

PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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

www.unanderraparish.org.au

www.facebook.com/Immaculate-Conception-Unanderra-Parish-102440924742769/



Parish Priest: Fr Duane Fernandez
Email: Duane.Fernandez@dow.org.au
Mobile: 0414 626 357

Polish Chaplain: Fr Jerzy Slowinski
Email: slowinski54@gmail.com
Mobile: 0410 225 975

Parish Assistant: Sr Kerry Gardiner
Email: Kerry.Gardiner@sosj.org.au
Mobile: 0421 463 871

Parish Pastoral Council President: Mark Walsh
Email: Mark.Walsh@bluescopesteel.com
Mobile: 0407 604 498

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/Thu)
Mrs Sue Briscoe (Fri)

Parish Office: Email: unanderra@dow.org.au
Website: www.unanderraparish.org.au
Phone: 4271 1068
Fax: 4271 1298

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR B) – SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER 2020

**Registrations ESSENTIAL for ALL Masses — via Unanderra Parish Office:
unanderra@dow.org.au or 4271 1068**

Weekly Programme	Immaculate Conception UNANDERRA	St Therese WEST WOLLONGONG
Monday 14 December <i>St John of the Cross</i>	Mass: 7am	
Tuesday 15 December	Mass: 5.30pm	Mass: 7.45am
Wednesday 16 December	Mass: 9.30am	Adoration: 4.30pm Reconciliation: 4.30pm-5.15pm Mass: 5.30pm
Thursday 17 December	Adoration: 4.30pm Reconciliation: 4.30pm-5.15pm Mass: 5.30pm	Mass: 7.45am
Friday 18 December	Mass: 7am	Mass: 9.30am
Saturday 19 December	Rosary: 7.15am Mass: 7.30am Reconciliation: 5pm-5.30pm Vigil Mass: 6pm	Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9.30am-10.30am
Sunday 20 December <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i>	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (<i>Polish</i>)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm (<i>also streamed online</i>)

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Ann PYE



Please also pray for the sick and those unable to attend Mass

Anniversaries

Norm BRANSGROVE Snr

Fr Andrew APOSTOLI

Ian RITCHIE

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

unanderra@dow.org.au / 4271 1068

Monday: 11am-3pm (*Magda*)

Tuesday: *Closed*

Wednesday: *Closed*

Thursday: 9am-3pm (*Magda*)

Friday: 8am-12noon (*Sue & Melissa*)

Message from Fr Duane

THANK YOU SUE BRISCOE ... AND GOD'S BLESSINGS TO YOU AND PATRICK!

I wish to take this opportunity to extend my deepest gratitude to Sue Briscoe, one of our Parish secretaries, whose last day in this job is this coming Friday 18 December— as she and her husband Patrick are moving out of the Parish. Sue and Patrick have been faithful and generous parishioners in recent years, both providing many services behind the scenes to the parish. In her capacity as Secretary, Sue has been a wonderful presence, supporting and serving the parish community in countless ways. This year in particular Sue stepped up in many ways, generously taking on extra admin work associated with the Covid regulations. On a personal note, when I first arrived in the Parish, Sue's kindness, friendliness and support was invaluable in helping me to settle in, and this support has continued ever since. Sue has now begun the handover process and next week I will introduce the newest member of our parish staff, who will be a great asset to the parish office together with Magda. Nevertheless Sue will be greatly missed, but we wish her and Patrick every blessing as they move into this next chapter of their lives, and hope that they will always feel at home in our parish whenever they join us!

REGISTRATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS

There are still plenty of spaces available at all Christmas Masses except the 7pm at Unanderra, which has only 2 spaces left. With this in mind, if anyone has booked for the 7pm Mass at Unanderra but is equally happy with a different Mass, and would be willing to change their booking in order to free up possible spaces at the 7pm Mass (including for possible "walk-ins" who don't hear about the registration process), please contact me at duane.fernandez@dow.org.au

REGISTRATIONS FOR SUNDAY MASSES

The registration process for Sunday Masses is now much simpler, thanks to the 2 square metre rule. Present numbers of registrations are not close to the new doubled capacity limit, so everyone is able to attend their preferred Sunday Mass. Pre-registration is still very helpful to our monitors and record keeping requirements. I will still endeavour to send a confirmation email about 24 hours prior to each Mass, but even if you don't receive one you will still be able to attend the Mass of your choice.

BAPTISMS

Starting February 2021, we will return to the pre-Covid schedule for baptisms – 2nd Sunday at West Wollongong at 12pm, and 4th Sunday at Unanderra at 12pm. Please contact unanderra@dow.org.au for a Baptismal form if you would like to have your child baptised in our Parish.

Fr Duane Fernandez — Parish Priest

REGISTRATION PROCESS - BOTH UNANDERRA & WEST WOLLONGONG

Registrations are ESSENTIAL for ALL Masses at both Unanderra and West Wollongong — ALL registrations must be via the Unanderra Parish Office: unanderra@dow.org.au or 4271 1068 (please only call during office hours, shown in pink box on front page of bulletin). Please include the name of all family members who will be attending, contact phone number, email address and the day/time/church of your preferred Mass(es), both weekday and weekend. For weekend Masses, please await a confirmation email from Fr Duane approximately 24 hours prior to the Mass time, before attending the church.

ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

December	Church Washing	Helen Murphy
Sat 19 Dec	Church Cleaning	P & A Browne, K Harrison
	Lectors	Lawns — Sat 19 Dec
Sat 19 Dec 6pm Mass	M Gillis	J Lonard, S Carrigan,
Sun 20 Dec 8am Mass	A Browne	H Fernandez

ALL YOUR PASTORAL NEEDS

For any pastoral needs:

please contact

Fr Duane Fernandez

0414 626 357

duane.fernandez@dow.org.au



ST VINCENT DE PAUL GIVING TREE

The Christmas Giving Tree is now located in the church and has tags for children's toys and Christmas food — which are used to make approx 40 hampers for families and toys for about 60 children in need in our parish. Please place gifts under the Giving Tree by **Sunday 20 December** as hampers and toys will be distributed on Tuesday 22 December.



The generosity you provide the Unanderra St Vinnies conference is greatly appreciated and makes a huge difference to needy families at Christmas.

Christmas cards and calendars are also available for purchase — cards \$6 a pack and calendars \$10 each.

Thank you for your support!

SUMMER NIGHTS 21

Summer Nights 21 happening at Varroville in January 2021 - for 16-35 year olds.

There are two options (retreat running twice during the week):

Monday 11 - Wednesday 13 January (3pm to 9pm) & Thursday 14 - Saturday 16 January (3pm to 9pm)

COVID safe dinner is provided each day

The retreat will feature excellent quality talks and teaching, night sessions with praise and worship, drama, preaching, testimonies, and prayer. Mass and adoration is available each day.

PARISH WALKING GROUP

Last Thursday, 12 members of our walking group joined together for an enjoyable walk around the lake from the sailing club to the yacht club. After the walk we all had a delicious seafood lunch by the lake watching the pelicans.



Our next walk will be on **Friday 5 February** so mark that date in your calendar. More details after Christmas.

THANK YOU FROM SR KERRY

Thank you to the amazing group who gathered on Tuesday. Each individual added so much to the spirit of the reflection day. Receiving such positive feedback encourages me to plan another such day for next year.

Blessings Sr Kerry.



ADVENT BOOKLET

This year's Advent booklet — 'Adore' — is now available for purchase in the church (located on the middle pew) for only \$3.



THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME — AIRS SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER 2020 —

On the Journey this week: Fr Sean Cullen says John the Baptist shows us that Christianity's call is to a life much bigger than my own. Darren McDowell has the four fundamental qualities for success as a leader of family or parish and Trish McCarthy says look into our own eyes to see who I am. Plus, great Advent music! The Journey is available from Friday every week for free download at www.jcr.org.au



A VOCATION VIEW

God gives you a mission. How will you respond? Rejoice in the Spirit who is at work in you.

(Isaiah 61: 1-2,10-11)



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

YOUNG ADULT GATHERING

Young Adult gathering at Rosemeadow Parish

St John Paul II Theology of the Body - presented by Fr Damian Mosakowski

As a young adult in the 21st century you are bombarded by the teachings of the world, how you are to act, treat yourself and others. St John Paul II's Theology of the Body speaks to us of a different reality. There is much excitement today among the young about these teachings which have revolutionised the way many think about love, sexuality, and marriage.

Come and hear Fr Damian from the Pauline Fathers at Penrose Park on **Monday 14 Dec at 7pm** to present a talk on the Theology of the Body. This exciting event will be held in the Joachim Hall (the old church) Demetrius Road, Our Lady Help of Christians Parish. Dinner will be provided at 7pm (donations greatly appreciated) followed by the talk and finishing with some questions and discussion.

Please note entry is strictly limited to youth aged 18 - 35 years and due to COVID restrictions seating is limited to 100 people.

Contact **Ryan on 0412 939 705** for details and to register.

ADORATION

CYMW is holding Holy Hour **every Wednesday evenings from 6:30PM to 7:30PM** for an hour of Adoration at St Francis Xavier Cathedral. There will be time for silence and reflection before the Lord and is a great time to quiet our hearts to listen to Him more closely. We hope to see to you there!



SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER 2020 — THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR B)

First Reading — Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me.

He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken;

to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.

‘I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels.

‘For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.’

Responsorial Psalm — *My soul rejoices in my God.*

1. My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.

He looks on his servant in her nothingness; henceforth all ages will call me blessed. *R.*

2. The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name!

His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him. *R.*

3. He fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty.

He protects Israel, his servant, remembering his mercy. *R.*

Second Reading — 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! The spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia!

Gospel — John 1:6-8,19-28

A man came, sent by God.

His name was John.

He came as a witness,

as a witness to speak for the light,

so that everyone might believe through him.

He was not the light,

only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, ‘Who are you?’ he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, ‘I am not the Christ.’ ‘Well then,’ they asked ‘are you Elijah?’ ‘I am not’ he said. ‘Are you the Prophet?’ He answered, ‘No.’ So they said to him, ‘Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?’ So John said, ‘I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:

Make a straight way for the Lord.’

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, ‘Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?’ John replied, ‘I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.’ This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.



BAPTISMS

Baptisms are held on the 2nd Sunday of every month at West Wollongong (12noon) and the 4th Sunday of every month at Unanderra (12noon). Please email westwollongong@dow.org.au or unanderra@dow.org.au to ask for a Baptism Enquiry Form to be sent to you.