

Parish and Shrine of the Immaculate Conception Unanderra

48 Princes Highway Post Office Box 14 Unanderra NSW 2526

Parish Priest

Fr Graham Schmitzer

Polish Chaplain

Fr Tomasz Nowak
Mobile: 0437 677 727
Email: tomasz.n04@gmail.com

Parish Assistant
& Catechist Co-ordinator

Sister Joan Goodwin
Ph: 4272 9980 | Mobile: 0499970074
Email: joan.goodwin@sosj.org.au

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	Sep 18	<u>NO MASS</u>

Tuesday	Sep 19	Adoration: 4:30pm-5:30pm Mass: 5:30pm

Wednesday	Sep 20	Mass: 7:00am

Thursday	Sep 21	Adoration: 4:30pm-5:30pm (Reconciliation available) Mass: 5:30pm

Friday	Sep 22	Mass: 9:30am

Saturday	Sep 23	Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation 4:30-5:30pm Vigil Mass: 6:00pm

Sunday	Sep 24	25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Masses: 7:00am, 9:00am 10:45am (Polish)

24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR A

17 September 2017

READINGS: Sirach 27:30—28:7; Rom 14:7-9; Mt 18:21-35

In refusing to forgive those who have sinned against us, we exclude ourselves from receiving God's forgiveness for our sins. The READING is an obvious prelude to today's GOSPEL.



In the SECOND READING St Paul teaches that the entire existence of a Christian is for Christ and others.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Anniversaries: Bishop Thomas MC CABE, Walter James BLATTMAN, Doris FENTON, Michael Van Der LINDEN, Hazel Mc NAMARA, Fr John WARD

Connie and Victor TABONE, Mary and Charlie MICALLEF

Deceased members of the ZANETTI, Da PRA and De MICHIEL Families

Pray for the sick and those unable to get to Mass



Rosters of next weekend

Sat 23 rd	Church Cleaning	W & J Rodgers, H Hobbs	
	Lawns	Peters Family, Winner Family	
	Acolytes	Lectors	Welcomers
Vigil 6pm	G Attard	R Baxendale	K Rossit
Sun 24 th 7am	P Jones	A Browne	S Brown, A Browne
9am	L Haywood	C Walsh	V Cleary, M Mohr-Peters
Counters	M Murphy (FH), C Stratton, A McQueen, M Winner		
Children's Liturgy	<i>Not held during the school holidays</i>		

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 9am Mass on 1st weekend of the month.

ACT NOW TO SAVE MARRIAGE

You can make a difference. By working together we can ensure that the legal definition of marriage remains unchanged. Join those campaigning to maintain marriage, say NO to more gender-fluid programs like 'Safe Schools', and defend freedom of speech and religion.

Sign up to volunteer at www.coalitionformarriage.com.au or contact Joe Carolan on 0403822534 or jcarolan@family.org.au

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY IS NEXT WEEKEND 24 SEPTEMBER



Prevailing notions of justice often have much to commend them - yet are diminished compared to God's love and justice. Our vision can be restricted if what

we regard as 'fair' and 'equal' simply asks: why should someone who works one hour receive the same pay as someone who works eight hours? Or why should some receive subsidised housing, electricity, council rates? Read, and read again, Matthew 20:1-16 - then reflect on God's justice.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

When we forgive we free ourselves of the burden of bitterness, and we free the other person of the burden of guilt.

But our forgiveness must come from the heart, which means it must be true, sincere, and warm.

A cold forgiveness is not much use.

Forgiveness should start now.

Putting it off only deepens the wound, prolongs bitterness, and postpones happiness.

Life is short, time is fleeting.

Today is the day to forgive.

Lord, deliver us from the poison of bitterness, and give us the grace to forgive from the heart those who have offended us.

Then we will know the warmth of Your forgiveness.

THE BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL – IN SUPPORT OF SICK AND RETIRED CLERGY:

Each parish provides "living" support to its active clergy, but it is the responsibility of our Diocese to fund the support and care for those sick and retired clergy who have dedicated their lives in service of the Church. In our Diocese, this support is partly funded by The Bishop's Annual Appeal, which will be held in our parish this weekend. For your convenience, this year's Appeal video can be viewed at <http://dow.sh/caring2017> or on Bishop Peter's Facebook page www.facebook.com/BishopPeterIngham The video gives a sensitive insight into "a week in the life" of one of our retired clergy, Fr Doug Rheinberger. Its duration is 3 minutes and 25 seconds and it is subtitled. Donations can also be made online at www.dow.org.au

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

24-26 November at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville

Relationship enrichment for married couples. Bookings online at www.wwme.org.au. Adrian and Janet Sullivan: on 0490 774 419 or adrian.janet1@bigpond.com

Do we have a PLUMBER in the house?
Could you contact Father Schmitzer.



“God wants us by every means in our power to lead others to life..”

St Mary of the Cross 1899

NEEDING AN ADVOCATE? The Holy Spirit is our Advocate, and through God’s grace we are God’s chosen. He does not leave us orphans. God has chosen you; have you considered what special dreams God has for you?

Contact Fr Richard Healey, Vocations Director, on 0401 621 591 or priesthood@dow.org.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! Individuals who would like to travel with the Diocesan group can go to <http://dow.sh/ACYF2017> to register their interest.

POSTAL PLEBISCITE ON “SAME-SEX MARRIAGE” ANNOUNCED

The Australian Government has announced there will be a postal plebiscite on whether the definition of marriage in the Marriage Act 1961 should be changed to include “same-sex marriage”. Ballot papers will be sent out to households on Tuesday, 12 September and all votes must be received back by Tuesday, 7 November.

To keep marriage as a unique relationship between a woman and a man, vote NO.

MARRIAGE PLEBISCITE RESOURCES

A web page on the ACBC web site has been established to provide some information on the Postal Survey: www.catholic.org.au/plebiscite. There are also a number of marriage resources at www.sydneycatholic.org/marriageinfo/. Further resources are currently being developed and will be available for distribution soon.

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.

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM-AIRS 17 Sep 2017

This week on the Journey, Fr Greg Barker (Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle) reflects on the Gospel of Matthew. Sr Hilda Scott OSB gives our weekly dose of Wisdom from the Abbey, and Sam Clear reminds us that unity requires risk. We have carefully selected music to help create a show that is all about faith, hope, love and life. Go to www.jcr.org.au or www.itunes.jcr.org.au where you can listen anytime and subscribe to weekly shows by email.

CATHOLIC CEMETERIES & CREMATORIA

are celebrating 150 years of Rookwood Cemetery with an Open Day on 24 September 2017 from 10am-3pm. There is an opening ceremony at 11am, followed by the grand parade at 11.30am. There will be plenty of activities for young and old including face-painting, pony rides, live entertainment, talks from the Naval Graves Project and author of the new book “Celebrating 150 Years of Rookwood Catholic Cemetery”, crematorium & mausoleum tours, grave-digging demonstrations, ancestry searches and food stalls. For more details go to www.catholiccemeteries.com.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.

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.

My dear People,

This little story is a good illustration of the message of today's GOSPEL. Once in Poland an elderly rabbi boarded a train to travel home to Warsaw. He entered a compartment in which three salesmen were playing cards. In need of a foursome, the salesmen asked the rabbi to join in, but he politely refused, saying he had been busy all day and needed to catch up on his prayers, and that in any case he didn't play cards. They continued trying to persuade him, but he still refused. At this, they became very hostile and started to abuse him. When he still refused, the salesmen threw him out of the compartment, and he had to stand in the corridor for the rest of the journey.

On arriving at Warsaw, the rabbi got off the train. So did the salesmen. The rabbi was met by a large crowd of his followers. On seeing this, one of the salesmen asked, "Who is that man?" "That is rabbi Solomon, the most revered rabbi in the whole of Poland" was the answer. On hearing this, the salesman regretted what he had done. So he quickly went up to the rabbi and asked for forgiveness. However, the rabbi refused to forgive him.



The rabbi's followers were quite taken aback at this. They couldn't figure out how their rabbi, a man renowned for his gentleness and holiness, could refuse to forgive someone. So they asked him, "When someone who has offended us asks for forgiveness, should we not forgive him?" "Yes", the rabbi replied. "Well, then, why didn't you forgive that man?" "I cannot forgive him. The salesman didn't offend me, the chief rabbi of Warsaw. He offended a common man. Let him go to him and ask for forgiveness."

In other words, the salesman was asking for forgiveness only because he had offended a famous person. Had it been just an ordinary person that he had offended, he would never have asked for forgiveness. Perhaps God feels like saying something similar to us. "Why do you tell Me that you are sorry for offending your neighbour? Why don't you go to your neighbour, tell **him** you're sorry, and ask **his** forgiveness? By that very act you would open the door and My forgiveness would come in."

Fortunately, there are many who are willing to forgive others. But there are very few who are willing to seek forgiveness from others.

Fr Graham Schmitzer
Parish Priest

FORGIVE
US OUR TRESPASSES
+ AS WE
FORGIVE
THOSE WHO TRESPASS
AGAINST US