

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 FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR C) – 3 APRIL 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 4 April <i>St Isidore</i>	Mass: 7am	
Tues 5 April <i>St Vincent Ferrer</i>	Mass: 5.30pm	Mass: 7:45am
Wed 6 April	Mass: 9:30am	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm—5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm
Thur 7 April <i>St John Baptist de la Salle</i>	Mass: 11am (Polish) Adoration: 4:30pm Rosary: 5:15pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm—5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm	Mass: 7:45 am
Fri 8 April	Mass: 7am Stations of the Cross: 7pm	Mass: 9:30am Stations of the Cross: 5pm
Sat 9 April	Rosary: 7:10am Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 5pm—5:30pm Mass: 6pm	Rosary: 8:40am Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9:30am
Sun 10 April	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (Polish)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Angelo Bresolin
 Noel Hayes, Michelle Vescio

Anniversaries

Kevin Swift, Donif Dennis, Vivian Moloney
 William John Weldon, William Dredge
 Janina Seweryn, Leigh Martin
 Tadeusx Seweryn



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 we celebrated **First Holy Communion for 66 children** across Immaculate Conception and St Therese Parishes. These children began their preparation last year and would have received their First Communion last year were it not for Covid. All of the children were very prayerful and attentive and we can be very proud of them. Their parents and families supported them beautifully and entered into the Masses reverently as well, and we thank them for being the first and most important teachers of the faith to their children. We congratulate the children and their families and pray that they will continue to grow in their love of Jesus and their sense of connection with our parishes, especially through the Eucharist. I take this opportunity to also thank our Sacramental Team across the two parishes who have given so much of their time, energy and wisdom especially during this past two years to make the Sacraments possible for our children in spite of the challenges presented by Covid.

The timetable for the **Easter Triduum (the "three days")** for both parishes is attached. I thank in advance Fr Paul Gurr and Fr Peter Gardiner for their generosity in ensuring that the Triduum can be celebrated fully in both parishes, and all the many parishioners who have been working behind the scenes to prepare our parishes for the high point of the Church year. We move into the final two weeks of Lent, and I pray that it will be an especially sacred time for us all. Often by this time of Lent, we may feel like we have failed to keep our Lenten commitments – or failed to properly consider what those commitments might be. If this is the case, or indeed even if we feel like it has been a good Lent so far, let's remember that this final two weeks still gives us a wonderful opportunity to prepare our hearts for the greatest celebration of all!

One practical way of preparing our hearts for Holy Week is to receive the **Sacrament of Reconciliation**. I will be offering an extended session next **Saturday 9th April** at St Therese Parish 9:30am – 11:30am, as well as **7pm at Immaculate Conception Unanderra** (after the 6pm Mass). Fr Jerzy and I will also offer other times when possible, including by appointment.

MINISTRY RENEWAL

Please pray for our Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) as they meet this week to discern the next steps in responding to the many expressions of interest from our parishioners. The PPC will be responding to all who expressed interest very soon! For now – a general thank you from me, as looking through the responses it is clearly a very exciting time of renewal for our parish with so many people willing to share their gifts in new ways!

Fr Duane Fernandez — Parish Priest

Message from Sr Kerry

Many years ago I made a retreat that focussed on the topic of **Forgiveness**. It wasn't an easy retreat. For me it was necessary. Over many years I have come to realise that lack of forgiveness doesn't hurt the one who has hurt me, rather it only hurts myself.

How flippantly we hear, 'Forgive and forget.' One thing I took home from this retreat was that once we forgive, we don't forget, but we do remember in a different way.

For me personally forgiving is often like an onion - there are many layers. We think we have forgiven and then another layer shows itself. We need to keep peeling!

When I reflect on the stones in today's Gospel I think of the stones, or perhaps even boulders, that I may be carrying at this time.

Are you carrying a boulder? Does your hand hold tightly to a stone?

What do you need to put down or drop? Do you have the courage to open your heart and hand?

Instead of throwing stones how about dropping your stone?



Many thanks to so many people who made our First Eucharist celebration such a beautiful and memorable celebration. To each and everyone of you, a very heartfelt thanks. Let's continue to hold these young members of our Church and their families in our prayers.

Sr Kerry Gardiner

ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

April	Church Washing	Helen Murphy	
Sat 9 Apr	Church Cleaning	J Allen, J Haywood, L Salway	
Sat 9 Apr	Lawns	H Fernandez, Milan Family	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
Sat 9 Apr 6pm Mass	M Rodwell	Barbara Farraway	No children's liturgy
Sun 10 Apr 8am Mass	A Kelly	Gloria Simmonite	Leah Galea, Kylie Hertsch
Counters	M Murphy (FT), S Alessi		

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 at:
7pm at Immaculate Conception
5pm at St Therese West Wollongong.



CCD FAITH EDUCATION OFFICER— CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG

Suitably experienced and qualified persons are encouraged to apply for the role of CCD Faith Education Officer in the Diocese of Wollongong, to commence in May 2022.

The successful candidate will work as part of a dynamic team, from a base in Campbelltown and across the Diocese, in the area of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD), to support the Bishop, Diocesan Director, Clergy and parishes to provide Catholic Special Religious Education (SRE) in government schools. For more information and a detailed role description, please contact helen.bennett@dow.org.au.

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 continues to open a way for us. How is God doing something new in your life? Perhaps God is inviting you to be a priest or religious. (Isaiah 43:16-21).
If you want to talk about your discernment, please contact the Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Duane Fernandez at vocations@dow.org.au



SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT

By means of her social doctrine, the Church takes on the task of proclaiming what the Lord has entrusted to her. She makes the message of the freedom and redemption wrought by Christ, the Gospel of the Kingdom, present in human history. – *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church - Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace.*

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME – AIRS SUNDAY 3 APRIL 2022

On the Journey this week: A powerful story of justice and mercy with reflections on the gospel from Fr Anthony Jukes and Mother Hilda. Plus, The Bush Deacon on why we don't like to invite people to share our faith. Plus, a Lenten Connection with Ken Bryant, Sam Clear meditating on Jesus' passion. Listen at jcr.org.au



LIVE LOCAL



Youth Groups

LIVE LOCAL Catholic Youth Ministry Wollongong (CYMW) has arrived in the Illawarra! LIVE Local is a Regional Youth Group run by the CYMW and NET Team which runs **every Friday night during school term from 7 - 9pm, at St Therese West Wollongong school hall.**

This regional youth group is for all Parishes and 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/>

CARITAS AUSTRALIA UKRAINE APPEAL

The escalating violence in Ukraine is rapidly becoming a dire humanitarian crisis. In a matter of days, over half a million people have been forced from their homes and at least 400 civilians have lost their lives.
Our long-standing partner, Caritas Ukraine, is on the ground, supporting people in need during this unfolding humanitarian crisis.
Your urgent support today will help provide critical assistance including emergency shelter, food, clean water, transportation services, and psychological support to people affected by this crisis.
Donate today at www.caritas.org.au/ukraine or call 1800 024 413 toll free.

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**

PPC - NEXT MEETING

The PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL (PPC) meets next week. The most important item for their agenda will be discerning the next steps in the ministry renewal process. The PPC has decided to invite feedback and suggestions prior to each meeting. Please send any suggested agenda items to the PPC at unanderra@dow.org.au

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/

3 APRIL 2022 - FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR C)

First Reading — Isaiah 43:16-21 *I am doing a new thing and I will give drink to my people*

Thus says the Lord,
who made a way through the sea,
a path in the great waters;
who put chariots and horse in the field
and a powerful army
which lay there never to rise again,
snuffed out, put out like a wick:
No need to recall the past,
no need to think about what was done before.
See, I am doing a new deed,
even now it comes to light; can you not see it?
Yes, I am making a road in the wilderness,
paths in the wilds.
The wild beasts will honour me,
jackals and ostriches,
because I am putting water in the wilderness
(rivers in the wild)
to give my chosen people drink.
The people I have formed for myself
will sing my praises.

Responsorial Psalm — **The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.**

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs. R.
2. The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!'
What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad. R.
3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land.
Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap. R.
4. They go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed for the sowing:
they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves. R.

Second Reading — Philippians 3:8-14 *Because of Christ I look upon everything else as useless in order to gain him.*

I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For him I have accepted the loss of everything, and I look on everything as so much rubbish if only I can have Christ and be given a place in him. I am no longer trying for perfection by my own efforts, the perfection that comes from the Law, but I want only the perfection that comes through faith in Christ, and is from God and based on faith. All I want is to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and to share his sufferings by reproducing the pattern of his death. That is the way I can hope to take my place in the resurrection of the dead. Not that I have become perfect yet: I have not yet won, but I am still running, trying to capture the prize for which Christ Jesus captured me. I can assure you my brothers, I am far from thinking that I have already won. All I can say is that I forget the past and I strain ahead for what is still to come; I am racing for the finish, for the prize to which God calls us upwards to receive in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation: Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory!

With all your heart turn to me, for I am tender and compassionate.

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory!

Gospel — John 8:1-11 *Let the person without sin be the first to throw a stone.*

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak he appeared in the Temple again; and as all the people came to him, he sat down and began to teach them.

The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus, 'Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women like this to death by stoning. What have you to say?' They asked him this as a test, looking for something to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, 'If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.' Then he bent down and wrote on the ground again. When they heard this they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained standing there. He looked up and said, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir' she replied. 'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus 'go away, and do not sin any more.'