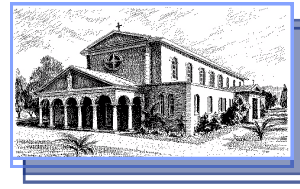


PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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: Mrs Pauline Chrostowski
Parish Secretaries: Mrs Magda Pires (Mon)
 Mrs Sue Briscoe (Wed/Thu/Fri)

Parish Office:
 Mon: 8.30am–3pm (Magda)
 Wed/Thu: 8.30am–1.30pm (Sue)
 Fri: 9.30am–2.30pm (Sue)
 Phone: 4271 1068 | Fax: 4271 1298
 Email: unanderra@dow.org.au
 Website: www.unanderraparish.org.au

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD – YEAR A 12 JANUARY 2020

Weekly Programme	Immaculate Conception UNANDERRA	St Therese WEST WOLLONGONG
Monday 13 January	Mass: 7am	<i>* Please note new times of some Masses</i>
Tuesday 14 January	Adoration: 4.30pm-5.20pm Mass: 5.30pm	Mass: 7.45am
Wednesday 15 January	Mass: 9.30am*	Adoration/Reconciliation: 4.30pm-5.20pm Mass: 5.30pm
Thursday 16 January	Adoration/Reconciliation: 4.30pm-5.20pm Mass: 5.30pm	Mass: 7.45am
Friday 17 January St Anthony	Mass: 7am*	Mass: 9.30am*
Saturday 18 January	Mass: 7.30am Reconciliation: 5pm-5.30pm Vigil Mass: 6pm	Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9.30am-10.30am
Sunday 19 January 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (Polish)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Frank GRECH
 Mary PAVIA

Anniversaries

Ernie KURTZ
 Tomo MARUSIC
 William BUTLER
 Margaret COMENSOLI
 Doreen BLATTMAN



PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Parishioners Who Are Unwell

Bernardette TEIXEIRA



NB: The Parish Office will be CLOSED this Monday 13 January 2020.

ROSTER – NEXT WEEKEND

January	Church Washing	Jackie Allen	
Sat 18 Jan	Church Cleaning	F Fernandez, B Rice, S Walsh	
Sat 18 Jan	Lawns	B Mannix, W Brown, F Caruana, R Murphy	
	Acolytes	Lectors	Welcomers
Sat 18 Jan 6pm Mass	A Carlotto	M Gillis	B Farraway
Sun 19 Jan 8am Mass	N Dwyer, C Carolan	S Walsh	S Brown
Counters	M Murphy (FH), C Stratton, M Winner		
Children's Liturgy	School Holidays		

Message from Fr Duane

CONGRATULATIONS SISTER KERRY GARDINER!

You may recall that Sister Kerry revealed my Ordination Anniversary a few weeks ago – now it's time for me to return the favour! Except that while I reached merely my 8th anniversary, Sister Kerry celebrated her Golden Jubilee this week! Sister Kerry celebrated this day with her Congregation in North Sydney; we will have the opportunity to celebrate with her at a **special Parish morning tea on Sunday 2 February after the 8am Mass**. For now I know you will join with me in congratulating Sister Kerry, who has already made such a deep impact on our Parish in such a short time, and wishing her every blessing and many more years of blessed and dedicated service!

ALPHA – Where did it come from – and where is it going?

Some of you may be wondering why "Alpha" has become such a centrepiece of parish life for 2020. Within the past two years, the Parish Pastoral Councils of both West Wollongong and Unanderra independently decided to meet with Diocesan representatives to learn more about Alpha, with a view to trying Alpha in each parish. For various reasons it wasn't until now that it has become possible to launch it – providentially it can now be launched as a joint initiative of both parishes!

For those of you wondering about the benefits of Alpha, let me assure you that the Parishes in our Diocese and beyond who have tried Alpha have seen many benefits, from a number of people wanting to become Catholic, to Catholics becoming more excited about their faith, to new and deepening friendships, and countless lives transformed in many ways.

Thank you to the parishioners who have already volunteered to join a prayer team or a catering team. A few more catering volunteers would be wonderful, to ensure sustainability throughout the 10 weeks of this first Alpha – if you think you may be able to help with catering even for a few of those weeks (suggestions for menus will be provided, and all costs will be covered by the parish) please place your name and details on the catering sign up sheet.

Finally, as we continue to pray for those affected by the bushfire crisis, I'm sure you will be as encouraged as I am by the swift and comprehensive response of the Church in our Diocese and throughout Australia, outlined in this bulletin. Let us persist in prayer and look for opportunities to give practical support to those who need it at this time.

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)

2020 WOLLONGONG HOSPITALS MASS TIMES

A hearty welcome to pray for our sick in both Wollongong Private and Public Hospitals, at the following days/times:

Private Hospital: Every Friday at 9.30am

Public Hospital: Every Saturday at 9.30am in the Chapel on the ground floor

THANK YOU!

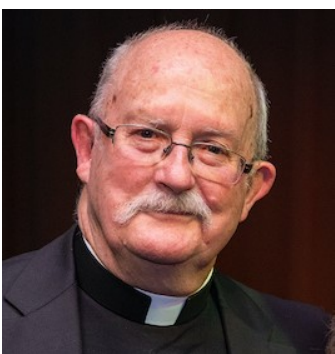
Dear Parishioners

Thank you so much for your care of me in all those years at Unanderra, celebrating both my Silver and Golden Jubilees – probably unique for any priest.

My gratitude especially to the Committee who organised 23 August 2019.

Every blessing for the New Year to you all!

Mgr Graham Schmitzer



PRAYER FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY BUSHFIRE & DROUGHT

Eternal God, in wisdom and love you created our earth to sustain us and give us life. We turn to you now in faith, hope and love, asking you to look with favour on our fire-ravaged and drought-stricken land, on our starving and displaced animals, on our failing crops and burning farms, towns and forests.

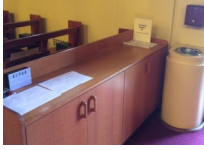
Strengthen, sustain and give new heart to our farmers and to all who are affected by drought; be with those who support them. Strengthen and comfort the victims of the fires, those who have lost family, friends, property and stock. Protect our volunteer firefighters and all members of essential services.

In your loving providence, send abundant rain to quench the fires and to restore our parched earth. Father of all compassion, hear our prayer through Jesus Christ your Son, in whom the promise of new life has dawned, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, the Lord the giver of life: renew your faithful people; renew the face of the earth. Our Lady of the Southern Cross, Mary, help of Christians – Pray for us. St Mary of the Cross MacKillop – Pray for us.

For the full National Response from ACBC: www.catholic.org.au/bushfires

RESOURCES AREA NEAR SIDE DOOR OF CHURCH

The resources areas located on both sides of the church side door have recently had a major cleanout and will hopefully now remain uncluttered.



Please do not place any items in this area without Fr Duane's permission.

OLD CALENDARS, PROGRAMMES, ETC



Do you have any old Catholic calendars or programmes, such as the 2019 Columban calendar or Lenten/Advent programmes? If so, please don't throw them out — they can be used as great resource material for our Catechists.

Please bring them to Sue or Magda in the Parish Office (see front of bulletin for office hours).

DIOCESAN RESPONSE TO BUSHFIRE CRISIS

- In solidarity with the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference's (ACBC) national response to the bushfires, there will be a special collection at Masses on the Australia Day weekend with all funds to be donated to the Vinnies Bushfire Appeal NSW.
- Over the next couple of weeks, Bishop Brian will be visiting affected parishes/school communities and facilitating community meetings with parishioners, clergy and principals, and representatives from CatholicCare, Catholic Education, Office of the Bishop and local Vinnies to listen to their stories, pray together and get an understanding of how, together, we can meet immediate and projected needs. Details of the community meetings will be advertised when confirmed. All will be welcome.
- Catholic Education has already been working with principals in our schools that have been affected by bushfires since late November responding to the specific needs of staff and families who have been impacted. This work will now continue as part of the broader coordination of the diocesan response.
- The diocese will work closely with the St Vincent de Paul Society at state, diocesan and local conference levels to ensure there is a clear process in relation to how money donated to the Vinnies Bushfire Appeal is made available to those who need it in our diocese.
- The bushfire crisis will have significant and lasting emotional and psychological effects on so many of our people. CatholicCare in our diocese are committed to providing the necessary counselling and wellbeing support on the ground to those in need. Details on CatholicCare support services, and if necessary, how we as a community can support them, will be released over the next couple of weeks.
- Bishop Brian also wants to ensure that the spiritual needs of our affected people are met. The bishop will work in collaboration with clergy and religious communities in the diocese to provide continued spiritual support to everyone during this time.
- Most importantly, the bishop has asked that we continue to pray for all in our diocese as we all care for, and stand by, each other in this particular time of need. We also remember those who continue to fight fires and, may again, face extraordinary weather conditions over the next few weeks. We place our circumstances in the hands of our loving God through the intercession of our Australian saint, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop: pray for us and our parched country.

May God pour on us the rain we need.

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME

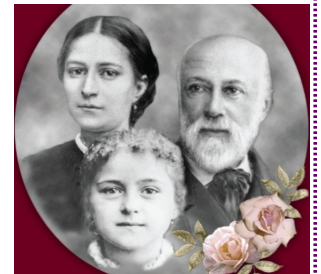
The Journey Catholic Radio is currently in the Summer Series until early February. You can catch up on your favourites such as Sr Hilda from the Abbey; Bruce Downes, The Catholic Guy; and many more. We will continue to play amazing contemporary music while our writers, contributors and presenters have a well-earned break.

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

THE RELICS OF ST THERESE OF LISIEUX

The Relics of much-loved Carmelite Saint, St Therese of Lisieux — plus her parents, Sts Louis and Zelie Martin — are coming to Australia for a national tour this year. They are coming to Unanderra and West Wollongong for the weekend of **21-22 March**. *More details closer to the date.*



THANK YOU — FROM VINNIES

The St Vincent de Paul Unanderra Conference would like to thank all the generous parishioners who again supported the Vinnies Giving Tree and the Vinnies Christmas Appeal — 39 Christmas hampers were distributed and toys given to over 60 children, supporting those in need within the parish area. The Vinnies Christmas Appeal raised \$3,708.85 from the two Christmas Masses. All money raised is used to support the poor of the parish. The Unanderra Conference receives over 10 requests for food, rent assistance or help with electricity every week. Your support is much appreciated and the Society supports you in prayer.



WEEKDAY MASS TIMES IN 2020 — UNANDERRA & WEST WOLLONGONG —

The times of *some* weekday Masses have changed — the new 2020 times are:

UNANDERRA:

Wed: 9.30am

Friday: 7am

WEST WOLLONGONG:

Friday: 9.30am



All other weekday Mass times remain unchanged

SUNDAY 12 JANUARY — THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

First Reading — Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 — *Here is my servant, my chosen one in whom I am well pleased.*

Thus says the Lord: Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom my soul delights. I have endowed him with my spirit that he may bring true justice to the nations. He does not cry out or shout aloud, or make his voice heard in the streets. He does not break the crushed reed, nor quench the wavering flame. Faithfully he brings true justice; he will neither waver, nor be crushed until true justice is established on earth, for the islands are awaiting his law. I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause of right; I have taken you by the hand and formed you; I have appointed you as covenant of the people and light of the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to free captives from prison, and those who live in darkness from the dungeon.

Responsorial Psalm — *The Lord will bless his people with peace.*

1. O give the Lord you sons of God, give the Lord glory and power;
Give the Lord the glory of his name. Adore the Lord in his holy court. *R.*
2. The Lord's voice resounding on the waters, the Lord on the immensity of waters;
The voice of the Lord, full of power; the voice of the Lord, full of splendour. *R.*
3. The God of glory thunders. In his temple they all cry: 'Glory!'
The Lord sat enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits as king for ever. *R.*

Second Reading — Acts 10:34-38 — *God anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power.*

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him. 'It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ – but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.'

Gospel Acclamation — Mark 9:8

Alleluia, alleluia! The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. Alleluia!

Gospel — Matthew 3:13-17 — *When Jesus was baptised, the heavens were opened and the Spirit of God came upon him.*

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John. John tried to dissuade him. 'It is I who need baptism from you,' he said 'and yet you come to me!' But Jesus replied, 'Leave it like this for the time being; it is fitting that we should, in this way, do all that righteousness demands.' At this, John gave in to him. As soon as Jesus was baptised he came up from the water, and suddenly the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. A voice spoke from heaven, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him.'

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**

(Please approach Fr Duane after Mass for a form — 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**