

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
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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
Website: www.unanderraparish.org.au
Phone: 4271 1068
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THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY – 15 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

This Sunday we celebrate the Feast of the Assumption – the glorious mystery of Mary, Mother of God in the flesh, being raised body and soul to eternal glory through her Son. It is a timely Feast: a mystery filled with hope, that though this life is a mingling of joys and sorrows as it was for Mary, the last word will be perfect and eternal joy! May Mary, who trusted in God with her whole being throughout her life, pray for us that we too may grow in faith, hope and love, and follow where she has led.

Last week I received the sad news that Magda, one of our parish secretaries, will be leaving us to move to a new job. Magda has been a wonderful, friendly presence in the office for the past 2 years, and an extremely efficient and competent secretary. It has been a joy to work with Magda, and I know that Fr Jerzy, Melissa, Sue Briscoe, and many parishioners have greatly valued Magda's presence and her work during this past 2 years. Magda will continue working until late August, during which time she will also be training Melissa to take on her tasks, and we will publish the new office hours at a later date. For now, let us thank Magda for her wonderful work in service of our parish, and wish her all the best in the new challenge she is undertaking – Magda we hope you stay in touch and know that you will always be welcome at Unanderra Parish!

Fr Duane Fernandez—Parish Priest

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Barbara Bourke
Fr Peter Caruana

Anniversaries

Kenneth John Wood, Lorraine Brame
Sr Anne King RSJ, Sr Mark Boyle RSJ,
Cecil Clarke, Beatrice Williams,
Gloria Sheppard, Tim Fisher

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,

One of the beauties of living in the parish house is that when I look out of the chapel window, I see the escarpment. I walk out the front and back doors and the escarpment embraces me. The view is beautiful in whatever season we are in. I particularly like them when the mist and fog partly cover them. Their beauty is breath taking. Mountains evoke beauty and embrace.

Sitting on the bus as we travelled the Holy Land, mountains suddenly took on a very different image for me. I was taken by the starkness and the barrenness. I remember well thinking that for anyone walking these mountains in the day of Jesus would not have experienced the feelings that the escarpment evokes in me. It was harsh, exposed, perhaps even frightening, and uninviting. The gospels now reflected very differently in my mind.

Mary in the gospel today goes to visit Elizabeth. We hear how the child leapt in Elizabeth's womb. We listen to the story of both pregnant women. This gospel account speaks to me of love and sacrifice, caring and readiness to just be there, the gift of presence and the ability 'to be with.'

It makes me ask myself: How alive and life giving is the womb of my heart? Can you too ponder this question?

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.

SOCIAL MEDIA TEAM

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

VOCATION NEWS



Our communion with Jesus unites us with all believers. As you participate in the Eucharist pray that the Church may be strengthened as the Body of Christ. (John 6:51-58).

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

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 15 AUGUST 2021 –

On the Journey this week: Fr John Foley SJ says Mary had a lifelong habit of listening to God's love. The feast of the Assumption salutes this trust and openness in Mary. Mother Hilda says God whispers in our ear every morning as we wake, "have a nice day!" And Fr Dave says Luke's gospel passage about Jesus bringing division is about God's love & love always brings division, because it demands a response, either acceptance or rejection. Listen at jcr.org.au



PARISH CARE TEAM

Thank you to our Parish Care team who continue to make calls to parishioners to check in during this difficult time of lockdown. If you would like to receive a call and haven't yet received one please let us know - or if you know someone in this position, with their permission - by contacting Melissa at unanderra@dow.org.au

SILVER CIRCLE

Results for 9 August 2021

1st Prize: H Briffa

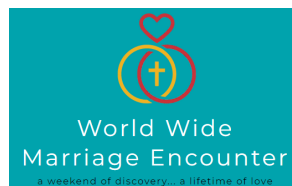
2nd Prize: K Heffernan

SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT

We celebrate **Social Justice Sunday on 29 August**. The Australian Bishops' Social Justice Statement, Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor, invites us to join in responding to Pope Francis' invitation to take a seven-year journey towards total ecological sustainability guided by seven Laudato Si' Goals. The Statement provides theological foundations to ground and inspire our efforts to care for creation while responding to the needs of the disadvantaged and excluded. To read more:

<https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2021/06/24/social-justice-statement-2021-22/>

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT WEEKEND



We are offering an opportunity for you to learn to become the best version of yourselves together and live your best life in love!

Come and join us on **September 10 - 12, 2021** for a Virtual Marriage Encounter Weekend via Zoom. Open to married couples, priests & religious. Book online at www.wwme.org.au or contact Christine & Terry Mahony on 0490 774 419 or nswbookings@wwme.org.au

15 AUGUST 2021 — THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

First Reading — Apocalypse 11:19,12:1-6,10 *A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman adorned with the sun.*

The sanctuary of God in heaven opened and the ark of the covenant could be seen inside it. Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman, adorned with the sun, standing on the moon, and with the twelve stars on her head for a crown. She was pregnant, and in labour, crying aloud in the pangs of childbirth. Then a second sign appeared in the sky, a huge red dragon which had seven heads and ten horns, and each of the seven heads crowned with a coronet. Its tail dragged a third of the stars from the sky and dropped them to the earth, and the dragon stopped in front of the woman as she was having the child, so that he could eat it as soon as it was born from its mother. The woman brought a male child into the world, the son who was to rule all the nations with an iron sceptre, and the child was taken straight up to God and to his throne, while the woman escaped into the desert, where God had made a place of safety ready.

Then I heard a voice shout from heaven, 'Victory and power and empire for ever have been won by our God, and all authority for his Christ.'

Responsorial Psalm — **The queen stands at your right hand arrayed in gold.**

1. The daughters of kings are among your loved ones.
On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir.
Listen, O daughter, give ear to my words: forget your own people and your father's house. R.
2. So will the king desire your beauty: He is your lord, pay homage to him.
They are escorted amid gladness and joy; they pass within the palace of the king. R.

Second Reading — 1 Corinthians 15:20-26 *As Christ will be brought to life as the first fruits and then those who belong to him.*

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order: Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death, for everything is to be put under his feet.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia Alleluia! Mary is taken up to heaven, and the angels of God shout for joy. Alleluia!

Gospel — Luke 1:39-56 *The Almighty has done great things for me.*

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

And Mary said:

'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord
and my spirit exults in God my saviour;
because he has looked upon his lowly handmaid.
Yes, from this day forward all generations will call me blessed,
for the Almighty has done great things for me.
Holy is his name,
and his mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear him.
He has shown the power of his arm,
he has routed the proud of heart.
He has pulled down princes from their thrones and exalted the lowly.
The hungry he has filled with good things, the rich sent empty away.
He has come to the help of Israel his servant, mindful of his mercy
– according to the promise he made to our ancestors –
of his mercy to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then went back home.