

PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR A – SUNDAY 10 MAY 2020

Message from Fr Duane

A very happy Mother's Day to all mothers and "mother figures" among you! Motherly love is inherently comforting, nurturing and self-sacrificial, and is a unique revelation of God's love for us, as God says through the prophet Isaiah: "as a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you" (Isaiah 66:13). This is an opportunity for us to give thanks to God for our mothers, and indeed to celebrate the precious role of motherhood in society. I also know that there is some sadness associated with this day: for those who wished to be mothers but couldn't; for those for whom their relationship with their mothers has been a painful one, for various reasons; for mothers who grieve the loss of children and for those who grieve the loss of their mothers; and I hold you all in prayer. For us as Christians this is also a most special day to remember Mary, the mother we all share as brothers and sisters in Christ. Indeed, the whole month of May is traditionally the month when we Catholics give special honour to Mary, as our mother, our helper, the perfect model of faith. The Rosary is a wonderful way of doing this, and is a prayer that many find brings comfort and peace during troubled times. If you are not very familiar with the prayers of the Rosary this website is very user-friendly: <https://www.marian.org/mary/rosary/howto.php>

Personally, I give thanks to God for my own wonderful mother and grandmothers; for my sister who is also a wonderful mother; and for the many "mother figures" in my life, including my aunt and also a number of parishioners who often look out for me with motherly care!

A Mother's Day Prayer

 God our Creator, we pray: for new mothers, coming to terms with new responsibility; for expectant mothers, wondering and waiting; for those who are tired, stressed or depressed; for those who struggle to balance the tasks of work and family; for those who are unable to feed their children due to poverty; for those whose children have physical, mental or emotional disabilities; for those who have children they do not want; for those who raise children on their own; for those who have lost a child; for those who care for the children of others; for those whose children have left home; and for those whose desire to be a mother has not been fulfilled. Bless all mothers, that their love may be deep and tender, and that they may lead their children to know and do what is good, living not for themselves alone, but for God and for others. Amen.



SOCIAL MEDIA MINISTRY: One of the blessings to have come out of the Coronavirus crisis has been a vastly expanded online presence for our parishes, through websites, Facebook, and YouTube. We now have a dedicated "social media team" which will seek to continually improve our online presence now and into the future. If you are interested in joining this team please contact us at either westwollongong@dow.org.au or unanderra@dow.org.au with the subject "Social Media Team".

Fr Duane Fernandez - Parish Priest

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS



Anniversaries

Ronald MONAGHAN
Luka JUKIC
Victor BROWN

PARISH OFFICE 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 EVERY WEEK!
ONLINE MASS — EVERY SUNDAY AT 5PM

Join Fr Duane and Seminarian Sinh Le for Sunday Mass live streamed from St Therese Church every Sunday at 5pm 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>

And this week we will also stream it through our new YouTube channel at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCG6HKCV4D_a1JMWx0gS7rTw

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.



A MOTHER'S LOVE

It takes a mother's LOVE,
to make a house a home.
A place to be remembered,
no matter where we roam.
It takes a mother's PATIENCE,
to bring a child up right;
and her COURAGE
and her CHEERFULNESS
to make a dark day bright.
It takes a mother's THOUGHTFULNESS
to mend the heart's deep 'hurts';
and her SKILL and her ENDURANCE
to mend little socks and shirts.
It takes a mother's WISDOM
to recognise our needs;
and to give us reassurance
by her loving words and deeds.
And that is why in all this world
there could not be another,
who could fulfil God's purpose
as completely as a MOTHER!

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.



"THE CHOSEN"

This is 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.



This is a high-quality production that explores the life of Jesus through the eyes of those around Him.

The easiest place to watch the whole first season for free is through a free membership on

VidAngel: <https://www.vidangel.com/>

(NB: Fr Duane suggests an "M rating" for episode 1, but "PG rating" for episodes 2 through 8).

PASTORAL NEEDS

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



PLANNED GIVING DURING THE PANDEMIC

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/ or call the office 4271 1068.

(If you use the above link to sign up for planned giving, please also inform our Parish office for accounting purposes by contacting Magda/Sue at unanderra@dow.org.au / 4271 1068).



YOUNG ADULTS FAITH CIRCLES

In the coming weeks, the NET Team will be inviting all young adults ages 18-35 to join our Faith Circles on Zoom.

Faith Circles is a weekly young adult small group that brings together people of faith whether you just started your journey or one who is open to an encounter with Jesus Christ, this is done by sharing of the Gospel and reflecting upon it.

This is a great way to build not only your faith but to build lasting friendships.

To get in touch with the NET team and be part of this, simply follow the CYMW Facebook page or by Instagram at "wollongongnetteam".



CATHOLIC CARE

Always Connected...

While the CatholicCare office is closed due to current restrictions, our dedicated Client Services Officer Marion is still here to take your calls and emails. Marion and the CatholicCare team are working on practical and innovative new ways to support our clients through COVID-19.



CatholicCARE

Please email or call us if you have any questions – we're here to help.

Phone **4227 1122** or

Email enquiries@catholiccare.dow.org.au

ST VINNIES HELP DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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

The Coniston Welfare Centre will be available for phone calls 10am to 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 a 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.

PRAY WITH POPE FRANCIS DURING MAY

FOR AN END TO THE PANDEMIC

Pope Francis has asked Catholics to make a special effort in May (the month especially dedicated to Mary) to pray the Rosary, knowing that by doing so they would be united with believers around the world asking for Mary's intercession in stopping the coronavirus pandemic. Pope Francis has written the prayer below that can be recited at the end of the rosary, which he said he would be reciting "in spiritual union with all of you." If you like you can aim for 7pm to know you are praying at the same time as other parishioners.

Find out more about the Rosary at:

<https://www.marian.org/mary/rosary/>

Prayer to recite at the end of the Rosary this May:

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who, at the foot of the cross, were united with Jesus' suffering, and persevered in your faith. You know our needs, and we know that you will provide, so that, as at Cana in Galilee, joy and celebration may return after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the will of the Father and to do what Jesus tells us. For he took upon himself our suffering, and burdened himself with our sorrows to bring us, through the cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.



Note: The Feast Day of Our Lady Help of Christians, Patroness of Australia, will be on 24 May.

Our Lady Help of Christians, Pray for us.

WEEKLY ADORATION



Adoration will be live-streamed Wednesday nights. The NET Team will be hosting a **Holy Hour every Wednesday at 6.30pm.** This will be a time set aside for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

This will be broadcast via:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cymdow/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/wollongongnetteam/>

STAYING CONNECTED WITH GOD & EACH OTHER

Please encourage others to join our emailing list by contacting Magda/Sue at unanderra@dow.org.au and ask to be added to the list.

Please join our new Facebook pages:

"Immaculate Conception Unanderra Parish" and "St Therese Parish West Wollongong".

Be sure to tell others too!



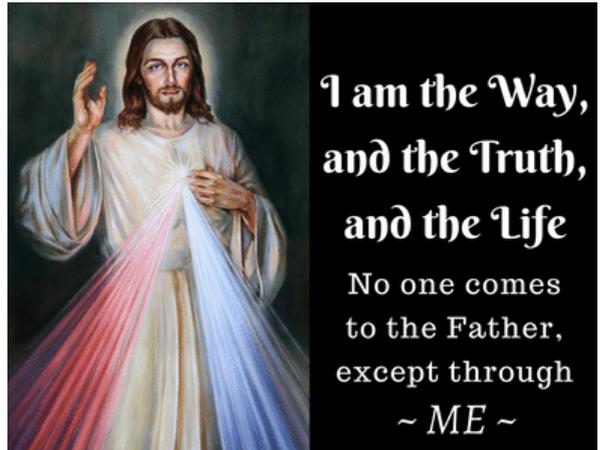
SUNDAY 10 MAY 2020 — FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A)

First Reading — Acts 6:1-7 — *They elected seven men filled with the Spirit and wisdom.*

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

Responsorial Psalm — *Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.*

1. Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.
Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp,
with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. *R.*
2. For the word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love. *R.*
3. The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine. *R.*



Second Reading — 1 Peter 2:2-9 — *You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood.*

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

Gospel Acclamation — John 14:6

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through me. Alleluia!

Gospel — John 14:1-12 — *I am the way, the truth, and the life.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am now going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said: 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?'

Jesus said: 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

Philip said: 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.'

'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me? To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason. I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.'