

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

Polish Chaplain: Fr Jerzy Slowinski
 Email: slowinski54@gmail.com
 Mobile: 0410 225 975

Parish Assistant: Sr Kerry Gardiner
 Email: Kerry.Gardiner@sosj.org.au
 Mobile: 0421 463 871

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
 Website: www.unanderraparish.org.au
 Phone: 4271 1068
 Fax: 4271 1298

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) – 13 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 14 Aug <i>St Maximilian Mary Kolbe, priest, martyr</i>	Church closed for painting	
Tues 15 Aug <i>The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	Church closed for painting	Mass: 7:45am Mass: 5:30pm
Wed 16 Aug <i>St Stephen of Hungary</i>	Church closed for painting	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm - 5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm 
Thurs 17 Aug	Church closed for painting	Mass: 7:45am
Fri 18 Aug	Church closed for painting	Mass: 9:30am
Sat 19 Aug <i>St John Eudes, priest</i>	Church closed for painting	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9:30am Mass: 6pm 
Sun 20 Aug	Church closed for painting	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Marg Casey, Marie Dunn, Paul Breeze,
Roy Gersbach

Prayers for the sick

Peter Lathourakis, Roger Doyle
John Sweeney

Anniversaries

Sr Anne King RSJ, Sr Mark Boyle RSJ,
Cecil Clarke, Dot Philpott, Beatrice Williams
Gloria Sheppard



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 Tuesday we celebrate the **Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**, which celebrates Mary was assumed into heaven body and soul at the end of her earthly life, in a wonderfully unique privilege given to her from whom God took flesh in Christ. Along with Christmas Day and the Sundays of the year, this is the only other “holy day of obligation” in Australia – when the Church calls all who are able to come together to celebrate this Feast Day at Mass. To help to make it easier for people to come to Mass for this beautiful feast, there will be an extra Mass at 5:30pm at St Therese in addition to the usual 7:45am Mass this Tuesday.

It has been wonderful to see some young families coming along to St Therese West Wollongong at 8am Mass. As such this Sunday we will once again offer Children’s Liturgy of the Word at the 8am Mass at St Therese – led by the Unanderra Children’s Liturgy Team. Thank you to them, and to all of the Unanderra ministers and parishioners making the extra effort to come to Mass at St Therese during this time, to keep the worshipping community together until Immaculate Conception Church reopens. The repainting project is on track to be completed by the end of August.

It is great to see a number of people signing up for **Alpha**. If you or anyone you know is interested, please register by 23rd August as this will give a week for logistics to be finalized. If you aren’t able to attend Alpha, but would be willing and able to give of your time and energy to help with serving or washing up, even just for one night, this would be most appreciated. Sign up sheets are available on the middle table of the church, or email alphawwu@gmail.com. We thank Peter and Dani for sharing the powerful life-changing experience that Alpha gave to them, and there are many more stories like theirs, so let’s all pray for the success of our second Alpha!

Finally, if you or anyone you know is interested in becoming Catholic, please contact me at duane.fernandez@dow.org.au for an initial chat, and I will guide you in the next steps together with others who are interested.

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

What is small, was once sticky, flies around the world or just in your suburb and appears to be useless once it has been used? A postage stamp!

The Sisters of St Joseph have been collecting used stamps for near to 40 years. An elderly sister was living at Bellambi and started off this ministry. Little did she know that by 2023 the money raised would total \$500,000. From the beginning the money raised has gone, and continues to go, to our mission in Peru.

Did you know that our parish has been collecting used stamps for this project and since July 2015 you have contributed 11.8 kgs of used stamps to the project?

Thank you for this wonderful contribution. Thanks to Barbara Faraway who diligently ensures they reach their destination. Once the church is reopened you will see the box for collection at the entrance to the side door. Know your contribution is greatly appreciated by the sisters and our ministry in Peru. Thank you for your missionary spirit that greatly assists the poor in Peru.



Sr Kerry Gardiner

ROSTER – THIS WEEKEND

July	Church Washing	<i>No washing due to church closure</i>	
Sat 12 Aug	Church Cleaning	<i>No cleaning due to painting of church</i>	
Sat 12 Aug	Lawns	B Mannix, W Brown, F Caruana, J Lonard	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children’s liturgy
6pm 12 Aug	D Nugent	B Faraway	
8am 13 Aug	N Michielin	J Sharwood	Maria Matos, Alison Sharwood
Counters	A Gunning, M Caudero, C Garrett		

ROSTER – NEXT WEEKEND

August	Church Washing	<i>No washing due to church closure</i>	
Sat 19 Aug	Church Cleaning	<i>No cleaning due to painting of church</i>	
Sat 19 Aug	Lawns	<i>No lawn mowing this week</i>	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children’s liturgy
6pm 19 Aug	M Rodwell	S Marsala	
8am 20 Aug	C Lyon	F Carolan A Amone	Sandra Michielin, Luke Jansons
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! Scan the QR code and register online or email alphawwu@gmail.com



Silver Circle results - week 8 - 7 August

1st K Fitzgerald Number 7
2nd J Browne - number 22

Babysitting jobs

Would you be interested and capable to provide a babysitting service? At least one family in the parish is hoping to employ a babysitter. In our busy times, this is a growing need for young families. If you are interested in providing or receiving babysitting services, please let us know at unanderra@dow.org.au

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



Parish Finances - week ending 6 August 2023

\$459	First Collection	- Clergy Remuneration Fund
\$268	Second collection	- Parish expenses
\$150	Tap Point - Parish donations	
\$224	Planned giving envelopes	
\$476	Direct debits (weekly average from June).	

Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly.

ORDINATION TO THE DIACONATE INVITATION

Bishop Brian Mascord DD will be ordaining to the diaconate, Lawrence Burns and Rodney Mackrill on **Saturday 2 September 2023 at 10.30am** at St Francis Xavier Cathedral. Light refreshments will be available at the conclusion of the ceremony in the Xavier Conference Room.
RSVP by 25 August 2023 via this link [RSVP](#)

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](mailto:E:vinniesvan@vinnies.org.au) for any queries



THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME - AIRS SUNDAY 13 AUGUST 2023

On the Journey this week: Fr Mark De Battista says Jesus is inviting each of us to step out into the storms of life and go out to him and at that moment when you feel that force of the wind, keep your eyes fixed on Christ. Mother Hilda says observe how much life there is all around you, over which you have absolutely no control. Fr Tony Percy's Word reflection is "Effortless Mastery. Listen at jcr.org.au



A VOCATION VIEW



"Take courage, it is I, do not be afraid." By keeping our eyes set on Jesus, we are able to do marvellous things. Trust that he will not allow you to stumble or fall. (Matthew 14:23)
For help discerning your specific vocational path, contact Fr Duane Fernandez at vocations@dow.org.au

MARY IN SCRIPTURE SAVE THE DATE

You are invited to discover the unique role of Our Lady, as the Ark of the Covenant, New Eve, and Queen Mother in this eye opening in-service presented with Mr Daniel Saliba (CCD Wollongong) revealing the deep theological connections between Mary and her ancient biblical types. Whether you are a catechist, or someone seeking to deepen their understanding of Mary's role in salvation history, this short in-service will provide invaluable insights into the profound symbolism and theological depth of Catholic teaching on Mary.
There are two options for attending the seminar:
Campbelltown - Monday 18th Sept 9:30am - 12:00pm
Level 1, Micah House 35a Cordeaux Street, Campbelltown
OR Wollongong - Friday 22nd Sept 9:30am - 12:00pm
Conference Room, Xavier Centre 38 Harbour Street, Wollongong.

RAISING FATHERS: FATHERING FROM THE FRONT LINE

SPEAKER: ROBERT FALZON
WHEN: 7PM- 8PM MONDAY 28 AUGUST 2023
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

We should feel ourselves called to apply the balm of tenderness within relationships between persons and peoples that have become gangrenous. Let us not tire of crying out "no to war", in the name of God and in the name of every man and woman who aspires for peace. I am reminded of some verses written by Giuseppe Ungaretti. In the midst of war, he felt the need to speak of brothers as "Trembling word/in the night/Leaf just born". Fraternity is fragile and precious. Brothers and sisters are the anchor of truth in the stormy sea of conflicts that spread falsehood. To evoke brothers and sisters is to remind those who are fighting, and all of us, that the feeling of fraternity uniting us is stronger than hatred and violence. In fact, it unites everyone through the same pain. We start and start again from here, from the sense of "feeling together", a spark that can rekindle the light that stops the night of conflicts. - WORLD MEETING ON HUMAN FRATERNITY "NOT ALONE" - ADDRESS OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS", 10 June 2023

13 AUGUST - NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

First Reading - 1 Kings 19:9, 11-13 *Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord God.*

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.' Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

Responsorial Psalm - Lord, show us your mercy and love and grant us your salvation.

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace.
His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land. R.
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven. R.
3. The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps. R.

Second Reading - Romans 9:1-5 *I would willingly be condemned if it could help my people*

What I want to say now is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ – it is the truth – my conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! I hope in the Lord, I trust in his word. Alleluia!

Gospel -Matthew 14:22-23 *Command me to come to you over the water*

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord,' he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'