

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

Fr Tomasz Nowak
Mobile: 0437 677 727
Email: tomasz.n04@gmail.com

**Parish Assistant
& Catechist Co-ordinator**

Sister Joan Goodwin
Ph: 4272 9980 | Mobile: 0499970074
Email: joan.goodwin@sosj.org.au

Parish School

Saint Pius X School
Hargreaves & Cummins Streets
PO Box 358, Unanderra, NSW - 2526
Ph: 4271 3550 | Fax: 4272 2954

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	Sep 11	Mass: 7:00am (Convent)

Tuesday	Sep 12	Holy Communion 5:30pm (Convent)
THE HOLY NAME OF MARY		

Wednesday	Sep 13	Holy Communion 7:00am (Convent)
ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM		

Thursday	Sep 14	Holy Communion 5:30pm (Convent)
THE TRIUMPH OF THE CROSS		

Friday	Sep 15	Adoration: 4:30pm-5:30pm Mass: 5:30pm
OUR LADY OF SORROWS		

Saturday	Sep 16	Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation 4:30-5:30pm Vigil Mass: 6:00pm
STs CORNELIUS and CYPRIAN		

Sunday	Sep 17	24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Masses: 7:00am, 9:00am 10:45am (Polish)

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR A

10 September 2017

READINGS: EZEK 33:7-9; ROM 13:8-10; MT 18:15-20.

The readings today centre on the theme of fraternal correction. Every Christian community experiences difficulties in one form or another. Misunderstandings occur, divisions arise. Today's GOSPEL reminds us that

Christ is present in our communities even when they are broken. Healing occurs when we seek to embody in our communities the qualities of Christ, especially forgiveness and mutual love.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Anniversary: Giuseppe MARCIANO

Gary SAMWAYS, Nancy CROWE, Richard ROCHE, Bruce WALSH,
Fr Zeno GRODZ svd, Fr Terence CROWE, Fr Thomas SCANLAN

Pray for the sick and those unable to get to Mass



Rosters of next weekend

Sat 16 th	Church Cleaning	S & W Brown, J & D Browne, L Harper, J Hoxha	
	Lawns		
	Acolytes	Lectors	Welcomers
Vigil 6pm	P Jones	A Kelly	M Mohr-Peters
Sun 17 th 7am	N Dwyer	D Ferrer	B Neich, K Rossit
9am	R Klaus	V Cleary	E Walker, P Cundy
Counters	M Murphy (FT), J Powell, R Wilson, L Wade		
Children's Liturgy	K Calvert, M Matos		

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 9am Mass on 1st weekend of the month.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

'O that today you would listen to His voice.

Harden not your hearts.'

From a spiritual point of view, hardness of heart is one of the worst things that can happen to anyone.

To adopt a hard-hearted attitude is to maim oneself.

A hard heart can't feel, can't respond.

A hard heart can't love.

A hard heart can't experience joy.

A hard heart is a closed heart.

A hard heart is a barren heart.

A soft heart, on the other hand, is a blessing.

A soft heart can receive and can respond.

It can be saddened but it can also be deliriously happy.

Softened by the rain of God's grace, and warmed by the sun of His love,

the human heart can be turned from a desert into a garden.

ACT NOW TO SAVE MARRIAGE

You can make a difference. By working together we can ensure that the legal definition of marriage remains unchanged. Join those campaigning to maintain marriage, say NO to more gender-fluid programs like 'Safe Schools', and defend freedom of speech and religion.

Sign up to volunteer at www.coalitionformarriage.com.au or contact Joe Carolan on 0403822534 or jcarolan@family.org.au

CHILD PROTECTION SUNDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 2017

"SEE ME, HEAR ME"

As has become the custom each year the Child Protection Sunday, and the preceding week beginning Monday 4 September, provides a focus reminding each of us to play a part in protecting our children. This year our theme is "See Me, Hear Me". The question is how do we, Immaculate Conception Parish Unanderra, play our part in listening to children to ensure they are kept safe? This year the National Committee for Professional Standards have commissioned a video and brochure through the Australian Catholic University reflecting on research around what children think about their safety. They have also prepared a number of resources to help us explore the focus question. Visit www.acu.edu.au/icps

THE BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL – IN SUPPORT OF SICK AND RETIRED CLERGY:

Each parish provides "living" support to its active clergy, but it is the responsibility of our Diocese to fund the support and care for those sick and retired clergy who have dedicated their lives in service of the Church. In our Diocese, this support is partly funded by the Bishop's Annual Appeal, which will be held in our parish next weekend. For your convenience, donations can also be made online via the Diocese of Wollongong's website www.dow.org.au

Catholic Women's League

CWL will hold its Monthly Meeting at 10.30am on Thursday, 14th September in St Joseph's Room.

All are welcome to join us for morning tea at 10.30 followed by the meeting.

Do we have a PLUMBER in the house?
Could you contact Father Schmitzer.



“Keep your minds in peace
whatever happens.”

St Mary of the Cross 1890

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.

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.

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

MARRIAGE PLEBISCITE RESOURCES

A web page on the ACBC web site has been established to provide some information on the Postal Survey: www.catholic.org.au/plebiscite. There are also a number of marriage resources at www.sydneycatholic.org/marriageinfo/. Further resources are currently being developed and will be available for distribution soon.

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.

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM-AIRS 10 Sep 2017

This week on the Journey, we are blessed to have some fabulous and inspirational God spots from some truly talented supporters of our show. To enhance our program, we have carefully selected music to help us 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.

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE INTERVIEW

Journey Catholic Radio Program will be airing a fantastic interview this weekend between Jude Hennessy and Monica Doumit, spokesperson for the Coalition for Marriage, discussing the case for traditional marriage and the ramifications of changing the law. You can listen to the full interview now at <http://dow.sh/SSMinterview>.

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.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

24-26 November at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville
Relationship enrichment for married couples. Bookings online at www.wvme.org.au. Adrian and Janet Sullivan: on 0490 774 419 or adrian.janet1@bigpond.com

My dear people,

National Child Protection Week, now in its 27th year, has invited all Australians to play their part in promoting the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. The National Committee for Professional Standards, a committee of the Australian Catholic Bishops and Catholic Religious Australia, has put before us the theme, **“See Me, Hear Me”** for this Sunday when we commemorate the importance of the safety of children in our community of faith.

Children are the delight both of our families and our communities. When we gaze upon a child we are caught intensely between an immediate experience of the present and a heightened expectation of the future. In every child God waits for us to stir again within us the sense of new beginnings, of fresh possibilities, of awakening hopes. They are the future in anticipation.



Yet, sadly we know that the innocence of youth has not always been treasured and protected in our community. For nearly thirty years now we have been subjected to the constant exposure of the way in which, in certain circumstances, that innocence has been betrayed, and in many cases destroyed. The litany of complaints of the sexual abuse of children within our community has become a wound that has yet to discover its healing. Waiting upon the Final Report of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual abuse, we have been forced to move beyond a consideration that such disclosures are about the criminal behaviour of a few. We are no longer afforded the delusion that these disclosures are just about the failings of a few that bring shame to us all. It is critical for us as we enter this moment with the greatest humility, that we are ready to be radically self-reflective, eager to learn, open to conversion. If we can truly learn, amongst other things:

- * the lessons of what contributes to cultures of abuse and be honest about those efforts required to embark upon cultural change;
- * if we can learn better those processes of transparent examination when incidents of abuse might occur;
- * if we can truly hear the deepest needs of those who have been abused and better distinguish between the criminal, the legal and the pastoral;
- * and if we can learn the kind of leadership that this moment genuinely requires—then what is a deep wound might indeed become a source of new life, as the Reading from the prophet Ezekiel today intimates.

The outcome of such learning will be growth in our identity as communities of reconciliation, genuine Resurrection communities, to which St Matthew’s Gospel today impels us. Becoming such a community is not an instant project. It occurs in our commitment to see and to hear particularly those who are vulnerable, and those whose voice is too often overlooked.

The Jewish mystic and feminist, Simone Weil (a favourite of Pope John Paul), recounts in one of her essays that in the first legend of the Holy Grail, it is said that the Grail belongs to the first comer who asks the guardian of the vessel, a king three-quarters paralyzed by the most painful wound, “What are you going through?” The theme of our child protection Sunday calls us to the radical attitude of spirit—a self-emptying of our own agenda in order to receive the truth of the person we are encountering. It is the key to healing. Weil presents us with a metaphor for our own healing in the face of the experience of the wound at the heart of our life as Church. It is only as we learn to encounter persons, and especially our children, full of attentiveness, asking, beyond mere warmth of heart, impulsiveness and pity, “what are you going through?” that new horizons can possibly disclose themselves for it. The alternative is to be paralyzed with a kingdom in decay.

Conversations begins with a listening heart. Listening reveals our desire to learn and to grow through understanding the wisdom others offer. Listening is a complex process, and we need to develop our listening skills to be able to sort through all we might hear to get to the essential truth of a situation. Yet, where there is little to no listening, the community spirals into dysfunction.

(Notes for today’s celebration by Fr David Ranson, Vicar General of the Diocese of Broken Bay)

Fr Graham Schmitzer

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