

PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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

www.unanderraparish.org.au

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THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD (YEAR A) – 6 AUGUST 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 7 Aug <i>St Sixtus II, pope, St Cajetan, priest</i>	Church closed for painting	
Tues 8 Aug <i>St Mary of the Cross, virgin</i>	Church closed for painting	Mass: 7:45am Mass: 5:30pm
Wed 9 Aug <i>St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross</i>	Church closed for painting	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm - 5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm 
Thurs 10 Aug <i>St Lawrence, deacon, martyr</i>	Church closed for painting	Mass: 7:45am
Fri 11 Aug <i>St Clare, virgin</i>	Church closed for painting	Mass: 9:30am
Sat 12 Aug <i>St Jane Frances de Chantal</i>	Church closed for painting	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9:30am Mass: 6pm 
Sun 13 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
John Sweeney

Anniversaries

Mary Geraldine Dries, Joseph Fenech,
Ron Gandy.



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 weekend we celebrate our Community Fun Day. A big thank you to the Community Co-ordination Teams across our two parishes for their work in organizing this, and to other volunteers as well, and thanks to all who participate!

Alpha is also now fast approaching – see below for more details on how to register to experience Alpha – all are welcome. If you aren't planning to join as a participant, if you would be willing join a roster to help set up (from 6:30pm) and wash up (until 9pm) that would be a great help, as the success of Alpha depends entirely on volunteers, and the more hands the better! Email us at alphawwu@gmail.com if you might be able to help in this way.

We will be celebrating two special Feast Days soon: the Feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, patron saint of Australia and our first canonised saint this Tuesday 8th August, and the following Tuesday the Feast of the Assumption. For both of these Feast Days we will have an extra Mass at St Therese Church at 5:30pm (in addition to the usual Tuesday 7:45am Mass time). This week let us pray especially through the intercession of St Mary of the Cross for an outpouring of God's blessings upon our nation of Australia.

Finally, from this weekend onwards the "covid safety" pre-announcements at Mass will cease. Note that at Communion we still ask that those wishing to receive Communion on the tongue come to the priest only, so that other ministers can continue to give Communion only on the hand; at the sign of peace note that some might still prefer no physical contact for those outside their households.

This weekend, we welcome back Fr Jerzy from his leave. He will resume Mass for the Polish community at 10am on Sundays, which will take place in the St Joseph's Room at Unanderra until the church reopens in a few weeks time. Fr Ben Gandy will also join us this weekend – celebrating the 6pm Saturday Vigil Mass, as he marks his first anniversary of Ordination with his family, who are parishioners here. Congratulations Fr Ben – ad multos annos ("to many years")!

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

As a very young sister I was approached by the mother of one of my students. Marie said, 'Sr would you please pray for Jackie to be a nun. I don't want her to have the confinements I have had.' I couldn't pray that prayer for I believe we are called to a vocation in life, rather than us choosing from a list of what is available.

As we begin this week of Vocation Awareness let us pray for those searching to find where God is leading them in life.

Let's pray for those who have committed to their vocation that they have the strength to live fully that to which they are called.

Let's pray for those struggling with questions, fears and doubts that the waters of uncertainty may be calmed .

Let's pray for ourselves and for those who have walked our journey with us.

I believe every vocation, no matter one's call in life, is about relationship. Who is important in your relationship?



Sr Kerry Gardiner

ROSTER – THIS WEEKEND

July	Church Washing	Fiona Fernandez	
Sat 5 Aug	Church Cleaning	No cleaning due to painting of church	
Sat 5 Aug	Lawns	No lawn mowing this week	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
6pm 5 Aug	D Ferrier	C Cleary	
8am 6 Aug	T Vaafusuaga	G Simmonite	No children's liturgy
Counters	A Kelly, B Farraway		

ROSTER – NEXT WEEKEND

August	Church Washing	Fiona Fernandez	
Sat 12 Aug	Church Cleaning	No cleaning due to painting of church	
Sat 12 Aug	Lawns	No lawn mowing this week	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
6pm 12 Aug	D Nugent	B Farraway	
8am 13 Aug	N Michielin	J Sharwood	No children's liturgy
Counters	A Gunning, M Caudero, C Garrett.		

PARISH NEWS

Catholic Women's League

The monthly meeting of the CWL will be held on Thursday, 10th August at 10.00am in St Joseph's Room. Everyone is welcome to come along and join us for a chat and a cuppa before the meeting.

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Mass

Tuesday 8th August is the feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. To celebrate this special day mass will be offered at St Francis Xavier's Cathedral at 12.10 pm. Everyone is invited to join in this special celebration. A light luncheon will be served at the conclusion of mass.

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!



Silver Circle results - week 7 - 31st July

1st K Heffernan Number 28
2nd N Battley - number 41

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



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 30 July 2023

\$255	First Collection	- Clergy Remuneration Fund
\$402	Second collection	- Parish expenses
\$120	Tap Point	- Parish donations
\$320	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 6 AUGUST 2023

On the Journey this week: Fr Richard Healey says a powerful way to meditate upon the transfiguration scene is to contrast the scene of Calvary and the crucifixion of Jesus with this transfiguration event. Mother Hilda says our eyes look exactly the same as God's eyes. Plus, Fr Tony Percy and the word "taken", Trish McCarthy on renewing your mind, Deacon Josh Clayton thinks we should have a spiritual coach as well as a sports or life coach.

Listen at jcr.org.au



A VOCATION VIEW

"Lord, it is good that we are here." It is always good to be in the presence of God.

NATIONAL VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK

National Vocations Awareness Week begins on August 6th - coinciding as always with the feast of Australia's first saint, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. This is a reminder that we are all called to be saints, which is to say that we are called through our baptism to follow Jesus in his way of love. This universal call then manifests uniquely in God's plan for each one of us.

In the words of Pope Francis: *"Our common vocation to give ourselves in love develops and finds concrete expression in the life of lay men and women, devoted to raising a family as a small domestic church and working as a leaven of the Gospel to renew the different sectors of society; in the testimony of consecrated women and men who are completely committed to God for the sake of their brothers and sisters as a prophetic sign of the kingdom of God; in ordained ministers – deacons, priests and bishops – placed at the service of preaching, prayer and fostering the communion of the holy People of God...The Church is a vocational "symphony", with every vocation united yet distinct, in harmony and joined together in "going forth" to radiate throughout the world the new life of the kingdom of God"* (Message for 2023 World Day of Prayer for Vocations).

For help discerning your specific vocational path, contact Fr Duane Fernandez at vocations@dow.org.au

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](#)

SOCIAL JUSTICE POINTS

[It] does not require theories on fraternity but concrete gestures and shared decisions that make it a culture of peace. The question to ask ourselves is not what society and the world can give me, but what can I give to my brothers and sisters. When we return home, let us think of some concrete gesture of fraternity that we can make: reconciling with family members, friends and neighbours, praying for those who hurt us, recognizing and helping those in need, speaking words of peace at school, university or in society, "anointing" with closeness those who feel alone.

- WORLD MEETING ON HUMAN FRATERNITY "NOT ALONE" - ADDRESS OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS, Saint Peter's Square, Saturday, 10 June 2023

6 AUGUST—THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD (YEAR A)

First Reading - Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

His raiment was as white as snow

As I watched:
Thrones were set up and one of great age took his seat.
His robe was white as snow, and the hair on his head as pure as wool;
his throne was a blaze of flames, its wheels were a burning fire.
A stream of fire poured out, issuing from his presence.
A thousand thousand waited on him,
ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him.
A court was held and the books were opened.
I gazed into the visions of the night
And I saw, coming on the clouds of heaven
One like a Son of man.
He came to the one of great age
and was led into his presence.
On him was conferred sovereignty, glory, and kingship,
all men of all peoples, nations and languages
became his servants.
His sovereignty is an eternal sovereignty
Which shall never pass away,
nor will his empire ever be destroyed.

Responsorial Psalm - The Lord is king, the most high over all the earth.

1. The Lord is king, let earth rejoice,
Let all the coastlands be glad.
Cloud and darkness are his raiment;
His throne, justice and right. R.
2. The mountains melt like wax
before the Lord of all the earth.
The skies proclaim his justice,
and all peoples see his glory. R.
3. For you indeed are the Lord
Most high above all the earth,
Exalted far above all spirits R.

Second Reading - Peter 1:16-19

We heard this voice from out of heaven

It was not any cleverly invented myths that we were repeating when we brought you the knowledge of the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, we had seen his majesty for ourselves. He was honoured and glorified by God the Father, when the Sublime Glory itself spoke to him and said, "This is my Son, the beloved, he enjoys my favour." We heard this ourselves, spoken from heaven, when we were with him on the holy mountain.

So we have confirmation of what was said in prophecies; and you will be right to depend on prophecy and take it as a lamp for lighting a way through the dark until the dawn comes and the morning star rises in your minds.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! This is my Son, my beloved, in whom is all my delight. Alleluia!

Gospel -Matthew 17: 1-9

His face was shining like the sun.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother, John, and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured: his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light. Suddenly, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. "Lord," he said "it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish. I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, he enjoys my favour. Listen to him." When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. Stand up," he said "do not be afraid." And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order, "Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.