

PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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

www.unanderraparish.org.au



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(PO Box 358) Unanderra NSW 2526
Phone: 4271 3550 | Fax: 4272 2954

School Principal: Mrs Pauline Chrostowski

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

Parish Office: Phone: 4271 1068
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Website: www.unanderraparish.org.au

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD – YEAR A – SUNDAY 24 MAY 2020

Message from Fr Duane

Amidst the many challenges that Coronavirus has brought, we as Catholics have had the additional challenge of having to forego the opportunity to celebrate the Sacraments together in our churches. As we await the updated directives from our Bishop Brian Mascord next week, he has given permission to clergy to share with our parishioners this weekend that the new directives will make allowance for Masses (maximum of 10 participants) to take place. This will only be possible in parishes which are able to comply with the detailed directives that the Bishop and his advisors will soon publish. Our Parish Pastoral Councils will meet as soon as possible to implement these directives in our parishes of Unanderra and West Wollongong in a way which will ensure compliance with legislation and the safety of all involved. We will provide much more information on this next weekend.



This Monday 25 May, the Church celebrates the Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians. The Feast usually takes place on 24 May but this year the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord takes precedence. It is with this title as “Help of Christians” that Our Lady is the patroness of Australia, making this an especially sacred day for us. It is under this title that Our Lady has been invoked throughout history especially in times of distress – when her help for Christians as our mother and intercessor have been most needed. This is surely one of those times. And so let us entrust ourselves and our nation to her help and prayers; inspired by her example of faith, may we say a deeper “yes” to God’s will in both the joys and sorrows of our lives.



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

Recently Deceased

Maria DWYER

Anniversaries

Thomas STANIFORTH



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.

'THANK YOU' FROM SR KERRY

Thinking about celebrating a birthday during a pandemic didn't really give me much excitement or anticipation. Thank you to so many of you who have made my day/s so memorable. To say I have had an amazing birthday is a huge understatement.



Firstly, thanks to Fr Duane for the welcome extended to me on first arriving in the parish. Little did I dream how beautiful that welcome would grow. It is wonderful to be ministering alongside Fr Duane.

Thank you to each of you for becoming a part of my life, my story. How wonderful it is to be here. Only last week I said to Bishop Brian how wonderful are the people who make up our parish. Thank you for who you are.



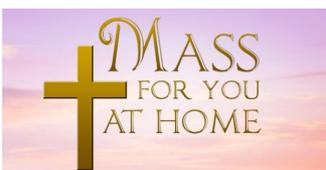
Thank you not just for an amazing birthday but for the people you are in everyday life. You create a beautiful image of a colourful, beautiful, perfumed garden. You are loved and appreciated. God has blessed me in your presence enriching and gracing my life. You are loved..... and to love another person is to see the face of God.

Kerry

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/>

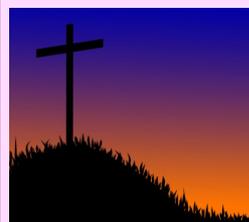


For those without internet:

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

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).



OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

O Immaculate Mary, Help of Christians, Queen of heaven and earth, and tender Mother of humanity, at this time when a pandemic threatens all your children, we entrust to you our nation, Australia, and all who live in this country.

We commit to your intercession all the members of our community, beginning with the weakest ones, from the unborn to the sick, the disabled and the elderly.

We commit to you our families, our young and old, and all who are vulnerable, those who are quarantined or anxious.

We entrust to your Immaculate Heart those who have lost their livelihood or employment, our pastors and other essential service workers, and our leaders at this time.

We implore your intercession especially for the protection of doctors and nurses and those who minister to the contagious sick in this crisis.

Reign over us, Mother of God, and teach us how to make the Heart of Jesus reign and triumph in us and around us, as it has reigned and triumphed in you!



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/>

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. She and the CatholicCare team are working on practical and innovative new ways to support our clients through COVID-19.



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

Phone: **4227 1122**

Email: enquiries@catholiccare.dow.org.au

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!



ONLINE ADULT FAITH FORMATION & TRAINING

Coming up in June are three outstanding opportunities for online training:

1. **The Eucharist – Exploring our Catholic Faith** – Mondays 1-22 June or Fridays 5-26 June – all at 4pm – via Zoom Video Conferencing.
2. **An Introduction to the Psalms: A Songbook for Today** – Fr Mark De Battista - Thursdays 4-25 June at 4pm-5pm (repeated at 8pm-9pm) – via Zoom Video Conferencing.
3. **Alpha – Refreshing our Vision and Practice** – For parish teams already trained in Alpha as a renewal and outreach strategy – Monday 1 June at 7.30pm – via Zoom Video Conferencing.

To register go to:

<https://www.dow.org.au/news-and-events/>

For further information, please email:

darren.mcdowell@dow.org.au

A VOCATION VIEW

"Go and make disciples of all nations!"

Our lives must proclaim the Truth that comes to us from Christ; embrace the call to be a witness of Christ to the ends of the world! (*Matthew 28:19*)

If you want to talk about your discernment, please contact the Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Duane Fernandez, at vocations@dow.org.au – or our new Vocations video at <https://www.dow.org.au/covid-19/sunday-mass-online-withbishop-brian/>



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.

Coniston Welfare Centre is 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.



SUNDAY 24 MAY 2020 — ASCENSION OF OUR LORD (YEAR A)

First Reading — Acts 1:1-11 — *Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.*

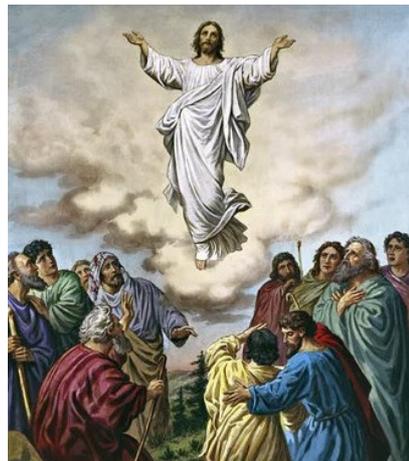
In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

Responsorial Psalm — *God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.*

1. All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth. *R.*
2. God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise. *R.*
3. God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne. *R.*



Second Reading — Ephesians 1:17-23 — *He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.*

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

Gospel Acclamation — Matthew 28:19,20

Alleluia, alleluia! Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world. Alleluia!

Gospel — Matthew 28:16-20 — *All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.*

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commandments I gave to you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'