

PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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PROGRAMME FOR THIS WEEK

Monday	1 Oct	St Therese of the Child Jesus (Public Holiday) Mass: 7.30am
Tuesday	2 Oct	No Mass
Wednesday	3 Oct	No Mass
Thursday	4 Oct	No Mass
Friday	5 Oct	First Friday Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm (Reconciliation Available) Mass: 5.30pm
Saturday	6 Oct	St Bruno First Saturday Mass: 7.30am Reconciliation: 5pm-5.30pm Vigil Mass: 6pm
Sunday	7 Oct	27th Sunday in Ordinary Time Masses: 7am, 9am, 10.45am (Polish)

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — YEAR B

30 SEPTEMBER 2018

READINGS: Num 11:25-29; James 5:1-6; Mark 9:38-43,45,47-48

Moses rejoices in the fact that God has given the gift of prophecy to others besides him (**FIRST READING**).

Christ shares His gifts with the apostles, but reminds them that these gifts are to help them serve His people (**GOSPEL**).

St James condemns wealth when it is obtained through exploiting the weak (**SECOND READING**).



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Daylight Saving Time begins **NEXT** weekend, ie Sat/Sun 6/7 October, when clocks go forward one hour.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Annette CREAM

Nola DUNNE

Anniversaries

Leslie HEFFERNAN

Ron COSTELLO

Maria PIA

Giuseppe ZANATTO

Victor & Anna LAMAKA



ROSTERS – NEXT WEEKEND

October	Church Washing	Jackie Allen	
Sat 6 Oct	Church Cleaning	W Brown, P & A Browne, L Harper, J Hoxha	
	Lawns	Peters Family, Winner Family	
	Acolytes	Lectors	Welcomers
Sat 6 Oct 6pm Mass	A Carlotto	N Milan	D Gelfius
Sun 7 Oct 7am Mass	L Burns	M Walsh	S Brown
Sun 7 Oct 9am Mass	N Dwyer, C Carolan	A Kelly	P Cundy, V Cleary
Counters	M Murphy (FT), R Wilson, J Carolan, S Alessi		
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 1st weekend of the month

Gospel Reflection

Jesus warned those who would lead little ones astray, but He blessed those who care for them. One of the most touching things about children is their openness. But this same openness leaves them extremely vulnerable. They may not say much but they feel everything. They are like frail, delicate, beautiful flowers - innocents abroad in an unpredictable climate. If they are embraced by the sun, they will bloom to their full potential. But if they are assailed by hail, they will die a premature death. Love is to a child what sunshine is to a flower.



NEXT PARISH MORNING TEA

Sunday 7 October 2018

After 9am Mass —

in the St Joseph Room



PLENARY COUNCIL LISTENING SESSIONS

The Plenary Council listening sessions with our parish Animator/Plenary Ambassador, Vera Cleary, will be held in the St Joseph Room this week at the following times:

- * Tue 2 Oct - 3.45pm
- * Wed 3 Oct - 11am
- * Thu 4 Oct - 3.45pm
- * Fri 5 Oct - 3.45pm



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

All are welcome to attend a session.

Plenary Council Prayer

Come, Holy Spirit of Pentecost.
Come, Holy Spirit of the great South Land.

O God, bless and unite all your people in Australia
and guide us on the pilgrim way of the Plenary Council.

Give us the grace to see your face in one another
and to recognise Jesus, our companion on the road.

Give us the courage to tell our stories
and to speak boldly of your truth.

Give us ears to listen humbly to each other
and a discerning heart to hear what you are saying.

Lead your Church into a hope-filled future,
that we may live the joy of the Gospel.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
bread for the journey from age to age.

Amen.

Our Lady Help of Christians, pray for us.
St Mary MacKillop, pray for us.





“God will take care of us all.”

St Mary of the Cross — 1871

HELPS FOR YOUR PRAYER LIFE

LIVING FAITH

Meditations for each day October-December — **\$4.00**

(one for adults, one for children)

THE WORD AMONG US

Meditations for the month of October — **\$5.00**



Prayer

SOCIAL JUSTICE

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Seasons of Creation

Recycle, reuse, reduce: Consumerism impacts on the environment. If we reduce our consumption of both goods and energy, we reduce waste and pollution. When we buy goods, we reduce waste if they are reusable rather than disposable. Recycling is essential at home and at school or work.



PLENARY COUNCIL 2020

Every Catholic parish in Australia is now involved in responding to the request of the Australian Catholic Bishops to respond to three questions:

1. **What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?**
2. **What questions do you have about the future of the Church for the Plenary Council to consider in 2020?**
3. **Do you have a story of your experience of faith, or the Church you would like to share?**



As individuals and parish communities, here are some simple but important things you can do right now to participate.

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

You can submit your responses online.

You can respond using one of the forms in the *Feedback Book* located at the side door of the Church. These can be completed at home and returned at your convenience.

You can participate in a group discussion organised by the Parish.

Responses can be anonymous if you wish.

We have until March next year to respond. The Australian Catholic Bishops are keen to hear from as many people as possible. We urge you to pass on the invitation to friends and relations, whether they attend Church or not.

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM — AIRS SUNDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2018 —

This week on The Journey, Fr Mark Delaney reflects on the Gospel of Mark; Our Wisdom from the Abbey with Sr Hilda in an interesting topic, “I’m not qualified”; Pete Gilmore reminds us to live our “Faith in Action” in his Living the Gospel God spot! and Bruce Downes, The Catholic Guy, reminds us about “Staying Young and Fresh” in our Faith. Our music is an inspiration and a blessing to have such talented contributors.

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



CCD CATECHIST RETREAT

Illawarra – Shoalhaven

St Mary Star of the Sea — 166 Fern Street Gerringong

Friday 12 October 2018 10am—2pm

(9.30am for coffee and refreshments)

For bookings or questions please contact Cindy Oliver by 8 Oct on **4640 8550** or cindy.oliver@dow.org.au

There is no cost involved.

Morning tea is provided. Please BYO lunch.



FATHER / SON CAMP

Growing Good Men – Diocese of Wollongong

2—4 November 2018

A life-changing father and son weekend will be held from **Friday 2 to Sunday 4 November 2018** at Cataract Scout Camp, Appin. Spots are limited to just 15 fathers with their son aged between 12-16.

One of the most important influences in the lives of men is the relationship they had with their father, or significant father figure. The encouragement and affirmation that this relationship could and should provide is a key ingredient for how young men view themselves and embrace their gifts as they take their place in the world.



This is a unique opportunity for dads and their sons to embark on a quest of discovery with Robert Falzon and the team from menALIVE.

You don’t get this time back, so make this opportunity a priority! Contact **Jude Hennessy** on **4222 2407** or at jude.hennessy@dow.org.au to register or ask any questions.



My dear people,

In their statement for today's SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY, the Australian Bishops say "It is time for Australia to reassert the value of housing as a basic human right. A house is not merely an investment whose value is determined by the laws of supply and demand. **Houses are built to become homes.**" This year marks the 70th anniversary of the UN Declaration of Human Rights. Article 25(1) provides: "Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and wellbeing of himself and his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care." Australia is a signatory to that Declaration and played a significant role in drafting it. **The experience of homelessness is a violation of a person's human rights.**

Housing is not just one more item on a checklist of what makes a good society. It is fundamental to the wellbeing and equal opportunity of every citizen. Last year, Pope Francis instituted the WORLD DAY OF THE POOR, to be celebrated each year on the second-last Sunday of the liturgical year. After Mass last November he invited 1,500 destitute and marginalised people to join him for a meal. Other religious houses opened their doors in the same way. In his homily, he said: "In the poor we find the presence of Jesus who, though rich, became poor. For this reason, in them a 'saving power' is present. And if in the eyes of the world they have little value, they are the ones who open to us the way to heaven; they are our passport to Paradise. For us it is an evangelical duty to care for them as our real riches, and to do so not only by giving them bread, but also by breaking with them the bread of God's Word, which is addressed first to them. To love the poor means to combat all forms of poverty, spiritual and material. And it will also do us good. Drawing near to the poor in our midst will touch our lives."



We might ask ourselves: What counts for me in life? Where am I making my investments? In fleeting riches, with which the world is never satisfied, or in the wealth bestowed by God, who gives eternal life? Where is Australia making its investments? What counts most in the life of our nation — quick financial returns for a few, or ensuring everyone has a fair go? The funding we devote to addressing homelessness should be regarded as much more than a budget expenditure or a cost we pay grudgingly. Our economy must give priority to the redistribution of resources so that people who have been disadvantaged and excluded can participate once more in society.

The Call on Governments

- * Assistance for low-income groups must meet basic material needs. Centrelink payments such as Newstart Allowance and Rental Assistance need to be increased to meet basic costs of living. More regulation of the private rental market is needed to ensure greater security of tenure for low-income renters.
- * There must be greater co-operation to increase social and community housing. This requires greater co-operation between all levels of government and with the business and community sectors. State and local governments have a key role to work with developers to streamline and standardise planning procedures so as to encourage a greater proportion of mixed-use housing that incorporates affordable homes. There is a need for incentives for developers to plan both in their own interests and in ways that recognise the shared value of land.
- * We must address the major structural issues that drive up prices. We need to find ways of reducing unnecessary demand and curbing speculative investment. Measures such as restricting overseas investment and taxing empty dwellings may not be enough. Increasing subsidies to first-home buyers risks driving up prices. More effective solutions may be reducing negative gearing and capital gains tax concessions, reforming state land taxes, increasing density with appropriate affordable housing zoning regulations in established areas.

The Call on Church and Community

There are many organisations working to help people who experience marginalisation and homelessness. Catholics can be proud of the work of diocesan social services, charities like St Vincent de Paul Society, and initiatives by Religious Orders that reach out to people who are homeless. An important new initiative is the **Australian Catholic Housing Alliance** (ACHA), formed to find ways of diverting unused or under-used Church property towards affordable housing.

A Call to Each and Every Person

There are limits, of course, to what each of us can do. However, Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan shows us how revolutionary and effective the actions of one person can be.

- * We can make sure all are welcomed in our parishes, especially those who are homeless or who are struggling to keep a roof over their heads.
- * We can all lend a hand, supporting organisations such as CatholicCare and St Vincent de Paul, volunteering our time or raising donations. Young people engaged in working for justice for the poor through schools and youth apostolates are to be commended.
- * We can raise awareness, researching how homelessness affects our local area, bringing in guest speakers, talking to local MPs, and engaging with groups that address the issue.



"Indifference is when we grow indignant at evil but do nothing about it. God will not ask us if we felt righteous indignation, but whether we did some good." (Pope Francis)

Mgr Graham Schmitzer
Parish Priest