

# 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/)



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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)  
Website: [www.unanderraparish.org.au](http://www.unanderraparish.org.au)  
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## FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B) – 4 JULY 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.**

## ALL MASSES ARE SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

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 10:30 Sunday and 12:10pm Tuesday to Friday and is available afterwards. This can be found on: <https://livestream.lumenchristi.org.au/>

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday this weekend

This weekend in the Australian Church we celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday. It coincides with NAIDOC WEEK, a time when the whole church comes together to celebrate and acknowledge the gifts of Australia's First Peoples. This Sunday we acknowledge that we are united in our efforts to be steward of God's creation. We combine the knowledge of First Australians with the technology of Western culture to ensure that future generations shall have the opportunity to experience the gifts of God's creation as intended. Let us love, respect and pray with thanks for our Indigenous brothers and sisters, especially this weekend. You are encouraged to visit [catholicreligious.org.au](http://catholicreligious.org.au) for a brief report on the Joint Select Committee on Constitutional recognition relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and the Indigenous Co-Design Process.

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

### Recently Deceased

Maleea McFadden  
Olga Hough

### Anniversaries

Hans Lambert, Eunice Mannix,  
Arthur Williams

## 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.

Welcome to this unusual time we are experiencing. I pray you are all doing well and not finding lockdown too stressful or difficult.

Fr Duane commenced his holidays last weekend but unfortunately, he is also in lockdown and I presume, not enjoying a holiday as such.

Please find attached the readings for the Mass for this coming weekend. As you are aware there will be no celebration of Masses in our church until further notice. You can view Mass on Channel 10 at 6:00am. This same Mass can be found on the following link <https://massforyou.com.au/>

There is a livestream Mass from our Cathedral at 10:30am Sunday. This can be found by clicking the link [livestream.lumenchristi.org.au](http://livestream.lumenchristi.org.au)

This Mass can be viewed any time after the Mass has been livestreamed.

If there are any important pastoral needs, please do not hesitate to contact me on **0421 463 871**. Or by email at [kerry.gardiner@sosj.org.au](mailto:kerry.gardiner@sosj.org.au)

A few weeks back I was at a religious celebration and the Mass was celebrated by our Bishop Brian. A thought from his homily still haunts me. Bishop Brian concluded the homily by asking:

*'How do you live your experience of God?'*

Perhaps we should sit with this thought as we live in these challenging times.

With my blessings and prayers,

**Sr Kerry Gardiner**

## 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.

## POSITION VACANT

**Executive Assistant – Welcoming and Information |  
Catholic Diocese of Wollongong**

Suitably experienced and qualified persons are encouraged to apply for the role of Executive Assistant – Welcoming and Information in the Diocese of Wollongong.

For more information and a detailed role description, please go to [www.dow.org.au/jobs](http://www.dow.org.au/jobs)

Any enquiries please contact Helen Bennett

0407 438 434 or email [recruitment@dow.org.au](mailto:recruitment@dow.org.au)

## VOCATION NEWS



Are there people you know who you would like to encourage to think about religious vocations? What would people think if you became a priest/brother/sister? (Mark 6:1-6) 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)

## ST MARY'S SENIOR ENROLMENTS

Thinking about a change of high school for Years 11 & 12? St Mary's is now enrolling for Senior College in 2022. Come to the **Subject Selection Information Evening on 20 July 2021** from 6pm in the SGN Hall, 15 Harbour St, Wollongong and talk to staff and students about the many courses we offer. You could also apply for a St Mary's Senior Academic Scholarship.

Application forms available online at [www.stmarys.nsw.edu.au](http://www.stmarys.nsw.edu.au)

## 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

## ST THERESE LIVE STREAMED MASS

The 5pm St Therese Mass will **not** be live streamed during the coming weeks as some volunteers are no longer available, and we are looking to simplify our technology during this time. We thank the wonderful volunteers from the live stream Team for their dedication since Covid began.

## THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME – AIRS SUNDAY 4 JULY 2021 –

On the Journey this week: Fr Brian Steele MGL asks are we the same as the Nazarene villagers. Would Jesus be just as amazed at our lack of faith? Mother Hilda compares a deciduous tree to the barren times in our life. Francine Pirola has a top tip on giving freely, without resentment to the other. Fr Dave Callaghan says we are at risk of losing the language & culture of worship but also says there's a simple solution to rescue our culture. Listen at [jcr.org.au](http://jcr.org.au)



## SENIOR'S LUNCH - 21 JULY

You are invited to a get together with St Therese Parish, West Wollongong.

At Figtree Sports (Figgy Bowlo) on **Wednesday 21 July** at 12pm for a 12:30pm start.

A chance to get together for lunch and fellowship.

Catholic Care have been invited to provide a short presentation on Aged Care Services within the area and some information about navigating the My Aged Care system. There will be opportunity to ask any questions that you may have. Everyone is welcome.

Bookings are essential. Please contact **Barry Duggan**, [barryjohnduggan@gmail.com](mailto:barryjohnduggan@gmail.com) (0411 236 616) or

**John Driscoll** [jedriscoll188@gmail.com](mailto:jedriscoll188@gmail.com) (0419 405 681)

## SILVER CIRCLE

Results for 28 June 2021

1st Prize: L Bennett

2nd Prize: B Spain

## SAVE OUR GRAVES ONLINE PETITION

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP has recently launched a **Save Our Graves online petition** to put pressure on the NSW Government to reverse its decision to exclude faith and charitable groups from the management of cemeteries in NSW that operate on Crown land.

The government's decision is a serious attack on religious freedom and raises significant questions as to the appropriateness of handing over the management of cemeteries to a bureaucracy that has no experience in providing comfort to grieving families or the management of burial grounds.

An online petition page has been established at [www.saveourgraves.com.au](http://www.saveourgraves.com.au) and you are encouraged to sign this petition and circulate it to family and friends in NSW.

## 2021 SIGNIFICANT MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARIES MASS

If you are celebrating 25, 40, 50 or 60 years of marriage this year and would like an invitation to the Mass to be celebrated by Bishop Brian Mascord at St John Vianney Co-Cathedral, Fairy Meadow on Sunday, **8 August 2021 at 2pm**, please contact Helen Bennett 4222 2403 or email [helen.bennett@dow.org.au](mailto:helen.bennett@dow.org.au) at the Office of the Bishop by Friday 2 July and an invitation will be sent to you.

## 4 JULY 2021 — FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B)

### First Reading — Ezekiel 2:2-5

The spirit came into me and made me stand up, and I heard the Lord speaking to me. He said, 'Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, to the rebels who have turned against me. Till now they and their ancestors have been in revolt against me. The sons are defiant and obstinate; I am sending you to them, to say, "The Lord says this." Whether they listen or not, this set of rebels shall know there is a prophet among them.'

### Responsorial Psalm — Our eyes are fixed on the Lord, pleading for his mercy.

1. To you have I lifted up my eyes, you who dwell in the heavens;  
my eyes, like the eyes of slaves on the hand of their lords. R.
2. Like the eyes of a servant on the hand of her mistress,  
so our eyes are on the Lord our God till he show us his mercy. R.
3. Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy. We are filled with contempt.  
Indeed all too full is our soul with the scorn of the rich,  
with the proud man's disdain. R.

### Second Reading — 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

In view of the extraordinary nature of these revelations, to stop me from getting too proud I was given a thorn in the flesh, an angel of Satan to beat me and stop me from getting too proud! About this thing, I have pleaded with the Lord three times for it to leave me, but he has said, 'My grace is enough for you: my power is at its best in weakness.' So I shall be very happy to make my weaknesses my special boast so that the power of Christ may stay over me, and that is why I am quite content with my weaknesses, and with insults, hardships, persecutions, and the agonies I go through for Christ's sake. For it is when I am weak that I am strong.

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia Alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me: he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

### Gospel — Mark 6:1-6

Jesus went to his home town and his disciples accompanied him. With the coming of the sabbath he began teaching in the synagogue and most of them were astonished when they heard him. They said, 'Where did the man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been granted him, and these miracles that are worked through him? This is the carpenter, surely, the son of Mary, the brother of James and Joset and Jude and Simon? His sisters, too, are they not here with us?' And they would not accept him. And Jesus said to them, 'A prophet is only despised in his own country, among his own relations and in his own house'; and he could work no miracle there, though he cured a few sick people by laying his hands on them. He was amazed at their lack of faith.

### *Reflections with Fr Thornhill*

*Long neglected because of its brevity, the Gospel of Mark is now recognised to be a work of genius. Mark's was the first gospel to be written. Combining something of the freshness of the earliest memories of Jesus' life with an ordered presentation of his material, Mark intends to provide a guide to authentic discipleship – as a following of the crucified Saviour. Today's incident – which tells of the rejection of Jesus by the people of his own town, at the end of his ministry in Galilee - illustrates this. Mark's telling of the story of Jesus comes to its climax with the Saviour's passion – the rejection of the Messiah by God's own people. It seems that Mark was writing for the Christians of Rome in the decade of the first persecutions, calling them to be true disciples of the crucified Christ.*

*Today's gospel also conveys the sense of immediacy often present in Mark. We have an echo of the reaction of those who witnessed the event (the disciples who accompanied Jesus to his "home town") – they are surprised and disconcerted by the very human reaction of Jesus. Rejected by the people of 'his own country' and 'his own relations', Jesus seems to be disarmed, so that "he could work no miracle there". A very human situation and a typical human reaction – Jesus truly became one of us, our brother. What the gospel describes is so true to life that Jesus' summing up has become a proverb: "No honour for prophets among their own".*

*For Mark, of course, as we have seen, this rejection is a foreshadowing of the great rejection described in the final chapters of the gospel - something for which Jesus will repeatedly prepare his disciples as they make their way to Jerusalem: he is to be 'rejected', 'put to death', but he will 'rise again'(Mk 8: 31). The reading from Ezekiel reminds us that a pattern of rejection and rebellion runs through the whole story of the Scriptures. The patient but firm spirit of the Saviour, so well captured in Mark's gospel, is an expression of the patient firmness of God as the divine plan unfolds in the life of an uncooperative and self-centred people.*

*Jesus made his own a life that shares in our common human experience. In the reading from Paul, the great apostle takes us into his confidence, explaining how he has faced his immense difficulties. It is uncertain what his 'thorn in the flesh' was: a physical ailment perhaps, or more probably the betrayal and persecution he had to suffer from those who should have been his friends. But he has learned the lesson of Mark's gospel, and he gives expression so well to what he has learned in this passage that it is very familiar. Having, at first, 'pleaded with the Lord' to be freed of his trial, he has come to recognise it as discipleship taking up of the Cross, giving him a share in the divine power unleashed in the world through the Paschal Mystery. He will even 'boast' of his weakness, as bringing an assurance that 'the power of Christ' will 'stay over' him: 'For it is when I am weak that I am strong'.*