

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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FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR C) – 8 MAY 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 9 May	Mass: 7am	
Tues 10 May	Mass: 5.30pm	Mass: 7:45am
Wed 11 May	Mass: 9:30am	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm—5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm
Thur 12 May <i>St Nereus and Achilleus, martyrs</i> <i>St Pancras, martyr</i>	Adoration: 4:30pm—5:15pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm—5:15pm Rosary: 5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm	Mass: 7:45am
Fri 13 May <i>Our Lady of Fatima</i>	Mass: 7am	Mass: 9:30am
Sat 14 May <i>St Matthias, apostle</i>	Rosary: 7:10am Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 5pm - 5:30pm Mass: 6pm	Rosary: 8:40am Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9:30am
Sun 15 May	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (<u>Polish</u>)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Pat (Patricia) Walsh

Anniversaries

Jill Bingham, Ronald Monaghan
 Luka Jukic, Victor Brown



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 Sunday we have the opportunity to give thanks for the gift of mothers and mother figures in our community. We also pray for those for whom Mother's Day may bring some sadness for whatever reason. For us as Christians this is also a most special day to remember Mary, and indeed, the whole month of May is traditionally the month when we Catholics give special honour to Mary, as our loving mother given to us by Jesus from the Cross, guiding us by her prayers and example in our own journey of faith.

This is also **Good Shepherd Sunday**, when we focus on Vocations, and I draw your attention to the message below from the Diocesan Vocations Director – I find I always agree with every word he says! In all seriousness, I greatly enjoy this role especially whenever a young person (or older person) comes to me with openness sincerely seeking help in discovering God's plan for their lives. As you will see in the message below, our Diocese is now moving towards new initiatives to help create a "culture of vocation" – and every one of us has a part to play in this.

DISCOVERING GOD'S PLAN FOR OUR LIVES: VOCATIONS EVENT

In our Diocese we are keenly aware of the need for more priests to serve our people now and into the future. However, the Bishop and Vocations Team want us all to go deeper than just "getting more priests" and rather to work together throughout our Diocese to create a "culture of vocation" (to borrow a phrase from St John Paul II). This will be a collaborative effort in our parishes, schools, and families, to ensure that every young Catholic will be actively seeking to discern how they are called to serve Christ and his people - whether in Marriage, Ordained Ministry, Religious Life or Single Life. The stronger this culture of vocation, the more we will find ourselves blessed with faithful priests and religious, inspiring marriages and generous single Catholics.

With this in mind, this Good Shepherd Sunday we are pleased to announce a Vocations Event with a representative panel addressing all 4 Vocations and an opportunity for Q and A. This will be a wonderful opportunity especially for young people to come together and learn how to hear and respond to God's call. There will be more details to follow but for now please invite anyone you think may be interested, and if you're interested RSVP as soon as possible!

DATE: Sunday 19th June
TIME: Light refreshments 1:30pm for 2pm start
PLACE: Xavier Centre, next to St Francis Xavier's Cathedral, Wollongong,
RSVP: www.dow.org.au/events

We also give thanks for the **Ordination to the Diaconate of James Arblaster** last weekend, a truly joyful occasion for him and for our Diocese. Please continue to pray for him and for the 4 seminarians continuing their vocational journey with our Diocese – posters and prayer cards from the Diocese will help you to get to know their names and faces. Let's pray for also for those discerning their vocation, and for our Diocese as we continue to work together to build a culture of vocation.

Fr Duane Fernandez — Parish Priest

Message from Sr Kerry

The boys aged 4,6 and 8 were very excited. Their mum, my sister, had decided to take them to Taronga Park Zoo. I was asked to join them.

Within minutes of arriving at the Zoo we had lost David, the four-year-old. The plan was for me to go looking while Margaret stayed with the other two boys. It didn't take me long to come upon unfamiliar sight and sound. I heard screaming. Literally a circle of people had gathered. All I could see was the back of heads and people looking inwards. I couldn't see what was happening in the centre of the circle, but I had my suspicions. From a few metres away I called out, 'David!' With the sound of my voice and his name David burst forth from the centre of the circle and literally leapt into my arms. I hugged him and said, 'What happened?' David responded in tears, 'You lost me.'

Have you ever felt God has lost you? It sure isn't a nice feeling. Let's take comfort that God is our Good Shepherd. He knows our name. We are His. Can you allow yourself to leap into the arms of your God?

A very blessed and happy Mother's Day to all mums. May you know that others recognise your love and goodness, while God understands the ups and downs of life that you have journeyed to this day.

Sr Kerry Gardiner



ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

May	Church Washing	Jackie Allen	
Sat 14 May	Church Cleaning	J Allen, J Haywood, L Salway	
Sat 14 May	Lawns	H Fernandez, Milan Family	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
Sat 14 May 6pm Mass	V Cleary	Gloria Simmonite	No children's liturgy
Sun 15 May 8am Mass	S Walsh	Fiona Fernandez	Kylie (and Molly) Hertsch and Gemma Farrugia
Counters	A Kelly, B Farraway		

ALL YOUR PASTORAL NEEDS



For any pastoral needs:
please contact



Fr Duane Fernandez - 0414 626 357

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Sr Kerry Gardiner - 0421 463 871

Kerry.Gardiner@sosj.org.au

PARISH NEWS

Faith Enrichment Evenings

What a wonderful response to our first gathering. The Holy Spirit is moving hearts in this time of Parish renewal. We meet again this **Thursday 12 May at 7pm** in the St Joseph's room. A light meal is shared before the video showing at 7:30pm on "Catholicism" by Bishop Robert Barron. This week's video is "**The Great Mystery of God**".

All are most welcome to these evenings of connecting and sharing in the beauty and attractiveness of our Catholic faith.

Silver Circle

Commencing 9 May and is based on Monday night lotto's two supplementary numbers. There will be **nine weekly prizes of \$20 and \$10 with the final week having a prize of \$100 and \$50.**

Catholic Women's league

CWL will meet in the St Joseph's room at 10am on Thursday 12 May. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Life in the spirit

The CCR Prayer Group have organised a Life in the Spirit program 'Journey to Pentecost' to be held in the St Joseph's Room on four consecutive Wednesday evenings from 7pm to 8.30pm. **On 11 May the topic is: Salvation.**

To help with organisation, please confirm your attendance by emailing vincefitz7@yahoo.com.au

Community Fun Day - Sunday 22 May 11:30am—3pm at Edmund Rice College

We've renamed the upcoming Family Fun Day to make it clear that you are welcome even if you don't bring any family! Indeed it's a chance to celebrate our parish family – together with the parish family of West Wollongong. We'll even have some friendly competition across the parish divide! It is one of those events that we can invite anyone along to, even if they have no connection with church, and is promising to be a wonderful day of community building, so come along and invite everyone that you think may be interested! BYO picnic or enjoy a free sausage sizzle.

PPC - the next meeting of the PPC will be in 2 weeks time. We invite any feedback or suggestions to be sent via the Parish office at unanderra@dow.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 details on youth groups, visit <https://www.dow.org.au/cymw/>

MENALIVE'S -REFUEL WEEKLY SHARING AND JOURNALING SESSIONS

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.
- Join via this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88436558468>

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME – AIRS SUNDAY 8 MAY 2022

On the Journey this week: Fr Rob Galea's tribute to mothers on Mother's Day and Good Shepherd Sunday. Mother Hilda's prayer to start each day. Fr Mike Delaney's memories of rainy-day productivity. Trish McCarthy putting on Isaiah's clothing, plus the bush deacon, Josh Clayton on Easter invitations, and more great music! Listen at jcr.org.au



VOCATION NEWS

Who will shepherd God's people? Pray that good leaders, filled with joy and the Holy Spirit, will serve our Church. (Acts 13:14, 43-52)

If you want to talk about your discernment, please contact the diocesan vocations director, Fr Duane Fernandez at vocation@dow.org.au



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 or call 1800 024 413 toll free.

OPPOSING EUTHANASIA IN NSW

Please urgently consider signing the petition opposing Euthanasia in NSW that is available for signing near the entrance to the Church.

If you wish, you can also take and read a reflection from Fr Duane on caring for the dying. Feel free to contact Fr Duane if you would like to discuss this topic further.

MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS WALK FOR AUSTRALIA/WALK FOR LIFE FRIDAY 20 MAY 2022

We walk to raise PRAYERS for Australia for all life issues, the day before the Federal Election. You are warmly welcome to join us in our tenth year, praying along the Kiama Coastal Walk to Gerringong (13km). B.Y.O Lunch, snacks, water, and hat. Support vehicle provided all the way, shuttle cars return pilgrims to Kiama.

BENEFITS: Mass. Prayer. Hymns. Exercise. Spectacular scenery. Joyful fellowship. Blessings in abundance.

START: 9:30am Kiama Catholic Church (Holy Mass)

FINISH: 3:30pm Gerringong Catholic Church (Benediction, confession also available).

For information **Sue: 0435 336 195 or Gabriella 4261 2500**

LIVING FAITH BOOKS

New Living Faith books for children and adults (Apr, May and June) are now available in the church.

Cost is \$5 each.

Living Faith provides reflections based on a scripture passage from the daily Mass. Please leave money in the container.



8 MAY 2022 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR C)

First Reading — Acts 13:14, 43-52 *We are now turning to the gentiles.*

Paul and Barnabas carried on from Perga till they reached Antioch in Pisidia. Here they went to synagogue on the Sabbath and took their seats.

When the meeting broke up many Jews and devout converts joined Paul and Barnabas, and in their talks with them Paul and Barnabas urged them to remain faithful to the grace God had given them.

The next sabbath almost the whole town assembled to hear the word of God. When they saw the crowds, the Jews, prompted by jealousy, used blasphemies and contradicted everything Paul said. Then Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly. 'We had to proclaim the word of God to you first, but since you have rejected it, since you do not think yourselves worthy of eternal life, we must turn to the pagans. For this is what the Lord commanded us to do when he said:

I have made you a light for the nations,
so that my salvation may reach the ends of the earth.'

It made the pagans very happy to hear this and they thanked the Lord for his message; all who were destined for eternal life became believers. Thus the word of the Lord spread through the whole countryside.

But the Jews worked upon some of the devout women of the upper classes and the leading men of the city and persuaded them to turn against Paul and Barnabas and expel them from their territory. So they shook the dust from their feet in defiance and went off to Iconium; but the disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

Responsorial Psalm — **We are his people, the sheep of his flock.**

1. Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness.
Come before him, singing for joy. R.
2. Know that he, the Lord, is God. He made us, we belong to him,
we are his people, the sheep of his flock. R.
3. Indeed, how good is the Lord, eternal his merciful love.
He is faithful from age to age. R.

Second Reading — Apocalypse 7:9, 14-17 *The Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water.*

I, John, saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. One of the elders said, 'These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and because they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb, they now stand in front of God's throne and serve him day and night in his sanctuary; and the One who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. They will never hunger or thirst again; neither the sun nor scorching wind will ever plague them, because the Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water; and God will wipe away all tears from their eyes.'

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia! Christ is risen; I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep and mine know me. Alleluia!

Gospel — John 10: 27-30 *I give my sheep eternal life.*

Jesus said:

'The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice;
I know them and they follow me.
I give them eternal life;
they will never be lost
and no one will ever steal them from me.
The Father who gave them to me is greater than anyone,
and no one can steal from the Father.
The Father and I are one.'