

# 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**  
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**Parish Assistant  
& Catechist Co-ordinator**

**Sister Joan Goodwin**  
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**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](mailto:unanderra@dow.org.au)

Parish website: [www.unanderraparish.org.au](http://www.unanderraparish.org.au)

## PROGRAMME FOR THIS WEEK

<b>Monday</b>	Sep 25	<u>NO MASS</u>
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<b>Tuesday</b>	Sep 26	Adoration: 4:30pm-5:30pm Mass: 5:30pm
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<b>Wednesday</b>	Sep 27	Mass: 7:00am
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<b>Thursday</b>	Sep 28	Adoration: 4:30pm-5:30pm (Reconciliation available) Mass: 5:30pm
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<b>Friday</b>	Sep 29	Mass: 9:30am
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<b>Saturday</b>	Sep 30	Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation 5:00-5:30pm Vigil Mass: 6:00pm
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<b>Sunday</b>	Oct 1	<b>26th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b> Masses: 7:00am, 9:00am 10:45am (Polish)

## 25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**YEAR A**

**24th September 2017**

**READINGS:** Is 55:6-9; Phil 1:20-24,27; Mt 20:1-16

The prophet Isaiah declares that God's ways are above our ways as high as heaven is above earth (FIRST READING).

The GOSPEL parallels the reading: God's generosity soars above human standards.

Writing from prison, St Paul is thinking of his death, longing for complete union with Christ (SECOND READING).



## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS



**Recently Deceased:** Jose FERNANDEZ, Edoardo MILAN, Ella WINNER

**Anniversaries:** Paul BLOOD, Dave MELLOR, Leslie HEFFERNAN, Ron COSTELLO,

**Pray for the sick and those unable to get to Mass**

### Rosters of next weekend

Sat 30 <sup>th</sup>	Church Cleaning	F Fernandez, B Rice, S Markocic	
	Lawns		
	Acolytes	Lectors	Welcomers
Vigil 6pm	R Klaus	V Cleary	L Klaus
Oct 1 <sup>st</sup> Sun 7am	G Attard	A Campbell	L Harper, A Campbell
9am	N Dwyer	K Calvert	B Spain, G Petric
Counters	A Gunning, M Cauduro, C Garrett, D Gringeri		
Children's Liturgy	<i>Not held during the school holidays</i>		

### 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.**

### MORNING TEA

Due to the long weekend and school holidays, morning tea will NOT be served after 9am Mass on 1st October.

### COALITION FOR MARRIAGE – CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

More than 3000 people have volunteered to assist in the campaign to uphold the current definition of marriage. The Coalition for Marriage are currently looking for volunteers for the campaign. If you are interested in finding out some simple ways you can assist, please go to at [www.coalitionformarriage.com.au/volunteer](http://www.coalitionformarriage.com.au/volunteer).

### 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](http://www.wwme.org.au). Adrian and Janet Sullivan: on 0490 774 419 or [adrian.janet1@bigpond.com](mailto:adrian.janet1@bigpond.com)

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

## Gospel Reflection

"My thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor are my ways your ways.

As high as the heavens are above the earth,  
so high are my ways above your ways,  
my thoughts above your thoughts,"  
says the Lord.

How small our thoughts can be,  
and how poor our ways of seeing and judging.

We think miserly thoughts,  
and act in miserly ways. Why?

Because we have small minds and small hearts.

Lord, open our minds and enlarge our hearts,  
so that we think more like you,  
and act more like You.

Let us not begrudge Your goodness to others,  
knowing that we, too, are undeserving  
of Your favours,  
and stand more in need of Your mercy  
than of Your justice.

### ORGAN RECITAL & WORKSHOPS, SATURDAY 28 OCTOBER

St Francis Xavier Cathedral 36 Harbour Street Wollongong  
At 10:30am, Organ Teacher, Godelieve Ghavalas, will conduct a workshop on organ playing to show how pianists can easily develop the skills to readily play the new Allen digital pipe organs. Then, at 2:00pm, come and hear a recital by Allen Organ Scholarship recipient Cassandra Cordero playing a new Allen digital pipe organ at Wollongong Cathedral.

### STRENGTHEN YOUR RELATIONSHIPS

Parenting workshops available from October now taking bookings. To build on your parenting skills and strengthen your family relationships go to the calendar at [www.catholiccare.dow.org.au](http://www.catholiccare.dow.org.au) or give CatholicCare a call on 4227 1122.

### BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

at St Michael Church,  
325 Lawrence Hargrave Drive, Thirroul  
9:30am on Monday, 2 October 2017



All animals and their carers welcome!



“I am full of hope in God who has been so good to us all.”

St Mary of the Cross 1899

**VOCATION – MANY PATHS, ONE AMAZING GOD** *Loving God, grant me a discerning heart to hear your call in my life, and grant me the courage to surrender my life to you every day. Amen.* To help with your reflection, Contact Fr Duane Fernandez on 0414 626 357 or [priesthood@dow.org.au](mailto:priesthood@dow.org.au)

**ANTIOCH** was introduced to the Wollongong Diocese in the 1980s by Engadine Parish. A reunion is planned for Saturday 3 March 2018 including a celebratory Mass and dinner. To register your interest and receive an invitation please email your name (maiden name) and Antioch Parish to [antioch.wollongongdiocese@gmail.com](mailto:antioch.wollongongdiocese@gmail.com)  
General enquiries to Dianne Hukins 0412840772 or Ann Packham 0423 869 803. Musicians for Mass please contact Elise (Nicholls) Burns 0407 781 359.

**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 24 Sep 2017**  
This week on the Journey, the Gospel of Matthew is reflected on by our very own Fr Stephen Varney of Shellharbour City Parish. Wisdom from the Abbey with Sr Hilda encouraging us In The Memory of God, Pete Gilmore reminds us of “What We Search For?” in his Living The Gospel segment, and Francine Pirolas has an interesting take on a relationship meltdown in IKEA. Our music this week is a lovely thread to weave our show together helping us to create a show for you that is all about faith, hope, love and life. 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 anytime and subscribe to weekly shows by email.

**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](http://www.catholic.org.au/plebiscite). There are also a number of marriage resources at [www.sydneycatholic.org/marriageinfo/](http://www.sydneycatholic.org/marriageinfo/). Further resources are currently being developed and will be available for distribution soon.

**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](http://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.

**ARE YOU NEW TO THE PARISH?**

Welcome to Immaculate Conception Parish! May you find a true home in Christ among us. If you would like to let us know you have ‘arrived’ please fill out the form below and place it on a collection plate at Sunday Mass.

NAME/s: .....

ADDRESS: .....

TELEPHONE: ..... MOBILE: .....

EMAIL: .....

My dear people,

Today is **SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY** and, according to custom, the Australian Bishops have produced their Annual Statement: **Everyone's Business—Developing an Inclusive and Sustainable Economy**. 25 years ago, in their Statement "Common Wealth for the Common Good", the Bishops warned of growing household poverty and employment insecurity. Most importantly, they stressed that the economy is something that exists not for its own sake but for the benefit of the entire society. But after 26 years of continuous economic growth, inequality has been growing in Australia, and many have missed out on opportunities to secure stable employment and a just share in income and wealth.

The Church has been part of a global movement for 'inclusive growth'. It is not just about improving sections of the economy that have failed the poor. It is not about continuously picking up people who have fallen through the system. The Bishops, instead, are calling for a new approach **that prevents exclusion from the outset**.

Today's Statement contains some alarming statistics, and it is good to become aware of them.

- \* Since 1992 Australia's national income has increased dramatically. During the 'peak boom' of 2001 to 2009, Australia had the highest growth in Gross Domestic Product among affluent nations. Australians now have the world's second-highest average net wealth per person.
- \* But the benefits of this recent growth are spread unevenly. Nearly three million Australians, including over 730,000 children, are living in poverty.
- \* As people of the Gospel, we have to be concerned about growing inequality—those who are the lowest-paid in the workforce, those forced to subsist on meagre income support, people suffering housing stress and homelessness, and our indigenous brothers and sisters who continue to endure chronic levels of hardship.
- \* Deregulation has reduced the security and benefits for many workers, while job permanence has often been replaced by short-term contracts and casual, part-time employment. Almost 40 per cent of workers under 25 are in casual work.
- \* The loss or reduction of basic entitlements like weekend penalty rates aggravate the difficulties of low-paid work. The loss of these entitlements will have a significant impact on women.
- \* We should be shocked by recent reports of workplace exploitation: millions of workers underpaid superannuation; young workers, migrants and visa workers deliberately underpaid; up to 10,000 Australians with intellectual disabilities being paid as little as 99 cents per hour. This suggests a **worker underclass**.
- \* Newstart and Youth Allowance are \$110 and \$159 a week below the poverty line respectively. Sixty-three per cent of unemployed Australians live below the poverty line. Newstart's meagre allowance has been described by the Business Council of Australia as a barrier to employment, rather than as an incentive.
- \* In May 2017 there were 729,200 people unemployed—but only 189,200 job vacancies. Excessive demands placed on jobseekers or any treatment that humiliates or shames them is unacceptable.
- \* It is no secret that Australia faces a housing crises. Since the mid-1990s the real cost of housing has increased by 250 per cent. A global survey of housing affordability in 92 major cities has found that Sydney was the second least affordable in the world.
- \* Many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities struggle with social and economic burdens that most Australians cannot imagine. That they are overrepresented on almost every indicator of disadvantage is a national shame—the starkest measure of the economy's failure to serve all Australians.
- \* There has been a massive failure in ethical standards in aspects of the banking and financial sectors' operation—scandals, including collusion, overcharging and deceptive financial advice have occurred at a time of record profits.

The Bishops offer some pointers:

- 1) The market must not be a place where the strong subdue the weak. Where people and resources are viewed simply in terms of their market value or as a means to maximise profits, human development and the integrity of creation suffer.
- 2) The principle of the universal destination of goods says that the ownership of wealth and resources is never absolute. Everyone has a right to share fairly and responsibly in the bounty of God's creation. The market needs the guidance of the moral values contained in cultures, customs, the law, and religion.
- 3) A short-term focus on maximising profits can harm individuals and families, waste natural resources and damage the overall wellbeing of society. The principle of the **common good** calls for an economy at the service of all. The poor and our environment must not be treated as an 'afterthought' or as 'collateral damage'.
- 4) Businesses exist within societies. They are accountable to a broad range of stakeholders including their workers, suppliers local communities and the natural environment—not just their shareholders.
- 5) A commitment to an 'inclusive' economy means that the excluded and vulnerable must be included in decision-making. Pope Francis urges that Indigenous communities, in particular, should be 'principle dialogue partners', especially where projects or programs are likely to affect their land and culture.

Building an inclusive economy is really about putting people at the centre. It is an offence to treat people simply as commodities. On this Social Justice Sunday, and over the year ahead, the Bishops call on the Catholic Community and broader society to consider where the economy serves us well and where it fails us. The full Statement can be downloaded

<http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/files/SJSandresources/2017-SJS-Statement.pdf>

*Fr Graham Schmitzer*

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Parish Priest