

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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**Parish Pastoral
Council President:**
Email:
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School Principal: Mrs Pauline Chrostowski

Parish Secretary: Mrs Melissa Bridges (Mon/Wed/Fri)

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FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) – 9 JULY 2023

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 10 July	Church closed for painting	
Tues 11 July <i>St Benedict, abbot</i>	Church closed for painting	No Mass due to clergy retreat
Wed 12 July	Church closed for painting	No Mass due to clergy retreat
Thurs 13 July <i>St Henry</i>	Church closed for painting	No Mass due to clergy retreat
Fri 14 July <i>St Camillus de Lelis, priest</i>	Church closed for painting	No Mass due to clergy retreat
Sat 15 July <i>St Bonaventure, bishop, doctor</i>	Church closed for painting	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9:30am Mass: 6pm
Sun 16 July	Church closed for painting	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Marie Dunn, Paul Breeze,
Roy Gersbach

Prayers for the sick

Peter Lathourakis, Roger Doyle

Anniversaries

Dr Shelia Dwyer, Arthur Williams,
Ruby Stubbs, Marcel Fernandez,



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

There is much to celebrate in the ways that the parishes of Immaculate Conception and St Therese are working together. There is the co-operation that has enabled the Unanderra worshipping community to continue to gather to celebrate Mass at West Wollongong while the Unanderra church is closed for repainting. Then there is the great turnout and atmosphere at the Parish Social at Figtree Sports Club, with 60 people attending, largely shared across the two parishes, and a number of others keen to attend next time – thank you to Mary O'Rourke for initiating and organizing this event, and Barry and Melissa for their assistance. Our next joint parish social event will be the "Community Fun Day", locked in now for Sunday August 6th at 11:30am at Edmund Rice College. Thank you to Judith Hurley and Edmund Rice for so generously hosting us once again, and to the Community Co-ordination Teams in our two parishes for organizing this event. Last year's Community Fun Day saw over 200 people of all ages come along in spite of uncertain weather, and enjoy food and fun, with new connections made and deepening of existing bonds.

As well as these purely social events, we also look forward to our second instalment of Alpha. The first Alpha was a wonderful success, with many new friendships formed, and many experiencing new and deepening experiences of God's love, and as a result seeking deeper connection with the parish community. The next Alpha starts on Wednesday August 30th.

We can sometimes wonder how to reach out and invite new people to join our community – but we now have a number of invitational opportunities. The Community Fun Day might be the first step; that same day will also provide opportunities for people to learn more about Alpha as a "next step" if they wish to take it; at the end of Alpha a number of further "next steps" are offered for people to consider. It is never a case of pressuring anyone, but rather a case of freely offering an ever deeper connection with Christ and our community of faith and love.

This next month will be an opportunity for us to prayerfully consider who among our relatives, friends, colleagues and acquaintances might benefit from an invitation to one or more of our parish events – and indeed how we ourselves might wish to get more connected in this community. We will be providing promotional materials in the coming weeks to assist us all to share this invitation. Above all, let's constantly pray that more people will come to share in the love of Christ through us.

Due to the Diocesan Clergy Retreat, there will be no weekday Masses from Monday to Friday – Mass at St Therese as normal on Saturday 15th July at 9am.

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

The morning of day 12 dawned. I woke early with great anticipation and a sense of excitement. With expectant delight I did my rats test. My heart sank when the two lines once more gazed at me. I felt flattened and in disbelief.

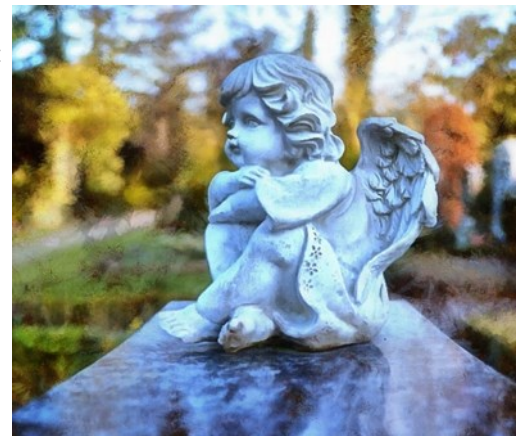
Feeling sorry for myself I pondered. My thoughts soon shook me into reality. I may have been on day 12 of Covid but I know this will soon pass and life will go on.

My thoughts turned to others, known and unknown, who too were awaiting test results; not for Covid but for things that would be life changing. For a short moment I felt what it must be like to be anticipating such results.... scans, blood tests, biopsies, diagnosis for a mystery illness and the list goes on. Images of parishioners in this situation were pencilled in my mind.

These people, known and unknown, may well be sitting next to you, or in front or behind you. They may be all smiles, but their hearts are silently weeping in pain, disbelief, regret, uncertainty etc. Can you spare a prayer today for others who are anxiously awaiting news that may well be life changing?

'We are each of us angels with only one wing, and we can only fly by embracing one another.' Luciano Crescenzo.

Sr Kerry Gardiner



ROSTER – THIS WEEKEND

July	Church Washing	Barbara Faraway	
Sat 8 July	Church Cleaning	No cleaning due to painting of church	
Sat 8 July	Lawns	M & J Winner, M Walsh, S Carrigan, A Bennett	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
6pm 8 July	D Ferrer	B Faraway	
8am 9 July	C Walsh	J Sharwood	School holidays
Counters	A Kelly, B Faraway		

ROSTER – NEXT WEEKEND

July	Church Washing	Barbara Faraway	
Sat 15 July	Church Cleaning	No cleaning due to painting of church	
Sat 15 July	Lawns	No lawn mowing this week	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
6pm 15 July	D Nugent	S Marsala	
8am 16 July	P Gunning	F Carolan/ A Amone	School holidays
Counters	M Murphy (FT) S Alessi		

PARISH NEWS

Catholic Women's League

The monthly meeting of the CWL will be held on **Thursday 13th July at 10am** in St Joseph's Room. Our guest speaker this month will be Anne Kelly who has recently returned from Rome where she and other women from WUCWO had an audience with Pope Francis. Anne will share her experiences with us. Everyone is welcome to come along and join us for a cuppa at 10am and listen to Anne's story.



Silver Circle results

Week 3 - 3rd July 1st C Brown - number 24
2nd R Wilson - number 21

Living Faith Books - July, Aug, Sep

New Living Faith books for children and adults (Jul, Aug, Sep) are now available from the resource table in St Therese church. Cost is \$5 each.

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

Parish Pastoral Council meeting

Last week, the PPC met. The following items were discussed.

- Plans for new signage for the front of the church
- Plans for new internal lighting for the church.
- Celebrations for the reopening of the church when painting is complete.
- Timing of the next Alpha program.

Can you help?

We have a small team working weekday mornings to clean the brass and other items from the church. Please call **Gloria 0403 716 624** or **George 0432 595 625** if you can help.

Alternative Weekday Masses in the area:

- **St Francis Xavier's Cathedral**
7am Monday to Friday, and Wednesday and Friday 12:10pm
- **St Francis of Assisi Warrawong**
9am Tuesday to Friday
- **St John's Dapto**
Wednesday to Friday 9:30am;
- **St John Vianney Fairy Meadow**
Tuesday 9:30am;
- **St Brigid's Gwynneville**
Thursday 9:30am.

Parish Finances - week ending 2 July 2023

\$390 First Collection - Clergy Remuneration Fund
\$281 Second collection - Parish expenses
\$160 Tap Point - Parish donations
\$204 Planned giving envelopes
\$498 Direct debits (weekly average from May).

Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly.

FIRE WEEKEND FOR YOUNG ADULTS

We have an upcoming weekend retreat for those 18-35s looking for an opportunity to be renewed in faith and continue journeying with the Lord.

When: 5:30pm Friday 28th July – 1pm Sunday 30th July 2023

Where: Mt Carmel Retreat Centre (247 St Andrews Rd, Varroville NSW 2566).

Who: Young adults and married couples, aged 18-35 years.

Cost: \$200 (inclusive of accommodation, activities and meals)

For more info and to register, you can find the form at:

<https://form.jotform.com/231340929360857>

Questions? Contact Stefanie via stefaniekusters@outlook.com

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME – AIRS SUNDAY 9 JULY 2023

On the Journey this week: Fr Mark De Battista says when it comes to faith and knowledge of God, it's those with a childlike heart who have the deepest insights. Mother Hilda compares King David's harp playing to the music of Jesus in our heart. Plus, Pete Gilmore's faith testimony, Trish McCarthy on the gift of water, the bush deacon, Josh Clayton on why tolling bells unite us. Listen at jcr.org.au



A VOCATION VIEW

We are to live a life in the Spirit, putting to death the works of the flesh. Ask God to help you always live as a child of the Light. (Romans 8:13)

If you want to talk about your discernment, please contact the diocesan vocations director, Fr Duane Fernandez at

vocations@dow.org.au



WOLLONGONG CURSILLO REFLECTION DAY

Join us for a great reflection day all about HOPE! Three great talks and discussions will focus on building HOPE in our lives, understanding where Hope comes from and how we express gratitude when our Hope is realized? The day is open to all.

Where: Xavier Conference Centre, 38 Harbour St Wollongong

When: Saturday 15 July from 9am to 4pm.

BYO: Morning Tea and Lunch.

To find out more and book your spot, please contact Dianne Garland on **0418 640 373** or email

dianne.garland@gmail.com

ST PADRE PIO RETREAT DAY

ST COLUMBKILLE'S PARISH CENTRE AND CHURCH
3PM TO 7PM SATURDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2023

Fr Patrick Vaughan is hosting a retreat afternoon where people can come together for prayer and fellowship. Everyone is welcome to join.

BENEDICTINE ABBEY

We currently have a great deal of pruning and clearing to be done and so are getting two working bees together.

When: Saturday 29 July and Saturday 5 August.

Time: Between 9 am and 4pm (come as you are able)

What to bring: Your own tools, chain saws, we could use a Ute, anything you have. If you do not have any of these just come anyway.

Contact: Please ring VINCE 0488 360 110 for details and to register your name and date and time of availability
Tea, coffee, scones etc. will all be provided.

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED TRANSPORT FOR PASTORAL CARE

One of the major works of Aid to the Church in Need is providing transport to priests, sisters, and catechists to reach the faithful, who are often at great distances and must go through difficult terrain. In 2022, ACN provided 1,253 pastoral vehicles. This included **564 cars, 406 bicycles, 252 motorcycles, 16 boats, 11 buses, and 4 trucks** for the pastoral work – particularly in Latin America and Africa. Can you help us supply transport to priests and religious again in 2023? Visit www.aidtochurch.org/transport

9 JULY 2023 – FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

First Reading - Zechariah 9:9-10

The Lord says this:

See how humbly your king comes to you.

Rejoice heart and soul, daughter of Zion!
Shout with gladness, daughter of Jerusalem!
See now, your king comes to you;
he is victorious, he is triumphant,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
He will banish chariots from Ephraim
and horses from Jerusalem;
the bow of war will be banished.
He will proclaim peace for the nations.
His empire shall stretch from sea to sea,
from the River to the ends of the earth.

Responsorial Psalm - I will praise your name forever, my king and my God.

1. I will give you glory, O God my king, I will bless your name for ever.
I will bless you day after day and praise your name for ever. R.
2. The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all, compassionate to all his creatures. R.
3. All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord, and your friends shall repeat their blessing.
They shall speak of the glory of your reign and declare your might, O God. R.
4. The Lord is faithful in all his words and loving in all his deeds.
The Lord supports all who fall and raises all who are bowed down. R.

Second Reading - Romans 8: 9, 11-13

If by the Spirit you put an end to the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

Your interests are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him, and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

So then, my brothers, there is no necessity for us to obey our unspiritual selves or to live unspiritual lives. If you do live in that way, you are doomed to die; but if by the Spirit you put an end to the misdeeds of the body you will live.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.
Alleluia!

Gospel -Matthew 11: 25-30

I am gentle and humble of heart

Jesus exclaimed, 'I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children. Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do. Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

'Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.'