

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/



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School Principal: Mrs Pauline Chrostowski

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

Parish Office: Email: unanderra@dow.org.au
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EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B) – 1 AUGUST 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.

Message from Fr Duane

It is good to be back “with” you. I am deeply grateful to Sister Kerry for her wonderful leadership during my leave, including providing lovely reflections in the bulletin - which gratefully she will continue to provide. I am grateful also to other parishioners who took on extra work in my absence (or were prepared to do so). Day 1 of my annual leave coincided with day 1 of lockdown! I found this to be frustrating timing at first, but later appreciated the fact that it ensured that I had a quiet and restful 4 weeks, which was actually what I needed in order to be refreshed physically and spiritually.

I know that many of you are struggling in various ways with the now extended lockdown. The first thing I want to say is let us pray daily and sincerely for our civil leaders. I know some are frustrated with the government for various reasons - either for being too ready to implement lockdown measures, or too slow to implement lockdown measures, or other specific aspects of policy. While we do of course have every right to criticize government decisions (in a safe and sensible manner), the first thing we should do is to pray for them. When they entered into politics, none of them would ever have imagined that they would have to make life and death decisions affecting so many lives in so many ways. I cannot imagine the weight of the burden they must be carrying. May God grant them the strength and guidance they need at this time.

During this past week I met with the Parish Pastoral Councils (PPCs) of St Therese and Immaculate Conception via Zoom. I am continually impressed by their wisdom, flexibility and resilience in responding to continual challenges to their plans. For now the immediate priority for the PPCs is to do all we can to ensure the well-being of all of our parishioners at this difficult time. To this end, representatives from both PPCs have formed a working group to co-ordinate a “care team”, with the ultimate aim of reaching out to as many parishioners as possible via phone calls to check in and offer friendship, support and a listening ear. To this end, we ask you all to consider the following questions:

1. Would you like to join the care team? If so, please contact unanderra@dow.org.au and we will provide more information.
2. Are you aware of anyone (including yourselves) who would especially appreciate receiving a phone call from the care team? If so, please provide the name and contact details (if someone other than yourself please ensure to get their permission for us to do so).

Finally, one shared grief for us all is the inability for us to come together as one to celebrate the Mass. It is a grief I share with you all as I celebrate daily Mass in an empty church. These circumstances give new relevance to the words of Pope St Paul VI in his encyclical “Mysterium Fidei – the Mystery of Faith”, when he wrote “each and every Mass is not something private, even if a priest celebrates it privately; instead, it is an act of Christ and of the Church”. I find that it is during the Mass that I am most keenly aware that we are still “in Communion” with each other through the Spirit of Christ we share - even if we can’t see each other for a while. It brings me great comfort to celebrate daily Christ’s victory over suffering and death, and to know that he will lead us all through this dark time. Thanks to the live stream team we will recommence the Sunday 5pm live stream Mass from St Therese, since current restrictions allow a priest and essential live stream workers to come together for this purpose, and I look forward to being “with” you then. Be assured of my daily prayers for you all, and as always but especially now feel free to contact me or Sister Kerry for any pastoral needs.

Fr Duane Fernandez

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Bill McKechnie, Marcel Fernandez
Sr Mavis (Sebastian) Hanlon
Barbara Bourke

Anniversaries

Sr Sheila Curnow RSJ, Cd Edward Clancy
Bonnie Miller, Bernard Gillis
Geoff Goodwin, Frank Toohy
Geraldine Dries

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,

Welcome back to Fr Duane! Last week there a Zoom meeting for the sacramental team and it was good to 'see' Fr Duane looking refreshed and renewed.

This Sunday is 'support your priest' Sunday. [This isn't Fr Duane's creation!] St John Vianney was a French priest who died in France on the 4th August, 1859. St John Vianney is the Patron Saint of Priests. We mark 'Support your Priest Sunday' near to the feast of St John Vianney.

Some years back it was decided by the Principal of the school not to exchange gifts for Christmas. Instead the principal put a large envelope in the staff room with the name of the staff member written on an envelope. These envelopes were there for about two weeks. During this time each staff member was invited to leave a note in the envelope and writing a quality they admired in this person. This took time and effort; buying a gift would have been much easier!

At the final staff meeting for the year the Principal distributed the envelopes to each person named. We had quiet time to read what others had written about us.

I remember I was more than surprised to read what others wrote. I was surprised because the gift that was often mentioned was a gift I didn't realise others had noticed or experienced. I valued the gift that was frequently mentioned but delighted and pleased it was being lived in my life. It was a wonderful exercise in affirmation and gratitude.

Acknowledging the goodness of others doesn't come easy when it comes to expressing it. This may be a little foreign to us.

Are you ready for a challenge? I am going to suggest that you think about a priest who has influenced your life, gifted you, assisted you in time of need, has had an impact on the way you live, etc. Are you up to sending an email or text, even a mailed letter expressing your gratitude for the impact that person has had in your life? Let's celebrate in some way 'Support your Priest Sunday.'

And while we are at it..... A very Happy 40th Birthday Fr Duane. May you celebrate the gift you are. The 2nd August is a wonderful day! Happy birthday!

Always with my thanks and prayers for the gift we are to each other.

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.

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME – AIRS SUNDAY 1 AUGUST 2021 –

On the Journey this week: Fr John Paul Escarlan asks are our motives for following Jesus like the people of the gospel, wanting miracles to fulfil their earthly needs. Mother Hilda ponders the constant use of “yeah” in conversations, even with God. Fr Dave Callaghan says our interpretation of the bible depends on how we see God’s character. Listen at jcr.org.au



GET CONNECTED WITH WHAT IS ON AROUND THE DIOCESE

Every week, there are many great opportunities to be part of special events, courses, free resources and to nurture and encourage you and your family in your faith. A simple way of staying informed and connected is to subscribe at <https://dow.sh/stayingconnected> to receive regular stay connected updates or visit <https://dow.sh/weeklybulletin> to see a full list of notices sent to Parishes weekly

VOCATION NEWS



We are challenged today to seek what will last. Give Jesus, the Bread of Life, your priority and you will always be satisfied. (John 6:24-35). If you want to talk about your discernment, please contact the Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Duane Fernandez at vocations@dow.org.au

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2021

The decision has been made to **postpone the Sacrament of Confirmation to Term 4** 2021 (conditional upon the COVID restrictions easing). Dates for this will be confirmed early term 4, when more information is available.

With the decision being made to postpone the Sacrament of Confirmation it is now necessary for us to move **First Holy Communion to early 2022**.

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

IT'S BACK!! ST THERESE LIVE STREAMED MASS

From Sunday August 1st, the live stream team will stream Sunday 5pm Mass at St Therese for you all. According to the current Covid restrictions only those necessary for the live streaming will be able to physically attend, but we hope all connect via the live stream.

SENIOR'S LUNCH - NEW DATE TO BE ADVISED

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.

Contact **Barry Duggan 0411 236 616**

Email: barryjohnduggan@gmail.com or

John Driscoll 0419 405 681

Email: jedriscoll188@gmail.com

SILVER CIRCLE

Results for 26 July 2021

1st Prize: P Cundy

2nd Prize: H Briffa

NATIONAL VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK - SUNDAY 1 AUGUST 2021

Each and every one of us has been called by name through our baptism to follow Jesus and serve God and all people in our own unique way. For many that is marriage; for some priesthood and religious life; for some single life. Whether we are still discerning God’s call or seeking to live out His call more faithfully in our lives, make sure this week is a time of deepening of our commitment to follow Jesus in every aspect of our lives.

Please pray for those in formation for priesthood in our Diocese: **James Arblaster, Sinh Le, Joseph Nguyen, Darren McDowell and Seth Harsh**. If anyone would like help discerning God’s call in their lives, please contact Fr Duane Fernandez, Vocations Director at: vocations@dow.org.au

SUPPORT YOUR PRIEST SUNDAY

This year, Parousia, along with Divine Renovation Australasia, would like to announce that 'Support Your Priest Sunday' will be held on **Sunday 1 August 2021**. Support Your Priest Sunday is a day of significance for all Catholics, as we acknowledge the tireless work of all priests around the world. It will take place each year around the feast of St John Vianney, patron of priests. Here is an explainer [video](#) by the Co-Director of Parousia and National Coordinator of Divine Renovation Australasia, Kevin Bailey AM.

Register for free to receive the [daily novena prayers](#).

1 AUGUST 2021 — EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B)

First Reading — Exodus 16:2-4,12-15 *I will rain bread from heaven upon you.*

The whole community of the sons of Israel began to complain against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness and said to them, 'Why did we not die at the Lord's hand in the land of Egypt, when we were able to sit down to pans of meat and could eat bread to our heart's content! As it is, you have brought us to this wilderness to starve this whole company to death!'

Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Now I will rain down bread for you from the heavens. Each day the people are to go out and gather the day's portion; I propose to test them in this way to see whether they will follow my law or not.

'I have heard the complaints of the sons of Israel. Say this to them, "Between the two evenings you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have bread to your heart's content. Then you will learn that I, the Lord, am your God."'

And so it came about: quails flew up in the evening, and they covered the camp; in the morning there was a coating of dew all round the camp. When the coating of dew lifted, there on the surface of the desert was a thing delicate, powdery, as fine as hoarfrost on the ground. When they saw this, the sons of Israel said to one another, 'What is that?' not knowing what it was. 'That' said Moses to them 'is the bread the Lord gives you to eat.'

Responsorial Psalm — **The Lord gave them bread from heaven.**

1. The things we have heard and understood, the things our fathers have told us,
these we will not hide from their children but will tell them to the next generation:
the glories of the Lord and his might . R.
2. He commanded the clouds above and opened the gates of heaven.
He rained down manna for their food, and gave them bread from heaven. R.
3. Mere men ate the bread of angels. He sent them abundance of food;
So he brought them to his holy land, to the mountain which his right hand had won. R.

Second Reading — Ephesians 4:17,20-24 *Put on the new person that has been created in God's Image.*

I want to urge you in the name of the Lord, not to go on living the aimless kind of life that pagans live. Now that is hardly the way you have learnt from Christ, unless you failed to hear him properly when you were taught what the truth is in Jesus. You must give up your old way of life; you must put aside your old self, which gets corrupted by following illusory desires. Your mind must be renewed by a spiritual revolution so that you can put on the new self that has been created in God's way, in the goodness and holiness of the truth.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia Alleluia! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Alleluia!

Gospel — John 6:24-35 *Whoever comes to me will never be hungry; whoever believes in me will never thirst.*

When the people saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into boats and crossed to Capernaum to look for Jesus. When they found him on the other side, they said to him, 'Rabbi, when did you come here?' Jesus answered:

'I tell you most solemnly, you are not looking for me because you have seen the signs
but because you had all the bread you wanted to eat.

Do not work for food that cannot last, but work for food that endures to eternal life,
the kind of food the Son of Man is offering you, for on him the Father, God himself, has set his seal.'

Then they said to him, 'What must we do if we are to do the works that God wants?' Jesus gave them this answer, 'This is working for God: you must believe in the one he has sent.' So they said, 'What sign will you give to show us that we should believe in you? What work will you do? Our fathers had manna to eat in the desert; as scripture says: He gave them bread from heaven to eat.' Jesus answered:

'I tell you most solemnly, it was not Moses who gave you bread from heaven,
it is my Father who gives you the bread from heaven,
the true bread; for the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven
and gives life to the world.'

'Sir,' they said 'give us that bread always.' Jesus answered:

'I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never be hungry;
he who believes in me will never thirst.'