

# PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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

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



**Parish Priest:** Fr Duane Fernandez  
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**Polish Chaplain:** Fr Jerzy Slowinski  
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**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](mailto:unanderra@dow.org.au)  
 Website: [www.unanderraparish.org.au](http://www.unanderraparish.org.au)

## SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A SUNDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2020

Weekly Programme	Immaculate Conception UNANDERRA	St Therese WEST WOLLONGONG
Monday 17 February	Mass: 7am	
Tuesday 18 February	Adoration: 4.30pm-5.20pm Mass: 5.30pm	Mass: 7.45am
Wednesday 19 February	Mass: 9.30am	Adoration/Reconciliation: 4.30pm-5.20pm Mass: 5.30pm
Thursday 20 February	Adoration/Reconciliation: 4.30pm-5.20pm Mass: 5.30pm	Mass: 7.45am
Friday 21 February	Mass: 7am	Mass: 9.30am
Saturday 22 February <i>The Chair of St Peter</i>	Mass: 7.30am Reconciliation: 5pm-5.30pm Vigil Mass: 6pm	Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9.30am-10.30am
Sunday 23 February <i>7th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am ( <u>Polish</u> )	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

#### Anniversaries

Michael COMENSOLI  
 Andrew GILFOYLE  
 Helen WARBURTON  
 Michele ABBATANTUONO

Vern MANNIX  
 Norma McCORVEY  
 Fr Hugh DOWDELL  
 Andrew & Elizabeth BROWNE

#### Sick

Sidney HARTIN



### OFFICE CLOSED

The Parish  
Office will be  
closed on Fri  
21 Feb 2020

# Message from Fr Duane

The Pope has recently written an "Apostolic Exhortation" to the Church, after the Synod in the Amazon, called "Querida Amazonia" ("Beloved Amazon"). It has made the news mainly in relation to the Pope's reaffirmation of priestly celibacy, but there is much more to the letter than that. As Australian Archbishop Mark Coleridge writes, "The issues faced by many in the Amazon are not foreign to Australia, and the Holy Father's words come as a challenge and encouragement to us too", noting especially the issues of improving relationships with the natural environment and indigenous culture. I encourage you to read the Pope's letter, which can be accessed online (simply search "Querida Amazonia" or go to the Vatican website).

**Fr Duane Fernandez**  
Parish Priest

## ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

February	Church Washing	Barbara Faraway	
Sat 22 Feb	Church Cleaning	F Fernandez, B Rice, S Walsh	
Sat 22 Feb	Lawns		
	Acolytes	Lectors	Welcomers
Sat 22 Feb 6pm Mass	G Attard	V Cleary	V Cleary
Sun 23 Feb 8am Mass	M Walsh, A Michielin	M Matos	G Simmonite
Counters	M Murphy (FT), A Kelly, S Alessi		
Children's Liturgy	L Galea, S Walsh		

## LENTEN GROUPS

In preparation for Easter, there will be a Lenten Group gathering in the St Joseph's room **each Wednesday night during Lent, commencing at 7.30pm**. All are welcome. If you would like to lead a group at another time and day, please inform Sr Kerry who will make up a list of other times and venues. These too will be opened to all parishioners.



## LENTEN PROGRAMMES

The 2020 Lenten Programmes are now on sale — located on the middle pew of the church — \$5.00.



## PALMS

Parishioners are invited to return their blessed palm branches received at Mass last Palm Sunday to the church for the burning of palms prior to Ash Wednesday on 26 February — two baskets have been placed near the side door of the church for your palms.

## "FAMILY MASS" AND PICNIC DAY

The **10am Mass on Sunday 1 March** will be a very special "Family Mass". It is also the beginning of "Catholic Schools Week", and will be supported especially by the students and staff of St Therese Primary School. The Mass will be a bit different from usual, with a special focus on primary aged children and young families who may not regularly come to Mass, and will include a "blessing of backpacks" for all school students who wish to bring their backpacks along as a sign of blessing for their school year ahead. Mass will be followed by a BYO picnic on the grassed area near the school hall, with sports and games. **Spread the word, all welcome!**



## 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)

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS — FRIDAYS OF LENT —



Ash Wednesday is on 26 February, and during the Fridays of Lent, Stations of the Cross will take place at **5pm at St Therese West Wollongong** and **7pm at Immaculate Conception Unanderra**.

## ROSARY ON SATURDAY MORNINGS

Starting next Saturday, all are welcome to pray the Rosary together at Immaculate Conception Church before the 7.30am Mass. The **Rosary will begin at 7.10am**. This is very appropriate for Immaculate Conception Parish, as it is also the Diocesan Shrine to Our Lady.



## PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES



The 2020 Planned Giving Envelopes start on Sunday 1 March — your new envelopes are waiting to be collected by the side door of the church.

## KEY FOUND IN CHURCH!

Sue Briscoe (parish secretary) found a single dark green key on a ring — if it's yours, please come and collect from Sue or Magda in the parish office Mon/Wed/Thu/Fri (9am-1pm).



## THANK YOU, CATHERINE CAROLAN

This weekend we say a very prayer-filled 'thank you' to Catherine Carolan. For ten years Catherine has faithfully taken Holy Communion to Estia nursing home located within our parish. It is hard to imagine the wonderful work that Catherine has done over these years. How quietly fulfilling it must be for Catherine to know she has walked so many towards their heavenly home. What consolation they must have received through her. Catherine, thank you for this outstanding ministry and for being the face of Christ to those to whom you ministered.



## A VOCATION VIEW

### Young Men's Gathering

Any young men (18+) who are open to discerning God's call in their lives are most welcome to come along to a relaxed evening of dinner, drinks and conversation, with the Vocations Director (Fr Duane Fernandez), Bishop Brian Mascord and our two current seminarians (James Arblaster and Sinh Le), on **Friday 28 February at 6.30pm** at the Rigney Room (next to the Cathedral Presbytery, Harbour Street Wollongong). The first of these dinners in late 2019 saw eight young men come along who all said they wanted more such gatherings. Please invite anyone who you think may be interested, and anyone attending **please RSVP to Fr Duane Fernandez at [vocations@dow.org.au](mailto:vocations@dow.org.au)** for catering purposes.



## DAY OF THE UNBORN CHILD

**Sunday 29 March 2020 at St Marys Cathedral, Sydney**

10.30am: Mass

12noon: Angelus and then prayerful street procession

1.30pm: Benediction

Contact — Adrian Devlin on 0416 073 996



## YOUTH FOCUSED MASS

The youth focused Mass will take place this **Sunday 16 February at West Wollongong at 5pm**, followed by a BBQ and then a young adults hangout at the convent. Any young adults who attend Mass other than at 5pm are also welcome to come to the gathering after 5pm Mass. **All welcome, spread the word!**



## LUNCH — WESTS ILLAWARRA

You're invited ... on **Friday 21 February from 12noon onwards** you are invited to lunch at the Wests Illawarra Club. A great lunch can be purchased from only \$10. Sr Kerry will be at the club reserving some tables — please don't leave her sitting there by herself! Come along any time after midday and join in the gathering. **All welcome!** There is a seat for YOU. Any further enquires please speak with Sr Kerry. It is hoped we will have a mystery guest join us, so don't miss out. **If anyone requires a lift to the club please contact Sr Kerry.**



## THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME

— AIRS SUNDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2020 —

On the Journey this week, we have a stellar line-up for you, including Marilyn Rodrigues with a wonderful piece called Peace; and Fr Dave Callaghan sharing his tips for trusting in the Lord.

Tune in to **LIFE 101.9** or **98.5** or go to [www.jcr.org.au](http://www.jcr.org.au) or [www.itunes.jcr.org.au](http://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](http://www.jcr.org.au) or [www.itunes.jcr.org.au](http://www.itunes.jcr.org.au) where you can listen any time and subscribe to weekly shows via email

## ICAST JOINT PARISH SOCIAL DINNER GATHERING



It's on again! The first joint social gathering with parishioners from both Immaculate Conception And St Therese (ICAST) at Figgy Bowlo last November was such a great success, that we're doing it again!

### SAVE THE DATE!

Venue — Figgy Bowlo

Date / Time — Friday 6 March 2020 at 6pm

If you couldn't make it last time, hopefully we'll see you this time in March!

Please RSVP to the  
Parish Office at  
[unanderra@dow.org.au](mailto:unanderra@dow.org.au)  
or on 4271 1068

**All welcome —  
including the kids!**



## THE RELICS OF ST THERESE OF LISIEUX

The relics of St Therese and her parents, Sts Louis and Zelie Martin, are coming to our Parishes on the weekend of 21-22 March. They arrive for veneration at Unanderra on Saturday 21 March at 4.30pm, and stay until 8.30pm (including the 6pm Mass). They will then go directly to West Wollongong — the only Parish dedicated to St Therese in Wollongong Diocese — for an all-night prayer vigil. The 10am Mass on the Sunday will be celebrated by Bishop Brian Mascord, and the relics will leave St Therese Church at midday. *We are looking to form a "working group" across both parishes to help organise proceedings and promotion. If you have a particular devotion to St Therese (or her parents) we would love to have you in the working group. Please contact either Parish Office to indicate your interest.*





## SUNDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2020 — SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

**First Reading** — Ecclesiasticus 15:15-20 — *He never commanded anyone to be godless.*

If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power. He has set fire and water before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer. Man has life and death before him; whichever a man likes better will be given him. For vast is the wisdom of the Lord; he is almighty and all-seeing. His eyes are on those who fear him, he notes every action of man. He never commanded anyone to be godless, he has given no one permission to sin.

**Responsorial Psalm** — *Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!*

1. They are happy whose life is blameless, who follow God's law! They are happy those who do his will, seeking him with all their hearts. *R.*
2. You have laid down your precepts to be obeyed with care. May my footsteps be firm to obey your statutes. *R.*
3. Bless your servant and I shall live and obey your word. Open my eyes that I may consider the wonders of your law. *R.*
4. Teach me the demands of your statutes and I will keep them to the end. Train me to observe your law, to keep it with my heart. *R.*

**Second Reading** — 1 Corinthians 2:6-10 — *God in his wisdom predestined our glory before the ages began.*

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him. These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

**Gospel Acclamation** — Matthew 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia!

**Gospel** — Matthew 5:17-37 — *Such was said to your ancestors; but I am speaking to you.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish them but to complete them. I tell you solemnly, till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, one little stroke, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Therefore, the man who infringes even one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be considered the least in the kingdom of heaven; but the man who keeps them and teaches them will be considered great in the kingdom of heaven.

'For I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court; if a man calls his brother "Fool" he will answer for it before the Sanhedrin; and if a man calls him "Renegade" he will answer for it in hell fire. So then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your offering. Come to terms with your opponent in good time while you are still on the way to the court with him, or he may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. I tell you solemnly, you will not get out till you have paid the last penny.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye should cause you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body thrown into hell. And if your right hand should cause you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body go to hell.

'It has also been said: Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a writ of dismissal. But I say this to you: everyone who divorces his wife, except for the case of fornication, makes her an adulteress; and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery. 'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all, either by heaven, since that is God's throne; or by the earth, since that is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, since that is the city of the great king. Do not swear by your own head either, since you cannot turn a single hair white or black. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

### 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 see 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](mailto:unanderra@dow.org.au) or telephone **4271 1068**