

# PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

48 Princes Highway (PO Box 14) Unanderra NSW 2526



**Parish Priest:** Mgr Graham Schmitzer

**Polish Chaplain:** Fr Jerzy Slowinski  
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Email: slowinski54@gmail.com

**Parish Assistant & Catechist Co-ordinator:** Sister Joan Goodwin  
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Mobile: 0499 970 074  
Email: joan.goodwin@sosj.org.au

**Parish School:** St Pius X School  
Cnr Hargreaves & Cummins Streets  
PO Box 358 Unanderra NSW 2526  
Phone: 4271 3550 | Fax: 4272 2954

**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  
Email: unanderra@dow.org.au  
Parish Website: www.unanderraparish.org.au

## PROGRAMME FOR THIS WEEK

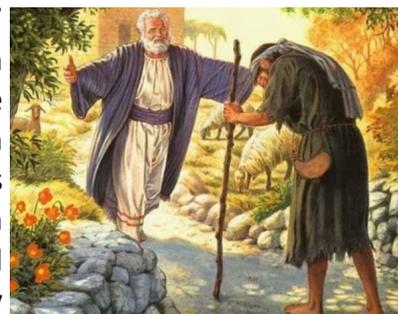
<b>Monday</b>	1 Apr	Adoration:	4.30pm-5.30pm
		Mass:	5.30pm
<b>Tuesday</b>	2 Apr	Adoration:	4.30pm-5.30pm
		Mass:	5.30pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	3 Apr	Mass:	7am
<b>Thursday</b>	4 Apr	Polish Mass:	11am
		Adoration:	4.30pm-5.30pm (Reconciliation Available)
		Mass:	5.30pm
<b>Friday</b>	5 Apr	<u>First Friday</u>	
		Mass:	9.30am
<b>Saturday</b>	6 Apr	<u>First Saturday</u>	
		Mass:	7.30am
		Reconciliation:	5pm-5.30pm
		Vigil Mass:	6pm
		<i>Daylight Saving ends tonight</i>	
<b>Sunday</b>	7 Apr	<b>Fifth Sunday of Lent</b>	
		Masses:	7am, 9am, 10.45am (Polish Mass)

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT — YEAR C 31 MARCH 2019

**READINGS:** Joshua 5:9-12; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Luke 15:1-3

A clear theme runs through all three Readings: God's mercy to sinners. "I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you."

The shame of slavery in Egypt behind them, the years of wandering in the desert over, God's people arrive home in the Promised Land (**FIRST READING**). They celebrate the Passover.



Shame, also behind him, the prodigal son returns home. He is welcomed with a feast. Jesus tells the parable in response to the Pharisees' criticism that He is too lenient towards sinners (**GOSPEL**).

Through Christ, God has reconciled us to Himself, not holding our faults against us (**SECOND READING**).

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS



### Recently Deceased

Frances GALAZO  
Lucia NOWAK  
(mother of Fr Tomasz)

### Anniversaries

POMPEI Family  
Marilena TORTI  
Irma BROZZETI

## ACIES — 2019



The Legion of Mary's annual commitment to Our Lady will be held this weekend, Sunday 31 March 2019 at 2pm with Benediction. All welcome.

## ROSTERS – NEXT WEEKEND

April	Church Washing	Helen Murphy	
Sat 6 Apr	Church Cleaning	W & J Rodgers, J Andersson	
	Lawns		
	Acolytes	Lectors	Welcomers
Sat 6 Apr	A Carlotto	M Gillis	D Gelfius
Sun 7 Apr 7am Mass	L Burns	M Walsh	S Brown
Sun 7 Apr 9am Mass	N Dwyer, C Carolan	C Walsh	Davis Family
Counters	A Gunning, M Cauduro, C Garrett		
Children's Liturgy	M Rodwell, S Michielin		



## Parish Life

## 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

## PARISH MORNING TEA

The monthly parish morning tea will be held next **Sunday 7 April after 9am Mass**. Volunteers to help serve and/or clean up are always welcome!



## EASTER RAFFLE

This weekend and next weekend, we will be selling raffle tickets at every Mass to win some Easter goodies — **to be drawn after 9am Mass on Palm Sunday 14 April**. All money raised will go towards the celebrations of Monsignor Graham's Golden Jubilee dinner later this year.



# Gospel Reflection

*The prodigal son came home empty-handed. He had no trophies to show his father, no achievements with which to earn his praise, his welcome, and his love. He was a failure. Worse, he was a sinner. He deserved to be punished - and he knew it. Yet punishment was the last thing he needed. To punish him would be like pouring water on a dying fire.*

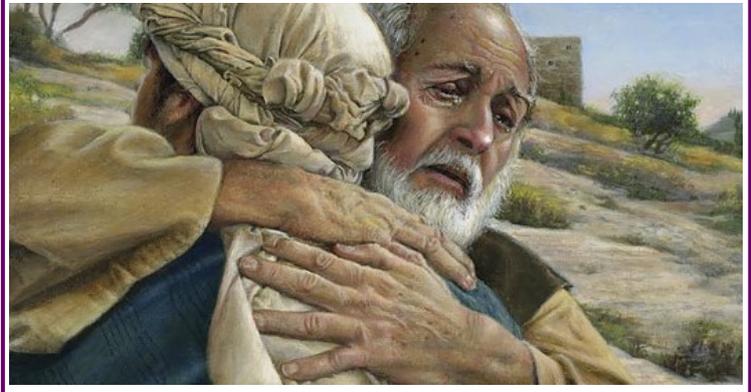
*What happened?*

*When the father saw his lost son coming towards him, his heart went out to him, and next minute they were in each other's arms.*

*It is an extraordinary experience to be loved in one's sinfulness.*

*Such love is like a breeze to a dying fire, or rain falling on parched ground.*

*Those who have experienced this kind of love know something about the heart of God.*



## VOCATIONS

FORTY DAYS Lent is a time to renew the gift of our vocation, and a time for us to listen more deeply to God's call. Have we been resisting the invitation to consider a particular vocation? Start a conversation.

Please contact the Vocations Team at [priesthood@dow.org.au](mailto:priesthood@dow.org.au)



## LENTEN GROUP

Every **Wednesday** during Lent  
in **St Joseph's Room**  
at **7.30pm**.





**“Let us be entirely God’s.”**

*St Mary of the Cross MacKillop  
(19.03.1874)*

## ONE MILLION ROSARIES FOR UNBORN BABIES

The One Million Rosaries for Unborn Babies multinational pro-life prayer event is scheduled for **3, 4 & 5 May 2019.**

Those participating will pray at least one Rosary for the protection of the unborn.

For details and to register go to:

[www.saintmichaelthearchangelorganization.org](http://www.saintmichaelthearchangelorganization.org)

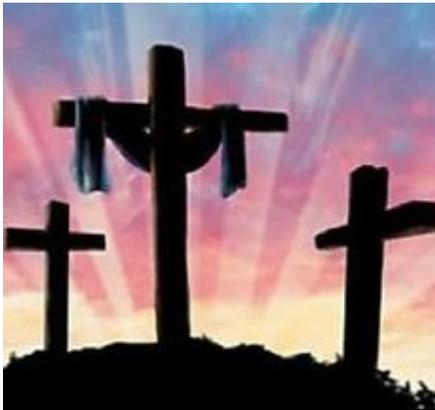


## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR EASTER CEREMONIES

Volunteers are required for the various ministries for the Easter Ceremonies. If you would like to be involved in the parish ceremonies for the most important week in our Church, please write your name on the sheets located on the seat in the centre aisle of the church.

- Acolytes
- Readers
- Servers
- Welcomers

- Volunteers for Washing of the Feet on Holy Thursday



## PROJECT COMPASSION

Michaela is a 21-year-old trainee at Purple House, a dialysis centre in the Central Desert for people suffering from kidney disease. With the support of Caritas partners, Michaela is helping to build a social enterprise, a connection to culture and a new outlook for the chronically ill.

**Please donate to Project Compassion 2019 and help provide essential care, employment and training for First Australians.**



## THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME

– AIRS SUNDAY 31 MARCH 2019 –

This week on The Journey, our Gospel is Luke 15: 1-3,11-32, and is reflected on by Fr Sean Cullen; Bruce Downes, The Catholic Guy, encourages us to Share our Faith; and Fr Dave Callaghan, in his God Spot, talks about ‘Doubt is Good’. Some of our music highlights during Lent will be the Responsorial Psalm from our very own Lenten programme, TRUST, this week it is Taste and See the Goodness of the Lord.



Go to [www.jcr.org.au](http://www.jcr.org.au) or [www.itunes.jcr.org.au](http://www.itunes.jcr.org.au) where you can listen any time and subscribe to weekly shows via email

## WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

26–28 April 2019

Mt Carmel Retreat Centre Varroville  
Relationship enrichment for married couples

Bookings online at

[www.wwme.org.au](http://www.wwme.org.au)

or Adrian and Janet Sullivan

on 0490 774 419 or

[adrian.janet1@bigpond.com](mailto:adrian.janet1@bigpond.com)



## NOTICE FOR CATECHISTS

Due to the difficulties in gaining access to the CCD Room at the school, all Holy Week and Easter materials — pictures, big books and special lessons — have been moved to the Convent. Please call and collect some great material for your lessons.

*Sr Joan*



## SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Sacrament of Confirmation — Saturday 15 June 2019.

**Information night for parents — Tuesday 2 April 2019 at 7.30pm in the Church.**

Attendance at the meeting is important.

Children wishing to receive the Sacrament must be in

Year 6 or older and practising their faith.



My Dear People,

A woman was told a particularly 'juicy' piece of scandal. "Unfortunately," she said, "I cannot say anything at the moment because Lent isn't over. But, please God, I won't always be in the state of grace!". For some, Lent has become an artificial dam on the stream of life, a kind of six-week penitential crash course. We store up the capital and live off the interest for the rest of the year. At the end of it we return to 'normal' living.

We fail to see that in God's eyes, changing our lives for six weeks is no more than a sick joke. As with the Israelites of old exiled in Egypt, God has seen our 'miserable state' and calls us to be delivered from the subtle slave drivers of our own sin and stupidity. Can we honestly say we will be better people at the end of Lent? How much permanent change has been in our lives in the past year?

For many, this is the last year of our lives, and Jesus shatters our complacency with this repeated warning: "Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." To be a disciple of Jesus means to allow Him to discipline us.

Lent is a good time to permit God to get to the root of our sin and selfishness. Any farmer or gardener can tell you of the sheer uselessness of cutting off the heads of weeds. Unless the root is tackled and destroyed they will simply re-emerge in full bloom. Maybe that's why Confession is such a disappointment for many people — because they are using it merely to have the heads cut off the weeds of sin but leave the roots intact. Until we have the courage to be 'radical' (from the word for 'root'), the problem and its accompanying frustration will remain.

It takes a long time for any habit — good or bad — to develop. Lent is merely the beginning. What was once difficult for us — trying to tie our shoelaces, learning to ride a bike and, later, to drive a car — has become second nature because we persisted and succeeded. God is calling us never to abandon the struggle — unlike the man who read so much about the evils of smoking that he gave up reading. There is no substitute for the discipline of sustained daily effort (ask any personal trainer).

More specifically: if you are managing an extra Mass each week in Lent, why not continue after Lent is over? If you are giving a proportion of your income to Project Compassion each week, why not continue for the rest of the year? Not much point in helping people in another country stay alive for Easter if we are going to let them die six months after.

So, Lent is a time to start that process of deep, radical change. Lent can never be an end in itself. Satan's attacks do not follow the liturgical seasons. He never sleeps. An athlete cannot possibly confine his preparations for the six weeks before the race — he must prepare for the long haul.

## LIVING FAITH

Now available

Daily Devotions: April—June

Two versions: Adult and Children

**\$4.00**

# LENT



*Mgr Graham Schmitzer*

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Parish Priest