

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/



Parish Priest:	Fr Duane Fernandez Email: Duane.Fernandez@dow.org.au Mobile: 0414 626 357	Parish School:	St Pius X Primary School Cnr Hargreaves & Cummins Streets (PO Box 358) Unanderra NSW 2526 Phone: 4271 3550 Fax: 4272 2954
Polish Chaplain:	Fr Jerzy Slowinski Email: slowinski54@gmail.com Mobile: 0410 225 975	School Principal:	Mrs Pauline Chrostowski
Parish Assistant:	Sr Kerry Gardiner Email: Kerry.Gardiner@sosj.org.au Mobile: 0421 463 871	Parish Secretary:	Mrs Melissa Bridges (Mon/Wed/Fri)
Parish Pastoral Council President:	Email: Mobile:	Parish Office:	Email: unanderra@dow.org.au Website: www.unanderraparish.org.au Phone: 4271 1068 Fax: 4271 1298

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) — 16 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 17 July	Church closed for painting	
Tues 18 July	Church closed for painting	Mass: 7:45am
Wed 19 July	Church closed for painting	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm - 5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm
Thurs 20 July <i>St Apollinaris, bishop, martyr</i>	Church closed for painting	Mass: 7:45am
Fri 21 July <i>St Lawrence of Brindisi, priest, doctor</i>	Church closed for painting	Mass: 9:30am
Sat 22 July <i>St Mary Magdalene</i>	Church closed for painting	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9:30am Mass: 6pm
Sun 23 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
Christine Wood

Anniversaries

Conessa Memanglu, Margaret Bourke,
Helen Smolenaars, Mary Louise Stubbs



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

I write from the Annual Diocesan Clergy Retreat. It has been a spiritually refreshing time for me, with talks given by Fr Ronan Kilgannon, some shared prayer with the clergy of the Diocese, and I have prayed for you often. At each annual retreat I am reminded of the vital importance of extended periods of silence in our spiritual lives. This is true not just for clergy and religious, but for every one of us. While extended retreats may not always be possible, even finding a day, or half a day of quiet “retreat” from the busyness of life can be more fruitful than we would imagine. Fr Ronan reinforced for us all how important it is to “make space for God”, even if it means “deliberately doing nothing” – so counter-cultural in a society focused on productivity and success. He went on to encourage us in our prayer life, assuring us that there is no secret to it, no perfect way to pray – and indeed that each one of us has a unique relationship with God, who sees our hearts. All that is truly required is a desire in our hearts to come closer to God, which leads us to make quiet time with God, and God’s Spirit will do the rest. As St Paul writes, *“the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God”* (Romans 8:26-27).

It was a pleasure also to catch up with the previous Parish Priest of Immaculate Conception Parish, Monsignor Graham Schmitzer, at the Clergy retreat during the week – and even more so when he handed me a cheque contributing to the parish re-painting job to the amount of \$5000! As he handed it to me he said “I always wanted to make that church fit for her” – referring of course to Mary, the Immaculate Conception herself. We are most grateful to Monsignor Graham both for his generosity and the wonderful work that he did in enhancing the beauty of our church building while he was Parish Priest. This encounter with Monsignor Graham served as yet another reminder to me that our work today is building upon the generosity of the clergy and parishioners who have gone before us in this Parish – may we be always grateful to them and faithful to the legacy entrusted to us.

As we continue to seek new ways to build up our parish today, I encourage you to continue to consider who you might invite to the Community Fun Day, and to Alpha. The Community Fun Day on Sunday August 6th will be an opportunity for people of all demographics to come together and build community over a picnic lunch and sausage sizzle, with games, sports, and a chance to just relax together away from the busyness of life. We had 200 people come along last year and hope for even more this time around! As for Alpha – once again I cannot speak highly enough of this program and the fruit it has already borne in our parish communities. Our second Alpha begins on August 30th. It is open to all parishioners as well as anyone of any faith or no faith who we think might be open to exploring the deeper questions of life and faith. Come along to both the Fun Day and Alpha if you are able, and let’s all think about who we might invite to these events.

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

Some years ago, when Peter was younger and fitter, he was stationed at Port Augusta. Baxter Detention Centre was within their parish. Peter often celebrated Mass at Baxter.

One day he was unexpectedly called to Baxter as a riot had broken out and all efforts to quell the disturbance had failed. Peter was contacted in the hope he would have some influence and miraculously bring some order and calmness back to the detainees.

Peter travelled the 12kms to the centre. He did not know what he could do. He decided to climb the ladder and joined the detainees who were on the roof. Peter just sat there. Time went on. As time continued to unfold the detainees too just sat down around Peter. After some time, the detainees decided to come down off the roof. Peter came down with them. Peter laughed as he told us this story. He was hailed a hero. Peter could only say, ‘I just sat there. I did nothing.’

There are times when a disturbance takes place within each of us. Are you able to allow God just to sit with you and allow the storm to pass?

Sr Kerry Gardiner



ROSTER – THIS 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 Arnone	School holidays
Counters	M Murphy (FT) S Alessi		

ROSTER – NEXT WEEKEND

July	Church Washing	Barbara Faraway	
Sat 22 July	Church Cleaning	No cleaning due to painting of church	
Sat 22 July	Lawns	No lawn mowing this week	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
6pm 22 July	M Rodwell		
8am 23 July	M Matos	A Kelly / M Graham	Kirra Calvert, Maria Matos
Counters	A Kelly, B Faraway		

PARISH NEWS

Church working bee - Sunday 16 July

Painting of our church is progressing well. As part of this project, we wish to polish the skirting boards inside the church. On Sunday 16 July, from **1pm - 3pm** we are having a working bee to do this work. Please come along and join us for an hour or two. We hope to see you there.



Catholic Weeklies - \$2

The Catholic Weekly is available in the foyer at St Therese Church. Please leave your \$2 payment in the marked box.

Silver Circle results

Week 4 - 10th July 1st D Browne - number 29
 2nd R Battley - number 13

The Christian Meditation Group

Will recommence meeting weekly at **6pm Monday 17 July at St Therese Parish Centre**. Please invite friends and those of all faiths and none who may be interested to come along.

Enquiries: Please text Monica 0412 056 877

Each must learn just to be.....open to the silent presence of the Spirit.. John Main OSB



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.

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 9 July 2023

\$374	First Collection	- Clergy Remuneration Fund
\$262	Second collection	- Parish expenses
\$110	Tap Point - Parish donations	
\$190	Planned giving envelopes	
\$476	Direct debits (weekly average from June). 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 16 JULY 2023

On the Journey this week: Fr Benedict Mackenzie says the Gospel is advice on what we will encounter as we sow the seeds of evangelisation. Mother Hilda has advice on reversing injury we may have to another in the past. Plus, Fr Mike Delaney, Trish McCarthy and Fr Dave Callaghan. Listen at jcr.org.au



A VOCATION VIEW

Make your heart ready to receive the Word of God sown through the Mass and Sacraments in the Church. (Isaiah 55:10-11)

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



CRA NATIONAL JUSTICE SEMINAR

– LIFT YOUR VOICE | 26 JULY SYDNEY

Be inspired, challenged, and uplifted as we approach the referendum on the Indigenous Voice to Parliament.

Registration: Register online **by 20 July 2023**

<https://events.humanitix.com/cra-national-justice-seminar-lift-your-voice>



Registration Fee: (includes Morning Tea and Lunch)

CRA Member: \$160 per person

Non-member: \$180 per person

Enquiries: Taylor Coutinho | P: 02 9557 2695 |

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

16 JULY 2023 – FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

First Reading - Isaiah 55:10-11

The rain makes the earth give growth

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

Responsorial Psalm - The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

1. You care for the earth, give it water, you fill it with riches.
Your river in heaven brims over to provide its grain. R.
2. And thus you provide for the earth; you drench its furrows;
you level it, soften it with showers; you bless its growth. R.
3. You crown the year with your goodness. Abundance flows in your steps,
in the pastures of the wilderness it flows. R.
4. The hills are girded with joy, the meadows covered with flocks,
the valleys are decked with wheat. They shout for joy, yes, they sing. R.

Second Reading - Romans 8: 18-23

All creation is waiting for the revelation of the children of God.

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; all who come to him will live forever. Alleluia!

Gospel -Matthew 13: 1-23

A sower went out to sow.

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because' he replied, 'the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled:

You will listen and listen again, but not understand,
see and see again, but not perceive.
For the heart of this nation has grown coarse,
their ears are dull of hearing, and they have shut their eyes,
for fear they should see with their eyes,
hear with their ears,
understand with their heart,
and be converted
and be healed by me.

'But happy are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly, many prophets and holy men longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it.'

'You, therefore, are to hear the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in his heart: this is the man who received the seed on the edge of the path. The one who received it on patches of rock is the man who hears the word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he has no root in him, he does not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, and he falls away at once. The one who received the seed in thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word and so he produces nothing. And the one who received the seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word and understands it; he is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.'