

Parish and Shrine of the Immaculate Conception Unanderra

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Parish School

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Hargreaves & Cummins Streets
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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	Oct 16	<u>NO MASS</u>
Tuesday	Oct 17	Adoration: 4:30pm-5:30pm ST IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH Mass: 5:30pm
Wednesday	Oct 18	Mass: 7:00am ST LUKE
Thursday	Oct 19	Adoration: 4:30pm-5:30pm THE NORTH AMERICAN MARTYRS (Reconciliation available) Mass: 5:30pm
Friday	Oct 20	Mass: 9:30am
Saturday	Oct 21	Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation 5:00-5:30pm Vigil Mass: 6:00pm
Sunday	Oct 22	29th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Masses: 7:00am, 9:00am (No Polish Mass)

28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR A

15th October 2017

READINGS: Is 25:6-10; Phil 4:12-14, 19-20; Mt 22:1-14

The prophet Isaiah used the image of a wedding banquet to describe the fullness of life God wants to bestow not just on Israel but on all the peoples of the earth.

Jesus uses the same image in His parable. But those to whom the invitation was first sent (the Jews) rejected it, and their place has been taken by others (the Gentiles).



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased: Kevin Ryan

Anniversaries: Mother Antonia Galvez CACHICA, Marta BONCOMPAGNI, Kevin KEARNEY,
Walter Van Der LINDEN, Giuseppe ROSTIROLA, Patrick HEFFERNAN

Pray for the sick and those unable to get to Mass



Rosters of next weekend

Sat 21 st	Church Cleaning	S & W Brown, J & D Browne, L Harper, J Hoxha	
	Lawns	Peters Family, Winner Family	
	Acolytes	Lectors	Welcomers
Vigil 6pm	G Attard	R Gandy	V Cleary
Sun 22 nd 7am	M Walsh	C Walsh	Walsh Family
9am	N Dwyer	A Kelly	B Spain, G Petric
Counters	M Murphy (FT), J Powell, R Wilson, L Wade		
Children's Liturgy	F Fernandez, M Rodwell		

PARISH ACTIVITIES

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

St Joseph's room. New members welcome.

Contact: Barbara 42711584 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.

Gospel Reflection

God's call comes to us in many ways
and at many different levels.

However, his call is not so much as a voice
as a tug at our hearts, which we feel
at quiet and reflective moments in our lives.

He is calling us to a deeper
and more authentic life.

He is calling us into intimacy with himself.
He is calling us into community with others.
And at death he will call us into eternal life.

To accept this means to admit our need.
Jesus said, "Woe to you who are full now,
for you will go hungry.

But blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled."

A sense of something missing in our lives
is not a curse but a blessing.

A spiritual hunger
is God's way of inviting us to his banquet.

WE ARE COMMISSIONED Jesus commissions each of us
to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last. How are you
living your baptism? Contact Fr Duane Fernandez on
0414 626 357 or priesthood@dow.org.au

STRENGTHEN YOUR RELATIONSHIPS

Parenting workshops available from October 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.

POSTAL PLEBISCITE ON "SAME-SEX MARRIAGE"

As survey forms begin arriving in letterboxes across
Australia, it is important that we are fully equipped with
information about the consequences of changing the
definition of marriage and the impacts this will have on
individuals, families, education and churches. The Coalition
for Marriage has released a comprehensive guide to some of
the key consequences and questions around this important
conversation. Go to www.coalitionformarriage.com.au/
handbook to download your free copy.

COALITION FOR MARRIAGE – CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

More than 3000 people have volunteered to assist in the
campaign to uphold the current definition of marriage. The
Coalition for Marriage are currently looking for volunteers for
the campaign. If you are interested in finding out some
simple ways you can assist, please go to at
www.coalitionformarriage.com.au/volunteer .

MENALIVE PRAYER BREAKFAST WEST WOLLONGONG SATURDAY 21 OCTOBER 7.30AM

St Therese Parish Hall, 2 Powell Street West Wollongong

Join with men from 16 to 70+ to hear James Parker tell the
story of how the Holy Spirit worked has transformed his life,
from brokenness, to knowing God as one who invites us into
a personal relationship with him. Hear James' journey from
Gay activist, to a man committed to Church teaching on
marriage and family.

Venue: St Therese Catholic School Hall, 2 Powell Street
West Wollongong.

Cost: \$10

RSVP: Email: vincefitz7@yahoo.com.au / Phone or

Text message to Vince Fitzwilliam Mob: 0413 126 095

Come join other men for this life-giving message of hope.



“Remember on this earth
no one is perfect.”
St. Mary of the Cross 1889.

**OCTOBER : *Month of Prayer and Fasting
for Marriage and the Family***

Today and throughout this week we pray for the well-being of those experiencing same-sex attraction or gender uncertainty.

Heavenly Father, grant true peace and comfort to our family members and friends who experience same sex attraction or gender uncertainty. May we be sensitive and loving especially in times of trial. Leads us to deeper faith as we all strive for Christian perfection.

**AGEING AND AWAKENING: GOD’S SURPRISING GIFTS!
WEEKEND RETREAT**

Time and age are the gifts of the second half of life. As the worn oak wine barrel produces mellow wine so the second half of life allows us time to notice and reflect on the richness of our experience of life – awakening us to God’s surprising gifts on our journey.

- DATE:** October 27-29
- VENUE:** Benedictine Abbey, 695 Mountain Road, Jamberoo
- ARRIVAL:** Friday, 27 October, 3 pm
- DEPARTURE:** Sunday, 29 October, afternoon
- PRESENTER:** Sr. Kerin Caldwell sgs
- COST:** \$50 for the talks,
plus accommodation fees (Hermitage \$200 or Shared Cottage \$120)
- BOOKINGS:** Petrina 0242360533
cottageretreats@jamberooabbey.org.au

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM—AIRS 15 Oct 2017

This week on the Journey we have a powerful and moving interview with James Parker. James Parker’s life story is one that has seen him move from adoption as an infant, through sexual abuse, embrace a homosexual lifestyle as a Gay activist and from there into an encounter with Christ that saw his life transformed. James has worked extensively in communications and evangelisation and now in the efforts of the marriage coalition to defend the traditional definition of marriage. James’ amazing life story that places him in a unique position to speak with experience and love as Australians vote in the marriage plebiscite. Don’t miss an amazing extended interview with James this week on the Journey. Go to 94.1 FM on Sunday at 11am or 10pm pm on Wednesday or anytime at www.jcr.org.au or www.itunes.jcr.org.au where you can listen anytime and subscribe to weekly shows by email.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

24 -26 November, Mt Carmel Retreat Centre Varroville
Relationship enrichment for married couples. Bookings online at www.wwme.org.au or Adrian and Janet Sullivan on 0490 774 419 or adrian.janet1@bigpond.com

**ORGAN RECITAL & WORKSHOPS
SATURDAY 28 OCTOBER**

St Francis Xavier Cathedral 36 Harbour Street Wollongong
At 10:30am, Organ Teacher, Godelieve Ghalvas, will conduct a workshop on organ playing to show how pianists can easily develop the skills to readily play the new Allen digital pipe organs. Then, at 2:00pm, come and hear a recital by Allen Organ Scholarship recipient Cassandra Cordero playing a new Allen digital pipe organ at Wollongong Cathedral.

**WHOEVER DRINKS OF THE WATER THAT I SHALL GIVE.
WILL NEVER THIRST AGAIN**

John 4:14

Next weekend our parish will be holding the annual Catholic Mission World Mission Appeal. This year we are invited to share our support for the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Nha Trang, Vietnam as they work tirelessly to provide critical community resources such as clean drinking water and medical care to the country’s 12 million forgotten farming families, living in the coastal mountain regions. Please come prepared next weekend to give generously.



Freecall: 1800 257 296
catholicmission.org.au/Vietnam



My dear people,

You're throwing a party. You set the date, and draw up a list of the people you want to invite, You send out the invitations with an RSVP. You can expect three kinds of responses.

- 1) Some accept. Of course, there are degrees of acceptance. Some may accept half-heartedly—they feel obliged to come. But others feel honoured to have been invited.
- 2) Others refuse the invitation. Every refusal disappoints you, perhaps even hurts you. But at least you know where you stand. There are also degrees of refusal. Some would like to come but have a prior engagement. Others just aren't interested.
- 3) But there is a third way of responding—by not responding at all. It is a response in itself. It is the worst response of all. It's worse than a refusal. When people refuse the invitation, you know where you stand. Here, you don't. Have you done something to offend them? Perhaps the invitation got lost in the mail? And if you ring them, they might say: "Oh, I meant to reply, but..." 'I meant to'- how empty you feel, especially if you thought you were friends!

God doesn't force us—He invites us. A command can't be so easily ignored—but an invitation can. Advertisers can't force us to buy a product, but they do resort to all kinds of gimmicks. God doesn't act like that. He has too much respect for our freedom. But perhaps we're so busy, and our lives are so full, that even God has difficulty breaking through.

The excuses that kept the invited guests in today's parable from the wedding weren't bad excuses. In most cases they were perfectly good—one man wanted to attend to his land, another to his business. But this is what makes the excuses so dangerous. We don't see them as posing a threat!

The greatest danger facing us is not that we might abandon God and turn to evil—it is rather that we might just ignore His invitation. To ignore God's invitation altogether is the worst form of refusal. It implies indifference. Indifferent people are the hardest to convert. And what is God inviting us to? Intimacy with Himself, especially through the Sacraments. And the rules are the same as those for intimacy with any friend—you must enter into the mind of other, spend time with the other. Christ is as truly present in the Sacraments now as He was physically when on earth. This is why, for those who refuse the invitation, or are just indifferent, God will always remain an acquaintance—never a friend. It's why we pray for the souls in Purgatory—some metals take longer to soften.

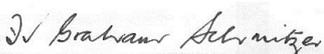
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Next Sunday is **World Mission Sunday**, and, as usual, special Envelopes will be provided for your donation. Australia's focus this year will be to support the work of the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart who are located in Nha Trang in Vietnam. The Sisters work tirelessly to combat malnutrition, as well as providing clean drinking water and accessible health and education services for the forgotten farming families in remote coastal communities. We are in debt to Vietnam, of course, for the many priests serving in our communities.

Wednesday's SYDNEY MORNING HERALD contained an article by journalist Matt Wade, "2017 shapes as best year ever to be alive", discussing the great advances worldwide in combating poverty and raising the standard of health, and he quotes philanthropists Bill and Melinda Gates. But the Gates have a worry. "They sense the commitment of rich nations to help those in poorer ones is wavering. There is now 'more doubt than usual about the world's commitment to development', the report warns. Not only has the administration of US President Donald Trump proposed 'big cuts' to foreign aid, but 'a similar mood of retrenchment has taken hold on other donor countries'.

"Sadly, Australia is a prime example. The Abbott and Turnbull governments have slashed Australia's overseas aid budget. Malcolm Turnbull is now responsible for the lowest level of aid spending as a share of gross national income in 60 years. Despite the spectacular falls in poverty and ill health in recent decades, 5 million children are still expected to die this year from preventable causes. This is not the time to be stingy."

Australia's commitment to overseas aid is a national disgrace, and we should let our politicians know how we feel about this, especially in election years. This situation, of course, places more and more strain on non-government agencies, one of which is CATHOLIC MISSION.


Fr Graham Schmitzer
Parish Priest