

PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

48-50 Princes Highway (PO Box 14) Unanderra NSW 2526

www.unanderraparish.org.au



Parish Priest: Fr Duane Fernandez
Email: Duane.Fernandez@dow.org.au
Phone: 4229 1074

Polish Chaplain: Fr Jerzy Slowinski
Email: slowinski54@gmail.com
Mobile: 0410 225 975

Parish Assistant: Sr Kerry Gardiner
Email: Kerry.Gardiner@sosj.org.au
Phone: 4272 9980 (Convent)
Mobile: 0421 463 871



Parish School: St Pius X Primary School
Cnr Hargreaves & Cummins Streets
(PO Box 358) Unanderra NSW 2526
Phone: 4271 3550 | Fax: 4272 2954

School Principal: Mr Philip Moore
Parish Secretaries: Mrs Magda Pires (Mon)
Mrs Sue Briscoe (Wed/Thu/Fri)

Parish Office: Mon: 8.30am–3pm (Magda)
Wed: 8.30am–11.30am (Sue)
Thu/Fri: 8.30am–2.30pm (Sue)
Phone: 4271 1068 | Fax: 4271 1298
Email: unanderra@dow.org.au
Website: www.unanderraparish.org.au

PROGRAMME FOR THIS WEEK

UNANDERRA (U) and WEST WOLLONGONG (WW)

| | | | | |
|------------------|--------|---------------------------------|------------------|------|
| Monday | 23 Dec | Mass: | 7am | (U) |
| Tuesday | 24 Dec | Christmas Eve | | |
| | | Mass: | 6pm (at TIGS) | (WW) |
| | | Mass: | 9pm | (U) |
| | | Mass: | 10.30pm (Polish) | (U) |
| Wednesday | 25 Dec | The Nativity of Our Lord | | |
| | | Mass: | 8am | (U) |
| | | Mass: | 10am | (WW) |
| | | Mass: | 10am (Polish) | (U) |
| Thursday | 26 Dec | St Stephen | | |
| | | Mass: | 10am (Polish) | (U) |
| Friday | 27 Dec | St John | | |
| | | Mass: | 9.30am | (U) |
| Saturday | 28 Dec | The Holy Innocents | | |
| | | Mass: | 7.30am | (U) |
| | | Mass: | 9am | (WW) |
| | | Reconciliation: | 9.30am-10.30am | (WW) |
| | | Reconciliation: | 5pm-5.30pm | (U) |
| | | Vigil Mass: | 6pm | (U) |
| Sunday | 29 Dec | The Holy Family (Year A) | | |
| | | Mass: | 8am | (U) |
| | | Mass: | 10am | (WW) |
| | | Mass: | 10am (Polish) | (U) |
| | | Mass: | 5pm | (WW) |

* There will be no afternoon Masses at Unanderra on Tuesday or Thursday; and no Masses at West Wollongong on Thursday or Friday.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR A 22 DECEMBER 2019

Entrance Antiphon:

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened
and bring forth a Saviour.

First Reading:

Isaiah 7:10-14

Responsorial Psalm:

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

Second Reading:

Romans 1:1-7

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

The virgin will give birth to a son;
his name will be Emmanuel: God-is-with-us.
Alleluia!

Gospel:

Matthew 1:18-24

Communion Antiphon:

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a
son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Anniversaries

Phil MURPHY

Neta BROWN

Colleen WALTER

Nicholas BRUTON



PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE

Unanderra Parish Office will close at 12 noon on Tuesday
24 December and will re-open at 8.30am on Monday 30 December.



ROSTER – NEXT WEEKEND

| | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| December | Church Washing | Helen Murphy | |
| Sat 28 Dec | Church Cleaning | G Lord, L Zanetti, S Adams | |
| Sat 28 Dec | Lawns | J Lonard, F Timpano, S Carrigan | |
| | Acolytes | Lectors | Welcomers |
| Sat 28 Dec 6pm Mass | G Attard | V Cleary | V Cleary |
| Sun 29 Dec 8am Mass | M Walsh, A Michielin | D Ferrer, B Parrish | P Cundy, F Fernandez |
| Counters | M Murphy (FH), C Stratton, M Winner | | |
| Children's Liturgy | School Holidays | | |

CHRISTMAS ROSTER

| | 2 Acolytes | 2 Lectors | 2 Welcomers |
|-------------------------|--|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Tue 24 Dec 9pm Vigil | Mark Walsh George Attard | Colleen Walsh Anne Kelly | |
| Wed 25 Dec 8am Mass | Neil Dwyer Andrew Michielin Cormac Carolan | Paul Gunning | |

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:** Mark Walsh (PPC President)
Mark.Walsh@bluescopesteel.com
0407 604 498
- 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
 - Uniting Nursing Home FarmHts:** 3rd Friday of the month - 9.30am

Refreshments after the 8am Mass on the first Sunday of each month in St Joseph's Meeting Room (Unanderra)

LIVING FAITH BOOKLETS

The Jan/Feb/Mar issues of Living Faith (both Adults & Kids) are now available for purchase — **\$4.00**



DIOCESAN OFFICE CLOSURE



Please note that the Diocesan Offices at the Xavier Centre in Wollongong will close at 4.30pm on Tuesday 24 December 2019 (Christmas Eve.) The office will re-open at 9am on Thursday 2 January 2020.

CATECHISTS NEEDED!



Are you available?

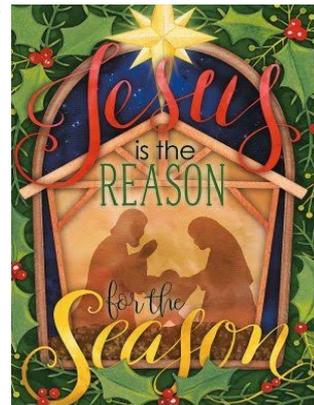
If so, please speak with Mary Carolan, Barbara Farroway, Fiona Fernandez, Gabriella De Baptista, Mary Gillis or Sr Kerry.

We would love for you to join our team!

VINNIES CHRISTMAS CARDS AND COLUMBAN CALENDARS

The Unanderra Conference of St Vincent de Paul will be selling their Christmas cards and Columban calendars after each weekend Mass.

Christmas cards are \$6.00 for a pack of 10 and the 2020 Columban Calendar is \$9.00.



VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL



The second collection at all Christmas Masses will go to the Vinnies Christmas Appeal. Envelopes will also be available for those wishing to make credit card payments. All money raised will go to St Vincent de Paul Unanderra Conference. Thank you!

ROSTERS FOR 2020

Many thanks to all the parishioners who have volunteered to assist with parish ministries next year. Your generosity is very much appreciated. The Roster booklets for 2020 are now available for all volunteers to take. They are located in a box on the shelf to the right of the Christmas tree on the right-hand side of the church near the baptismal font.



**God's Work
Our Hands**

CHRISTMAS DAY BRUNCH

This Christmas Day, Ratha's Place will be opening for a special purpose. All welcome!

Ratha's Place – 84 Central Avenue Oak Flats

Wednesday 25 December 2019 – From 10.30am to 12noon

Together, with the support of the community, Ratha's Place will be serving a festive feast on Christmas Day. Ratha's Place will be opening our doors to provide a safe and friendly environment for those in need of a Christmas meal.

We will have transport available to and from our cafe on Christmas Day for locals that don't have access to transport. We will also be delivering meals to local people or groups to ensure that we can help everyone to have a Merry Christmas.

Members of the local community have pre-purchased these meals on behalf of people in need – families, couples and individuals are all welcome!

Contact us if you know of anyone in need this Christmas:

Mobile: 0414 975 627

Email: faye.webb@barringtongroup.com.au



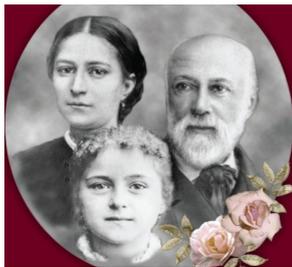
RELICS OF ST THERESE OF LISIEUX

The Relics of much-loved Carmelite Saint, St Therese of Lisieux — plus her parents, Sts Louis and Zelig Martin — are coming to Australia for a national tour in 2020. They are coming to Varroville for a visit from 22 January until 1 February 2020, when the official tour begins.

The relics will be in the Parish Church at **Our Lady of Mt Carmel**, from **Saturday 25 January until**

Tuesday 28 January 2020, for public veneration and all are most warmly invited to attend.

Please see poster on noticeboard for Mass times.



THANK YOU FROM SR KERRY



As we celebrate the gift of Christmas, I take this opportunity to say 'thank you' for the blessings I have received from you since my arrival here in the parish of Unanderra.

Thank you for your warmth and love, your acceptance and welcome, your prayerfulness and joyful spirit, your willingness and hard work, your generosity and goodness. You have touched my life and I give God thanks for the blessings. *Sr Kerry*

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME

– AIRS SUNDAY 22 DECEMBER 2019 –



We have an amazing line-up of inspiration for you before Christmas this week, when we will hear an amazing reflection from the Gospel from Fr Chris Pietraszko.

Tune in to **LIFE 101.9** or **98.5** or go to www.jcr.org.au or www.itunes.jcr.org.au to ensure you never miss a show, with it sent to you each week as a podcast via email — for free!

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

If you love the show, let your local radio station know that you'd like to hear it broadcast locally each week.

JOIN THE ADVENTURE

It is with great excitement we announce CatholicCare will be holding a fundraising trek to the iconic Larapinta Trail (near Alice Springs)

28 September – 4 October 2020

We are seeking participants to undertake the trek and help raise \$100,000 to help children in need throughout the Illawarra, Shoalhaven, Macarthur and Southern Highlands areas.

To find out more, please visit:

www.tiny.cc/CatholicCareLarapinta



A VOCATION VIEW

Can you honestly pray:

“I have come to do your will, O God”?

Blessed are you who trusts that the Lord's words to you will be fulfilled.

If anyone would like to know more, please contact the **Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Duane Fernandez**, at vocations@dow.org.au



MONSIGNOR GRAHAM'S GOLDEN JUBILEE/RETIREMENT PHOTOS



On Friday 23 August 2019 our former Parish Priest, Monsignor Graham Schmitzer, celebrated both his Golden Jubilee and retirement.

To view all of the photos from that eventful day, please go to:

www.unanderraparish.org.au/retirement



Message from Fr Duane



Our seminarian, Sinh Le, will leave us after the Christmas Vigil, to visit some relatives in other parts of Australia, and he will then head to Vietnam to visit his family, before beginning his 3rd year of Seminary at Homebush in February. Sinh has entered wholeheartedly into his work with both parishes here, making particularly significant contributions in both Catholic primary schools and the St Vincent de Paul Society. His many gifts and joyful spirit have enriched our parishes and brought many smiles to many faces (including my own!). Thank you all for the wonderful warm welcome you have extended to him. I'm very happy to announce that Bishop Brian has confirmed that Sinh will return to our parishes in 2020 and beyond as a "home base" for his practical seminary formation. Thank you, Sinh, for all you have brought to our parishes, and be assured of our ongoing prayers, until we meet again!

I also take this opportunity to thank all parishioners for your support and generosity in supporting and building up our parishes throughout the year. It has been a difficult year with many unexpected changes but there have also been many blessings thanks to the sacrifices, openness and co-operation of all of you, and now that we've made it to Christmas (almost), I'm confident that 2020 will bring many more blessings to both parishes!

Finally, I know that Christmas can be a joyful time for many, but also in some cases a difficult time for various reasons. I pray that whatever your circumstances this Christmas, you and all your loved ones may experience the love and peace of Jesus more deeply, as we celebrate the saving love of Jesus, our Emmanuel, "God-with-us".

Fr Duane Fernandez
Parish Priest

|  | Unanderra | <u>Christmas Eve:</u> | West Wollongong |
|--|--|------------------------------|---|
| | Vigil Mass: 9pm Polish Mass: 10.30pm | <u>Christmas Day:</u> | Vigil Mass: 6pm (at TIGS) |
| | Christmas Mass: 8am Polish Mass: 10am | <u>Boxing Day:</u> | Christmas Mass: 10am |
| | Polish Mass: 10am | |  |

WEST WOLLONGONG PARISH BULLETINS

A limited amount of copies of West Wollongong's parish bulletin are available each week at Unanderra, which can be found in a tray near the side door of the church. Alternatively if you would like to receive the bulletin via email, please contact: westwollongong@dow.org.au



BAPTISMS

Sundays at 12 noon (second and fourth Sunday of each month only)
Second Sunday of the month — **West Wollongong**
Fourth Sunday of the month — **Unanderra**
(Minimum of one month's notice is required)

MARRIAGES / FUNERALS / ANOINTING OF THE SICK

By appointment only — please contact Fr Duane
(Minimum of six months' notice is required for weddings — no Sunday weddings)

PARISH SICK LIST

If you would like to include your loved ones' names on our Sick List —
please email the Parish office at unanderra@dow.org.au or telephone **4271 1068**