

# PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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

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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](mailto:unanderra@dow.org.au)  
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## TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B) – 22 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 has been a difficult week to read the news, to say the least. Not only is the pandemic worsening, but we have witnessed the tragic events in Afghanistan, the full impact of which are impossible for us to fully imagine. It can be tempting to be overwhelmed, or to despair; or on the other hand to become somewhat numb and indifferent. I encourage all of us to strive to avoid both temptations.

It is important for us to be affected by the events in Afghanistan, especially in the knowledge that our own brothers and sisters in Christ in that region now face a real prospect of violent persecution simply for their faith in Christ. We should be moved by their plight; but **not moved to despair**. Firstly, we should be moved to pray. Let us never underestimate the power of prayer! Persistent, united prayer always makes a difference for those for whom we pray – and for us who pray. Prayer reminds us that Christ's victory has conquered all of the darkness in our world – and this present darkness will not have the last word. Prayer also creates a readiness in us to act when God offers an opportunity. I encourage you to read and support the recommendations of the Australian Bishops' Office for Social Justice, and let's look for any opportunities to support those in need in Afghanistan (or from Afghanistan) in coming weeks and months.

As for the growing dangers of the pandemic in our place, let us not grow tired of praying for the sick and the suffering, for those who have died and their loved ones, and for those struggling with the lockdown measures. Let's pray with thanksgiving for the experts who have provided the vaccines by which our health and the health of the community can be protected. Let's also pray for our civil leaders, who are bearing a burden that I can hardly imagine at this time. Finally let's seek to be creative and ready to act in whatever small ways may be possible to bring Christ's love to those closest to us, and to reach out to those we may believe to be isolated, during these difficult times.

**Fr Duane Fernandez—Parish Priest**

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

#### Recently Deceased

Fr Peter Caruana  
Dot Philpott, Barry Bolt  
Goitom Woldermariam  
Filomena Marcuro

#### Anniversaries

Marjory Dean, Terry Dean  
Joseph Davis, Thomas Brown,  
Nancy Bugeja, Mary Evans

### 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,

My heart has been rather heavy this week. Memories can do that to you.

You may not have taken too much notice, but Walgett, along with many western and north western towns, have been mentioned quite a bit in the news. It evoked memories. Walgett is dear to my heart and I can proudly say it is the only place where I have had two appointments, many years apart.

I was at home one late afternoon after a very hot day. I was looking out the window and coming towards me was what I can only describe as a huge, high wall of sand. I was to experience a dust storm like no other. Literally you could see nothing except this high, solid wall-like creation that was moving towards me. You couldn't see through it, over it, or under it.

On another occasion we had experienced a good drop of rain, which is very unusual. Puddles were like little pools on the road. It was noteworthy. As I was going into the home of a deceased indigenous man, I jumped the puddles. The family greeted me warmly and I very casually said how wonderful it was to see the rain. I wasn't ready for the response. With sacredness the wife said, "Sister, it is wonderful for us to see the rain. I now know that Eric is at peace and his footprints have been washed from the earth." Rhonda continued, "Sister, if we don't have rain, a dust storm does the same thing." Wow! Rain and dust storms have taken on a beautiful meaning for me.

Often, we have dust storms in our own lives, but I pray that we too have the eyes to 'Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.'

**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**

## REFLECTIONS FROM SR KERRY YEAR OF ST JOSEPH

Prayer to St Joseph

Joseph, we turn in prayer to you. Enable us to heed God's call to raise 'our consciousness of love and to seek new possibilities wherever we are that will heal, include and untether. Gift us with humility of heart and the wisdom of silence. Amen.



## 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](mailto:unanderra@dow.org.au)

## VOCATION NEWS



*Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.*

Choose to follow and serve God with your whole life. (John 6:60-69) 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 22 AUGUST 2021 -

On the Journey this week: Fr John Foley SJ says often a delicious significance is hidden behind events that are described in a bewildering way in the gospel. Plus, Mother Hilda on the impact of adults praying in front of their children has, and Michelle Vass says the psalms are ideal prayers during the pandemic. Listen at [jcr.org.au](http://jcr.org.au)



## ST PIUS X PRIMARY SCHOOL - NEWS

Mr Philip Moore has been working in the Diocesan Schools Offices during the past two years, though he has until now held the official role of Principal of St Pius X Catholic Primary School, Unanderra. Philip has now decided to permanently relinquish his Principalship at St Pius X. Mrs Pauline Chrostowski has done a wonderful job during this past two years as Acting Principal of St Pius X, and continues to build a very positive relationship between the Parish and School including in her role as secretary of the Parish Pastoral Council. On behalf of the Parish Community we thank Philip for his past work for the school, and Pauline for all she is bringing to the school and the Parish at present. The official recruitment process for the permanent Principal position for St Pius X will now commence.

## SILVER CIRCLE

Results for the final draw

1st Prize: F Cachia

2nd Prize: B Rice

## 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](http://www.wwme.org.au) or contact Christine & Terry Mahony on 0490 774 419 or [nswbookings@wwme.org.au](mailto:nswbookings@wwme.org.au)

## 22 AUGUST 2021 — TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B)

### **First Reading** — Joshua 24:1-2,15-18 *We will serve the Lord God, because he is our God.*

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people, 'If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.'

The people answered, 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord and serving other gods! Was it not the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed? What is more, the Lord drove all those peoples out before us, as well as the Amorites who used to live in this country. We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

### **Responsorial Psalm** — **Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.**

1. I will bless the Lord at all times, his praise always on my lips;  
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast. The humble shall hear and be glad. R.
2. The Lord turns his face against the wicked to destroy their remembrance from the earth.  
The Lord turns his eyes to the just and his ears to their appeal. R.
3. They call and the Lord hears and rescues them in all their distress.  
The Lord is close to the broken-hearted; those whose spirit is crushed he will save. R.
4. Many are the trials of the just man but from them all the Lord will rescue him.  
He will keep guard over all his bones, not one of his bones shall be broken. R.
5. Evil brings death to the wicked; those who hate the good are doomed.  
The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants. Those who hide in him shall not be condemned. R.

### **Second Reading** — Ephesians 5:21-32 *This is the great mystery, it applies to Christ and the church.*

Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body – and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia Alleluia! Your words Lord are spirit and life: you have the words of everlasting life. Alleluia!

### **Gospel** — John 6:60-69 *The Lord, whom shall we go to? You have the words of everlasting life.*

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before?'

'It is the spirit that gives life,  
the flesh has nothing to offer.  
The words I have spoken to you are spirit  
and they are life.'

'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him.

Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'