

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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Polish Chaplain: Fr Jerzy Slowinski
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Parish Pastoral Council President:
 Email:
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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
 Website: www.unanderraparish.org.au
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THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) – 30 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 31 July <i>St Ignatius of Loyola, priest</i>	Church closed for painting	
Tues 1 Aug <i>St Alphonsus Liguori, bishop, doctor</i>	Church closed for painting	Mass: 7:45am
Wed 2 Aug <i>St Eusebius of Vercelli, St Peter Julian Eymard</i>	Church closed for painting	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm - 5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm 
Thurs 3 Aug <i>St Dominic, priest</i>	Church closed for painting	Mass: 7:45am
Fri 4 Aug <i>St John Vianney, priest</i>	Church closed for painting	Mass: 9:30am
Sat 5 Aug	Church closed for painting	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9:30am Mass: 6pm 
Sun 6 Aug	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

Mary Scally, Sr Sheila Curnow RSJ,
Cd Edward Clancy, Fr Peter Caruana,

Bonnie Miller, Bernard Gillis, Brian Henderson
Ben Graham, Francis Murphy, Barbara Bourke,
Geoff Goodwin, Frank Toohey, Kathleen McGuinness

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 had a walk through the church during this past week, and was very happy with what I saw! In terms of time frame, we originally said 6-8 weeks, and it is clearer now that all 8 weeks will be required – and we certainly don't want to rush the work of the painters, who have met some unexpected obstacles, but have been very dedicated and thorough in all that they have done. It was exciting to see the difference that has already been made inside the church with the repainting. The project has included thorough cleaning throughout the church – often by volunteer parishioners – as well as cleaning and renewing of many of the pictures, statues, brass, windows and more. There have been so many generous people sharing their time, energy, and many gifts, and it has been truly inspiring to see!

As we continue our co-operation across the parishes of Unanderra and West Wollongong, We are ready to celebrate our Community Fun Day next Sunday from 11:30am, at Edmund Rice College. Everyone is most welcome, and invite anyone you think would like to join us – whatever their faith – a great opportunity for them to get to see just how much fun we actually are to be around! If anyone would like to help out in any way on the day, feel free to let me know, but most importantly, come along and enjoy a fun day with the rest of our parish and broader community!

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

It is just over twenty-eight years since my dad literally dropped dead. I remember that morning as if it was last Monday morning. I happened to be spending the weekend with my mum and dad. I was there to celebrate my dad's 77th birthday.

My dad, a chef and cake decorator, had volunteered to do quite a big task for the Senior Citizens group. Mum made the comment that dad thinks we have heaps of money because he was so generous in what he was offering to do. Dad replied, 'We are the wealthiest people in Oatley.' Dad was referring to the gifts we had as a family. Little did I know that in less than forty-eight hours my dad would be dead. I grieved greatly for the man who gave me life, showed me how to live life and what was really important in life.

Some months later I needed to honour my dad in some way. While not being a jewellery person I did purchase a pearl because I realised that my dad had given me the gift of what is important in life and to see the treasure. The pearl reminds me to live as God would want me to live.

What is your pearl?



Sr Kerry Gardiner

ROSTER – THIS WEEKEND

July	Church Washing	Barbara Faraway	
Sat 29 July	Church Cleaning	<i>No cleaning due to painting of church</i>	
Sat 29 July	Lawns	<i>No lawn mowing this week</i>	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
6pm 29 July	N O'Donoghue		
8am 30 July	S Walsh	M Matos	Kylie and Molly Hertsch, Gemma Farrugia
Counters	M Murphy(FH), C Stratton, M Winner		

ROSTER – NEXT WEEKEND

August	Church Washing	Fiona Fernandez	
Sat 5 Aug	Church Cleaning	<i>No cleaning due to painting of church</i>	
Sat 5 Aug	Lawns	<i>No lawn mowing this week</i>	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
6pm 5 Aug	D Ferrier	C Cleary	
8am 6 Aug	T Vaafusuaga	G Simmonite	Leah Galea, Alison Sharwood
Counters	A Kelly, B Faraway		

PARISH NEWS

Invitation to "ALPHA"

Alpha explores life's biggest questions in a welcoming and relaxed space. Sessions begin with a meal followed by some great video input that leads into small-group conversation. You can say anything you like or nothing at all.

Our next Alpha series begins on **Wednesday 30 August 2023 at the St Therese Parish Centre, starting at 7pm with dinner.**

There is no cost and no commitment, just come and see, or invite others along - regardless of what they believe, they will be welcomed and feel a sense of belonging right from the start!

Carmelite meeting - 5 August

The next meeting of the Lay Carmelites will be in the St Joseph's room on Saturday 5 August at 10am. All are welcome. Call Ann Baumber on 0427 235 955 for more information.

Community Fun Day - Sunday 6 August

You're invited to our Community Fun Day. Bring a picnic lunch or enjoy a free sausage sizzle. All welcome.

Location: Edmund Rice College

Time: 11:30am onwards

Silver Circle results - week 6 - 24th July

1st C Grey - number 18

2nd C Dean - number 38

The Christian Meditation Group

Meets weekly at **6pm Monday 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.

Please leave money in the container.

Parish Finances - week ending 23 July 2023

\$317 First Collection - Clergy Remuneration Fund

\$324 Second collection - Parish expenses

\$120 Tap Point - Parish donations

\$234 Planned giving envelopes

\$476 Direct debits (weekly average from June).

Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly.

VINNIES HOMELESS HUB

Our centre is located at **12-16 Miller St, Coniston.** The Vinnies Van operates out of this centre and provides emergency food relief and items for daily living to people experiencing homelessness and those living in difficult circumstances, 5 days a week. The Vinnies Homeless Hub and the Vinnies Van would be grateful for any one off or regular donations of food items, small toiletry items, sleeping bags, warm jackets, gloves, beanies, and snacks/poppers for school aged children.

The Vinnies Homeless Hub **accepts donations 9am-12md Monday-Friday.** Please call the

Vinnies Hub on 4228 9355 or Kelly

McCrohon, Vinnies Van Coordinator on

(02) 5612 1357 or M: 0476 532 002, or

E: vinniesvan@vinnies.org.au for any queries



THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME - AIRS SUNDAY 30 JULY 2023

On the Journey this week: Fr Rob Galea tells how to find the field and get the pearl of great price that is in it. Mother Hilda says we can change the way we think about and handle the fast pace of life by enjoying the seasons of the day. Plus, Fr Tony Percy on Prudence Not Prudish and what we can learn from King Solomon, Mark Raue with hearts on fire-and feet on the move. Listen at jcr.org.au



A VOCATION VIEW

Give your servant an understanding heart to distinguish right from wrong." True knowledge comes from the Lord and is not to be used for our own gain, but for the building of the Kingdom of Heaven. (1 Kings 3:9)

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

2023 SIGNIFICANT MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARIES MASS

If you are celebrating 25, 30, 40, 50, 60 or over 60 years of marriage this year, we invite you to the celebration of Significant Marriage Anniversaries, to be celebrated with Bishop Brian Mascord on **Sunday 17 September 2023 at 2pm** at the St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Wollongong. Mass will be followed by light refreshments in the Xavier Centre Conference Room.

Please register online at dow.sh/ma23 or contact Helen Bennett at the Office of the Bishop at 4222 2403, or via email helen.bennett@dow.org.au by no later than Friday 4 August 2023.

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.

RAISING FATHERS: FATHERING FROM THE FRONT LINE

SPEAKER: ROBERT FALZON

WHEN: 7PM- 8PM MONDAY 28 AUGUST 2023

LEVEL 1, MICAH HOUSE RESOURCE CENTRE

COST: FREE

Join other dads and father figures for this special evening event as Robert Falzon unpacks practical advice and shares stories that are powerfully important, impacting, informative and instructional for fathering in today's world. RSVP 27 Aug. **Enquiries: jude.hennessy@dow.org.au** Register: here

POSITION VACANT

PARISH SECRETARY - ST MICHAEL'S THIRROUL

Thirroul parish is seeking the services of a part-time secretary for **17 hrs per week - currently Tues, Wed and Fridays**, but negotiable. The position requires skills in administration, bookkeeping, maintaining a database, and high skills in MS Word, Excel and PowerPoint. The parish secretary needs to be a person who is supportive of the Catholic ethos of the Parish, who bears witness to Christ and Christian values in their own lives and in their work. If interested, please email frances.vanleerdam@dow.org.au to request an application pack. Applications close 5pm Monday, 31 July 2023.

30 JULY 2023 – THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

First Reading - 1 Kings 3:5,7-12

You have asked for wisdom

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its number cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this' the Lord said 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

Responsorial Psalm - Lord, I love your commands.

1. My part, I have resolved, O Lord, is to obey your word.
The law from your mouth means more to me than silver and gold. R.
2. Let your love be ready to console me by your promise to your servant.
Let your love come and I shall live for your law is my delight. R.
3. That is why I love your commands more than finest gold,
why I rule my life by your precepts, and hate false ways. R.
4. Your will is wonderful indeed; therefore I obey it.
The unfolding of your word gives light and teaches the simple. R.

Second Reading - Romans 8:28-30

He predestined us to become true images of his Son.

We know that by turning everything to their good, God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

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 13:44-52

He sells everything he owns and buys the field.

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

'Have you understood all this?' They said, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.'