

PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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School Principal: Mr Philip Moore
Parish Secretary: Mrs Sue Briscoe

Parish Office Hours: Monday, Thursday and Friday: 9am—3.30pm
Phone: 4271 1068 | Fax: 4271 1298
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Parish Website: www.unanderraparish.org.au

PROGRAMME FOR THIS WEEK

| | | |
|------------------|--------|--|
| Monday | 24 Sep | No Mass |
| Tuesday | 25 Sep | Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm Mass: 5.30pm |
| Wednesday | 26 Sep | Sts Cosmas and Damian Mass: 7am |
| Thursday | 27 Sep | St Vincent de Paul Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm (Reconciliation Available) Mass: 5.30pm |
| Friday | 28 Sep | St Wenceslaus Mass: 9.30am |
| Saturday | 29 Sep | Sts Michael, Raphael & Gabriel Mass: 7.30am Reconciliation: 5pm-5.30pm Vigil Mass: 6pm |
| Sunday | 30 Sep | 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time Masses: 7am, 9am No Polish Mass during September |

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — YEAR B

23 SEPTEMBER 2018

READINGS: Wisdom 2:12,17-20; James 3:16-4:3; Mark 9:30-37

The Early Christians saw the Passion of Jesus foretold in this ancient prophecy from the Book of Wisdom (**FIRST READING**).

Jesus predicts His passion, and announces that true greatness shows itself in serving the weaker members of the community (**GOSPEL**).

St James contrasts jealousy and ambition with gentleness and mercy (**SECOND READING**).



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS



Anniversaries

Charlie & Mary MICALLEF

Victor & Connie TABONE

Paul BLOOD

Ellen BROWN

Marie LA'BRODY

Dave MELLOR

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Remember... Daylight Saving Time begins on the first weekend in October, ie Sat/Sun 6/7 October.



ROSTERS – NEXT WEEKEND

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|---|----------------------|
| September | Church Washing | Fiona Fernandez | |
| Sat 29 Sept | Church Cleaning | G Lord, L Zanetti, S Adams | |
| | Lawns | J Lonard, H Yates, F Timpano, S Carrigan | |
| | Acolytes | Lectors | Welcomers |
| Sat 29 Sept 6pm Mass | | A Kelly | Volunteer |
| Sun 30 Sept 7am Mass | A Michielin | S Walsh | A Browne |
| Sun 30 Sept 9am Mass | C Carolan | M Rodwell | B Spain, G Petric |
| Counters | B & P Walker, A Kelly | | |
| Children's Liturgy | School Holidays | | |

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 first weekend of each month will commence again on Sunday 7 Oct.

PLENARY COUNCIL 2020

LISTEN TO WHAT THE SPIRIT IS SAYING...

Most Local Animators for parishes have completed training to enable them to draw parishes into the processes of listening to what the Spirit is saying. As individuals and parish communities, there are some simple but important things you can do right now to participate.



Plenary Council 2020
Listen to what the Spirit is saying...

Visit the website at:
www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au
This website provides great resources that will enable individuals and groups to learn more, pray for guidance, commence dialogue, and subscribe for regular updates.

OUR PARISH'S PLENARY COUNCIL SESSIONS

Having just returned from Rome, Animator/Ambassador for our Parish - Vera Cleary - will be holding Listening Sessions at various times to include as many of parishioners' contributions as possible. Please make an effort to attend one or all sessions, so that your Spirit-filled visions for the Catholic Church in Australia can be included. Further details in next week's bulletin.

Listen to what the Spirit is saying...

Gospel Reflection

God's inspiration is at work in everyone.

However, there are people in whom divine inspiration seems to have no effect, people who commit crimes cold-bloodedly, and who never rejoice at the sight of the true and the beautiful.

Even though they may seem to prosper, their punishment is assured even in this world.

The anxieties and fears that assail them make their prosperity bitterness to them. As for the just, even though their passage through life is often dogged by misfortune, the inward satisfaction of obeying divine inspiration gives them great strength, and is sufficient reward for them.



THE EPIPHANY PILGRIMAGE – THE JOURNEY OF THE MAGI

Are you looking for a different way to start the 2019 new year? Maybe to meet some new people, get fit and conclude the Christmas season on a spiritual high? The Epiphany Pilgrimage is a not-for-profit 7-day 110km Catholic pilgrimage through the Blue Mountains which coincides with the Feast of the Epiphany. The pilgrimage begins at Emu Plains on 2 January 2019 and finishes at Bell on 8 January 2019. For further information and to register go to www.epiphanypilgrimage.org or for general information and current news see www.facebook.com/epiphanypilgrimage/ *journey in faith / encounter the Christ-Child / live for Him*





“Keep young as long as you can.”

St Mary of the Cross — 1874

MT CARMEL OCTOBER RETREATS

Mt Carmel Retreat Centre
 247 St Andrews Road Varroville
 retreats@carmelite.com / 8795 3400
 www.carmeliteretreats.com.au

Exploring God's love with Julian of Norwich

Saturday 6 October: 10.30am–4pm

Presenter: Sheila Upjohn

Cost: \$30

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

Please remember to bring your own lunch.

“All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well”.

Guided retreat: A week with St Therese of Lisieux

Monday 8 October 6pm to Sunday 14 Oct October 9.30am

Presenter: Fr Aloysius Rego OCD

Cost: \$750 (Concessions apply).

Therese is a favourite saint of our present Holy Father Pope Francis.

Gregorian Chant workshop and retreat

Friday 19 October 6pm to Sunday 21 October 1.30pm

Presenter: Tony Vaughan (Director Schola Cantorum of Brisbane)

Cost: \$250 (Concessions apply).

A weekend learning Gregorian Chant, suitable for both beginners and those familiar with singing chant. A special feature this year will be to learn & sing the great hymn of praise the “Te Deum” dating back to 4th Century AD.

The Baptismal call to service of the world

Friday 26 October 6pm to Sunday 28 October 1.30pm

Presenter: Fr David Orr OSB

Cost: \$250 (Concessions apply).

An opportunity to enrich your life through knowledge of the Baptismal Priesthood for life.



BLESSING OF ANIMALS

Monday 1 October 2018 — 9.30am

Parish of St Michael — 325 Lawrence Hargrave Drive Thirroul

Bring along any of your pets to our Parish Church on the Monday of the long weekend at 9.30am on Monday 1 October. All are welcome – pets and their carers. Bring your camera/phone to record the memorable day. Snakes must have their own pit to hiss in. Chooks should buy their own eggs from IGA. Blessing of greyhounds prior to their running at the Bulli Dogs does not necessarily guarantee a good TAB dividend.



THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM – AIRS SUNDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2018 –

This week on The Journey, Fr Mark Delaney reflects on the Gospel of Mark; Bruce Downes, The Catholic Guy, encourages us about “Staying Fresh in our Faith”; the theme of Love is carried through with Sam Clear in his Walking the Walk God spot with “Agape” and continued with Fr Dave Callaghan encouraging us to “Free the Love” in his segment The Call.

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



BE AWAKE — NATIONAL CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE

19-21 October 2018 - Stanwell Tops Conference Centre
 MenALIVE and the Young Men of God Movement (YMG) have united to host a life changing event for the men of this nation. The time has come to bring together over 30 years of powerful ministry experience and capability led by the most passionate and dedicated leadership team ever assembled in men's ministry.

Be inspired, be transformed. This will be an extraordinary event that is definitely not to be missed!

Registration now open <https://dow.sh/BeAwake2018>



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, greeting cards, and candles, etc — perfect to commemorate Baptism, Confirmation and Communion.

Enter the store via Crown Street, Xavier Centre, Wollongong.

Enquiries phone 4222 2484.



A VOCATION VIEW

When Jesus says “Who do people say I am?”, we could interpret this as Jesus asking for feedback from His disciples about Himself. If you were to ask Jesus “How would you describe today's Christians?”



Please contact the Vocations Team at priesthood@dow.org.au

My dear people,

Sunday 30 September is **Social Justice Sunday** and, true to form, the Australian Bishops have produced a statement well worth reading. *Homelessness* is the theme they have chosen for 2018. There are hard copies available in the church. Electronically, the statement can be found on the Bishops Conference website at www.catholic.org.au or the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council website at www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au This week and next I will attempt to give you some of the highlights (which makes me read the statement myself!).

In his introduction to the message, the Bishops' spokesman, Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen, Bishop of Parramatta, reflects on the concern of the Australian Bishops at the growing problem of homelessness and insecure housing in Australian society. All over the nation, a ruthless housing market leaves people struggling to find affordable housing. That struggle has a corrosive effect on family life, on employment, on study, and on our capacity to contribute to, and benefit from, our society.

At its worst, the struggle leaves the vulnerable homeless—sleeping on the streets, in cars or in doorways, or hoping for a space on someone's couch. But behind the people on the streets is another legion—those battling to keep a roof over their heads, wondering if they can make the next rent or mortgage payment. Often, these are people are employed but whose income is barely enough to keep themselves and their families housed and fed.

'A PLACE TO CALL HOME' begins with the parable of the Good Samaritan. Two Jews were prepared to walk past a fellow Jew, stripped and wounded by the wayside. It was a hated Samaritan who stopped to help. The Bishops ask if Australia will let its heart go out to the homeless or will we continue to walk past? Can we be like the Good Samaritan who bridges the divide (between Jews and Samaritans) and addresses both the symptoms and the causes of distress? *It is time for Australia to reassert the true value of housing as a human right that is fundamental to individual and family wellbeing.*



The Homelessness Tragedy

Home is a sanctuary from the stresses and demands of the world as well as the threshold from which we step into society. A place to call home is indispensable to our sense of self. Our modern society easily regards property as just another commodity. But we are now starting to realise how the dispossession of the First Peoples of this land has rendered them "homeless" for generations. The land to them was their home, the place of their memories.

Australia once prided itself on its high levels of home ownership. I grew up in the '40s and '50s. If a man had a steady job, it was inevitable that he would be able to buy a block of land and put a house on it, even if it took him all his working life to pay for it. But it was "home". In 1947, 52% of Australians owned their own home (I was 4 years old). By 1965, that proportion had grown to 72%. But since that time, home ownership rates have fallen to around 65%. Two decades ago the Church's welfare agencies warned of the coming crisis. All households now are spending more of their income on housing, particularly the poorest 20%. Sydney is now the second most unaffordable city in the world, with Melbourne the sixth. This means that low- and middle-income workers who provide essential services to the community are being pushed further to the fringes of urban centres, thus facing long commutes to work, rising rents, and the likelihood of future house moves.

How has housing become so expensive? Overly limited supply and increased demand as a result of population increases, negative gearing, capital gains tax concessions and investor demand have all played a part. If Australia is experiencing a housing crisis, it is facing a homelessness tragedy. The 2016 Census revealed there are 116,427 people in Australia who are homeless. But those we see on the streets are only the tip of the iceberg—it does not include those who are "couch surfing", living in boarding houses or emergency accommodation. The Census estimated that 875,000 households experience housing stress—having to pay more than 30% of their income on accommodation. There is a dramatic shortage of community and social housing. Australia needs more than 270,000 extra affordable homes for low-income households.

- * Domestic violence is one of the main reasons that women and children seek housing assistance.
- * Mental illness is a common experience for people who are homeless.
- * Older people can encounter particular challenges—physical, cognitive, and financial. Often they face discrimination on the basis of age.
- * Unemployed people, especially young people on the Youth or Newstart Allowance, also struggle to find affordable housing—they usually have to rely on someone else to put a roof over their heads.
- * Ex-prisoners struggle to secure both employment and housing.
- * Aboriginal and Torres Strait people make up 3.3% of the Australian population but 20% of people who are homeless.
- * People coming to Australia as refugees or asylum seekers are particularly vulnerable to homelessness.

Some studies have estimated the basis cost of a person sleeping on the streets is over \$25,000 per year—health, human services, and policing. It would make much more economic sense to invest more in homelessness services and affordable and social housing. *But the real cost to society relates to the damage done to people's human dignity.* "Who is my neighbour?" said the lawyer to Jesus. The answer includes the tens of thousands of our fellow citizens who are homeless.

Mgr Graham Schmitzer

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Parish Priest

To be continued...