

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
Mobile: 0410 225 975
Email: slowinski54@gmail.com

Parish Assistant & Catechist Co-ordinator: Sister Joan Goodwin
Phone: 4272 9980
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

Monday	22 Apr	Easter Monday <i>Polish Mass: 11am</i>
Tuesday	23 Apr	Easter Tuesday Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm Mass: 5.30pm
Wednesday	24 Apr	Easter Wednesday Mass: 7am
Thursday	25 Apr	Easter Thursday (Anzac Day but Mass of Easter Thursday) Mass: 8am (followed by breakfast)
Friday	26 Apr	Easter Friday Mass: 9.30am
Saturday	27 Apr	Easter Saturday Mass: 7.30am Reconciliation: 5pm-5.30pm Vigil Mass: 6pm
Sunday	28 Apr	Second Sunday of Easter <u>Divine Mercy Sunday</u> Masses: 7am, 9am, 10.45am (Polish Mass)

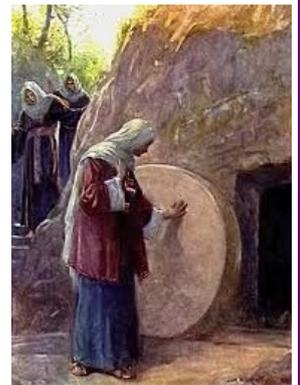
EASTER SUNDAY — YEAR C 21 APRIL 2019

READINGS: Acts 10:34,37-43; Col 3:1-4 or Luke 24:1-12 or Luke 24:13-35 (Evening Mass)

The **FIRST READING** contains part of an early sermon of St Peter.

Through our Baptism we already share in the risen life of Christ though in a hidden and mysterious way (**SECOND READING**).

On discovering Jesus' tomb empty, the disciples begin to grasp what the Scriptures had foretold (**GOSPEL**).



MOTHER'S DAY RAFFLE PRIZE DONATIONS

Donations of prizes are required for the Mother's Day Raffle, please! Money raised will go towards Mgr Graham's Golden Jubilee celebrations in August. For all enquiries regarding donations, please contact Gloria Simmonite (4271 3634). A box is now located in the church near the side door for donated items — please place your items in the box by next **Sunday 28 April at the latest**. The Mother's Day raffle tickets will then be sold on the weekends of 4-5 May and 11-12 May — it will be drawn by Mgr Graham after 9am Mass on Sunday 12 May.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Anniversaries

Laurie & Elizabeth GREENING
Anita JOHANSSON
Bishop William MURRAY
Kenneth VARLEY
Beverly HOLDEN



ROSTER – NEXT WEEKEND

April	Church Washing	Helen Murphy	
Sat 27 Apr	Church Cleaning	G Lord, L Zanetti, S Adams	
	Lawns	Fernandez Family, M Walsh	
	Acolytes	Lectors	Welcomers
Sat 27 Apr	G Attard	V Cleary	V Cleary
Sun 28 Apr 7am Mass	A Michielin	D Ferrer	L Harper
Sun 28 Apr 9am Mass	N Dwyer, C Carolan	B Parrish	P Cundy, F Fernandez
Counters	A Gunning, M Cauduro, C Garrett		
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

— CONGRATULATIONS — EASTER RAFFLE WINNERS

Thank you to everyone who kindly purchased raffle tickets over the past few weeks and/or donated money. Thanks everyone for your generous support!

The winners of the Easter raffle prizes were:

- | | |
|-----------|----------------|
| 1st prize | Fay Bloomfield |
| 2nd prize | Sue Briscoe |
| 3rd prize | Maria Vidaic |
| 4th prize | Fred Caruana |



Gospel Reflection

*On Easter Sunday we feel pain,
Our own pain and the pain of others.
But a new element has been introduced.
It doesn't remove the pain,
but gives it a meaning,
and lights it up with hope.
All is different because Jesus is alive
and speaks His words of peace to us.
Therefore, there is a quiet joy among us,
and a deep sense of peace.
Jesus has broken the power of death,
and given us the hope of eternal life.
Lord, guard this hope with Your grace,
and bring it to fulfilment
in the kingdom of heaven.*



The New Day

April 5 • Easter Friday

■ This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad. Psalm 118:24

Christ rose from the dead at a precise moment in time. Yet he still waits for this resurrection to transform all people as he breaks into the lives of each individual and into the history of all nations. But the transformation of society and individuals through the resurrection depends on the cooperation of people.

In the resurrection there is always an ebb and flow. People break the bonds of sin and death. They rise in Christ as he did that Easter morning so many centuries ago. Yes, wherever there is a heart that overcomes selfishness, violence, and hatred—wherever there is a heart that reaches out to someone in need—Christ is risen from the dead, risen today. Whenever someone pursues true justice and peace, death is defeated and Christ's resurrection is reaffirmed. Whenever a person dies who has lived believing, loving, and suffering for Christ, there is the resurrection . . .

Christ is risen! May the whole world rise with him. Alleluia!

Pope John Paul II
Draw Near to God

Alleluia!

Acts 4:1-12 Ps 118:1-27 Jn 21:1-14



“Be not hasty in judging one another, put kind constructions where you can; and where you cannot, be silent.”

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop

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

Contact Adrian and Janet Sullivan

on 0490 774 419 or adrian.janet1@bigpond.com



WOLLONGONG HOSPITAL MASS



Holy Mass at the **Wollongong Public Hospital** every **Saturday at 9.30am** in the ground floor chapel.

ADOPT A GARDEN BED!

The gardens surrounding the church need a little bit of TLC. Can you please lend a hand; or better still, a green thumb?! You can “Adopt A Garden Bed” by choosing a particular garden bed to look after, then just weed and prune when needed. **If you’re interested, please ring Fiona Fernandez on 0408 496 385 for more details.**



THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME

– AIRS SUNDAY 21 APRIL 2019 –

On this Blessed Easter Sunday, our Gospel reading is that of the Resurrection, John 20:1-9, and the reflection by Fr Chris Sarkis, “He Saw and He Believed”.

Happy and Holy Easter to our listeners from all of us here at the Diocese of Wollongong.



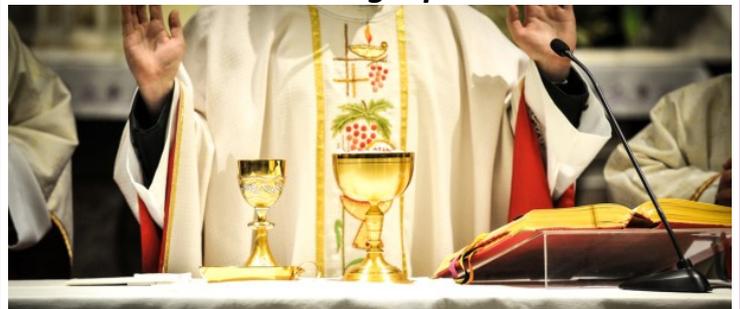
Go to www.jcr.org.au or www.itunes.jcr.org.au where you can listen any time and subscribe to weekly shows via email

VOCATIONS

“Without the priest, the passion and death of Our Lord would be of no avail. It is the priest who continues the work of redemption on earth. What good is a house filled with gold, were there no one to open its doors? The priest holds the key to the treasures of heaven: it is the priest who opens the door; the priest is the steward of the good Lord, the administrator of God’s goods.”

(St John Vianney)

Young men: Have you ever thought of becoming a priest?



FAITH CIRCLES A FREE WEEKLY SMALL GROUP RESOURCE FOR PARISHES

Want to help transform your parish into a place where people are known, loved, challenged and supported? Small groups or “communities of communities” hold the key. The weekly Faith Circles resource and small-group leaders guide is available for free to download. It features all the “how-to” information you need as well as reflection questions for the Sunday Gospel and accompanying prayer points. It is available to download at faithcircles.dow.org.au or you can have it sent to you each month via email subscription.



My Dear People,

We belong to what is unquestionably the biggest, the oldest, and the most widespread multi-national corporation in the world. Like all multi-national corporations, it is in the business of marketing a product. The product is a story. It is a story we have grown up with and have accepted for the most part without question. Yet when we think about it, it is a story that should have been laughed out of court when it was first told.



The story was put out by a handful of fishermen and peasants from a remote province of the Roman empire. They claimed that a wandering preacher, whom they had been following around their tiny part of the world, and who had fallen foul of the Roman authorities and had been put to death, had in fact risen from the dead. But they could not produce him alive as evidence of their story. By the time they started spreading the story he was not available to be interviewed as, according to them, he had returned to heaven. It was a bit much to swallow.

The story went further. They claimed that this wandering preacher had fulfilled in his person the promises made by the Jewish God to His people. This part of the story impressed neither the Jews nor the Romans. The Jews had been waiting for over a thousand years for a military saviour, someone who would make Israel a prosperous nation as it had been under King David, a nation that could inflict on its enemies what had been inflicted on them over the centuries. They were certainly not going to buy a condemned criminal. And the Romans despised the Jews and their strange religion.

The story went on to say that this wandering preacher was, in fact, God Himself in human form. For the Jews, this was pure blasphemy. For the Romans, gods were free to come and go as they liked, and a god in human form was no big deal.

These fishermen and peasants went about spreading this story with great enthusiasm. They met with a mixture of success and persecution. It is hard to understand why anyone would accept the story, especially in view of the consequences. Those who accepted the story were expected to follow the teachings of this preacher. They were expected to love not only family and friends, but strangers, foreigners, and even enemies. They were to forgive and overlook injuries, asking a Jew to love a Gentile. To ask a Roman to treat his slaves as brothers and sisters was unthinkable. As well as all this, they were expected to be detached from material possessions, and to turn the other cheek. They were to expect only persecution and suffering in this life. Reward would come in the next life.

The amazing thing is that the story did spread, and continues to spread two thousand years later. But experience shows that not many people buy the story of Christ unless they see Christ Himself shining through the salesman. The famous Indian leader, Mahatma Gandhi, said he was very attracted to the teachings of Jesus, but did not embrace them because he was put off by the example of Christians.

St Paul said we must have an answer ready for those who ask us the reason for our faith. The early Christians lived in a non-Christian world; we live in a post-Christian world. Society does not really care about our personal beliefs, as long as we do not force them on others. The apostles forced nothing on anyone. They presented their message, backed up by the witness of their lives, and relying on the power of the Holy Spirit. Pope Francis has said the world does not need proselytisers — it needs witnesses. The Risen One has not risen until He has risen in you and me.

Mgr Graham Schmitzer
Parish Priest