



PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION UNANDERRA



48 Princes Highway, PO Box 14, Unanderra NSW - 2526

Parish Priest
Polish Chaplain

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

Parish School

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

Parish Assistant
& Catechist Co-ordinator

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

Parish Secretary

School Principal

Mr Philip Moore

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	Jan 1	MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD Masses: 9:00am 10:45am (Polish)
Tuesday	Jan 2	STs BASIL and GREGORY NAZIANZEN Adoration: 4:30-5:30pm Mass: 5:30pm
Wednesday	Jan 3	THE MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS Mass: 7:00am
Thursday	Jan 4	Adoration: 4:30-5:30pm (Reconciliation available) Mass: 5:30pm
Friday	Jan 5	First Friday Mass: 9:30am
Saturday	Jan 6	First Saturday No Morning Mass Reconciliation: 5 - 5:30pm Vigil Mass 6pm
Sunday	Jan 7	THE EPIPHANY Masses: 7:00am, 9:00am 10:45am (Polish)

HOLY FAMILY SUNDAY, YEAR B

31 DECEMBER 2017

READINGS: GEN 15:1-6, 21:1-3; HEB 11:8, 11-12, 17-19;
LK 2:22-40

God promises Abraham an heir and innumerable descendants. The Letter to the Hebrews stresses Abraham's greatness - his faith in God in spite of incredible odds. The GOSPEL relates to the Presentation of the child Jesus in the Temple, and provides us with a glimpse of life at Nazareth.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Jack MILLER (anniversary)

Fr Richard HAZLITT (anniversary)

Rosters of next weekend

6 th Sat	Church Cleaning	W & J Rodgers, J Andersson	
	Lawns	B Mannix, W Brown, F Caruana	
	Acolytes	Lectors	Welcomers
Sat 6pm	A Carlotto	R Baxendale	D Gelfius
7 th Sun 7am	L Burns	D Ferrer	A Browne
9am	N Dwyer, C Carolan	C Walsh	B Spain, G Petric
Counters	M Murphy (FH), C Stratton, A McQueen, M Winner		
Children's Liturgy	<i>Holidays</i>		

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

Your children are not your children.

They come through you but not from you.

And though they are with you,

yet they belong not to you.

You may give them your love

but not your thoughts,

for they have their own thoughts.

You may house their bodies but not their souls,

for their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow,

which you cannot visit,

not even in your dreams.

You may strive to be like them,

but seek not to make them like you.

For life goes not backward

nor tarries with yesterday.

You are the bows from which your children

as living arrows are sent forth.

by Kahlil Gibran

ORDINATION OF BISHOP-ELECT BRIAN MASCORD

Please note the date for the Ordination of Bishop-elect Brian Mascord is now confirmed as follows:

Thursday, 22 February 2018,

on the Feast of the Chair of St Peter, Apostle

7:00 pm at WIN Entertainment Centre,

Corner Crown and Harbour Streets, Wollongong

Principal Consecrator: Archbishop Anthony Fisher

Assisting Consecrators: Bishops Peter Ingham and Bill Wright

My grateful thanks to all who have in any way contributed to the 'running' of the parish in the past year. There are so many who work quietly behind the scenes, and without whom everything would just stop functioning. Happy New Year!
Jahre Schwitzer





“Be calm and full of hope”

St. Mary of the Cross 1871

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 TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

Carols are an essential and beloved part of Christmas. Many contain basic beliefs of our Faith, none more so than “Twelve days of Christmas”. Our celebration of the Christmas Feast runs for twelve days - from December 25 to January 6 when we commemorate the visit of the Magi at Epiphany. This is the origin of Shakespeare’s play “Twelfth Night”.

“The Twelve Days of Christmas“ originated in 16th century England in the days when the Catholic faith was outlawed and those who were caught practising it were martyred. The Church went underground and the Faith was practised in secret. This carol is in code so people could learn and treasure their faith.

On the first day of Christmas my true love said to me is code for the truth that God speaks to the believer.

Twelve drummers drumming does not refer to the twelve apostles but rather to the twelve beliefs outlined in the Apostles Creed.

The **eleven pipers piping** are the eleven apostles (Judas having left) who pipe the Faith in an unbroken tradition.

The **ten lords a-leaping** are the Ten Commandments.

The **nine ladies dancing** are the nine choirs of angels.

The **eight maids a-milking** are the eight Beatitudes.

The **seven swans a-swimming** are, of course, the seven Sacraments.

The **six geese a-laying** are the six precepts of the Church.

The **five golden rings** are the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible.

The **four calling birds** are the four Gospels that sing the Good News.

The **three French hens** are the three gifts the Magi brought.

The **two turtle doves** are the Old and New Testaments.

And, finally, the **partridge in a pear tree** is the resplendent Christ reigning from the tree of the Cross.

“This is no season for sadness“ wrote Pope St Leo the Great. “It is the birthday of Life.”

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iv) **Integrating** means allowing refugees and migrants to participate fully in the life of the society that welcomes them, as part of a process of mutual enrichment and cooperation.

It is the Holy Father’s hope that in 2018 the United Nations will draft and approve two Global Compacts, one for safe, orderly and regular migration and the other for refugees. As shared agreements on a global level, these compacts would provide a framework for policy proposals and practical measures. Dialogue and coordination are a specific duty for the international community.

“If the dream of a peaceful world is shared by all, if the refugees’ and migrants’ contribution is properly evaluated then humanity can become more and more a universal family and our earth a true common home”

(ST JOHN PAUL)

Fr Graham Schmitzer
Parish Priest

My dear people

Following the Second Vatican Council, Pope Paul VI was inspired to initiate a **World Day of Prayer for Peace** each year on January 1. Tomorrow marks the 51st such day. The Holy Father issues a Message for the occasion, addressed not only to the members of the Church, but to the Governments of the world and to all people of goodwill. His theme this year is **Migrants and refugees: men and women in search of peace.**

Peace is a profound aspiration for every one, especially for those who suffer its absence. I once again mention the over 250 million migrants worldwide, of whom 22.5 million are refugees. In order to find peace, they are willing to risk their lives on a journey that is often long and perilous, to endure hardships and suffering, and to encounter fences and walls built to keep them far from their goal. In a spirit of compassion, let us embrace all those fleeing from war and hunger, or forced by discrimination, persecution and poverty to leave their homelands.



We know that it is not enough to open our hearts to the suffering of others. Welcoming others requires concrete commitment. Government leaders should take practical measures to welcome, promote, protect, integrate and, “Within the limits allowed by a concrete understanding of the common good to permit them to become part of a new society” (John XXII).

St John Paul II pointed to the increased numbers of displaced persons as one of the consequences of the endless sequence of wars, conflicts, genocides and ethnic cleansings that characterized the twentieth century. The new century has registered no real breakthrough. Armed conflicts continue to trigger the movement of peoples within national borders and beyond.

People migrate for other reasons as well, principally because they desire a better life, and often try to leave behind the hopelessness of an unpromising future. They set out to join their families or to seek professional or educational opportunities, for those who cannot enjoy these rights do not live in peace. Most people migrate through regular channels. Some, however, take different routes, mainly out of desperation.

Many destination countries have seen the spread of rhetoric decrying the risks posed to national security or the high cost of welcoming new arrivals. Those who, for political reasons, foment fear of migrants instead of building peace are sowing violence, racial discrimination and xenophobia, which are matters of great concern for all those concerned for the safety of every human being.

Some consider global migration a threat. Pope Francis asks us to view it as an opportunity to build peace. We all belong to one family. We all have the same right to enjoy the goods of the earth. Migrants and refugees, of course, do not arrive empty-handed. They bring their courage, skills, energy and aspiration, as well as the treasures of their own cultures. They enrich the lives of the nations that receive them.

Offering asylum seekers, refugees, migrants and victims of human trafficking an opportunity to find the peace they seek requires a strategy combining four actions:

- i) **Welcoming** calls for expanding legal pathways for entry and no longer pushing migrants and displaced people towards countries where they face persecution and violence. It is a case of balancing our concerns about national security with concern for fundamental human rights.
- ii) **Protecting** has to do with our duty to recognize and defend the inviolable dignity of those who flee real dangers in search of asylum and security, and to prevent their being exploited. Women and children often find themselves in situations where they are exposed to abuses that can even amount to enslavement.
- iii) **Promoting** entails supporting the human development of migrants and refugees. The Pope stresses the importance of ensuring access to all levels of education for children and young people. This will enable them to realize their potential.

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