

Parish and Shrine of the Immaculate Conception Unanderra

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Parish Priest

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Polish Chaplain

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Parish School

Saint Pius X School
Hargreaves & Cummins Streets
PO Box 358, Unanderra, NSW - 2526
Ph: 4271 3550 | Fax: 4272 2954

School Principal

Mr Philip Moore

Parish Secretary

Mrs Agnes Jerald



Parish Office Hours: Monday, Thursday and Friday: 9:30am—4:00pm
Phone: 4271 1068 | Fax: 4271 1298
Email: unanderra@dow.org.au
Parish website: www.unanderraparish.org.au

PROGRAMME FOR THIS WEEK

Monday	July 17	NO MASS

Tuesday	July 18	Adoration: 4:30pm-5:30pm Mass: 5:30pm

Wednesday	July 19	Mass: 7:00am

Thursday	July 20	Adoration: 4:30pm-5:30pm (Reconciliation available) Mass: 5:30pm

Friday	July 21	Mass: 9:30am

Saturday	July 22	Mass: 7:30am St MARY MAGDALENE Reconciliation 5pm-5:30pm Vigil Mass: 6:00pm

Sunday	July 23	16th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME Masses: 7:00am, 9:00am 10:45am (Polish)

15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR A

16 JULY 2017

READINGS: Is 55:10-11; ROM 8:18-23; MT 13:1-23.

The prophet Isaiah speaks of God caring for the earth by sending it rain, but caring for us by sending His Word.

The FIRST READING forms the backdrop for the GOSPEL - Jesus compares the Word of God to a seed falling into the ground.

St Paul comforts us in the SECOND READING - the glory which awaits us is the next life far outweighs anything we could suffer in this life.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS



Recently Deceased: Carl KENRICK

Anniversaries: Ruby STUBBS, Mary Louise STUBBS, Barbara Mary HOWARD, Br George CUSACK MSc

Pray for the sick and those unable to get to Mass

Rosters of next weekend

Sat 22 nd	Church Cleaning	F Fernandez, B Rice, S Markocic	
	Lawns	Fernandez Family, Mark Walsh	
	Acolytes	Lectors	Welcomers
Vigil 6pm	P Jones	N Milan	A Milan
Sun 23 rd 7am	M Walsh	S Walsh	Walsh Family
9am	N Dwyer	C Nughes	V Cleary, M Mohr-Peters
Counters	A Gunning, M Cauduro, C Garrett, D Gringeri		
Children's Liturgy	K Calvert, M Matos		

PARISH ACTIVITIES

Catholic Women's League: 2nd Thursday of the month, 10.30am

St Joseph's room. New members welcome.

Contact: Jan 42714051 or Margaret 42715804

St. Vincent de Paul Conference: Tues, 7.30pm St. Joseph's room

Parish Pastoral Council: 2nd Monday of the month, 7:30pm

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 the Vigil Mass and 9am Mass on 1st weekend of the month. *(Due to the colder weather, it has been decided to cancel Morning Tea on the first Sunday of the month during winter. Monthly Morning Tea will resume in September.)*

LIVING FAITH

Daily meditations—July to September
based on the Mass Readings of the day.

There are two editions—for adults, and for children.

Only \$4.

AUSTRALIA NEEDS FATIMA

Special Fatima 100th anniversary Rosary beads and
Rosary booklet - \$5 (incl postage & handling).

To order call (02) 9715 2324 or email info@fatima.org.au



How do you keep busy the other 6 days Father?"

GOSPEL REFLECTION

The word of God is to the human heart
what a seed is to the earth.
However, just as a seed needs soil,
so the word needs a receptive heart.
The earth responds to the rain and sun
so that even the desert blooms.
But the arid human heart
has the power to resist
so that it remains barren.

Lord, soften our hearts with your grace,
open them with your gentle love,
so that the precious seed of your word
may take root in our hearts,
and bear fruit in our lives.

Mid Year Reflection Day for Everyone

Theme: "For your heart will always be where your riches are." (Mt 6.21)

Speaker: Sr. M. Isabelle Naumann

When: Saturday 15th July - 9am to 3.30pm

Where: Family Hall, Mount Schoenstatt,
230 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa

Cost: Just \$25 which includes morning and afternoon tea (BYO Lunch)

Bookings: Sr Luisa Maria email: info@schoenstatt.org.au or phone: 4773 8338

Jubilee of the Schoenstatt Family Movement-Time for Us to celebrate

When: Sunday 16th July - 11am to 4pm

Where: Family Hall, 11am Mass followed by Family Fiesta, 2pm Reflection of the Jubilee (Children's Program will be available) 3pm Adoration and Renewal of the Covenant.

3.30pm Afternoon Tea.

FREE EVENT but Registration essential for catering purposes:
<https://www.trybooking.com/PRRR>

For more information please email:

families@schoenstatt.org.au

Retreat for Men of all Ages - Come and be Refreshed

Theme: Where do you go to be refreshed? How important is this for you? Where is God in this?

When: Friday 4th to Sunday 6th August

Where: Home of Light, Mount Schoenstatt,
230 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa

Cost: Just \$150 which includes the retreat, accommodation and all meals.

Register: Jim Jankiewicz

email: mensbranch@schoenstatt.org.au or

phone: 0432 487 927



“God won’t ask you how others do the work committed to them, but will ask you how you have done yours and in what spirit.”

St. Mary of the Cross 1890

CATHOLIC CARE STRENGTHEN YOUR RELATIONSHIPS

Just Released: Parenting workshops available from July now taking bookings. To build on your parenting skills and strengthen your family relationships go to the calendar at www.catholiccare.dow.org.au or give CatholicCare a call on 4227 1122.

St Mary Star of the Sea College

Invites ex-students & staff to our Decades Reunion Morning Tea. Alumnae celebrating 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 years and beyond are especially invited to attend **Saturday 19 August 2017 10.30am to 12.30pm in the College’s SGN Hall Harbour Street, Wollongong**. RSVP Maree McCarthy by Friday August 11th Phone 02 4228 6011 or email maree.mccarthy@stmarys.nsw.edu.au

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL 2017

In SYDNEY from 7-9 DECEMBER 2017

It is with great excitement that the registration for ACYF in Sydney from 7-9 December 2017 has been launched! Groups and Individuals are encouraged to register early to secure their spot at the Festival. As an added incentive groups of ten or more who register before 31 May 2017 will receive a complimentary registrations for their group leaders. Early bird registration closes on 18 August 2017. The Festival registration process can be found online at www.acyf.org.au.

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 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.

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM – AIRS 16 July 2017

Go to www.jcr.org.au or www.itunes.jcr.org.au where you can listen anytime and subscribe to weekly shows by email.

HOW GREAT IS THE HOPE TO WHICH WE ARE CALLED

Have you ever stopped to ask why can’t things be different? God has called you to make a difference, to be a witness for hope in our world. Not sure where to start? Contact Fr Richard Healey, Vocations Director, on 0401 621 591 or priesthood@dow.org.au

2017 SIGNIFICANT MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARIES MASS

If you are celebrating 25, 40, 50 or 60 years of marriage this year and would like an invitation to the Mass to be celebrated by Bishop Peter Ingham at St John Vianney Co-Cathedral, Fairy Meadow on Sunday, 13 August 2017 at 2.00pm, please contact Helen Bennett 4222 2403 or email helen.bennett@dow.org.au at the Office of the Bishop by Monday 10 July and an invitation will be sent to you.

WOMEN’S PRAYER WEEKEND

“The Call of Beauty” 21 - 23 July 2017 Presented by Michelle Vass & Pauline Compton fdnsc

This retreat explores how a deeper awareness of beauty can bring you in touch with your God and be a powerful antidote to the rush and superficiality of busy lives. Includes daily Eucharist and the Sacraments of Anointing and Reconciliation. Rest in the silence and beauty of St. Mary’s Towers Retreat Centre, Douglas Park.
Enquiries: Ph:4630 0233 e: towersretreat@bigpond.com

FAITH CIRCLES WEEKLY RESOURCE FOR SMALL GROUPS

Small faith-sharing groups are a fun way to build relationships. They provide a place where each person can grow in their faith journey. They focus on the ways in which the Spirit is calling us to live a more active, loving and joyful relationship with God, our Church and our World. Weekly free small group resource called Faith Circles is available based on the Sunday Gospels with two reflections (including one by Pope Francis) as well as accompanying questions and prayer points. It is available to download at www.faithcircles.dow.org.au or have it sent to you each month via email subscription. Click the website link to subscribe to the Faith Circles email list.

CATHEDRAL BOOKS & GIFTS

A great range of excellent quality religious gifts are available from Cathedral Books and Gifts.
A beautiful selection of bibles, books, missals, rosaries, plaques, crucifixes, medals, statues and greeting cards, candles, etc. perfect to commemorate Confirmation, Communion and Baptism.
Enter the store via Crown St, Xavier Centre, Wollongong.
Enquiries phone 4222 2484.

My dear people,

So many words were spoken to us when we were growing up. They were like seeds dropped into the soil of our minds and hearts. Those words came from parents and grandparents, friends, and teachers. We heard words of greeting, words of encouragement, words of advice, but also words of chastisement and correction, words of warning and caution. At the time we may not have appreciated some of those words, but we needed to hear them. Only God knows how many of those words actually took root. But our lives would be immeasurably poorer without the sowing of all those words.

As adults we still need the sowing of the word. But human words, no matter how necessary, will never fully nourish us. We need the word of God. God's word gives us guidance in times of doubt, reassurance in times of difficulty, comfort in times of sorrow, correction in times of foolishness, challenge in times of laziness, warning in times of danger, and hope in times of despair.

God's word is never negative. It is spoken in love. Just as food nourishes the body, so God's word nourishes the mind and the heart. God's word can speak to us in the most hidden parts of our being.

But we know there are many other voices vying for our attention. Every day we are subjected to a barrage of words—in the newspapers, on the radio or TV, in the workplace, from our family and friends. How can we hear or even recognize God's quiet word in the midst of all this noise?

We can only do so by deliberately creating some stillness, some quietness within us. It may be daily Mass. It may be a period of reading the Scriptures each day. (All should have a Bible at home). It may be the recitation of daily Rosary. It could be switching off the radio on the way to work, and using that time to pray. The LIVING FAITH booklets available here in the church give a very good commentary on one of the Mass Readings of the day. Read a passage before you jump in the car. An **excellent** idea is to occasionally go on a Retreat. There are plenty of opportunities offered in the Diocese. They are usually advertised in the Sunday Bulletin.

It is not enough, of course, to simply read or hear God's word. Having heard it, we must act on it. One of the ways of telling a false diamond from a true one is by means of the light. In the case of a false diamond, the light goes straight through the stone. But in the case of a true one, the light remains inside it, bringing it to life. With some people, the word of God goes in and then straight out. They are only hearers of the word. But those who hear the word and 'keep' it, i.e act on it, are transformed by it.



A FARMER WENT
OUT SOWING
MT 13:4

Fr Graham Schmitzer

Fr Graham Schmitzer
Parish Priest