

# PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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

[www.unanderraparish.org.au](http://www.unanderraparish.org.au)

[www.facebook.com/Immaculate-Conception-Unanderra-Parish-102440924742769/](https://www.facebook.com/Immaculate-Conception-Unanderra-Parish-102440924742769/)



**Parish Priest:** Fr Duane Fernandez  
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**Polish Chaplain:** Fr Jerzy Slowinski  
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**Parish Assistant:** Sr Kerry Gardiner  
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**Parish Pastoral Council President:**  
 Email:  
 Mobile:

**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](mailto:unanderra@dow.org.au)  
 Website: [www.unanderraparish.org.au](http://www.unanderraparish.org.au)  
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## TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR C) – 11 SEPT 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
<b>Mon 12 Sept</b>	Mass: 7am	
<b>Tues 13 Sept</b> <i>St John Chrysostom, bishop, doctor</i>	Mass: 5.30pm	Mass: 7:45am
<b>Wed 14 Sept</b> <i>The Exaltation of the Holy Cross</i>	Mass: 9:30am	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm—5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm 
<b>Thurs 15 Sept</b> <i>The Our Lady of Sorrows</i>	Adoration: 4:30pm-5:15pm  Reconciliation: 4:30pm-5:15pm Rosary: 5:15pm  Mass: 5:30pm	Mass: 7:45am
<b>Fri 16 Sept</b> <i>St Cornelius, pope, martyr</i>	Mass: 7am	Mass: 9:30am
<b>Sat 17 Sept</b> <i>St Robert Bellarmine, bishop, doctor</i>	Rosary: 7:10am  Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 5pm - 5:30pm Mass: 6pm	Rosary: 8:40am  Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9:30am
<b>Sun 18 Sept</b>	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am ( <i>Polish</i> )	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

#### Recently Deceased

#### Anniversaries

Hazel McNamara, Bh Thomas McCabe,  
 Jose Diaz, Clare Nissen,  
 Antonio Carlotto



### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

[unanderra@dow.org.au](mailto: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*

I returned from Canada this week. I do miss my family there, of course, but am also glad to be back with my “parish family”. I remembered you often in my prayers and Masses while away and look forward to catching up with you all again. I also want to once again thank everyone who took on extra work during the past two months to make my leave possible.

This has been a time of rest and self-reflection for me, though it also gave me a valuable insight into the busyness of family life with a newborn - and a whole new level of respect for parents! It was also an opportunity to step back and look at the bigger picture of our parishes. It struck me that given that I was installed for a standard 6-year term as Parish Priest in 2019, this leave marks a kind of “half-time” break in my time as your Parish Priest. Looking back at the past 3 years, together we have faced and overcome many challenges, from working out how to co-operate across two parishes, to the unprecedented challenges of the pandemic. We now have strong foundations from which to launch into new possibilities during the coming years. I am excited to begin this next chapter with you all as together we seek new ways to live out our parish vision.

**Fr Duane Fernandez**

## *Message from Sr Kerry*

I don't remember the composer. I don't remember the name of the song. I do remember only one sentence from the song. That one sentence still calls me to reflection. A simple line that said, 'and his father drank his coffee at the door.' The image that comes to mind is a man sitting on his verandah lost in his own thoughts and gazing into the distance. The song encapsulated the story of the prodigal son. In some ways it is a sad image, but it is also an image of hope.

This image also came to be an image of God for me. God who longs for me. God who desires me. God who treasures the person I am. God who is patient.

Is life giving me too many distractions to respond? Am I too busy to respond? God calls me, what is my response?

Before going to sleep tonight are you able to sit with this God and thank God for five good things that occurred during your day?

A very warm 'welcome home' to Fr Duane. Fr Duane has been missed but how grateful we are he has had the opportunity to have a wonderful break with family. Personally, I have come to a deeper appreciation of all that Fr Duane does and some of the challenges he encounters. May God continue to bless Fr Duane in his goodness and the gift of his priesthood as he continues to minister among us. We are blessed by his presence.

**Sr Kerry Gardiner**



### ROSTER – NEXT WEEKEND

September	Church Washing	Jackie Allen	
Sat 17 Sep	Church Cleaning	W & J Rodgers, J Andersson	
Sat 17 Sep	Lawns	H Fernandez, Milan Family, Broeckmann Family	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
Sat 17 Sep 6pm Mass	M Carolan	G Simmonite	
Sun 18 Sep 8am Mass	S Walsh	F Carolan	Kylie & Molly Hertsch, Gemma Farrugia
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**

## PARISH NEWS

### The Christian Meditation Group - Monday evenings

Monday from 6pm to 7pm in the St Joseph's room. Parishioners and friends are very welcome to come to learn of and experience this wordless form of non-denominational, contemplative prayer. Enquiries: please text Monica - 0412 056 877.

### St Vincent de Paul - Winter Appeal thank you!

The members of St Vincent De Paul wish to thank our wonderful, generous Parish. Your contributions to our Winter Appeal came to **\$1,534.80.**



We are all joined through our prayer, giving and work in this Apostolic Mission to those less fortunate. Thank you.

### Used stamps for Peru

Please remember to place all of your used stamps (leaving a 1cm / ½" border) in the box near the side door of the church. All used stamps donated are sent to Sydney to raise money for the work of the Sisters of St Joseph in Peru.

### Covid Guidelines

The Catholic Diocese of Wollongong continues to implement the following to ensure the wellbeing for all attending our churches. Communion is to be administered in the hand. Holy water fonts are to remain empty. You will be informed when these guidelines change from the present situation.



### Live Local

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.

### Recycling bins

Your donations of 10c recyclable bottles, cans and plastics are most appreciated. Our bins are located in the church car park. All monies raised go to the Parish.



## BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

To support the Dignified Retirement and Health of Clergy, and the Sound and Holistic Formation of our young Seminarians - will be promoted in our parish on the weekend of **17/18 September.**

To find out more, view the special appeal video and to make a secure online donation, please visit [www.dow.org.au/giving](http://www.dow.org.au/giving), or call (02) 4222 2446 to make a donation over the phone.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT

We believe that respect, dignity and justice, transformation and hope are possible. – *Australian Catholic Bishops Social Justice Statement 2022-23.*

## NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK 2022

To recognise the importance of National Child Protection Week we're holding a competition where entrants are asked to identify what makes them safe.

Using your creativity tell us what makes you feel safe. You can draw, paint, write a poem or story or record a video. Submit your entry to [competitions@catholiccare.dow.org.au](mailto:competitions@catholiccare.dow.org.au) Please ensure your name, age, contact number and email are included in your submission.

For further information visit the events page on our website: <https://www.catholiccare.dow.org.au/get-involved/events-calendar/>

## THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME – AIRS SUNDAY 11 SEPT 2022

On the Journey this week. Fr Joseph Murphy says Our God, the True Shepherd is searching for us to lead each of us home. Mother Hilda calls us to be an observer of life and God's creation. A faith testimony from Ann Byrne (Darwin, NT). Fr Mike Delaney on the amazing creativity of winemakers and wonders what 'wine' can you make from the opportunities you've been given today? Listen at [jcr.org.au](http://jcr.org.au)



## A VOCATION VIEW

We are called to proclaim God's abundant love for all people. Become an instrument of that love. Our world needs you! (Luke 15:1-32)

If you want to talk about your discernment, please contact the diocesan vocations director, Fr Duane Fernandez at [vocations@dow.org.au](mailto:vocations@dow.org.au)



## SUICIDE PREVENTION

On Saturday 10 September, we mark Suicide Prevention Day. The **Saturday 5.30pm Vigil Mass at St Brigid's, Gwynneville** will be offered by Bishop Brian Mascord for all families who have lost a loved one or who have taken their own life. We pray that those who have taken their own lives now rest in God's peace. We pray for all vulnerable people who need someone to ask them 'r u ok?'

For more information please contact the Lumen Christi Parish office on 4211 0500 or email [lumenchristi@dow.org.au](mailto:lumenchristi@dow.org.au) or visit our Facebook Page [facebook.com/lccpwo](https://facebook.com/lccpwo)

## SEASON OF CREATION

We are in the Season of Creation and there are some wonderful activities and resources for families delve into at <https://seasonofcreation.org>

Take the time as we move into Spring to pray, to plant, to recycle and enter into the awe and wonder we find in dwelling on and being in God's creation.



## CATECHIST RETREAT 2022

All SRE teachers and helpers are welcome to attend the Catechist retreat planned for **Monday, Sep 12 in Varroville OR Friday, Sep 16 in Gerringong.** Sr Magdalen Mather OSB will facilitate the retreats in both locations. Register for the retreat at [dow.org.au/events](http://dow.org.au/events) or contact Cindy Oliver by emailing [support@ccdwoollongong.com](mailto:support@ccdwoollongong.com) or calling **4640 8550.**

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED VINNIES DISTRIBUTION CENTRE -NORTH WOLLONGONG

Vinnies is looking for volunteers to work in their **clothing and book sections.** The Distribution Centre is the main supply hub for the many Vinnies Stores in the Illawarra and Macarthur areas. The vacancies in the clothing area are for sorters, whilst the book section requires people with an interest and love of books. The vacancies in the Book section would ideally suit a retired Librarian, however, this is not a pre-requisite. A reasonable level of fitness is required as 80% of the work is performed whilst standing. Whilst the Distribution Centre hours are 8am to 3.30 pm Monday to Friday, **Volunteers can select the day/s and hours that they wish to work.** There is total flexibility in this area. Parking is available. If interested, please contact **Sarah Harris on 0473 100 110**



## 11 SEPTEMBER - TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR C)

**First Reading**— Exodus 32:7-11,13-14

*The Lord relented and did not send the evil he had threatened.*

The Lord spoke to Moses, 'Go down now, because your people whom you brought out of Egypt have apostatised. They have been quick to leave the way I marked out for them; they have made themselves a calf of molten metal and have worshipped it and offered it sacrifice. "Here is your God, Israel," they have cried "who brought you up from the land of Egypt!"' the Lord said to Moses, 'I can see how headstrong these people are! Leave me, now, my wrath shall blaze out against them and devour them; of you, however, I will make a great nation.'

But Moses pleaded with the Lord his God. 'Lord,' he said 'why should your wrath blaze out against this people of yours whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with arm outstretched and mighty hand? Remember Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, your servants to whom by your own self you swore and made this promise: "I will make your offspring as many as the stars of heaven, and all this land which I promised I will give to your descendants, and it shall be their heritage for ever."'

So the Lord relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.

**Responsorial Psalm - I will rise and go to my father.**

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. In your compassion blot out my offence.  
O wash me more and more from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin. R.
2. A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit. R.
3. O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall declare your praise.  
My sacrifice is a contrite spirit. A humbled, contrite heart you will not spurn. R.

**Second Reading** — 1 Timothy 1:12-17

*Christ came to save sinners.*

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, and who judged me faithful enough to call me into his service even though I used to be a blasphemer and did all I could to injure and discredit the faith. Mercy, however, was shown me, because until I became a believer I had been acting in ignorance; and the grace of our Lord filled me with faith and with the love that is in Christ Jesus. Here is a saying that you can rely on and nobody should doubt: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. I myself am the greatest of them; and if mercy has been shown to me, it is because Jesus Christ meant to make me the greatest evidence of his inexhaustible patience for all the other people who would later have to trust in him to come to eternal life. To the eternal King, the undying, invisible and only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, Alleluia! God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us. Alleluia!

**Gospel** — Luke 14: 25-33

*There will be joy in heaven over one sinner who does penance.*

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:

'What man among you with a hundred sheep, losing one, would not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the missing one till he found it? And when he found it, would he not joyfully take it on his shoulders and then, when he got home, call together his friends and neighbours? "Rejoice with me," he would say "I have found my sheep that was lost." In the same way, I tell you, there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one repentant sinner than over ninety-nine virtuous men who have no need of repentance.

'Or again, what woman with ten drachmas would not, if she lost one, light a lamp and sweep out the house and search thoroughly till she found it? And then, when she had found it, call together her friends and neighbours? "Rejoice with me," she would say "I have found the drachma I lost." In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing among the angels of God over one repentant sinner.'

He also said, '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