

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/



Parish Priest: Fr Duane Fernandez
Email: Duane.Fernandez@dow.org.au
Mobile: 0414 626 357

Polish Chaplain: Fr Jerzy Slowinski
Email: slowinski54@gmail.com
Mobile: 0410 225 975

Parish Assistant: Sr Kerry Gardiner
Email: Kerry.Gardiner@sosj.org.au
Mobile: 0421 463 871

Parish Pastoral Council President: Mark Walsh
Email: Mark.Walsh@bluescopesteel.com
Mobile: 0407 604 498

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
Website: www.unanderraparish.org.au
Phone: 4271 1068
Fax: 4271 1298

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR C) — 13 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 14 March <i>Sts Cyril and Methodius</i> | Mass: 7am | |
| Tues 15 March | Mass: 5.30pm | Mass: 7:45am |
| Wed 16 March | Mass: 9:30am | Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm—5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm |
| Thur 17 March | Mass: 11am (Polish) Adoration: 4:30pm Rosary: 5:15pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm—5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm | Mass: 7:45 am |
| Fri 18 March | Mass: 7am Stations of the Cross: 7pm | Mass: 9:30am Stations of the Cross: 5pm |
| Sat 19 March <i>St Joseph</i> | Rosary: 7:10am Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 5pm—5:30pm Mass: 6pm | Rosary: 8:40am Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9:30am |
| Sun 20 March | Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (Polish) | Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm |

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Russell J Payne, Lina Chua,
Carmela Buonomo

Anniversaries

Nancy Plenderleith, Ryan Teasdale
Mary Elizabeth Varley, Bill Crowe



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

MINISTRY RENEWAL

A big thank you to all who have expressed their interest in various ministries as our Parish Pastoral Council continues the Ministry Renewal process begun last Pentecost. It has already been a great response, and we are giving parishioners one more weekend to express their interest in ministries. We will also share a "Google Form" via email for those unable to attend Mass at this time, and mail the ministry renewal forms out to those who do not have email. Once we have collected all responses this coming week, the Parish Pastoral Council will collate all of the responses from the Pentecost Gathering until now and start planning and communicating the next steps to you all. Let us continue to pray for our parish during this time of renewal!

PRESBYTERY AND ST JOSEPH'S ROOM RENOVATIONS

With the money received from the sale of the 3 Grace Street property, the Parish Finance Council (PFC) has overseen vital renovations and repairs to the presbytery and St Joseph's Room. They have also begun plans for much needed repairs and maintenance for our beautiful church building. More detail will be provided by our PFC in coming weeks, and I am most grateful for their wise stewardship of our parish resources. Thank you to the many parishioners who have worked together in moving furniture, cleaning, etc to ensure these renovations took place in a timely manner for the presbytery and St Joseph's Room. Let us also give thanks for the continued generosity of so many parishioners in sharing financial gifts with the parish which keeps our parish functioning especially during these times which have no doubt been financially difficult for many. Even the seemingly mundane tasks of repairs and maintenance are expressions of the generous sharing of gifts within our parish, living out our parish vision.

We will be able to gather in St Joseph's Room again as a community on **Sunday March 20th – the day after the Feast of St Joseph**. What a fitting time to reopen St Joseph's Room and begin using that space to build up our community once again!

CELEBRATING OUR MONITORS, SUNDAY 20th MARCH

At the Sunday 8am Mass on Sunday 20th March, we invite all who served in the vital though temporary ministry of "Covid monitor" at Masses to come along so that we, as a parish, can thank you for your service. We will **pray a blessing upon you, and celebrate morning tea afterwards in St Joseph's Room** – a wonderful opportunity for the whole parish to gather together again socially, and to show our appreciation to our monitors who enabled us to gather for worship throughout the past two years of Covid.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY RECOMMENCES

At the **Sunday 8am Mass on Sunday 20th March** we will also recommence Children's Liturgy of the Word. Thank you to our generous volunteers for making it possible for our young children to hear and understand God's Word on their level, and please feel free to invite young families you know with children aged 4 and up to bring their children along.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR THOSE SUFFERING IN OUR NATION AND IN OUR WORLD

In addition to praying and sharing our gifts for our parish and broader community, I share again opportunities to make a difference for those suffering beyond our parish. This week Bishop Brian launched a Diocesan Flood Relief Appeal. In the words of Bishop Brian:

"As a diocese, I would like to provide practical support for the people of Lismore. I also want to provide pastoral and practical support for the people in our own diocese who have been and will continue to be impacted by these floods. I am inviting you to donate to my Flood Relief Appeal, an appeal I hope, with your support, will help me generously meet this goal."

At this stage we can donate via this link <https://www.dow.org.au/giving/>

I also share again the link to Caritas International as a means of making some small difference to the suffering of those in Ukraine. You can read more and donate through this [link](#):

Let us continue to hold all of those suffering in these ways and so many more throughout our world in our prayers, remembering as we pray in our Preface this Sunday that Jesus has shown us that suffering will never be the last word, for *"the Passion leads to the glory of the resurrection"*.

Fr Duane Fernandez — Parish Priest

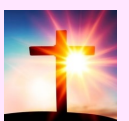
ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

| | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| March | Church Washing | Fiona Fernandez | |
| Sat 19 Mar | Church Cleaning | Volunteers needed | |
| Sat 19 Mar | Lawns | No Lawn mowing this week | |
| | Lectors | Welcomers | Children's liturgy |
| Sat 19 Mar 6pm Mass | M L Wyatt | Gloria Simmonite | No children's liturgy |
| Sun 20 Mar 8am Mass | S Walsh | Fiona Fernandez | Kirra Calvert |
| Counters | A Kelly, B Faraway | | |

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>

PART TIME EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY – PARISH SECRETARY – SHELLHARBOUR

Shellharbour parish is seeking the services of a part time secretary for **2.5 days – 13 hours per week** Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. The position requires skills in administration and maintaining a database.

The parish secretary needs to be a committed and practicing Catholic, embracing the teachings and ethos of the Catholic Church in their daily life.

If interested, please email

frances.vanleerdam@dow.org.au for an application pack.

VOCATION NEWS

Are you listening to Jesus, the Chosen One? Be open to what he reveals to you. Let his message dwell in your heart. (Luke 9:28-36)

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 13 MARCH 2022

On the Journey this week: Fr Joe Murphy says we can experience the transfigured Jesus by climbing life's mountain with prayer. Mother Hilda says we must take off our masks to reveal the real self. Bishop Greg Homeming from Lismore on the floods, Fr Mark De Battista on evangelising like the 72 disciples, plus, Fr Mike Delaney, 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/

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT WEEKEND 22 – 24 APRIL 2022

Worldwide Marriage Encounter is offering an opportunity for you to learn to become the best version of yourselves together and live your best life in love! This is a wonderful opportunity in the year of the family.

Come and join us on **22 – 24 April** at a Marriage Encounter Weekend in a Covid safe environment at Mount Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW – a stunning & tranquil oasis on the edge of Sydney.

Book online at www.wwme.org.au or contact Christine & Terry Mahony at: nswbookings@wwme.org.au

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

13 MARCH 2022 - SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR C)

First Reading — Genesis 15:5-12,17-18 *God made a covenant with Abraham, his faithful servant.*

Taking Abram outside, the Lord said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can.' 'Such will be your descendants,' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

'I am the Lord' he said to him 'who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to make you heir to this land.' 'My Lord,' Abram replied 'how am I to know that I shall inherit it?' He said to him, 'Get me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these, cut them in half and put half on one side and half facing it on the other; but the birds he did not cut in half. Birds of prey came down on the carcasses but Abram drove them off.

Now as the sun was setting Abram fell into a deep sleep, and terror seized him. When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, there appeared a smoking furnace and a firebrand that went between the halves. That day the Lord made a Covenant with Abram in these terms:

'To your descendants I give this land, from the wadi of Egypt to the Great River.'

Responsorial Psalm — **The Lord is my light and salvation.**

- | | | |
|----|--|----|
| 1. | The Lord is my light and my help; whom shall I fear? | |
| | The Lord is the stronghold of my life; before whom shall I shrink? | R. |
| 2. | O Lord, hear my voice when I call; have mercy and answer. | |
| | Of you my heart has spoken: 'Seek his face.' | R. |
| 3. | It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face. | |
| | Dismiss not your servant in anger; you have been my help. | R. |
| 4. | I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living. | |
| | Hope in him, hold firm and take heart. Hope in the Lord! | R. |

Second Reading — Philippians 3:17-4:1

Christ will transfigure these bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body

Scripture My brothers, be united in following my rule of life. Take as your models everybody who is already doing this and study them as you used to study us. I have told you often, and I repeat it today with tears, there are many who are behaving as the enemies of the cross of Christ. They are destined to be lost. They make foods into their god and they are proudest of something they ought to think shameful; the things they think important are earthly things. For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which he can subdue the whole universe.

So then, my brothers and dear friends, do not give way but remain faithful in the Lord. I miss you very much, dear friends; you are my joy and my crown.

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

From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Praise and honour to you Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel — Luke 9: 28-36

As Jesus prayed, the aspect of his face was changed, and his clothing became brilliant as lightning.

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning. Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As these were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' — He did not know what he was saying. As he spoke, a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and when they went into the cloud the disciples were afraid. And a voice came from the cloud saying, 'This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him.' And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. The disciples kept silence and, at that time, told no one what they had seen.

Message from Sr Kerry

During the week I read the most beautiful and thoughtful story I have read in some time. It was not headline news but tucked away where I accidentally stumbled across it.

The story told of mums in Poland leaving their prams with blankets at the railway station. I thought at first that people were abandoning their babies and young children. I read on with a tinge of sadness, but the story soon birthed watery eyes. The prams were being left so that mothers fleeing Ukraine and travelling miles and miles carrying their children would be able to place them in a pram and continue their journey to safety and freedom. What a simple and thoughtful action? I could not help but think the women fleeing were on a mountain of sadness and anxiety. What lightness of heart must have been theirs when they were greeted with such a wonderful, caring moment.



Jesus is alive in our world today by all who profess to be Christians. Our witness creates a better or adverse world by our actions. We are not called to leave prams at our railway stations but what 'prams' am I able to share with others this week? Will our world be better or more deficient by my actions to another?