

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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Parish School: St Pius X Primary School
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(PO Box 358) Unanderra NSW 2526
Phone: 4271 3550 | Fax: 4272 2954

School Principal: Mrs Pauline Chrostowski

Parish Secretary: Mrs Melissa Bridges (Mon/Wed/Fri)

Parish Office: Email: unanderra@dow.org.au
Website: www.unanderraparish.org.au
Phone: 4271 1068
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TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B) – 12 SEPT 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 Bishop Brian has shared a Pastoral Letter on the subject of the Covid-19 vaccines, which we attach separately with this email. I myself will be fully vaccinated next Sunday, and join the Bishop in encouraging you to do the same, in consultation with your GP. I have seen much confusion about the vaccines especially online, and as Bishop Brian suggests if anyone has concerns about the vaccines from a scientific or health perspective, please discuss them with your GP. If on the other hand you have any concerns from the perspective of faith or morality please don't hesitate to contact me, as some parishioners have already done. Let's continue to pray for each other, for our health professionals, for our leaders, and for those suffering in various ways as a result of this pandemic in Australia and throughout the world.

This Sunday is "**Safeguarding Sunday**" in the Australian Church, marking the conclusion of National Child Protection Week. It is an opportunity for us to re-commit ourselves to ensuring that we do everything in our power as a Church to ensure that every child and vulnerable adult within our communities and beyond will be safe and feel safe at all times. We cannot forget past failures in the Church, but rather with humility ask our merciful God to teach us the lessons of the past. I can assure you that our Diocese has taken strong and decisive action to ensure our Church communities will be equipped and vigilant in protecting children and vulnerable adults against the many dangers so present in our society today. These measures include compulsory annual training in Safeguarding and Professional Standards for anyone in a leadership position in our Diocese, continued guidance and oversight by a highly competent Diocesan Director of Professional Standards and Safeguarding in Ms Asante Viswasam, compliance with the recommendations of the Royal Commission, and more – I encourage you to take the opportunity this week to visit our Diocesan website for more information and resources here <https://www.dow.org.au/safeguarding/>. Let's continue to pray and work to make our Church and broader community places of safety and welcome for all.

Fr Duane Fernandez—Parish Priest

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Jane Barrett, Jereld Dwyer,
Brian Barlow, James Mehl
Alexina Bezzina

Anniversaries

Hazel McNamara, Bh Thomas McCabe
Jose Diaz, Clare Nissen
Antonio Carlotto

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

unanderra@dow.org.au / 4271 1068

Monday: 8:30am-3:30pm

Tuesday: Closed

Wednesday: 8:30am-3:30pm

Thursday: Closed

Friday: 8:30am-3pm

Message from Sr Kerry

Dear Parishioners and Friends of Immaculate Conception Parish Unanderra,

May I continue my story from last week?

After my horrid day and the following days, I don't think my mum ever mentioned again that she had lost total sight in one eye. As for me, I struggled. I struggled with God.

A few days after our visit to the specialist I was chatting to my parish priest. Fr John is a beautiful man. A man who wears many hats and is very busy, but you would think he was just waiting for someone to call out and occupy a little of his time. Fr John asked me how I was. I burst into tears and said, 'God is going too fast for me.' He repeated my words and then asked if he could call over for a chat and a coffee. A couple of hours later Fr John was in the family loungeroom. I couldn't talk. I could only sob. What struck me, and I mean really struck me, was that while I sobbed and sobbed, Fr John just sat there so comfortably in my tears. Fr John revealed to me that morning a beautiful face of God.....and I remember!

Today we are challenged in the readings by the question: 'Who do you say I am?' Who is God for me at this time? How might others see the reflection of God's face through me?

I would like to offer you the following proposal.

Would you consider joining other parishioners by phoning another parishioner or be willing to receive a phone call from a parishioner?

If you would like to do this, I invite you to ring the parish office or contact me [Sr Kerry] and give your name and phone number. I will then contact you with the name of the person you are to ring or the name of the person who will be in touch with you. Once you have contacted your person you might like to contact them each week or once a fortnight.

Let's care for each other during this time of lockdown and be the face of God to one another.

Always with my blessings and prayers,

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

ELECTRONIC PARISH GIVING

We have received requests from parishioners asking how they can financially support the parish of Immaculate Conception during COVID lockdown while unable to attend Sunday mass.

In a previous message from the Parish Finance Council it was strongly recommended that regular contributions be made by **electronic funds transfer**. These can be a one off donation or a regular weekly or monthly contribution.

One off electronic donations can be made directly into the parish bank account: Immaculate Conception Church
BSB: 066-711 Account No: 001789

Regular contributions can be organised by completing the Catholic Development Fund Planned Giving Direct Debit Form on www.dow.org.au/plannedgiving.

Monthly contributions are deducted on the 10th of each month.

If you do choose to organise a regular contribution or make a one off donation, please advise the parish office either by email unanderra@dow.org.au or by contacting the parish office on **4271 1068** so the parish records can be updated. **Cash donations** can be dropped off to the Presbytery during office hours—Mon, Wed and Friday.

VOCATION NEWS



Do you want to follow Jesus? If you lose yourself for Jesus' sake, you will find life. It is worth the cost of your life. (Mark 8:27-35)

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

Fernandez at vocations@dow.org.au

SEASON OF CREATION

The Season of Creation begins September 1, on the designated **World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation**. It concludes on **October 4, the Feast of St. Francis**.

The Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace have created five prayer cards which focus on the themes of the statement. This week's prayer focuses on [A prayer for conversion](#)



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 12 SEPTEMBER 2021 —

On the Journey this week: Fr Patrick Vaughan and Sam Clear both have reflections on the Gospel. Plus, Mother Hilda reminds us that we can console God, our Father, as he looks with distress on the mess of the world by our little acts of kindness and love. Fr Mike Delaney's story of the profound teaching on prayer he learnt from an old bush farmer and Trish McCarthy about life's fragility. Listen at jcr.org.au



CARITAS AUSTRALIA

—YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED



Your support can provide aid and relief to humanitarian crisis, like the one currently unfolding in Afghanistan,

Lebanon and Haiti, where hundreds of thousands of people are now facing displacement, drought, COVID-19 and poverty.

To provide support, you can donate to Caritas Australia's Emergency Response Appeal at <https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/> or by calling 1800 024 413 toll free.

SERVICE NSW—COVID 19 CHECK IN CARD

There is now a quicker and easier way, with Service NSW launching personalised check-in cards to replace scanning in with QR codes for those without smartphones.

The cards contain a unique QR code that holds a person's registered contact details. When they attend a venue, a staff member can scan the card to register their attendance and details, rather than having them fill out a form. The cards are available from [Service NSW online](#), or by calling 13 77 88.

MEN'S KICKSTART PROGRAM: MONDAY NIGHTS 13, 20, 27 SEPTEMBER AND 4 OCTOBER

Starts next week – register now with blokes from right around the Diocese and Australia.

Kickstart is being facilitated by menALIVE for the Diocese of Wollongong, hosted online by Peter Gabauer and Colin Bennett and the menALIVE leaders from the Diocese of Wollongong.

To register go to <https://www.dow.org.au/events/ancmgkickstart>

Kickstart will run on **Monday evenings 13, 20, 27 Sept and 4 Oct from 7.30-8.30pm**. Sessions are short and sharp and a great way for men in lockdown to come together to engage with the theme 'Brothers What must we Do' developed by the ACBC with some excellent keynotes including:

- Man of God: Tomasz Juszczak
- Man of Service: Tim Davis
- Man of Character: Shayne Bennett
- Missioning and Sending: Archbishop Julian Porteous

12 SEPTEMBER 2021 — TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B)

First Reading — Isaiah 50:5-9 *I gave me body to those who struck me*

The Lord has opened my ear.
For my part, I made no resistance,
neither did I turn away.
I offered my back to those who struck me,
my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;
I did not cover my face
against insult and spittle.
The Lord comes to my help,
so that I am untouched by the insults.
So, too, I set my face like flint;
I know I shall not be shamed.
My vindicator is here at hand. Does anyone start proceedings against me?
Then let us go to court together.
Who thinks he has a case against me?
Let him approach me.
The Lord is coming to my help, who will dare to condemn me?

Responsorial Psalm — I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

1. I love the Lord for he has heard the cry of my appeal;
for he turned his ear to me in the day when I called him. R.
2. They surrounded me, the snares of death, with the anguish of the tomb;
they caught me, sorrow and distress. I called on the Lord's name.
O Lord, my God, deliver me! R.
3. How gracious is the Lord, and just; our God has compassion.
The Lord protects the simple hearts; I was helpless so he saved me. R.
4. He has kept my soul from death, my eyes from tears and my feet from stumbling.
I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living. R.

Second Reading — James 2:14-18 *Faith without good deeds is dead.*

Take the case, my brothers, of someone who has never done a single good act but claims that he has faith. Will that faith save him? If one of the brothers or one of the sisters is in need of clothes and has not enough food to live on, and one of you says to them, 'I wish you well; keep yourself warm and eat plenty', without giving them these bare necessities of life, then what good is that? Faith is like that: if good works do not go with it, it is quite dead.

This is the way to talk to people of that kind: 'You say you have faith and I have good deeds; I will prove to you that I have faith by showing you my good deeds – now you prove to me that you have faith without any good deeds to show.'

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia Alleluia! My only glory is the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, which crucifies the world to me and me to the world. Alleluia!

Gospel — Mark 8: 27-35 *You are the Christ... The Son of Man was destined to suffer much.*

Jesus and his disciples left for the villages round Caesarea Philippi. On the way he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say I am?' And they told him. 'John the Baptist,' they said 'others Elijah; others again, one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he asked 'who do you say I am?' Peter spoke up and said to him, 'You are the Christ.' And he gave them strict orders not to tell anyone about him.

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man was destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and to be put to death, and after three days to rise again; and he said all this quite openly. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. But, turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said to him, 'Get behind me, Satan! Because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

He called the people and his disciples to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.'