

PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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www.unanderraparish.org.au



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School Principal: Mrs Pauline Chrostowski

Parish Secretaries: Mrs Magda Pires (Mon/Thu)
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SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR A – SUNDAY 19 APRIL 2020

Message from Fr Duane

Thanks to all who joined us for Mass online on Easter Sunday – we have had about 2,500 people view the Mass online! A big thank you to Pete Veerhuis for getting the ball rolling with this, and his ongoing tech support, Rebecca Hall for her great work in making the Mass accessible through Facebook and the parish website, and Pete Gilmore from the Office of the Bishop for his support. Thanks also to Sinh Le for all of his wonderful help with the technology, and the music. From now on, Sunday Mass will be live streamed at 5pm every Sunday from St Therese Church West Wollongong with Fr Duane and seminarian Sinh Le.

This is a wonderful way of staying connected spiritually through the Mass which is the high point of our worship as Catholics. It was lovely to receive some photos from parishioners and friends of themselves and their screens, which we then shared on our Facebook page. We would love to receive more of these photos during the coming weeks (though try not to let this distract you too much from the actual Mass!)

We are also hoping to create more new opportunities for online connection during this time. Click “like” on our Facebook page to stay informed, and please also invite others to connect with us through Facebook or our weekly emailing list.

A big thank you to all the volunteers who have offered their services to help with “Corona ministries”. We are currently awaiting new guidelines from the Diocese and will inform you of next steps as soon as these are received.



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

This Sunday 19 April, the 2nd Sunday of Easter, is also designated “Divine Mercy Sunday”. This is a popular devotion inspired by two Polish saints of the 20th century – St Faustina and St John Paul II. It is a powerful reminder that through the death and resurrection of Christ, God has reconciled the whole world to himself – and that this Divine Mercy is greater than any sin! Many would be familiar with the image of Divine Mercy – often connected to a simple but powerful prayer: “Jesus I trust in You”. During these times especially, let us be inspired by the words of St John Paul II who once said “Those who sincerely say ‘Jesus I trust in You’ will find comfort in all their anxieties and fears.” Let us trust the risen Christ even in these uncertain times - and let us pray for an ever deeper trust!



Live streamed SUNDAY MASS at 5pm every Sunday with Fr Duane and Seminarian Sinh Le:

At: <https://www.facebook.com/Immaculate-Conception-Unanderra-Parish-102440924742769/>

Or: <https://www.sttherese.com.au/icat>

Fr Duane Fernandez - Parish Priest

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Anniversaries

Brian CUMMINS Rev Father Peter COYTE

Anita JOHANSSON Kenneth VARLEY

Bishop William MURRAY



CURRENT PARISH OFFICE DAYS/HOURS

The Parish Office staff are currently working limited days/hours — please call 4271 1068 or email unanderra@dow.org.au only (please do not visit). Magda is working on Mondays and Thursdays, and Sue is working from home on Fridays only.

— KEEPING THE LORD'S DAY HOLY —
OUR SUNDAY MASS WILL BE LIVE STREAMED AT EVERY WEEK!
EVERY SUNDAY AT 5PM

Join Fr Duane and Seminarian Sinh Le for Sunday Mass live streamed from St Therese Church at the St Therese Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/St-Therese-West-Wollongong-Parish-110018837306434/> and note we will also link to it at the Immaculate Conception Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Immaculate-Conception-Unanderra-Parish-102440924742769/> For those without Facebook, you can still view it through this link <https://www.sttherese.com.au/icat>

This is the perfect time to be reminded of the power of Sundays — this day on which Jesus rose from the dead, the most important event in human history, is the day that Christians have gathered together for prayer, Scripture and the Eucharist, since the time of the Apostles. This is the day that the Lord has made sacred, a day of rest and reflection, a day of gratitude, a day of communion with God and with one another. The Sacrament of the Eucharist is the greatest sign and source of this communion, and while we grieve the loss of this opportunity, the Church has always taught that when attending Mass is not physically possible, we can be assured of the renewed and deepened presence of Christ in our hearts by making an act of Spiritual Communion.

There are many prayers of spiritual communion, but this seems the most popular:

Prayer of "Spiritual Communion", given to us by St Alphonsus Liguori (1696-1787):

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

PASTORAL NEEDS



For any pastoral needs,
please contact
Fr Duane on
0414 626 357 or
duane.fernandez@dow.org.au

STAYING CONNECTED WITH GOD AND EACH OTHER

- Encourage others to join our emailing list by contacting Magda/Sue at unanderra@dow.org.au and ask to be added to the list.
- Join our new Facebook pages: "Immaculate Conception Unanderra Parish" and "St Therese West Wollongong Parish" — tell others too!



SPIRITUAL RESOURCES

For daily Masses, parishioners throughout the Diocese are encouraged to access other home worship resources at:

<https://www.dow.org.au/covid-19/daily-online-masses-and-spiritual-resources/>

For those without internet:

Mass For You At Home is available across the Ten (WIN) Network on Sundays at 6am.



A MESSAGE FROM ST VINNIES

Due to the latest restrictions imposed by the Government, Unanderra Conference have now ceased all service calls.

The Coniston Welfare Centre will be available for phone calls between 10am and 2pm Monday to Friday (4228 9355)

The welfare centre will ask that if the person only requires food support, that they can go to the centre for a hot meal, frozen takeaway meal or small quantity of non-perishable food for overnight.

Clothing and material assistance will be limited to emergency items only and through the welfare centre.

Unfortunately, assistance for electricity and phone accounts is not available at this time due to the necessity for face-to-face interviews.



PLENARY COUNCIL 2020

Plenary Council 2020: Listen To What The Spirit Is Saying...

In October 2020, the Catholic Church in Australia will gather for the first Plenary Council to be held since the second Vatican Council. In 2018, the entire People of God in Australia began preparing for this historic moment by listening to God, by listening to one another's stories of faith. Unfortunately, due to the current COVID-19 Pandemic, the PLENARY COUNCIL 2020 ASSEMBLY 1 HAS BEEN POSTPONED.



Plenary Council 2020

Listen to what the Spirit is saying...

www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au

PLANNED GIVING

Some have asked how they can continue to donate to the Parish, in the absence of collections at Mass. Wollongong Diocese has provided the following link to facilitate any contributions that people still wish to make, in the absence of collections at Mass, and explains where the money goes.

If you wish to contribute, please go to:

www.dow.org.au/plannedgiving/

— please also inform our Parish office for accounting purposes (unanderra@dow.org.au)



E-SAFETY IN THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

If you are new to the internet, get some free advice here:
Social Distancing and Online Safety:



Australian Government

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/about-us/blog/covid-19-online-safety-tips-help-older-australianssocial-distancing>

Be connected – learning resources to engage safely online:
<https://beconnected.esafety.gov.au/>

CATHOLIC CARE

We're always here, if you ever need...

These are challenging times for everyone and CatholicCare are here to support you and your family to navigate the uncertainty.

We offer confidential online and phone counselling to support you with the frustration of managing family emotions, relationship pressures and employment changes.

To find out more about CatholicCare's counselling service call us on **4254 9395** or email intakeservice@catholiccare.dow.org.au



WOLLONGONG HOSPITAL VISITS



Wollongong Private and Public Hospitals

Fr George Condookala will be available for visits to the sick. He can be contacted on **0475 815 506**.

THE CHOSEN

The Chosen - Great Family Viewing on the Life of Jesus

This new crowd-funded series on the life of Jesus is receiving wide acclaim around the world and is well worth a look. It is a high-quality production that explores the life of Jesus through the eyes of those around Him.

Download 'The Chosen' app for various devices or watch for free on YouTube.

PROJECT COMPASSION

Caritas Australia would like to THANK YOU for supporting Project Compassion 2020. Through your generosity you will be empowering the world's most vulnerable communities to grow stronger and share their strengths with their communities to lift themselves out of poverty.

www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion
#projectcompassion
1800 024 413

When we Go Further Together in love and compassion, the whole world thrives.



CATH FAMILY

Fr Duane recently had a look around this website: www.cathfamily.org, and was most impressed with the material offered there.



The site is providing a lot of extra material for free during this time of lockdown.

There are great articles and resources for marriage and family life, as well as interactive resources and activities for children at <https://cathfamily.org/cathkids-faith-unlimited/>

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME – AIRS SUNDAY 19 APRIL 2020 –

Listen in this week for Easter Sunday on the Journey when we hear from Fr Mark De Battista and Sr Hilda Scott; with great music, and God spots from some of Australia's best Catholic presenters as we celebrate joyfully in isolation, this Easter Season.



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

HOLY PLACES COLLECTION



The collection for the holy places that would have ordinarily occurred at Easter has not been cancelled, it has simply been postponed and will now occur in September 2020.

A VOCATION VIEW

As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' Jesus commissions us to be his witnesses to the end of the world, do not be afraid to proclaim him in thought, word and deed. (John 20:21)

If you want to talk about your discernment, please contact the Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Duane Fernandez, at vocations@dow.org.au

PRAYER – 7PM EVERY EVENING

A Call to commit to Prayer during the Pandemic every evening at 7pm



The faithful across the Diocese of Wollongong are urged to join with other members of the National Council of Churches, so that all Christians continue to pray at 7pm every night during the Pandemic crisis.

PRAYING FOR OUR WORLD, AMIDST COVID-19:

Gracious God,
We give thanks anew for your providence and presence.
We prayerfully seek your grace, amidst COVID-19 here and overseas.
We pray for those in need of healing.
We pray for your peace with those who are anxious or grieving.
We pray you will continue to strengthen and sustain all those who are serving in response.
We pray for your Holy Spirit's discernment amidst the many choices and decisions facing our national, community and medical leaders.
We pray we each might see quickly what more we can do to help those who are vulnerable.
This prayer for our nation in the family of nations, with all that is on our hearts, we gather now and pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SUNDAY 19 APRIL 2020 — SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A)

First Reading — Acts 2:42-47 — *The faithful lived together and owned everything in common.*

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone.

The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed.

They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

Responsorial Psalm — *Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting OR Alleluia.*

1. Let the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end.'
Let the sons of Aaron say: 'His love has no end.'
Let those who fear the Lord say: 'His love has no end.' R.
2. I was thrust, thrust down and falling, but the Lord was my helper.
The Lord is my strength and my song; he was my saviour.
There are shouts of joy and victory in the tents of the just. R.
3. The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes.
This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad. R.



Second Reading — 1 Peter 1:3-9 — *He has given us a new birth as his children, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead.*

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which has been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold – only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire – and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

Gospel Acclamation — 1 Corinthians 5:7-8

Alleluia, alleluia! You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe! Alleluia!

Gospel — John 20:19-31 — *After eight days, Jesus came in and stood among them.*

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.