

# PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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

[www.unanderraparish.org.au](http://www.unanderraparish.org.au)

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**Parish Assistant:** Sr Kerry Gardiner  
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**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](mailto:unanderra@dow.org.au)  
 Website: [www.unanderraparish.org.au](http://www.unanderraparish.org.au)  
 Phone: 4271 1068  
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## TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) – 27 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
<b>Mon 28 Aug</b> <i>St Augustine, bishop, doctor</i>	Church closed for painting	
<b>Tues 29 Aug</b> <i>The Passion of St John the Baptist, martyr</i>	Church closed for painting	Mass: 7:45am
<b>Wed 30 Aug</b>	Church closed for painting	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm - 5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm 
<b>Thurs 31 Aug</b>	Church closed for painting	Mass: 7:45am
<b>Fri 1 Sep</b>	Church closed for painting	Mass: 9:30am
<b>Sat 2 Sep</b>	Mass: 6pm	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9:30am Mass: 6pm 
<b>Sun 3 Sep</b>	Mass: 8am	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

#### Recently Deceased

Margaret Casey, Erna Lyon

#### Prayers for the sick

Peter Lathourakis, Roger Doyle  
 John Sweeney

#### Anniversaries

Mary Evans, Colleen Schmitzer,  
 Tom Brown, Xavier Pheobus, Diana P of Wales,  
 Gary Samways, Nancy Crowe, Dorothy Costello



### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

[unanderra@dow.org.au](mailto: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*

### **SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY**

This is Social Justice Sunday throughout Australia, and the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference have published their annual Social Justice Statement, "Listen, Learn, Love: A New Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples". This is a unique statement insofar as it contains the voices of many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people themselves. I encourage you to read the statement in full.

After sharing stories of Aboriginal people the Bishops quote powerful words from the first Catholic Bishop of Australia, Archbishop Bede Polding, who once said in his testimony to Parliament: "I do not know their language sufficiently well...but I am making myself a black, putting myself in that position, and taking away all that I know except that this is my country, that my father lived by pursuing the emu, and the kangaroo, that I am driven away from my hunting grounds, that my children and tribe are subjected to the grossest barbarities...The Aborigine will demand, 'What right have you to come here? We have not asked you to come, and you take away our lands, you drive away our means of subsistence.'"

The same Spirit who inspired Archbishop Polding to speak such prophetic words in 1845 continues to call us to ever deeper relationships of love and respect with our First Nations people, and to engage with love and humility in the present dialogue about the Referendum.

### **USUAL MASS TIMETABLE TO RESUME NEXT WEEKEND, 2-3 SEPTEMBER**

Thanks to the many volunteers, led by the project team leaders of George Attard, Gloria Simmonite and Mick Winner, Immaculate Conception Church will be re-opened next weekend, with the Saturday 2nd September 6pm Mass. This means from 2nd September onwards we will return to the usual weekend and weekday Mass timetable across the two parishes.

### **EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

Pope Francis recently said: "I believe that we have lost the sense of adoration in our day. We must rediscover the sense of adoration in silence...In the Eucharist, we encounter the One who gave everything for us, who sacrificed himself in order to give us life, who loved us to the end...The Eucharist, then, impels us to a strong and committed love of neighbour. For we cannot truly understand or live the meaning of the Eucharist if our hearts are closed to our brothers and sisters, especially those who are poor, suffering, weary or who may have gone astray in life."

Starting the First Friday of October, there will be an opportunity for extended Eucharistic Adoration at the newly renovated Immaculate Conception Church, Unanderra from 7pm until 10pm. This is in response to many people, especially young adults, expressing a desire for Eucharistic Adoration after work hours. Note: this will only commence if enough people commit to a timeslot. You can commit to a timeslot through this Google Form <https://bit.ly/adorationunanderra> or by emailing your name, number and preferred time to [adorationunanderra@gmail.com](mailto:adorationunanderra@gmail.com).

### **FIRST RECONCILIATION**

Congratulations to the children who received their First Reconciliation during this past week, and thank you to their families, teachers, Catechists and the Sacramental Team for preparing them so beautifully.

**Fr Duane Fernandez**

## *Message from Sr Kerry*

A teacher sits in on the scripture class. The teacher assigned to my class seems extremely dedicated and I would think a very good teacher. The scripture class of 6 and 7-year-olds was going well. It is easy to bring to life the stories of Jesus. This day we were pondering the Ten Lepers. After narrating the story, I asked what Jesus wants us to learn from that story. To bring the lesson to a practical conclusion I asked what they said to the teacher before they leave for home each day. I was told the teacher said good afternoon to them and they to the teacher. Even though my class is made up of children from several different classes no class said 'thank you' to the teacher at the end of the day, or vice versa. The last person I chose to tell me what happens in her class said, 'The teacher doesn't say anything.' It turns out her teacher is the one sitting in on my class. She piped up and said, 'We don't have time.'

I felt a little sad hearing this, especially since I considered her to be a brilliant teacher. Having spent the day with the children I presumed it would be wonderful to greet each other in this way. I did wonder if that afternoon this particular teacher said 'good afternoon.'

We can be brilliant but does our brilliance lose some shine in not being able to acknowledge the little things?

**Sr Kerry Gardiner**



### **ROSTER — THIS WEEKEND**

July	Church Washing	<i>No washing due to church closure</i>	
Sat 26 Aug	Church Cleaning	<i>No cleaning due to painting of church</i>	
Sat 26 Aug	Lawns	<i>No lawn mowing this week</i>	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
6pm 26 Aug	N O'Donoghue		
8am 27 Aug	A Kelly	M Graham	Kirra Calvert, Maria Matos
Counters	M Murphy(FT), S Alessi		

### **ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND**

September	Church Washing	<i>No washing due to church closure</i>	
Sat 2 Sep	Church Cleaning	<i>No cleaning due to painting of church</i>	
Sat 2 Sep	Lawns	<i>No lawn mowing this week</i>	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
6pm 2 Sep	D Ferrer	C Cleary	
8am 3 Sep	C Walsh	G Simmonite	Kylie and Molly Hertsch, Gemma Farrugia
Counters	A Kelly, B Faraway		

## PARISH NEWS



### "ALPHA"

Registrations for Alpha have closed – although if you are especially keen to join and just haven't had the chance to register yet please let me know and I will see what I can do to include you. Please now remember Alpha in your prayers – and if anyone can help with serving and washing up, please share your details on the sheets in the church or email us at

[alphawwu@gmail.com](mailto:alphawwu@gmail.com)

### Silver Circle results - week 10 - 21 August

1st P Connell Number 10

2nd C Grey - number 18

### Church working bee - Sunday 27 August

On Sunday 27 August, from **1pm-3pm** we are having a working bee to clean and polish the church pews. Please come along and join us for an hour or two. We hope to see you there.



### 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: text Monica 0412 056 877



### Parish Finances - week ending 20 August 2023

\$302 First Collection - Clergy Remuneration Fund

\$349 Second collection - Parish expenses

\$120 Tap Point - Parish donations

\$120 Planned giving envelopes

\$711 Direct debits (weekly average from July).

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](#)

## POSITION VACANT

### PARISH SECRETARY - ALL SAINTS PARISH, SHELLHARBOUR CITY

Shellharbour parish is seeking the services of a part-time secretary for 18 hrs per week – currently Tues, Wed, Thurs and Friday, 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 make contact via email to request an application pack for this position to

[frances.vanleerdam@dow.org.au](mailto:frances.vanleerdam@dow.org.au)

Applications close 5pm Monday, 28th August 2023.

## THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME – AIRS SUNDAY 27 AUGUST 2023

On the Journey this week: Fr Chima Ofor says Peter's declaration about Jesus also forms the foundation of our call to social justice. Mother Hilda tells how the Word of God has power to change your life. Plus, Fr Tony Percy and Bishop Vincent Long on Social Justice Sunday. Listen at [jcr.org.au](http://jcr.org.au)



## A VOCATION VIEW

"Who do you say that I am?" We confess with Peter that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God. (Matthew 16:13-20). For help discerning your specific vocational path, contact Fr Duane Fernandez at [vocations@dow.org.au](mailto:vocations@dow.org.au)

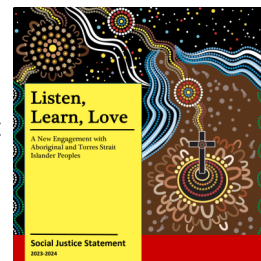
## SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has launched its **2023-24 Social Justice Statement**. Australia's bishops have been publishing such statements, urging the Catholic community to reflect and act on social, economic and ecological issues, since the 1940s.

This year's statement is titled **Listen, Learn, Love: A New Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples**.

"Strengthening our relationship with our First Peoples is integral and indeed critical to the strengthening of the whole nation," Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv said at the launch, held in Western Sydney.

The full statement can be found [here](#).



## 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](mailto:jude.hennessy@dow.org.au) Register: [here](#)

## MALTESE FESTA-TAL VITORJA

**SUNDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 2PM  
ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI WARRAWONG**

Join other The annual Maltese Festa- 'Tal Vitorja' is on Sunday 10 September at St Francis of Assisi Catholic Church 93 Flagstaff Rd Warrawong. The Wollongong Brass band will start playing at 2pm, marching, carrying the statue of Our Lady, the Holy Rosary and Mass by Bishop Brian Mascord. Then join us for some Pastizzi and refreshments at the George Cross Maltese club, 25 Lake Ave Cringila.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE POINTS

When people and societies choose fraternity, policies also change. The person once again takes precedence over profit and the home we all inhabit over the environment to be exploited for one's own interests. A just wage is paid for work, welcome becomes wealth, life becomes hope, justice opens up to reparation, and the memory of evil done is healed in the encounter between victims and perpetrators.

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

## 27 AUGUST - TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

### First Reading - Isaiah 22:19-23

*I place the key of the House of David upon his shoulder*

Thus says the Lord of Hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace:

I dismiss you from your office,  
I remove you from your post,  
and the same day I call on my servant  
Eliakim son of Hilkiah.  
I invest him with your robe,  
gird him with your sash,  
entrust him with your authority;  
and he shall be a father  
to the inhabitants of Jerusalem  
and to the House of Judah.  
I place the key of the House of David  
on his shoulder;  
should he open, no one shall close,  
should he close, no one shall open.  
I drive him like a peg  
into a firm place;  
he will become a throne of glory  
for his father's house.

### Responsorial Psalm - Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart: you have heard the words of my mouth.  
In the presence of the angels I will bless you. I will adore before your holy temple. R.
2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love, which excel all we ever knew of you.  
On the day I called, you answered; you increased the strength of my soul. R.
3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly and the haughty he knows from afar.  
Your love, O Lord, is eternal, discard not the work of your hands. R.

### Second Reading - Romans 11:33-36

*From him, through him and in him are all things.*

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

### Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church the gates of hell will not hold out against it. Alleluia!

### Gospel - Matthew 16: 13-20

*You are Peter, to you I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven.*

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.