

# PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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

[www.unanderraparish.org.au](http://www.unanderraparish.org.au)

[www.facebook.com/Immaculate-Conception-Unanderra-Parish-102440924742769/](https://www.facebook.com/Immaculate-Conception-Unanderra-Parish-102440924742769/)



**Parish Priest:** Fr Duane Fernandez  
Email: [Duane.Fernandez@dow.org.au](mailto:Duane.Fernandez@dow.org.au)  
Mobile: 0414 626 357

**Polish Chaplain:** Fr Jerzy Slowinski  
Email: [slowinski54@gmail.com](mailto:slowinski54@gmail.com)  
Mobile: 0410 225 975

**Parish Assistant:** Sr Kerry Gardiner  
Email: [Kerry.Gardiner@sosj.org.au](mailto:Kerry.Gardiner@sosj.org.au)  
Mobile: 0421 463 871

**Parish Pastoral Council President:** Mark Walsh  
Email: [Mark.Walsh@bluescopesteel.com](mailto: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 Melissa Bridges (Wed/Fri)

**Parish Office:** Email: [unanderra@dow.org.au](mailto:unanderra@dow.org.au)  
Website: [www.unanderraparish.org.au](http://www.unanderraparish.org.au)  
Phone: 4271 1068  
Fax: 4271 1298

## ST MARY OF THE CROSS (YEAR B) – 8 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*

Thank you to the volunteers who have responded to our new Care Team initiative across our two parishes. We now have a total of 12 volunteers – a good number! At this stage we are not calling for more volunteers, but are always open to receiving new requests for calls. Lockdown is also a perfect time for us to step up our social media presence. Our Parish Social Media Team kicked off during last year's lockdown and has been doing wonderful work. We are now looking for more volunteers to take it to another level, so that we can provide more and more opportunities for us to connect with each other and with the broader community online. If you can provide us with recipients for the Care Team to call, or if you are willing to join the Social Media Team, contact Melissa at [unanderra@dow.org.au](mailto:unanderra@dow.org.au).

Finally, I am very grateful for the warm messages of welcome and birthday wishes from parishioners during this past week. Thank you also to Sister Kerry for her kind words in last week's bulletin. I begin my message this week by returning the favour! This Sunday we celebrate the Feast of St Mary MacKillop, our first canonised Australian saint. It is a timely feast for us, as we are inspired by her example of complete trust in God's providence, and helped by her prayers at this difficult time for our nation and our world. It is also a time for us to celebrate the Sisters of St Joseph which is one of the lasting fruits of St Mary MacKillop's legacy, including our own Sister Kerry. Let us take this opportunity to wish Sister Kerry a happy Feast Day, and to express our gratitude to her for the gift that she is to our Parish community, and our whole Diocese in her many roles. As we conclude Vocations Awareness week with the feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, we say thank you Sister Kerry for your "yes" to God's call in your life, and for your continued "yes" each and every day in bringing God's love to so many in our community. St Mary of the Cross MacKillop: pray for us!

**Fr Duane Fernandez—Parish Priest**

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

#### Recently Deceased

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

#### Anniversaries

Joseph Fenech, Ron Gandy

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

[unanderra@dow.org.au](mailto: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,

Today we celebrate the feast of our first Australian born saint, Mary MacKillop.

It is very easy to think of saints as people who lived a rather cosy life. How wrong we are!

Mary MacKillop was the eldest of seven siblings. Life was far from smooth sailing. Hardship and poverty were part of the daily life of the MacKillops. Mary's dad lacked financial means. The extended family supported Mary's family in many times of difficulty and hardship.

Mary founded the Sisters of St Joseph. Again, hardship and poverty, in so many ways, continued to be part of Mary's life. Mary was even excommunicated from the church. Mary knew opposition from within and outside the church. Mary would refuse to attack those who undermined her work or falsely accused her. Mary knew what it meant to forgive. This gift of forgiveness she so readily shared with others. Mary was a courageous and wonderful woman.

Last year the Diocese produced a liturgy to honour St Mary of the Cross, MacKillop. If you would like to experience many of the qualities that Mary lived throughout her life, sit quietly with her Litany from this liturgy. The litany commences 16 minutes into the clip. As you reflect on her qualities what do you recognise within yourself? What quality do you desire?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VEu2j1uqdYk&t=282s>

Mary was an amazing woman. Perhaps our prayer for ourselves and our parish this week could be that from the litany:-

Mary MacKillop, give us your passion.

May we respond to all those in need.

**Sr Kerry Gardiner**

## LIVE STREAMED MASSES



Sunday 5pm Mass at West Wollongong with Fr Duane continues to be live-streamed every week:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/ICASTImmaculateConceptionStThereseParishes>



**MASS  
FOR YOU**  
*at home*

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

## 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

## VOCATION NEWS



Jesus continued to draw those who believe. Our world is hungry and thirsty for the Bread of Life. Will you share your faith? Consider ministry in the Church. (John 6:41-51) If you want to talk about your discernment, please contact the Diocesan

Vocations Director, Fr Duane Fernandez at

[vocations@dow.org.au](mailto: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

## ONLINE ALPHA

Catholic Youth Ministry Wollongong is holding an online youth alpha series for all young people **aged 13 to 18 years old**.

Youth Alpha is a video series that tackles questions on faith, life, and God. The weekly online youth group will run from **7pm to 8pm each Friday** starting soon. For more information and to register your interest, please visit <https://forms.gle/oXmRjx6QkNeydihs8>

## THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME – AIRS SUNDAY 8 AUGUST 2021 –

On the Journey this week: Fr Tony Alex MGL says life is about today, it's not about tomorrow that hasn't arrived yet or the past that holds us back. Pray and be happy, using prayer to put our anxieties in context. Plus, Mother Hilda on a broken heart, Michelle Vass uses the psalms to pray, and Torrien Lau on being compassionate. Plus, more great music! Listen at [jcr.org.au](http://jcr.org.au)



## 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](mailto:barryjohnduggan@gmail.com) or**

**John Driscoll 0419 405 681**

**Email: [jedriscoll188@gmail.com](mailto:jedriscoll188@gmail.com)**

## SILVER CIRCLE

Results for 2 August 2021

1st Prize: P Cundy

2nd Prize: J Green

## NATIONAL VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK - SUNDAY 1 AUGUST 2021

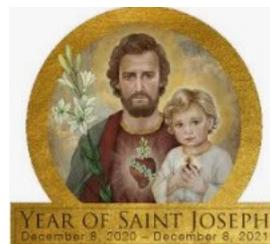
Each and every one of us has been called by name through our baptism to follow Jesus and serve God and all people in our own unique way. For many that is marriage; for some priesthood and religious life; for some single life. Whether we are still discerning God's call or seeking to live out His call 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](mailto:vocations@dow.org.au)

## REFLECTIONS FROM SR KERRY

### –YEAR OF ST JOSEPH

Joseph guide us in our work. Encourage our efforts to create a just, kind and inclusive society. May we be open and respond freely and joyously to the urgings of your Spirit in our everyday lives. Amen.



## 8 AUGUST 2021 — ST MARY OF THE CROSS (MACKILLOP)

### First Reading — 1 Kings 17:8-16

And then the word of the Lord came to Elijah, 'Up and go to Zarephath, a Sidonian town, and stay there. I have ordered a widow there to give you food.' So he went off to Sidon. And when he reached the city gate, there was a widow gathering sticks; addressing her he said, 'Please bring me a little water in a vessel for me to drink.' She was setting off to bring it when he called after her. 'Please' he said 'bring me a scrap of bread in your hand.' 'As the Lord your God lives,' she replied 'I have no baked bread, but only a handful of meal in a jar and a little oil in a jug; I am just gathering a stick or two to go and prepare this for myself and my son to eat, and then we shall die.' But Elijah said to her, 'Do not be afraid, go and do as you have said; but first make a little scone of it for me and bring it to me, and then make some for yourself and for your son. For thus the Lord speaks, the God of Israel:

"Jar of meal shall not be spent,  
jug of oil shall not be emptied,  
before the day when the Lord sends  
rain on the face of the earth."

The woman went and did as Elijah told her and they ate the food, she, himself and her son. The jar of meal was not spent nor the jug of oil emptied, just as the Lord had foretold through Elijah.

### Responsorial Psalm — My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.

1. O God, you are my God, for you I long;  
for you my soul is thirsting. My body pines for you  
like a dry, weary land without water. R.
2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary to see your strength and your glory.  
For your love is better than life, my lips will speak your praise. R.
3. So I will bless you all my life, in your name I will lift up my hands.  
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, my mouth shall praise you with joy. R.
4. On my bed I remember you. On you I muse through the night  
for you have been my help; in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. R.

### Second Reading — Colossians 3:12-17

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you, and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia Alleluia! Many women were there by the cross, watching from a distance, the same women who had followed Jesus and looked after him. Alleluia!

### Gospel — Matthew 6:25-34

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I am telling you not to worry about your life and what you are to eat, nor about your body and how you are to clothe it. Surely life means more than food, and the body more than clothing! Look at the birds in the sky. They do not sow or reap or gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they are? Can any of you, for all his worrying, add one single cubit to his span of life? And why worry about clothing? Think of the flowers growing in the fields; they never have to work or spin; yet I assure you that not even Solomon in all his regalia was robed like one of these. Now if that is how God clothes the grass in the field which is there today and thrown into the furnace tomorrow, will he not much more look after you, you men of little faith? So do not worry; do not say, "What are we to eat? What are we to drink? How are we to be clothed?" It is the pagans who set their hearts on all these things. Your heavenly Father knows you need them all. Set your hearts on his kingdom first, and on his righteousness, and all these other things will be given you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow: tomorrow will take care of itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.'