

Parish and Shrine of the Immaculate Conception Unanderra

48 Princes Highway Post Office Box 14 Unanderra NSW 2526

Parish Priest

Fr Graham Schmitzer

Polish Chaplain

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Parish School

Saint Pius X School
Hargreaves & Cummins Streets
PO Box 358, Unanderra, NSW - 2526
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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	Aug 21	No Mass

Tuesday	Aug 22	THE QUEENSHIP OF OUR LADY Adoration: 4:30pm-5:30pm Mass: 5:30pm

Wednesday	Aug 23	Mass: 7:00am St ROSE OF LIMA

Thursday	Aug 24	Adoration: 4:30pm-5:30pm (Reconciliation available) Mass: 5:30pm

Friday	Aug 25	Mass: 9:30am St LOUIS

Saturday	Aug 26	Mass: 2:00pm (to conclude Legion of Mary Retreat) Reconciliation 5pm-5:30pm Vigil Mass: 6:00pm

Sunday	Aug 27	21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Masses: 7:00am, 9:00am 10:45am (Polish)

20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR A

20 AUGUST 2017

READINGS: IS 56:1, 6-7; ROM 11:13-15, 29-32; MT 15:21-28.

The theme of the FIRST READING and the GOSPEL is inclusiveness. In the time of the prophet Isaiah there were many foreigners in Israel. Were the benefits of salvation open to them ?

God's answer was clear,

"My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples."

The early Church faced a similar problem with the Gentiles. But the GOSPEL sees Jesus as having broken down the barrier between Jews and Gentiles.

In the SECOND READING St Paul gives comforting advice: **God never takes back His gifts.**



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased: Jennifer ANDERSON

Des CUNDY, Alex SMITH, Luigi MARCIANO, Brian QUETCHER, Aquilino ESCOBIA, Victoria Baustista NATE, Fr Maura SORIANO, Gloria SHEPPARD

Pray for the sick and those unable to get to Mass



Rosters of next weekend

Sat 26 th	Church Cleaning	F Fernandez, B Rice, S Markocic	
	Lawns		
	Acolytes	Lectors	Welcomers
Vigil 6pm	G Attard	C Nughes	A Milan
Sun 27 th 7am	A Carlotto	P Gunning	B Neich, K Rossit
9am	N Dwyer	A Kelly	E Walker, P Cundy
Counters	A Gunning, M Cauduro, C Garrett, D Gringeri		
Children's Liturgy	C Hailstone, L Galea		

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.

RETREAT DAY

The Legion of Mary are holding a Retreat Day on **Saturday Aug 26th** commencing at 10am in the Immaculate Conception Church, Unanderra.

Parishioners are invited to attend. Please bring your lunch—morning and afternoon tea will be provided.

Fr Schmitzer will conduct the retreat.

All welcome!

GOSPEL REFLECTION

An Irish wish

God be good to you in all your days,

God be kind to you in all your ways.

God give strength to you when crosses lean,

God send light to you, the clouds between.

God give peace to you in times of strife,

God bless everything that fills your life.

God send joy to you when grief is o'er,

God make way for you at Heaven's door.

(Brian O'Higgins)

CELEBRATE THE SEASON OF CREATION 2017

(1 SEPTEMBER – 4 OCTOBER)

Spring is almost upon us and Pope Francis invites us to celebrate September as a 'Season of Creation'. This is a time for individuals and communities to "reaffirm their personal vocation to be stewards of creation." It is a "precious opportunity to renew our personal participation in our vocation as custodians of creation."

You are invited to take part and over coming weeks more resources will be on offer to support this initiative within our Diocese. Further details on this year's Season of Creation can be found on the Global Catholic Climate Movement website

<http://catholicclimatemovement.global/act/>.

Further information on Diocesan resourcing can be obtained by calling Darren McDowell on 4222 2463 or darren.mcdowell@dow.org.au

POSTAL PLEBISCITE ON "SAME-SEX MARRIAGE" ANNOUNCED

The Australian Government has announced there will be a postal plebiscite on whether the definition of marriage in the Marriage Act 1961 should be changed to include "same-sex marriage".

Ballot papers will be sent out to households on Tuesday, 12 September and all votes must be received back by Tuesday, 7 November. If you are not enrolled to vote, or if you need to update your postal address, go to www.aec.gov.au/enrol/ before the cut-off date of **Thursday, 24 August**.

To keep marriage as a unique relationship between a woman and a man, vote NO.

(This notice has been prepared by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference)



**“God alone knows
what is best for us.”**

St. Mary of the Cross 1870

NEEDING AN ADVOCATE? The Holy Spirit is our Advocate, and through God’s grace we are God’s chosen. He does not leave us orphans. God has chosen you; have you considered what special dreams God has for you?

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

LIVE FESTIVAL, 15 SEPTEMBER, ST FRANCIS XAVIER CATHEDRAL PRECINCT

Our Wollongong LIVE Festival is back! For ages 15-35 LIVE Festival will be filled with great live music, food, games and guest speakers as well as heaps of other young people from our Diocese. Festival kicks off at 5:15pm and finishes at 8:30pm. Go to <http://dow.sh/livefestival17> for more information and to register your interest.



The home is the heart of the Church. **CATHFAMILY** brings you a selection of activities, prayer rituals, crafts and recipes for free from their website cathfamily.org. Don't miss CathKids, weekly interactive experience with a two-minute animated reflection on the Sunday reading, questions to stimulate discussion, a simple activity and prayer. Families in the Diocese of Wollongong are encouraged to utilise these resources at home to share faith with kids.

CONSOLING MASS

Our annual Consoling Mass will be held at Mater Dolorosa, Balgownie on Friday 15 September at 12.10pm.

This is the Mass where we continue to pray for our loved ones who have died in tragic circumstances. Families touched by tragedy are warmly invited to participate in this Mass.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND 24-26 November at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville

Relationship enrichment for married couples. Bookings online at www.wwme.org.au. Adrian and Janet Sullivan: on 0490 774 419 or adrian.janet1@bigpond.com

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM – AIRS 20 AUG 2017

This week on the Journey, we are blessed to have God Spots from such inspiring people. We hear from Sr Hilda with her wisdom from the Abbey and Presence Left Behind, Sam Clear reminds us about Unity while Walking the Walk and Fr Dave Callaghan encourages us about Putting our Trust in the Lord. This is carefully woven together with amazing Christian music artists to help create a show 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.

PALMS INFO SESSION THURSDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 5.30PM-7PM XAVIER CENTRE CONFERENCE ROOM, 38 HARBOUR STREET, WOLLONGONG.

RSVP joey@palms.org.au or call 9560 5333

Calling for experienced professional, business or trades people. Communities in Asia, the Pacific and Africa seek skilled Australians to mentor local personnel. You will assist to improve and sustain organisations vital in reducing poverty. Learn more about how you will be supported through this exciting, life-changing opportunity.

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.

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.

My dear people,

It is amazing what people can do, and will do, when they are motivated by love. We see this especially in the case of a mother. A mother will do anything, brave anything, suffer anything, endure anything, for the sake of her child. A Prison Governor once said that in his many years of his service he had not met five prisoners who had not had a good relationship with their mothers. The mothers had never failed to visit their sons and had never failed to take responsibility. "We see them everyday" he said, "mothers with maybe more than one drug addict in the family, queuing to visit the son in jail, living out their lives with no resources, no support, nothing. It is unbelievable, considering the amount of pressure that mothers come under and the amount of torture they have to go through because their children get into trouble and into crime".

(John Lonergan, Governor of Mountjoy Prison, Dublin)

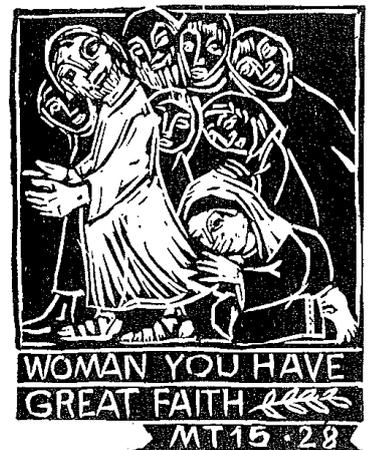
Once, during a severe winter in the Arctic, all but two people in a particular camp died of starvation. The two survivors were an Eskimo woman and her baby. The woman began a desperate search for food.

Eventually she found a small fish-hook. It was a simple matter to rig a line, but she had no bait, and no hope of getting bait. Without a moment's hesitation she took a knife and cut a piece of flesh from her thigh. Using this as bait she caught a fish. She fed her child and herself, saving the fish gut for bait. She lived on fish until spring when she walked out of the camp and found some other people.

It was no coincidence that the only adult to survive in that camp was a mother. What kept the mother alive was her concern for her child. There seems no limit to what a mother will go through for the sake of her child. A mother doesn't give up easily.

There is a wonderful example of this in today's Gospel. There we see the unshakeable determination of a mother. She just refused to be put off. How delighted she must have been when Jesus finally answered her prayer. All her trouble, all her begging, all her embarrassment, had not been in vain. She is a great example of faith. "Woman, you have great faith", Jesus told her.

The woman is a model of what we might call tough faith. Sometimes you hear people say. "It's easy for you, you've got great faith". But it's not like that at all. Faith does not always make things easy. In fact, the opposite is more likely the case. It's because we have faith that we refuse to give up. Faith impels us to persevere, to struggle on, without any physical guarantees. Faith is not a magic wand. It demands humility, courage, perseverance and, above all, love. A mother never gives up. Neither does a person with faith. Faith and love are inseparable. Love is the expression of faith.



Fr Graham Schmitzer

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Parish Priest