

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
 Cnr Hargreaves & Cummins Streets
 (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
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FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C) – 19 DEC 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.

Weekly Programme	Immaculate Conception UNANDERRA	St Therese WEST WOLLONGONG
Mon 20 December	Mass: 7am Sacrament of Reconciliation: 7:30am	
Tues 21 December <i>St Peter Canisius</i>	Mass: 5.30pm Sacrament of Reconciliation: 6pm	Mass: 7.45am
Wed 22 December	Mass: 9.30am Sacrament of Reconciliation: 10:00am	Adoration: 4.30pm Reconciliation: 4.30pm-5.15pm Mass: 5.30pm
Thur 23 December <i>St John of Kanty</i>	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm—5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm	Mass: 7:45am
Fri 24 December	Mass: 6pm (Fr Paul Gurr) Mass: 8pm (Fr Paul Gurr) Mass: 10pm (<i>Polish</i>)	Mass: 6pm (TIGS hall) Mass: 9pm (in the church)
Sat 25 December <i>The Nativity of the Lord</i>	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (<i>Polish</i>) Mass: 6pm	Mass: 10am
Sun 26 December <i>The Holy Family</i>	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (<i>Polish</i>)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Brian Cartwright, Sr Joan Miles sgs
Jim Gill

Anniversaries

Bruce Reedy, Neta Brown
Colleen Walter, Nicholas Bruton

Please also pray for the sick and those unable to attend Mass

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

Messages from Fr Duane

I start by expressing my deep gratitude to all who contributed to the celebration of my 10th anniversary of Ordination last weekend. It was a lovely opportunity to celebrate the gift of the Priesthood and the gift of our Parish, together with our Bishop. Unfortunately it was not possible to have refreshments afterwards due to the Covid restrictions. However, this Sunday the Bishop will celebrate 10am Mass at St Therese West Wollongong, and given the easing of restrictions this week, a morning tea will be held after that Mass in the school hall. If you wish to attend only the morning tea, **feel free to come along from around 11am**, to share some refreshments and spend some time with each other and our Bishop. Thank you for your best wishes and prayers and please continue to pray for me, as I do for you.

Please see the attached updated Diocesan Directives in response to the implementation of "Stage 3" easing of restrictions by the NSW Government. Some points of note from the Directives: there will be no capacity limits; masks will no longer be compulsory in the church, though encouraged especially in cases where social distancing will be difficult (eg Christmas Masses); QR codes (or other check-in measure where QR registration is not possible) remains necessary, such that the monitoring processes will continue unchanged.

At this point in time there will be no capacity limits at our Christmas Masses, and therefore no need to "book" in advance. However if Government restrictions return to a density limit (as happened last year just before Christmas) then we will implement our "Plan B" – a slightly modified Christmas timetable, and a booking system. Please stay tuned to our emailed communications this week.

Fr Duane Fernandez — Parish Priest

Message from Sr Kerry

What a joyous occasion we celebrated last weekend! The joy was palpable and we have many to thank for all they brought to the occasion.

I dread to think I may well miss a name. To save my soul and anticipated dread I won't mention names or even groups.....you know who you are.

While Fr Duane didn't want any celebrations I am very pleased he relented. What an opportunity we would have missed. It was wonderful to see so many parishioners pull together to prepare, organise and celebrate such a worthy occasion.

Thank you to each and every one of you for the part you played and for contributing towards the gift.

Since we weren't able to gather for a supper, the Bishop, Fr Jerzy and Fr Duane did grace my home with their presence for dinner. We even had a celebratory cake, which was gifted to Fr Duane.

May your hearts be enriched by the sacredness, joy and graces we shared and enjoyed. May Fr Duane continue to enrich our lives with his goodness, graciousness and uniqueness.

Last Monday we celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation. Due to Covid, numbers were greatly restricted, but the solemnity and dignity of such a Sacrament was very much present. Thank you to Trudy, Alan and the choir for such beautiful music and singing.

As we prepare our hearts and homes for Christmas may they expand to embrace others who touch our lives.

Thank you for the gift you are. Treasure the gift and the gift of others.

With my prayer and blessings,

Sr Kerry Gardiner



ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

	Church Washing	Helen Murphy
Fri 31 Dec	Counting	A Kelly, B Farraway
Sat 25 Dec	Church Cleaning	No cleaning today
	Lectors	Lawns — Sat 25 Dec
Sat 25 Dec 6pm Mass	M Rodwell	No Lawn mowing
Sun 26 Dec 8am Mass	A Kelly	

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

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Friday 24 December

6pm	TIGS Hall, West Wollongong	(Fr Duane)
6pm	Immaculate Conception Church Unanderra	(Fr Paul Gurr)
8pm	Immaculate Conception Church Unanderra	(Fr Paul Gurr)
9pm	St Therese Church West Wollongong	(Fr Duane)
10pm	Immaculate Conception Church Unanderra	(Polish Mass)

Saturday 25 December

8am	Immaculate Conception Church Unanderra	(Fr Duane)
10am	St Therese Church West Wollongong	(Fr Duane)
10am	Immaculate Conception Church Unanderra	(Polish Mass)
6pm	Immaculate Conception Church Unanderra	(Fr Duane)

Sunday 26 December - (The Feast of the Holy Family)

8am	Immaculate Conception Church Unanderra	(Fr Duane)
10am	St Therese Church West Wollongong	(Fr Duane)
10am	Immaculate Conception Church Unanderra	(Polish Mass)

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS BUCKET COLLECTION

The Unanderra St Vincent de Paul Society (Vinnies) will be holding a bucket collection after each Christmas Mass. Donation envelopes will also be provided for those wishing to donate.



VOCATION NEWS



Mary trusted that the Lord's words to her would be fulfilled. Step out in faith and God will be there to guide you. (Luke 1:39-45)

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

Director, Fr Duane Fernandez at vocations@dow.org.au

FREE ACCESS TO 2021 AUSTRALASIAN CALLED TO DISCIPLESHIP CONFERENCE

On 20 November, nearly 700 people participated in this conference for Parish Renewal across Australia and New Zealand and the key notes have now been made available at no cost to clergy and parishes. Be encouraged and inspired by following the links below:

Session 1 (DR & Leadership – Fr James Mallon)

<https://youtu.be/ZMBDFrU9xp4>

Session 2 (Panel Discussion)

<https://youtu.be/U3KN29QHRIk>

Session 3 (Evangelisation – Dr Ralph Martin)

<https://youtu.be/Lbl0HYCWiqY>

Session 5 (Holy Spirit – Dcn Peter Pellicaan)

<https://youtu.be/qA05madbl0w>

THANKS FOR YOUR USED STAMPS

"On behalf of Mary MacKillop Today, I thank you for your generous support in supplying and assisting with used stamps. We've had another wonderful year, raising approximately **\$34,600**. A great effort from many, many people!

From 2001 until now, **the total raised has been \$443,500**. It is through your efforts that the legacy of St Mary Mackillop Today continues in Peru today."

Sr Helen Saunders — For Sisters of St Joseph

(Stamps from Christmas cards can be placed in the box No provided near the side door of the church, These stamps are then used to raise money for the missions in Peru)

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME – AIRS SUNDAY 19 DECEMBER 2021 –

On the Journey this week: : Fr Chris Sarkis' gospel reflection. Mother Hilda says God is always with us in our life now, despite our failings. Plus the Spirit of Christmas at the end of a pandemic year, three reflections from Sr Monica Cavanagh RSJ, Selina Hasham, and Cathy Jenkins, on the blessings encountered during this year. Listen at jcr.org.au



BLESSED ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS REFLECTIONS

Blessed is a 92-page pocket-size book containing short spiritually rich daily reflections from the beginning of Advent (28 November 2021) through to the Baptism of the Lord (9 January 2022).

Blessed is available from the seat near the side door of the church and **costs \$3.00**. Please leave your money in the box at the end of the seat.



LAY CARMELITES

The Lay Carmelites will have a Prayer Meeting on Saturday **18 December between 10:30am and 12noon** in St Joseph's Room. You are reminded to register beforehand, wear a mask during the gathering and are invited to join them for lunch afterwards. For more information please call **0415 926 132**.

ADVENT RESOURCE

Families are invited to use this wonderful advent resource in preparing primary aged children for Christmas. It is full of games, activities, stories, and music. To use this free Catholic resource please click on

https://issuu.com/ccressnsw/docs/2021_adventchristmas_sre_family_resource_wollongon



PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL - FUND RAISING INITIATIVE

Please save your recyclable bottles and cans. After Christmas, you will be able to leave your **uncrushed cans and recyclable 10c bottles in the blue bins** in the church car park.

All money raised from this initiative will go to Immaculate Conception Church.

CATHEDRAL BOOKS AND GIFTS WOLLONGONG

Please be advised the Cathedral Books and Gifts Wollongong Gift shop will be **closed from 24 December 2021 and will re-open week commencing 10 January 2022**.

Operating hours are Tues, Wed and Friday (10am - 2pm).

Entry via 38 Harbour Street, Wollongong. For any enquiries, please contact **Wendy Douglas 0438 244 860**.

19 DECEMBER 2021 — FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C)

First Reading — Micah 5:1-4 *Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel.*

The Lord says this:

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
the least of the clans of Judah,
out of you will be born for me
the one who is to rule over Israel;
his origin goes back to the distant past,
to the days of old.

The Lord is therefore going to abandon them
till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth.

Then the remnant of his brothers will come back
to the sons of Israel.

He will stand and feed his flock
with the power of the Lord,
with the majesty of the name of his God.

They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power
to the ends of the land.

He himself will be peace.

Responsorial Psalm — **Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help. R.
2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. R.
3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again; give us life that we may call upon your name. R.

Second Reading — Hebrews 10:5-10 *I am coming to do your will.*

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:

You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation,
prepared a body for me.
You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin;
then I said,
just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book,
'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia Alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

Gospel — Luke 1: 39– 45 *Why should it happen that I am honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?*

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.'