

PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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PROGRAMME FOR THIS WEEK

Monday 31 Dec *No Mass*

Tuesday 1 Jan **Mary, The Mother of God**
Mass: 9am

Wednesday 2 Jan *No Mass*

Thursday 3 Jan **The Most Holy Name of Jesus**
Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm
(Reconciliation Available)
Mass: 5.30pm

Friday 4 Jan First Friday
Mass: 9.30am

Saturday 5 Jan First Saturday
Mass: 7.30am
Reconciliation: 5pm-5.30pm
Vigil Mass: 6pm

Sunday 6 Jan **The Epiphany**
Masses: 7am, 9am, 10.45am (Polish)

THE HOLY FAMILY - YEAR C

30 DECEMBER 2018

READINGS: 1 Sam 1:20-22,24-28; 1 Jn 3:1-2,21-24; Lk 2:41-52

The First Reading on Feasts always leads in to the Gospel. Samuel's remarkable birth is given as a parallel to that of Our Lord. Hannah, Samuel's mother, consecrated him to God in thanksgiving for such a gift. In due time Samuel ratified that consecration himself, and played a major role in the history of Israel (**FIRST READING**).

Jesus had a double identity as Son of Mary, and Son of God. We too have a double identity - we are not just children of our parents but also children of God (**SECOND READING**).

Jesus was not actually lost. Rather, He was at home in the Temple. It was here that He began to find himself (**GOSPEL**).



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Phil MURPHY
Dr Kenneth OLDROYD

Anniversaries

Yvonne TREVEN
Mary POTTS
Lucy DALTON
Jack MILLER



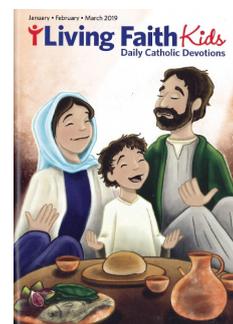
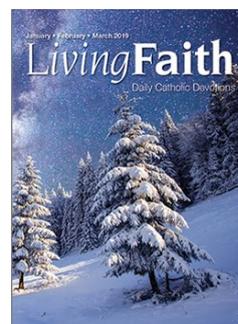
LIVING FAITH

Now available

(*'Living Faith'* and *'Living Faith Kids'*)

January * February * March 2019

— \$4.00 ea



ROSTERS – NEXT WEEKEND

January	Church Washing	Jackie Allen	
Sat 5 Jan	Church Cleaning	J Allen, J Haywood, A Gollop, S Chavez	
	Lawns	Fernandez Family, Mark Walsh	
	Acolytes	Lectors	Welcomers
Sat 5 Jan	A Carlotto	A Kelly	D Gelfius
Sun 6 Jan 7am Mass	L Burns	P Gunning	S Brown
Sun 6 Jan 9am Mass	N Dwyer, C Carolan	B Parrish	Davis Family
Counters	M Murphy (FH), C Stratton, M Winner		
Children's Liturgy	School Holidays		

A PRAYER FOR PARENTS

Lord, grant us children who will be strong enough to know when they are weak; who will be unbending in defeat yet humble and gentle in victory.

Grant us children whose wishes will not take the place of their deeds;

children who will know You and know themselves.

Lead them, we pray You,

not in the path of ease and comfort,

but rather in the path of difficulties and challenges.

Grant us children whose hearts will be clear, and whose goals will be high;

children who will master themselves

before seeking to master others.

And after all these things, add, we pray,

a sense of humour, so that they can be serious,

yet never take themselves too seriously.

Then we, their parents, will dare whisper,

we have not lived in vain.

General MacArthur

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

NO MORNING TEA – JANUARY

Sorry, but there will be no morning tea following 9am Mass on **Sunday 6 January 2019**.



2019 – PLANNED GIVING

The Parish Finance Council (PFC) recommend and implement cost saving initiatives for our Parish. In early January 2019, we will be ordering and paying for next year's envelopes for the Envelope Contribution Scheme, however the PFC would like to suggest our parishioners can assist by changing to the Direct Debit System to save some costs in Envelope production. Please fill out a Direct Debit Planned Giving Form (located near the side door of the church) and submit it to the Parish Office (in a sealed envelope), and we will organise the changes.

We appreciate the generous contributions our parishioners provide, and all giving — whether via direct debit or envelope — is most welcome and appreciated.

Please see a member of the PFC if you have any queries - Wayne Rodgers, Henry Fernandez, Gloria Simmonite.



The Parish Finance Council

Dear God,
Thank you for
the baby brother
but what I prayed
for was a puppy
Joyce



“Find happiness in making others happy.”

St Mary of the Cross — 1890

A REFLECTION — MARY AND THE NEW YEAR

“The principal reason for marking the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God on January 1 is that the beginning of the New Year coincides with the Octave Day of Christmas, and Christmas was made possible through Mary. Our salvation, therefore, is directly linked with Mary.

In the Epistle to the Romans, St Paul tells us that Jesus is the new Adam: through Him the world was recreated, made new again. Since freshness of life is so apposite a thought to the start of a new year, the Church invites us to begin in the company of the Virgin Mother of Nazareth.

So can our New Year’s resolutions. Resolutions, for example, to live our faith better: by going to confession monthly or by trying to pray better each day. Or we could resolve to do something specifically Marian, such as make a Marian pilgrimage each year, or say the Rosary.

‘Specifically Marian’ always means ‘oriented to Christ’. Mary always points to Jesus, as she did at Cana of Galilee, when she told the waiters: ‘Do whatever he tells you.’

Devotion to Mary can only increase our faith.

Mary is the model of faith par excellence; in fact, she is the person of faith, always believing, never doubting, yet at the same time not fully understanding. Faith is a universal requirement; no human creature, not even Mary, has ever been excused from it. Just as we must pilgrimage in the grey, in this world of sixes and sevens and obstacles and disappointments, so Mary also had to do. But she preceded us, as Mother of the Church she walked paths that we have no alternative but to walk. And she walked, despite apparent contradictions we shall never experience: the contradiction of Calvary where she stood beside the Cross, for example.

Solid devotion to Mary the Mother of Jesus can only result in a happy and meaningful year for us, since it can only help unite us more closely to Mary’s Son, Jesus our Lord.

There is a final point for pondering. Just as Jesus chose to enter our world through Mary, so He wills to grace us through her. Anyone who yearns for the God-Life but ignores the Mother of the Lord, Mary, yearns in vain. Dante Alighieri expressed this in incomparable poetry toward the close of The Divine Comedy: ‘If anyone could seek grace, but ignores Mary, he seeks to fly without wings’.” (Fr David Liptak)



THE JOURNEY

CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM

The Journey Catholic Radio will enter our Summer Series until early February. You can catch up on your favourite people such as Sr Hilda from the Abbey, Bruce Downes The Catholic Guy and many more. We will continue to play amazing contemporary music while our writers, contributors and presenters have a well-earned break.

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

ERIC GENUIS CONCERT — IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH UNANDERRA

Eric Genuis Concert

Immaculate Conception Church Unanderra

Wednesday 27 February 2019 — 7pm

Looking for a Christmas gift for the person who has everything? Why not buy them tickets to an experience you can share as well as help your Parish community?

A rare opportunity to listen to a pianist of exceptional talent who brings with him a world class violinist, cellist and soprano playing in our parish church. The ‘Opera House’ is coming to our parish! All original compositions together with powerful testimonies outlining the inspiration behind each piece with true stories of life transformations destined to make a deep impression upon all who hear them. A message of hope for all.



Tickets: \$30 adult; \$25 pensioner/concession; \$70 family (parents with dependant children under 18).

Ticket sales are available online at www.ericgenuistour.com or from Sue Briscoe at the Parish Office (cash only).

On the weekend of 12-13 January 2019 Fr Mark De Battista will be here promoting the concert in our parish. A parish event not to be missed. Your support will support our parish.

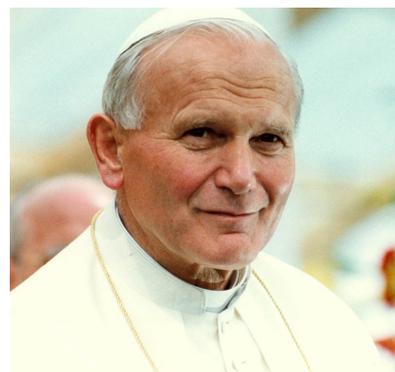
With kind regards, Mgr Graham Schmitzer

POPE JOHN PAUL II'S LETTER ON THE FAMILY

It takes courage to be family

In *Familiaris Consortio*, two key themes emerge: COMPASSION and TRUTH.

Catholic beliefs about marriage and family can be painful for many people. The wounds of hurt and disillusionment run deep. Faced with such pain we can be tempted to stop speaking the truth; for instance, we might avoid saying things like 'Marriage is forever'. But when we do this we only undermine our capacity to live the truth. We rob married people of encouragement, we rob our children of inspiration, and we fail to recognise the enormity of a divorced person's loss. Instead of diluting our beliefs, let us SPEAK to them with love and sensitivity; let us gently LISTEN to each other's experience of joy, loss, hope, loneliness and REACH OUT with healing hands.



Jesus grew up in a family

Family love can change the world. Think of Jesus of Nazareth. His public ministry did not arise out of the blue. It was in the hidden and uncelebrated years of family life - growing up in the home of Joseph and Mary - that the foundations of his ministry were laid. May we have confidence in the love which lies 'hidden' in our own families and its bearing on the future of the world. May we respond to John Paul II's summons:

"Family, become what you are."

The Christian Family

The mission of the family is to BE what it IS, namely 'an intimate communion of life and love' (*Pope John Paul II*). How does it do this? In four ways:

1. Families form community

'Love one another' says the Gospel. If the world is to be a place of love, it has to start with the tiniest cell of human loving: the married couple and their family. In the eyes of the Church, sexual intercourse involves a sacred 'language' of the body by which a spouse says: I give you all of me - my manhood/womanhood, my capacity to bring forth life, my deepest self. And I want to receive and accept all of you. It is this self-giving union between man and woman, and its openness to the generation of new human life, which makes marriage a foundation stone of the wider family community, the Church and society. Through countless loving actions in the daily lives of spouses, children, extended family and neighbours, the family acts as a little 'power cell' of hope in the world. From the presence of a newborn child to the wisdom of an elderly grandparent, all members have the grace and task of building community, making the family 'a school of deeper humanity'. (*Pope John Paul II*)

2. Families serve life

Bringing up a child is one of the many precious fruits of marriage. It includes the responsibility of helping the young person to live a fully human life. Parents are the prime educators of their children. Certainly other people and agencies can help; but nothing can replace the parents and the family.

It is in the atmosphere of the home that a child 'catches' a spirit of love or discovers its lack. It is through the religious practices of the home that a child first senses a reverence for God or feels the absence of faith. It is in the family unit that a child first learns 'those social virtues which every society needs', including a spirit of service, self-sacrifice and respect for one's sexuality.

"The family is the first and fundamental school of social living."

Says *Familiaris Consortio*: Do not think of your family responsibilities as secondary to the mission of the Church. When you teach your children (and they teach you!) to love, to pray, to celebrate the sacraments and to serve one's neighbour, you are not just 'helping' the Church's mission you are living its very mission!

3. Families shape society

In a society that is becoming increasingly dehumanised by its glorification of material power, families offer a humanising and personalising influence. In a family, one's value as a person is not determined by salary, status, age or ability. Rather, a family says to each member: We love you simply for who you are: you belong to us.

4. Families have a mission

Just as we refer to Jesus as 'prophet, priest and king', so are Christian families called to:

- Share their faith with enthusiasm and conviction;
- Be open to the sacred;
- Live justly and exercise their social conscience.