

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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Phone: 4271 3550 | Fax: 4272 2954

School Principal: Mrs Pauline Chrostowski

Parish Secretaries: Mrs Magda Pires (Mon/Thu)
Mrs Melissa Bridges (Wed/Fri)

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Website: www.unanderraparish.org.au
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SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B) – 25 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

Reflections with Fr Thornhill

Our gospel readings from Mark have brought us to his account – typically brief – of the feeding of the crowd with the loaves and fishes. The liturgy of this and the next four Sundays develops this theme by switching to readings from the extended meditation on the Eucharist in the sixth chapter of St John's Gospel. (A comparison of the two gospels shows that, in this chapter, John follows a sequence of events that Mark had adopted before him.)

As we become familiar with the style of John's gospel, we recognise that today's account of the feeding of the crowd – the introductory section of this long meditation - has strong overtones of the Eucharistic celebration: it is announced that the 'feast of Passover' is approaching; Jesus 'gives thanks' as at the Last Supper; Jesus himself distributes the loaves to all present.

This incident reminds us that the Saviour, whose Paschal Mystery we share in as we celebrate the Mass, is concerned for the welfare of God's people at every level. We must have a concern for our brothers and sisters that is more than words and pious thoughts, if we are to show in our lives the true fruits of the Paschal Mystery. It has often been pointed out that, in the miraculous feeding of the crowd, Jesus called upon the generosity of collaborators. The 'small boy' was certainly generous to give up his meal when asked for it. But he was to see his generosity make possible an explosion of divine generosity that is still remembered as we tell the story of Jesus. Surely, there is a clear lesson here for disciples of every age.

As we will find so often, the divine simplicity of the essential message of the Scriptures makes it easy to link the second reading with the central theme of the liturgy. Our reading from Ephesians speaks of our Christian communion – the sharing in the Paschal Mystery that unites the Christian community. This passage speaks of the unselfish charity and the unity that should mark communities brought together by the 'vocation', or God-given calling, which they have received.

The charity that binds the Christian community is the practical expression of the unity established by the Saviour's Paschal Mystery. Our reading from Ephesians reminds us that the roots of the unity brought by the Holy Spirit, as we become 'one Body', are very deep. We have 'one and the same hope' of eternal life with our God in a new creation; we have only 'one Lord', the Saviour who is also our brother, 'one faith' in what God has done for us in Christ, 'one baptism' in which we have died and risen to new life in him, and 'one God who is Father of all' in whom we can place all our trust.

The Eucharist, Vatican II insistently tells us, is the 'basis and centre' of the Church's life. It is not surprising that the same term 'communion' is used for all that we share 'in Christ' and for our sharing in the Eucharistic celebration

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Elizabeth Timar, Kathleen Lake
Bill McKechnie, Marcel Fernandez
Sr Mavis (Sebastian) Hanlon - (Phyllis Connell's sister)

Anniversaries

Rudy Geyling, John Walsh
Marguerite Hillman

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,

Some years back when I was in a city school two young students approached the office with their mum. They presented me with a wrapped gift. I was a little taken back as it was a Mother's Day gift. The mother explained the gift had been made for me since I was a mother to the girls during their time at school.

The gift was an apron. I have had many aprons over the years – I always wear an apron! The numerous aprons I have had are long forgotten, but this white apron with painted flowers still sits lovingly cradled in my memory. It is with fondness I recall this incident every Mother's Day.

This year Pope Francis has introduced the celebration of the **First World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly**, to be celebrated on the fourth Sunday in July. May I say a very blessed and happy day to you. You could well be elderly and/or a grandparent. You may be like me where physically I will never be a grandparent, but like the mum said to me, we are these beautiful figures for others in their lives.

Thank you for the love and lives you have touched, are touching and will touch. You never know what influence you have. Others may not have expressed it, but you have blessed many lives with your goodness and kindness.

Today I ask, despite the restrictions, that you do something to celebrate you. It may be to sit quietly and savour a cuppa; you may like to cook a special meal; light a candle as a thank you prayer; gift yourself with a little treasure, etc.

I have long moved on from my appointment at that school. I last saw the two girls I spoke of only eighteen months ago. They were in Unanderra. What brought them to Unanderra? They were here to celebrate with Fr Duane his installation as our parish priest. I learnt that evening they are cousins of Fr Duane.

*"People will forget what you said,
people will forget what you did,
but people will never forget how you made them feel."*
[Maya Angelou.]

A very blessed and joyous celebration to each of you. Know that you are being held in my prayer.

With blessings,

Sr Kerry Gardiner

LIVE STREAMED MASSES

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

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

Any enquiries please contact Helen Bennett
0407 438 434 or email recruitment@dow.org.au

VOCATION NEWS



If you are willing to share what you have, God will multiply your gifts. Imagine how God can use you to nourish a hungry world. Consider being a sister, brother, priest, or deacon. (John 6:1-13) If you want to talk about your discernment, please

contact the Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Duane Fernandez at vocations@dow.org.au

ACN AUSTRALIA

A message from Aid to the Church in Need Australia: Today, Aid to the Church in Need continues to ensure that spiritual aid and pastoral care reaches areas of need. ACN ensures that tyranny of distance or harsh terrain does not stand in the way of the spiritual life of the Catholic people. Every year we will finance some 400 cars, 200 motorcycles, 300 bicycles and a couple of boats. Visit www.aidtochurch.org/transport.

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

IT'S BACK!! ST THERESE LIVE STREAMED MASS

Fr Duane will return from his annual leave this coming week. From Sunday August 1st, the live stream team is planning to stream Sunday 5pm Mass at St Therese for you all. According to the current Covid restrictions only those necessary for the live streaming will be able to physically attend, but we hope all connect via the live stream. More details in next week's bulletin.

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME – AIRS SUNDAY 25 JULY 2021 –

On the Journey this week: Fr Chima Ofori says this Gospel illustrates how the ordinary can have effects way out of proportion to its ordinariness. Mother Hilda wants us to give God a foot massage. Michelle Vass explains how to discover God's will for each of us. And Torrien Lau says even in my brokenness I am loved unconditionally by God & only I can exclude myself from that love. Listen at jcr.org.au



SENIOR'S LUNCH - POSTPONED UNTIL AUGUST

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. .

Bookings are essential—new date to be advised.

Contact **Barry Duggan 0411 236 616**

Email: barryjohnduggan@gmail.com or

John Driscoll 0419 405 681

Email: jedriscoll188@gmail.com

SILVER CIRCLE

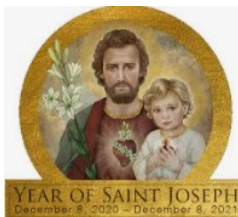
Results for 19 July 2021

1st Prize: A Farroway

2nd Prize: S Hajduk

REFLECTIONS FROM SR KERRY - YEAR OF ST JOSEPH

Pope Francis said, '[Joseph] employed his legal authority over the Holy Family to devote himself completely to them in his life and work. He turned his human vocation to domestic love into a superhuman [gift] of himself, his heart and all his abilities, a love placed at the service of the Messiah who was growing to maturity in his home.'



In 1906 Mary MacKillop said, 'Apply to St Joseph with confidence in every difficulty and you will not be disappointed.'

SUPPORT YOUR PRIEST SUNDAY

This year, Parousia, along with Divine Renovation Australasia, would like to announce that 'Support Your Priest Sunday' will be held on **Sunday 1 August 2021**. Support Your Priest Sunday is a day of significance for all Catholics, as we acknowledge the tireless work of all priests around the world. It will take place each year around the feast of St John Vianney, patron of priests. Here is an explainer [video](#) by the Co-Director of Parousia and National Coordinator of Divine Renovation Australasia, Kevin Bailey AM.

Register for free to receive the [daily novena prayers](#).

25 JULY 2021 — SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B)

First Reading — 2 Kings 4:42-44

A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing Elisha, the man of God, bread from the first-fruits, twenty barley loaves and fresh grain in the ear.' 'Give it to the people to eat', Elisha said. But his servant replied, 'How can I serve this to a hundred men?' 'Give it to the people to eat' he insisted 'for the Lord says this, "They will eat and have some left over."' He served them; they ate and had some left over, as the Lord had said.

Responsorial Psalm — The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.

1. All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord, and your friends shall repeat their blessing.
They shall speak of the glory of your reign and declare your might, O God. R.
2. The eyes of all creatures look to you and you give them their food in due time.
You open wide your hand, grant the desires of all who live. R.
3. The Lord is just in all his ways and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him, who call on him from their hearts. . R.

Second Reading — Ephesians 4:1-6

I, the prisoner in the Lord, implore you to lead a life worthy of your vocation. Bear with one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience. Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together. There is one Body, one Spirit, just as you were all called into one and the same hope when you were called. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God who is Father of all, over all, through all and within all.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia Alleluia! A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people. Alleluia!

Gospel — John 6:1-15

Jesus went off to the other side of the Sea of Galilee – or of Tiberias – and a large crowd followed him, impressed by the signs he gave by curing the sick. Jesus climbed the hillside, and sat down there with his disciples. It was shortly before the Jewish feast of Passover.

Looking up, Jesus saw the crowds approaching and said to Philip, 'Where can we buy some bread for these people to eat?' He only said this to test Philip; he himself knew exactly what he was going to do. Philip answered, 'Two hundred denarii would only buy enough to give them a small piece each.' One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said, 'There is a small boy here with five barley loaves and two fish; but what is that between so many?' Jesus said to them, 'Make the people sit down.' There was plenty of grass there, and as many as five thousand men sat down. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and gave them out to all who were sitting ready; he then did the same with the fish, giving out as much as was wanted. When they had eaten enough he said to the disciples, 'Pick up the pieces left over, so that nothing gets wasted.' So they picked them up, and filled twelve hampers with scraps left over from the meal of five barley loaves. The people, seeing this sign that he had given, said, 'This really is the prophet who is to come into the world.' Jesus, who could see they were about to come and take him by force and make him king, escaped back to the hills by himself.