

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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Parish Secretaries: Mrs Magda Pires (Mon/Thu)
Mrs Melissa Bridges (Wed/Fri)

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FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B) – 11 JULY 2021

Parish Vision—We are a diverse community united by our love for Jesus and for one another, constantly seeking to grow in this love especially through the Eucharist. We welcome everyone and help each other to discover their unique gifts, joyfully working together as one to bring the overflowing love of Jesus to all people.

ALL MASSES ARE SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Reflections with Fr Thornhill

Today's gospel reading from Mark recalls a development in the mission of Jesus that concerns us all. He makes his disciples sharers in his mission. In Mark's telling of the story of Jesus this comes immediately after his own townspeople have rejected him at the end of his Galilean ministry. If, during his earthly life, he is not to fulfil the great mission he has received from his Father in person, he will do so through his disciples. Initially he will employ the twelve collaborators who symbolise the New Israel through whose life the Saviour will be present in every age.

We who take part in this liturgy have all been called to share in Christ's great mission to the whole world. As we ponder this we should recall that God's call is mysterious, originating in the eternal designs of the Father – as Paul writes, 'Before the world was made, he chose us, chose us in Christ'. God's call does not match our human expectations. Amos, the 8th century prophet, was a farmer who found himself charged with the daunting task of challenging the hypocrisy evident in the worship of the northern shrine of Bethel. The Twelve Apostles called by Jesus were an unlikely group, with backgrounds as varied as fishing, tax collecting and terrorism. Jesus sends them out with instructions that make very clear the seriousness of the task he is sharing with them: absolute reliance upon the 'authority' they have received from him, and an unselfishness and single-mindedness that will commend them to their listeners. Their mission reflects the mission Jesus has been engaged in: the call to a 'repentance' which is open to what God is about to do, 'casting out devils' and healing the sick. (The modern reader should not be distracted by the gospels' frequent references to exorcism. The culture of the society in which Jesus lived assumed – as many cultures do, even today – that ills and maladies, physical and psychological, are due to the influence of evil spirits. Jesus' mission to triumph over all evil was inevitably seen as a conflict with evil powers.)

It is enlightening to compare the second reading's summary of key themes of Paul's thought with the themes the Twelve took with them on the missions on which Jesus 'began to send them'. What Jesus promised as he announced the coming of God's Kingdom was far from clear to them. They were sustained by their admiration of Jesus and the authority with which he had inaugurated his mission. The Christians for whom the letter to the Ephesians was written knew the fulfilment of all that Jesus had promised. The blessings brought by the Paschal Mystery were beyond imagining for the Twelve as they told their hearers of the coming of God's Kingdom. Paul, on the other hand, can tell the world of the 'mystery', God's design from all eternity, as he 'chose us in Christ', and determined to bring the whole of creation 'together under Christ'. In our text are many of the great themes with which our faith gives expression to the blessings brought by the Paschal Mystery: 'grace', 'freedom', 'adoption', 'inheritance' and 'the seal of the Spirit'

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Elizabeth Timar
Kathleen Lake

Anniversaries

Dr. Sheila Dwyer, Ruby Stubbs,
Concesa Mamanglu, Juana Domingo

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

unanderra@dow.org.au / 4271 1068

Monday: 8:30am-3pm (Magda)

Tuesday: Closed

Wednesday: 8:30am-1:30pm (Melissa)

Thursday: 8:30am -3pm (Magda)

Friday: 8:30am-1:30pm (Melissa)

Message from Sr Kerry

Dear Parishioners and Friends of Immaculate Conception Parish Unanderra,

I tend to squirm when I read harsh lines in the scriptures. Today is one of those days! I pondered the Gospel and was uncomfortable. 'They went off and preached repentance.' What is expected of me/you/us in this?

A few years back I attended a conference in the USA. It was a great conference with great speakers, liturgies etc. As I ponder that conference now, I really can't remember a great deal of what I heard. I do remember one thing! I met Sergio.

Our meeting was quite accidental in my eyes, but probably not accidental in the eyes of God. Sergio lived an extremely sad childhood. As he told me his story, I even had to ask him the meaning of some of the words he was using. As a teenager he joined a gang. Life was tough, sad, harsh and cruel.

Fr Greg Boyle SJ has worked with gang members for over thirty years. Fortunately, Sergio approached Fr Greg and over much time he was able to turn his life around. I was absolutely gobsmacked with Sergio's story and I asked him, 'How can one reach rock bottom and come back to such a full life?' His simple response: 'the beautiful thing about going so low is that when you come out of it your heart is filled with so much gratitude.'

Repentance is a commitment to personal change and the resolve to live a more responsible and humane life, in other words, being sorry for one's misdeeds. Sergio lives repentance. How do I live repentance? How do we as the Catholic community live repentance?

Sergio and I still communicate. His emails are short and sharp. One email ended with 'Rest in God resting in you.'

As we journey through this week may we come as we are; in need of repentance; a willingness to touch our rock bottom and with honesty and delight, be filled with gratitude. This week I pray may you rest in God resting in you. Savour the delight of God's presence.

Sr Kerry Gardiner

LIVE STREAMED MASSES

Links to live-streamed and recorded Masses are as follows:

Mass for you at home: <https://massforyou.com.au/>



There is a livestream Mass from St Francis Xavier Cathedral. This is 10:30am Sunday and 12:10pm Tuesday to Friday and is available afterwards. This can be found on: <https://livestream.lumenchristi.org.au/>

ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

	Church Washing	
Sun	Counting	
Sat	Church Cleaning	
	Lectors	Lawns —
Sat 6pm Mass		No Lawn mowing this week
Sun 8am Mass		

ALL YOUR PASTORAL NEEDS



For any pastoral needs:
please contact



Fr Duane Fernandez - 0414 626 357

duane.fernandez@dow.org.au

Sr Kerry Gardiner - 0421 463 871

Kerry.Gardiner@sosj.org.au

NEXT ADULT EDUCATION EVENING – DATE TO BE CONFIRMED

Come along & enjoy watching a video each Thursday evening for 10 weeks, presented by Bishop Robert Barron on aspects of Catholicism, starting at 7pm sharp in the St Joseph's room. At the beginning of each evening a light meal will be provided followed by a video to watch and ending with discussion on the video.

Registration is essential.

Next topic: The Mystical Union of Christ and the Church

For further information contact Mark on 0407 604 498 or Josephine on 0425 236 214.

POSITION VACANT

**Executive Assistant – Welcoming and Information |
Catholic Diocese of Wollongong**

Suitably experienced and qualified persons are encouraged to apply for the role of Executive Assistant – Welcoming and Information in the Diocese of Wollongong. For more information and a detailed role description, please go to www.dow.org.au/jobs

Any enquiries please contact Helen Bennett

0407 438 434 or email recruitment@dow.org.au

VOCATION NEWS



God will provide for you on your journey. Trust that you will receive the grace to carry out the mission. (Mark 6:7-13)

If you want to talk about your discernment, please contact the Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Duane

Fernandez at vocations@dow.org.au

ST MARY'S SENIOR ENROLMENTS

Thinking about a change of high school for Years 11 & 12? St Mary's is now enrolling for Senior College in 2022. Come to the **Subject Selection Information Evening on 20 July 2021** from 6pm in the SGN Hall, 15 Harbour St, Wollongong and talk to staff and students about the many courses we offer. You could also apply for a St Mary's Senior Academic Scholarship.

Application forms available online at www.stmarys.nsw.edu.au

THE CHOSEN - A TV SERIES ABOUT JESUS

The Chosen is a new 'free to view', television program that creatively presents the life of Christ and his followers. The shows are of the highest quality and is receiving acclaim around the world across denominations. Go to <https://watch.angelstudios.com/thechosen> to watch

ST THERESE LIVE STREAMED MASS

The 5pm St Therese Mass will **not** be live streamed during the coming weeks as some volunteers are no longer available, and we are looking to simplify our technology during this time. We thank the wonderful volunteers from the live stream Team for their dedication since Covid began.

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME – AIRS SUNDAY 11 JULY 2021 –

On the Journey this week: Mgr Graham Schmitzer says this Gospel challenges us to be active not passive followers. It should make us uncomfortable, realising God depends on us to do the work. Mother Hilda says we have two choices when facing hardships – to either rant & rave & carry on or bring the hardship & those causing it into God's presence. A Faith Testimony from Sharon Brewer, Canberra ACT. Listen at jcr.org.au



SENIOR'S LUNCH - POSTPONED UNTIL AUGUST

West Wollongong Parish have organised a lunch for Seniors which will be held at the Figtree Sports Club. Catholic Care have been invited to attend and to give a presentation on Aged Care Services within the area. There will be an opportunity over lunch to ask any questions you may have.

Bookings are essential—new date to be advised.

Contact **Barry Duggan 0411 236 616**

Email: barryjohnduggan@gmail.com or

John Driscoll 0419 405 681

Email: jedriscoll188@gmail.com

SILVER CIRCLE

Results for 5 July 2021

1st Prize: R Wilson

2nd Prize: C Farraway

SAVE OUR GRAVES ONLINE PETITION

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP has recently launched a **Save Our Graves online petition** to put pressure on the NSW Government to reverse its decision to exclude faith and charitable groups from the management of cemeteries in NSW that operate on Crown land.

The government's decision is a serious attack on religious freedom and raises significant questions as to the appropriateness of handing over the management of cemeteries to a bureaucracy that has no experience in providing comfort to grieving families or the management of burial grounds.

An online petition page has been established at www.saveourgraves.com.au and you are encouraged to sign this petition and circulate it to family and friends in NSW.

REFLECTIONS FROM SR KERRY YEAR OF ST JOSEPH

In the year of St Joseph we are reminded that *'Work is a means of participating in the work of salvation.....to develop our talents and abilities, and to put them at the service of society.* Pope Francis

Joseph instilled strength which gave order, peace and courage that helped others complete their work.

11 JULY 2021 — FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B)

First Reading — Amos 7:12-15

Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, said to Amos, 'Go away, seer;' get back to the land of Judah; earn your bread there, do your prophesying there. We want no more prophesying in Bethel; this is the royal sanctuary, the national temple.' 'I was no prophet, neither did I belong to any of the brotherhoods of prophets,' Amos replied to Amaziah 'I was a shepherd, and looked after sycamores: but it was the Lord who took me from herding the flock, and the Lord who said, "Go, prophesy to my people Israel."'"

Responsorial Psalm — Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace, peace for his people.
His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land. R.
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven. R.
3. The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps. R.

Second Reading — Ephesians 1:3-14

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all the spiritual blessings of heaven in Christ. Before the world was made, he chose us, chose us in Christ, to be holy and spotless, and to live through love in his presence, determining that we should become his adopted sons, through Jesus Christ for his own kind purposes, to make us praise the glory of his grace, his free gift to us in the Beloved, in whom, through his blood, we gain our freedom, the forgiveness of our sins.

Such is the richness of the grace which he has showered on us in all wisdom and insight. He has let us know the mystery of his purpose, the hidden plan he so kindly made in Christ from the beginning to act upon when the times had run their course to the end: that he would bring everything together under Christ, as head, everything in the heavens and everything on earth. And it is in him that we were claimed as God's own, chosen from the beginning, under the predetermined plan of the one who guides all things as he decides by his own will; chosen to be, for his greater glory, the people who would put their hopes in Christ before he came.

Now you too, in him, have heard the message of the truth and the good news of your salvation, and have believed it; and you too have been stamped with the seal of the Holy Spirit of the Promise, the pledge of our inheritance which brings freedom for those whom God has taken for his own, to make his glory praised.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia Alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlightened the eyes of our heart that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called. Alleluia!

Gospel — Mark 6:7-13

Jesus made a tour round the villages, teaching. Then he summoned the Twelve and began to send them out in pairs giving them authority over the unclean spirits. And he instructed them to take nothing for the journey except a staff – no bread, no haversack, no coppers for their purses. They were to wear sandals but, he added, 'Do not take a spare tunic.' And he said to them, 'If you enter a house anywhere, stay there until you leave the district. And if any place does not welcome you and people refuse to listen to you, as you walk away shake off the dust from under your feet as a sign to them.' So they set off to preach repentance; and they cast out many devils, and anointed many sick people with oil and cured them.