

Parish and Shrine of the Immaculate Conception Unanderra

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School Principal	Mr Philip Moore
Parish Secretary	Mrs Agnes Jerald



Parish Office Hours: Monday, Thursday and Friday: 9:30am—4:00pm
Phone: 4271 1068 | Fax: 4271 1298
Email: unanderra@dow.org.au
Parish website: www.unanderraparish.org.au

PROGRAMME FOR THIS WEEK

Monday	July 3	NO MASS

Tuesday	July 4	Adoration: 4:30-5:30pm BI PIER GIORGIO FRASSATI Mass: 5:30pm

Wednesday	July 5	Mass: 7:00am St ANTHONY ZACCARIA

Thursday	July 6	Adoration: 4:30pm-5:30pm St MARIA GORETTI (Reconciliation available) Mass: 5:30pm

Friday	July 7	First Friday BI PETER TO ROT Mass: 9:30am

Saturday	July 8	Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation 5pm-5:30pm Vigil Mass: 6:00pm

Sunday	July 9	14th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME Masses: 7:00am, 9:00am 10:45am (Polish)

13TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR A

2nd JULY 2017

READINGS: 2 Kgs 4:8-11; Rom 6:3-4, 8-11; Mt 10:37-42

In today's GOSPEL Jesus instructs His apostles on the sacrifices involved in following Him, and the priorities they must embrace. They must be ready to sacrifice the dearest things in life. In some circumstances they might have to choose between Him and their own relatives.



The GOSPEL also stresses the profound implications of even the smallest act of hospitality—even a cup of cold water. The FIRST READING echoes the Gospel.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS



Anniversaries: Fr Peter LITTLE SJ, Warren YATES, Marie DAWSON, Launa WALL, John NISSEN
Connie & Victor TABONE
Mary & Charlie MICALLEF
Pray for the sick and those unable to get to Mass

Rosters of next weekend

Sat 8 th	Church Cleaning	S & W Brown, J & D Browne, L Harper, J Hoxha	
	Acolytes	Lectors	Welcomers
Vigil 6pm	G Attard	R Gandy	D Gelfius
Sun 9 th 7am	A Carlotto	P Gunning	S Brown, A Browne
9am	N Dwyer	A Kelly	B Spain, G Petric
Counters	M Murphy (FT), J Powell, R Wilson, L Wade		
Children's Liturgy	Not held during the school holidays		

PARISH ACTIVITIES

Catholic Women's League: 2nd Thursday of the month, 10.30am

St Joseph's room. New members welcome.

Contact: Jan 42714051 or Margaret 42715804

St. Vincent de Paul Conference: Tues, 7.30pm St. Joseph's room

Parish Pastoral Council: 2nd Monday of the month, 7:30pm

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 the Vigil Mass and 9am Mass on 1st weekend of the month. (Due to the colder weather, it has been decided to cancel Morning Tea on the first Sunday of the month during winter. Monthly Morning Tea will resume in September.)

LIVING FAITH

Daily meditations—July to September based on the Mass Readings of the day.

There are two editions—for adults, and for children.

Only \$4.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE DIOCESAN CONFERENCE

Conference will be held on Friday 7th July at 9am in Xavier Centre, Harbour Street, Wollongong

Cost \$30 which includes morning tea, lunch and conference materials. Close of registration 16th June.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Contact Margaret 42715804 or Barbara 42711584 for further information.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Much of our lives is spent in keeping people out. We have private houses, private clubs, and so on. Of course there are times when we need to be alone. Yet there is a sense in which our size as human beings can be measured by the circles we draw to take other people in: the smaller the circle, the smaller the person. A strong person isn't afraid of people who are different. A wise person welcomes them. By shutting other people out we deny ourselves the riches of other people's experience. We starve our minds, and harden our hearts. In the beginning God gave the earth its shape. He made it round. He included everybody. So should we.

(Anon.)

THIS IS NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER SUNDAY

For thousands of years before the arrival of Western settlers (in Australia), the sole inhabitants of the land were indigenous peoples, the ABORIGINES AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS. Their ancient heritage forms an essential part of the cultural landscape of modern Australia. Thanks to the Australian Government's courageous decision to acknowledge the injustices committed against the indigenous peoples in the past, concrete steps are now being taken to achieve reconciliation based on mutual respect. Rightly, you are seeking to close the gap between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians regarding life expectancy, educational achievement and economic opportunity! This example of reconciliation offers hope to peoples all over the world who long to see their rights affirmed and their contribution to society acknowledged and promoted.

Pope Benedict XVI, World Youth Day 2008

PARISH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, UNANDERRA SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM, 2017

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

The Sacrament of Penance is celebrated in the third term of the school year.

ENROLMENT DATES: Sunday 25th June and 1st & 2nd July

Enrolment forms will be available at all Masses on these dates. Parents are asked to collect a form from the table at the Sacred Heart Altar and return it to the Collecting Box by 15th and 16th July.

PARENT MEETING: Parents need to attend this meeting. There will be two sessions and child minding will be available at both sessions.

Session 1 Wednesday 26th July, at 4pm or

Session 2 Wednesday 26th July at 7:30pm



“Let us thank God
we are as we are.”

St. Mary of the Cross 1874

HOW GREAT IS THE HOPE TO WHICH WE ARE CALLED

Have you ever stopped to ask why can't things be different? God has called you to make a difference, to be a witness for hope in our world. Not sure where to start?

Contact Fr Richard Healey, Vocations Director, on 0401 621 591 or priesthood@dow.org.au

CATHOLIC CARE STRENGTHEN YOUR RELATIONSHIPS

Just Released: Parenting workshops available from July now taking bookings. To build on your parenting skills and strengthen your family relationships go to the calendar at www.catholiccare.dow.org.au or give CatholicCare a call on 4227 1122.

St Mary Star of the Sea College

Invites ex-students & staff to our Decades Reunion Morning Tea. Alumnae celebrating 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 years and beyond are especially invited to attend **Saturday 19 August 2017 10.30am to 12.30pm in the College's SGN Hall Harbour Street, Wollongong**. RSVP Maree McCarthy by Friday August 11th Phone 02 4228 6011 or email maree.mccarthy@stmarys.nsw.edu.au

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL 2017

In SYDNEY from 7-9 DECEMBER 2017

It is with great excitement that the registration for ACYF in Sydney from 7-9 December 2017 has been launched!

Groups and Individuals are encouraged to register early to secure their spot at the Festival. As an added incentive groups of ten or more who register before 31 May 2017 will receive a complimentary registrations for their group leaders. Early bird registration closes on 18 August 2017. The Festival registration process can be found online at www.acyf.org.au.

TAKE A RISK AND GIVE THE GIFT OF FAITH

In our parish there is a team of volunteers that take a risk and step out in faith. State Government schools do not provide lessons that teach the basic message about Jesus, our faith and the great adventure that life can be with God. We were all given our gift of faith by someone, someone stepped-up for us so that we would know Jesus. Each week of the school year Catechists present 30-minute lessons using a step-by-step lesson plan that helps Catholic children understand their faith, grow in love and maturity and learn what it means to be Catholic. Take a risk and give the gift of faith. Become a Catechist teacher or helper today!

For more information, please call 4222 2416 or ask our parish priest for more information.

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM – AIRS 2 July 2017

This week on the Journey Nick Weir reads the Gospel of Matthew. Sr Hilda inspires us with her Wisdom from the Abbey about the Energy of Love, and we have a fabulous interview with Philippe Dulawan who works with the Catholic Guy and is promoting the upcoming Impact Leadership Conference. We are so very lucky to have truly amazing Christian music artists sharing their gifts with us to create a show for you that is all about faith, hope, love and life. Go to www.jcr.org.au or www.itunes.jcr.org.au where you can listen anytime and subscribe to weekly shows by email.

2017 SIGNIFICANT MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARIES MASS

If you are celebrating 25, 40, 50 or 60 years of marriage this year and would like an invitation to the Mass to be celebrated by Bishop Peter Ingham at St John Vianney Co-Cathedral, Fairy Meadow on Sunday, 13 August 2017 at 2.00pm, please contact Helen Bennett 4222 2403 or email helen.bennett@dow.org.au at the Office of the Bishop by Monday 10 July and an invitation will be sent to you.

WOMEN'S PRAYER WEEKEND

“The Call of Beauty” 21 - 23 July 2017 Presented by Michelle Vass & Pauline Compton fdnsc

This retreat explores how a deeper awareness of beauty can bring you in touch with your God and be a powerful antidote to the rush and superficiality of busy lives. Includes daily Eucharist and the Sacraments of Anointing and Reconciliation. Rest in the silence and beauty of St. Mary's Towers Retreat Centre, Douglas Park.

Enquiries: Ph:4630 0233 e: towersretreat@bigpond.com

FAITH CIRCLES WEEKLY RESOURCE FOR SMALL GROUPS

Small faith-sharing groups are a fun way to build relationships. They provide a place where each person can grow in their faith journey. They focus on the ways in which the Spirit is calling us to live a more active, loving and joyful relationship with God, our Church and our World. Weekly free small group resource called Faith Circles is available based on the Sunday Gospels with two reflections (including one by Pope Francis) as well as accompanying questions and prayer points. It is available to download at www.faithcircles.dow.org.au or have it sent to you each month via email subscription. Click the website link to subscribe to the Faith Circles email list.

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

Enter the store via Crown St, Xavier Centre, Wollongong. Enquiries phone 4222 2484.

My dear people,

Tuesday, July 4, celebrates the entry into heaven of one of our newest and youngest saints—**Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati**. Pope John Paul II declared him Blessed in 1990, and proclaimed him Patron of World Youth Days. Pier Giorgio was born in Turin in 1901, the eldest of two children. His sister would later write his biography. Their father founded the Italian daily newspaper, *La Stampa*. He later became Italian Ambassador to Germany. Sadly, he had become agnostic. Their mother was not deeply religious. The marriage was not a happy one, the father eventually wanting a legal separation.

While the family was quite wealthy, Pier Giorgio was rarely given any money. He attended University, and before his death at the age of 24 he had almost completed his engineering degree. At the age of 17 he joined the St Vincent de Paul Society, for he had already developed a great love of the poor and the sick. Any money he was given he spent on alleviating their suffering. He would even take the flowers from their vases in his home to put on the graves of paupers. When asked by one of his friends if he found the smells and filth of the slums nauseating, he replied: "I see a special light surrounding the poor and unfortunate, a light that we do not have".



Pier Giorgio went to Mass practically every morning, having been given special permission to receive Holy Communion every day, rare in those times. "Jesus comes to me every morning in Holy Communion, and I repay Him in my very small way by visiting the poor", he told a friend. And in a speech to the Catholic Youth Group he said, "Feed on this Bread of Angels and from it you will gain the strength to fight your inner battle". He had a great devotion to Our Lady, and would often visit a shrine of hers in the mountains. Wrote a friend, "I would not hesitate to say that the secret of Pier Giorgio's spiritual perfection is to be found in his devotion to Mary. A day never passed that did not find him at the feet of his heavenly Mother with his rosary, his favourite prayer, entwined in his fingers".

Pier Giorgio's deeply spiritual life gave him an extraordinary serenity and composure which influenced all around him. He had many friends, and loved mountain-climbing and skiing (this made him a favourite of Pope John Paul). He was always playing practical jokes on his friends, and he had an infectious laugh. He was deeply concerned about Italy's political situation and publicly protested about the rise of Fascism. He was once arrested at a Catholic Action rally. His devotion to the poor and the sick brought about his early death on 4 July, 1925 at the age of 24. From the slums he caught polio—it took his young life quickly in only about six days. He died with his eyes fixed on an image of Our Lady, attested his sister, Luciana. As soon as the city of Turin heard of the death, the poor and the needy headed for his house. His parents could not believe the crowds that lined the streets for his funeral, for his charitable works had gone largely unnoticed. His father had considered him a complete failure, for his son had no ambition to take over the family business. Pier Giorgio's life was fixed on heaven. He had once said to his friend, "The day of my death will be the most beautiful day of my life".

When Pier Giorgio's coffin was opened in 1981, fifty-six years after his death, on the occasion of the beginning of the process of his beatification, corruption had not touched his remains which were then taken to the Cathedral of Turin (where the Shroud is kept). At the request of Cardinal Pell, his body was brought to Sydney for World Youth Day in 2008. The Australian Government had to pass a law to allow an unembalmed body to enter the country. The famous Jesuit, Fr Karl Rahner, and expert at the Second Vatican Council, wrote that Pier Giorgio's greatness lay in his belief "that God is, that what sustains us is prayer, that the Eucharist nourishes what is eternal in us, that all people are brothers and sisters". To his sister, some months before his death, Pier Giorgio wrote, "You ask me whether I am cheerful. How could I not be, so long as my faith gives me strength. For suffering is a far different thing than sadness, which is the worst disease of all. It is almost always caused by lack of faith".

Fr Graham Schmitzer
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Parish Priest