

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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School Principal: Mrs Pauline Chrostowski

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

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THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR C) — 6 MARCH 2022

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 7 March	Mass: 7am	
Tues 8 March	Mass: 5.30pm	Mass: 7:45am
Wed 9 March	Mass: 9:30am	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm—5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm
Thur 10 March	Mass: 11am (Polish) Adoration: 4:30pm Rosary: 5:15pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm—5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm	Mass: 7:45 am
Fri 11 March	Mass: 7am Stations of the Cross: 7pm	Mass: 9:30am Stations of the Cross: 5pm
Sat 12 March	Rosary: 7:10am Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 5pm—5:30pm Mass: 6pm	Rosary: 8:40am Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9:30am
Sun 13 March	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (Polish)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Marina Putrina
Bernard Trudgett
Aida Macalakad
Alfred Bezzina, Russell J Payne
Lina Chua

Anniversaries

James Maxwell Brame, Richard Bampton
Doris Murphy, Don Bucknal

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 Fr Duane

Lent is a time of prayer, fasting (making sacrifices) and almsgiving (giving generously of our gifts). We have many practical opportunities to take up these Lenten commitments this year.

As we state in our Parish Vision, **"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."** You may recall our "Pentecost Gathering" last year, at which our Parish Pastoral Council helped people discover their own unique gifts and invited expressions of interest in sharing those gifts in various "ministries" (ways of service). We knew that not everyone could attend those gatherings, but that EVERYONE is indeed blessed with unique gifts to share, so we were always determined to complete that process by giving every parishioner an opportunity to express their interest in the various ministries. With the lockdowns and uncertainty around Covid this proved difficult – but this weekend, every parishioner will have this opportunity at Masses with a simple checklist that the PPC will provide, and for those unable to attend Mass at this time we will share the same materials via email in a "Google Form" in the coming week.

Feel free to express your interest in as many ministries as you wish, and we will get back to you with more information and formation opportunities for new and existing ministers in the coming weeks and months. Let us also take this opportunity to thank all those who already give of themselves so generously in countless ways behind the scenes.

WAR IN UKRAINE AND FLOODS IN AUSTRALIA

Speaking of bringing the "overflowing love of Jesus to all people", there are many opportunities to put this into action beyond our parish community as well. As I mentioned last weekend at Masses, it is difficult to watch and hear the news of the present crises in Ukraine and now the floods in Australia. As Christians we should be moved to compassion - but never moved to despair! Let's remember the power of persistent prayer, always. But let us not stop at prayer - indeed one of the fruits of persistent prayer is that it opens us up to hear how God may be asking us to be part of the answer to the material needs of those who are suffering.

At this stage my own research brings me to **Caritas International and the St Vincent De Paul Society** as two trustworthy Catholic charities making a real difference in the midst of these crises. Caritas International have been providing assistance on the ground in Ukraine since 2014, and they are bravely continuing their work even in the present crisis, "providing Internally-displaced people on the move with essential information, food, drinking water and personal hygiene kits, as well as a safe and secure place to sleep, eat and wash themselves. Caritas staff and volunteers also provide safe transport for displaced families to reach their loved ones." You can read more and donate through this link:

<https://www.caritas.org/2022/02/caritas-in-ukraine-the-situation-is-dramatic-but-we-are-staying-to-help/>

In our own nation, the St Vincent De Paul Society has set up two appeals, one for NSW and one for Queensland, and as always responds on the ground with willing volunteers to both the immediate needs and ongoing needs of people. We can donate to the NSW and Qld appeals respectively here:

<https://donate.vinnies.org.au/appeals-nsw/vinnies-nsw-flood-appeal>

<https://donate.vinnies.org.au/appeals-qld/vinnies-disaster-appeal-qld-2022>

If anyone has any other ideas of ways that we can support those who are suffering at this time please don't hesitate to contact me and let me know. And as we enter this Lenten season, let's offer our prayers, fasting and almsgiving not only for ourselves and our parish but also for these pressing needs of our brothers and sisters across our nation and the world.

Fr Duane Fernandez — Parish Priest

Message from Sr Kerry

During the week I had a conversation with a very good friend. Maureen was asking me if God was disappointed with us and are we now suffering the consequences? Our God is not a transactional God....responding to us for what we do or don't do.

Lent commenced on Wednesday. I find Lent can be like a New Year's resolution. We start off with energy and eagerness but it can be easy to wane. What can keep me focussed? What will motivate me for the next forty days?

In the Gospel we hear Jesus was hungry. What are we hungry for this Lent? How can I satisfy this hunger within me? How can I satisfy the hunger within others?

Should you wish to join a Lenten group **you are welcome at the Convent on Tuesday at 10:30 am. Sr Kerry Gardiner**



ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

March	Church Washing	Fiona Fernandez	
Sat 12 Mar	Church Cleaning	G Lord, L Zanetti, S Adams	
Sat 12 Mar	Lawns	M & J Winner, M Walsh, S Carrigan	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
Sat 12 Mar 6pm Mass	D Nugent	Barbara Faraway	No children's liturgy
Sun 13 Mar 8am Mass	A Kelly	Gloria Simmonite	No children's liturgy
Counters	M Murphy (FH), C Stratton, M Winner		

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

2022 SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

One of the most profound ways by which Catholics believe we can encounter Jesus is through the Sacraments of the Church. Each Sacrament provides a unique, tangible encounter with Jesus, and helps draw us closer to God and to one another. ***The Sacraments are significant milestones in the faith journey of not only your children but also your whole family.***

Sacramental Program for 2022 is about to begin. If your son or daughter would like to receive sacraments this year, please refer to attached information or pick up the note at the church door.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

On the Fridays of Lent, Stations of the Cross will take place at:



7pm at Immaculate Conception

5pm at St Therese West Wollongong.

MENALIVE'S – REFUEL WEEKLY SHARING AND JOURNALING SESSIONS – EVERY TUESDAY 7.30PM

reFUEL is a weekly hour-long gathering of men every Tuesday evening on Zoom providing the chance to:

- break open the Sunday reading using a Lectio Divina style exercise
- “catch up” with great men from across Australia and New Zealand.
- gain strength and inspiration by the witness of other men.
- pray as a group for individual needs and the needs of others.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87979703609>

SYNOD OF BISHOPS—EXTENSION

The local consultation period for the international Synod on Synodality has been extended. Submissions can now be received through the online portal until **Sunday, 13 March 2022.**

Don't miss out on this chance to take part in a global conversation about the Catholic Church. How are we called to walk together as Christians? How can we listen to one another in making important decisions about our faith and our mission? Find out more and share your contribution at: <https://catholic.org.au/synodalchurch>

VOCATION NEWS

God brings us through difficult experiences and always leads us to life. Depend on the Holy Spirit to guide you on the path of life. (Luke 4:1-13)

If you want to talk about your discernment, please contact the Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Duane Fernandez at vocations@dow.org.au



CONSECRATED LIFE WEEKEND

The MGL Sisters are hosting a Consecrated Life Weekend for young women on the **26 – 27 March 2022.**

Where and how is God calling you to respond to His love? Have you taken time to listen? Here's your opportunity to come and hear the voice of Jesus, ask questions and experience prayer, talks, sisterhood and times of sharing to help you discern your vocation. Email: mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com to register your interest.

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME – AIRS SUNDAY 6 MARCH 2022

On the Journey this week: We commence our Lenten series with reflections and tips. Fr Anthony Jukes says the three temptations teach us about desires, power, glory, and celebrity worship. Mother Hilda uses Jack's story to say yes to the commitments in our lives. Fr Sean Cullen guides us through Jesus' instruction to pray. Plus, Fr Anthony Crook, The Bush Deacon Josh Clayton, and more great music! Listen at jcr.org.au



LIVE LOCAL

Everyone LIVE LOCAL Catholic Youth Ministry Wollongong (CYMW) is excited to announce that LIVE Local is coming to Wollongong for the first time!

LIVE Local is a Regional Youth Group run by the NET Team and other young people who are excellent at engaging with youth at whatever stage of faith. Starting on the **4th of March LIVE Local will run every Friday night in the school term from 7 - 9pm, at St Therese West Wollongong school hall.** This youth group is open to young people aged 13 -17 who want to make new friends and grow in their faith. Come along for snacks, games, formation, prayer, and music. For more information, please contact our Deanery Youth Group Coordinator, Luke Vail at luke.vail@dow.org.au For more details on youth groups, visit <https://www.dow.org.au/cymw/>

EPETITION TO ABOLISH THE DEATH BILL

Bishop Mascord urges you to take a stand to ABOLISH Alex Greenwich's Death Bill. It is imperative that all our supporters of life **sign this ePetition - WITHOUT DELAY** – encouraging others to do the same. To do so, please go to www.dow.org.au/abolishdeathbill/

LENTEN BOOKS— AVAILABLE NOW

Remember is a 72-page full colour book (240x170mm) containing short daily reflections **(from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday)** perfect for individual devotional reading in addition to the longer-



form Sunday Scripture readings and reflections, prayers and questions that traditionally form part of Lenten group gatherings. **Available in the church now. Cost is \$5.** Please leave money in the container.

AMORIS LAETITIA (THE JOY OF LOVE)

Pope Francis' post-synodal Apostolic Exhortation, Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love) on love in the family is an Apostolic Exhortation published after the conclusion of a two-year synod process discussing both the beauty and challenges of family life today. The 2015 Synod's theme was *“the vocation and mission of the family in the Church and the modern world.”*

Fr Bernard Gordon and James Arblaster will be presenting a **9-week course on Amoris Laetitia commencing Wed 27 April 2022, 7pm** at St Francis Xavier Cathedral in the Monsignor Rigney Meeting Room. To follow the talk, please purchase a copy of Amoris Laetitia from St Pauls Publications. To register please go to: www.lumenchristi.org.au/AmorisLaetitia

6 MARCH 2022—FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR C)

First Reading — Deuteronomy 26:4-10 *The confession of faith of the elect.*

Moses said to the people: 'The priest shall take the panner from your hand and lay it before the altar of the Lord your God. Then, in the sight of the Lord your God, you must make this pronouncement:

"My father was a wandering Aramaean. He went down into Egypt to find refuge there, few in numbers; but there he became a nation, great, mighty, and strong. The Egyptians ill-treated us, they gave us no peace and inflicted harsh slavery on us. But we called on the Lord, the God of our fathers. The Lord heard our voice and saw our misery, our toil and our oppression; and the Lord brought us out of Egypt with mighty hand and outstretched arm, with great terror, and with signs and wonders. He brought us here and gave us this land, a land where milk and honey flow. Here then I bring the first-fruits of the produce of the soil that you, the Lord, have given me."

'You must then lay them before the Lord your God, and bow down in the sight of the Lord your God.'

Responsorial Psalm — Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.

1. He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High and abides in the shade of the Almighty
says to the Lord: 'My refuge, my stronghold, my God in whom I trust! R.
2. Upon you no evil shall fall, no plague approach where you dwell.
For you has he commanded his angels, to keep you in all your ways. R.
3. They shall bear you upon their hands lest you strike your foot against a stone.
On the lion and the viper you will tread and trample the young lion and the dragon. R.
4. His love he set on me, so I will rescue him; protect him for he knows my name.
When he calls I shall answer: 'I am with you,' I will save him in distress and give him glory. R.

Second Reading — Romans 10:8-13 *The confession of faith of the believers in Christ.*

Scripture says: The word, that is the faith we proclaim, is very near to you, it is on your lips and in your heart. If your lips confess that Jesus is Lord and if you believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, then you will be saved. By believing from the heart you are made righteous; by confessing with your lips you are saved. When scripture says: those who believe in him will have no cause for shame, It makes no distinction between Jew and Greek: all belong to the same Lord who is rich enough, however many ask his help, for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Gospel Acclamation: Praise and honour to you Lord Jesus Christ!

No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Praise and honour to you Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel — Luke 4:1-13

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus was led by the Spirit through the wilderness where he was tempted

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit through the wilderness, being tempted there by the devil for forty days. During that time he ate nothing and at the end he was hungry. Then the devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to turn into a loaf.' But Jesus replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone.'

Then leading him to a height, the devil showed him in a moment of time all the kingdoms of the world and said to him, 'I will give you all this power and the glory of these kingdoms, for it has been committed to me and I give it to anyone I choose. Worship me, then, and it shall all be yours.' But Jesus answered him, 'Scripture says:

You must worship the Lord your God,
and serve him alone.'

Then he led him to Jerusalem and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said to him 'throw yourself down from here, for scripture says:

He will put his angels in charge of you
to guard you,

and again:

They will hold you up on their hands
In case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

But Jesus answered him, 'It has been said:

You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Having exhausted all these ways of tempting him, the devil left him, to return at the appointed time.