caroline died in London on 25 March 1877, and Archibald five months later. They lacked wealth and material possessions but left a legacy of reformed and changed lives, united families, and happy homes. Ironically, while Caroline never kept money for herself, she became the first Saint ever to appear on a banknote.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading 'Mgr Graham Schmitzer'.

Mgr Graham Schmitzer
Parish Priest