

PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

48-50 Princes Highway (PO Box 14) Unanderra NSW 2526

www.unanderraparish.org.au

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THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR C) – 27 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 28 March	Mass: 7am	
Tues 29 March	Mass: 5.30pm	Mass: 7:45am
Wed 30 March	Mass: 9:30am	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm—5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm
Thur 31 March	Mass: 11am (Polish) Adoration: 4:30pm Rosary: 5:15pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm—5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm	Mass: 7:45 am
Fri 1 April	Mass: 7am Stations of the Cross: 7pm	Mass: 9:30am Stations of the Cross: 5pm
Sat 2 April	Rosary: 7:10am Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 5pm—5:30pm Mass: 6pm	Rosary: 8:40am Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9:30am
Sun 3 April	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (Polish)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Carmela Buonomo, Angelo Bresolin
Noel Hayes, Michelle Vescio

Anniversaries

Fr Patrick Landers, Mary Galvin
Ruth Churchill, Peter Speelman
Michael Lavelle



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

This week it will be a great joy to celebrate the **First Holy Communion** of the children who were prepared in 2021 but could not receive the Sacrament last year due to Covid. The celebrations will take place in special weekday Masses, to avoid over-crowding at Sunday Masses. The ceremonies will take place on Wednesday evening at Unanderra, and Tuesday and Thursday evenings at West Wollongong. While the parish community will not be able to join the children in person, let's be sure to join them in spirit, praying for the children and families will all come to a deeper experience of the closeness and love of Jesus through his most precious gift of Himself in the Eucharist.

On **Friday 25th March 2022, on the Feast of the Annunciation**, Pope Francis is consecrating the world and especially Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The word "consecrate" literally means to "associate with the sacred". So then consecrating ourselves and our world to Mary's Immaculate Heart is a way of acknowledging that we want to be close to her heart always; we want our hearts to become more like hers; that we acknowledge this is the only way to true peace. We see especially on the Feast of the Annunciation the "yes" ("fiat" in Latin) of Mary, the most famous and most important "yes" in all of history. And we know that that singular yes was just one example of a heart that always said yes to God, in the good times and the bad, no matter what the cost to herself, because she knew she could trust in him with all her heart.

In the words of the Consecration to Mary from Pope Francis:

"Therefore, Mother of God and our Mother, to your Immaculate Heart we solemnly entrust and consecrate ourselves, the Church and all humanity, especially Russia and Ukraine. Accept this act that we carry out with confidence and love. Grant that war may end and peace spread throughout the world. The "Fiat" that arose from your heart opened the doors of history to the Prince of Peace. We trust that, through your heart, peace will dawn once more. To you we consecrate the future of the whole human family, the needs and expectations of every people, the anxieties and hopes of the world."

If you would like to receive the full text of the Pope's powerful Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary please contact the parish office and we will send it to you. Let's continue to pray with persistence for peace in Ukraine, and all parts of the world still torn apart by war and unrest. Mary, Queen of Peace, pray for us!

I thank Fr Paul Gurr for celebrating the Vigil Mass this weekend, as I will be unable to attend since I am celebrating a wedding out of the area. We are all grateful for your wonderful support to our parish Fr Paul!

Fr Duane Fernandez — Parish Priest

Message from Sr Kerry

Just a couple of weeks ago I was watching 'Insight' on SBS. The topic for the evening was 'Death Bed Confessions and Promises.' I remember a couple of stories featured that evening, but one is very pronounced in my mind.

One woman was asked her story. She explained that she had cut off communications with her mother due to a family falling out. She spoke of the reason. Sometime later this woman received a message that her mother was dying and that the mother wanted her daughter to visit her. This woman declined the mother's invitation and never met up with her mum prior to the mother's death. I felt a tinge of sadness for the dying mother as obviously she wanted to see her daughter, and I presume, once more open the lines of communication. The daughter had decided against this and never contacted or visited her mother prior to her death.

Of course, I have not walked in this woman's shoes, but I feel very much for her as she now must live with the decision she made. In some ways this is not unlike the Prodigal Son that we hear about today. There is a gamble in this story. What if the father rejects the son? What if the son lost his courage as he approached the home?

There are many people in our world who are estranged in some way. Do you have the courage to stretch out your heart and hand to someone who may be waiting for your invitation to once more join your circle of family or friends?

'The hands of Jesus in our world today can be found at the end of your arms.'

Sr Kerry Gardiner



ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

April	Church Washing	Helen Murphy	
Sat 2 Apr	Church Cleaning	F Fernandez, B Rice, R Tassone	
Sat 2 Apr	Lawns		
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
Sat 2 Apr 6pm Mass	V Cleary	Vera Cleary & Cindy	No children's liturgy
Sun 3 Apr 8am Mass	C Walsh	Fiona Carolan	Maria Matos, Sarah Walsh
Counters	A Kelly, B Farraway		

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

BISHOP BRIAN'S FLOOD RELIEF APPEAL

Whilst the worst of the rain is hopefully gone, the damage it caused will be felt for a long time to come. Last week we had towns and friends in our diocese cut off by flood water; this week some of our communities remain cut off by landslides and damaged roads. *In a heartfelt [video](#) message to his flock, Greg Homering OCD, Bishop of Lismore, said it had been "a very tragic few days". To those who had "lost everything" in these floods, Bishop Greg said that everyone across the diocese was suffering with them. "This has all happened at a time when we were hoping that 2022 would be a year of hope, a good year," he said.*



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 invite you to join me in prayer for these people, and to donate to my **Flood Relief Appeal** <https://www.dow.org.au/giving/>, so that with your support, we can meet this goal. +BM.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

On the Fridays of Lent, Stations of the Cross will take place:
7pm at Immaculate Conception
5pm at St Therese West Wollongong.



SOLAR PANELS FOR PRESBYTERY AND SR KERRY'S HOME

In January, solar panels were fitted to the roofs of the presbytery and Sr Kerry's home, with a very generous donation from one of our Parishioners—**thank you!**

Not only will we benefit from long term savings on our energy bills, we are also supporting our environment. What a wonderful gift that will provide for our Parish for many years.

EASTER CEREMONIES!

As Easter is fast approaching it is time to organise the very special ceremonies. If you would like to read at any of the ceremonies over the Easter period, could you please add your name to the roster on the clipboard that has been placed on the middle seat of the church. Thank you.

VOCATION NEWS

God welcomes us home with extravagant love. Let the call to holiness draw you home into a deeper relationship with God. (Luke 15:1-3, 11-32)
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: mglisters.sydney@gmail.com to register your interest.

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME – AIRS SUNDAY 27 MARCH 2022

On the Journey this week: Fr Antony Jukes says like the prodigal son, instead of turning to God, we often fill our emptiness with rubbish, and so there must come a time when, like the prodigal son, we also come to our senses. Mother Hilda says don't bother looking for the someone else in this parable, it's each of us God is seeking. 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/>

HELP NEEDED!

A free household cleanup has been arranged for the presbytery and Sr Kerry's garage. We need people to help carry broken/old furniture and other items from the garage to Grace Street kerb.
Are you available **10am Saturday 2 April** for about 45 minutes? Please call the Parish office to confirm your willingness to help.

CARMELITE MEETING

Would you like to join a Carmelite Prayer Group? The Lay Carmelites meet every first Saturday of the month at 10.30am in St Joseph's meeting room.
Our next meeting will be on **Saturday 2 April at 10am for 10.30am start**. Come and see what it's like. For more information please ring **0415 926 132**

MORNING TEA

Thank you to all those who contributed a plate of delicious goodies for morning tea last Sunday. It was great to see so many parishioners join us for morning tea to thank our wonderful monitors for all their work during Covid.

PPC NEXT MEETING

The PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL (PPC) meets in two weeks time. The most important item for their agenda will be discerning the next steps in the ministry renewal process. In addition, the PPC has decided to invite feedback and suggestions prior to each meeting moving forward. Please feel free to send any suggested agenda items to the PPC via the Parish Office at unanderra@dow.org.au

SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT

With her social teaching the Church seeks to proclaim the Gospel and make it present in the complex network of social relations. – *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church - Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace*

27 MARCH 2022 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR C)

First Reading — Joshua 5:9-12 *The people of God went to the promised land and there kept the passover.*

The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.'

The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

Responsorial Psalm — Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times, his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast. The humble shall hear and be glad. R.
2. Glorify the Lord with me. Together let us praise his name.
I sought the Lord and he answered me; from all my terrors he set me free. R.
3. Look towards him and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.
This poor man called, the Lord heard him and rescued him from all his distress. R.

Second Reading — 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 *God reconciled himself to us through Christ*

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on this reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

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

I will rise up and go to my father and tell him:

Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel — Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32

Your brother here was dead and has come to life.

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them:

'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.

'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But, for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening."

'The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it was only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.'"