

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

TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) – 3 SEPT 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 4 Sept	Mass: 7am	
Tues 5 Sept	Mass: 5:30pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm – 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
Wed 6 Sept	Mass: 7am	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm - 5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm
Thurs 7 Sept	Mass: 11am (Polish) Mass: 5:30pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
Fri 8 Sept <i>The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	Mass: 7am Adoration: 7:30am - 8am	Mass: 9:30am
Sat 9 Sep <i>St Peter Claver, priest</i>	Rosary: 7am Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 5pm - 5:30pm Mass: 6pm	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am
Sun 10 Sep	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (Polish)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Elaine Campbell, Ursula Maitz, Margaret Casey, Erna Lyon

Prayers for the sick

Peter Lathourakis, Roger Doyle
 John Sweeney, Kerrie Maidment

Anniversaries

Angela De Angelis, Richard Roche,
 Bruce Walsh, Michael Van der Linden
 Queen Elizabeth II, Dawn McHugh



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

If you have email, please join our emailed bulletin list, where you will find easy access to many links. This week, these easy access links include the Pope's Message for the World Day of Prayer for Creation; resources for the Season of Creation 2023; Child Protection Week resources; the Pope's letter on St Joseph from 2020 "With a Father's Heart" to mark Fathers Day; and the Google Form to sign up for extended Eucharistic Adoration beginning in October. If you would like access to any of these materials and have trouble accessing the internet, please let me know.

What a joy this weekend to return to our spiritual home – the repainted and refreshed Church of the Immaculate Conception! We are grateful to St Therese for their hospitality in many ways during this past two months. As a thank you to the St Therese parish, representatives of Unanderra parish handmade a bag full of altar linens – received very gratefully by Margaret, the St Therese sacristan. As Parish Priest, it has been a joy to see the co-operation across the two parishes during these two months, and we look forward to continuing to deepen these relationships.

As for the community of Immaculate Conception Parish: the celebrations are only just beginning! The main celebration of our return to the renewed church will take place on **Sunday 17th September at the 8am Mass followed by a special morning tea**. I am delighted to announce that Monsignor Graham Schmitzer will be able to join us for that celebration. Spread the word and invite everyone you know who might be interested to come to this celebration! There are too many people to thank at this point in time, but we are working towards thanks and acknowledgments for all involved. It is worth noting that so much more has been renewed and refreshed in this place of worship than just the repainting – I recently learned that 110 tasks were undertaken by volunteers during this two month period! We are planning a tour of the church, a photo book and consolidation of past and recent history of this beautiful church – and beautiful community!

September 1st marks the **Annual World Day of Prayer for Creation**. This begins the "Season of Creation" which ends on October 4th – the Feast of St Francis of Assisi, who is renowned for his deep spiritual connection with God's creation. In his message for this day, Pope Francis builds upon the words of Pope St John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI, who taught with ever greater urgency of the moral responsibility of Catholics to be proactive in caring for our fragile earth and for every human being, especially those who are most vulnerable.

A different but connected focus this week is "**Child Protection Week**" in Australia, from 3rd September to 9th September. There are resources available for the children to remind them (and all of us) of their dignity, as a key element of safeguarding our children is empowering them, and listening to them. For the Church in Australia, next Sunday 10th September is "Safeguarding Sunday". On that day I will share more information about the new "Safeguarding Team" in our parish communities of West Wollongong and Unanderra, as well as providing concrete and exciting new opportunities to work together with CatholicCare in the provision of urgent foster care and respite care to local children in situations of dire need.

A happy and **blessed Fathers Day** to all the fathers and father figures in our community. Thank you for all that you do and have done especially for the children of our community. I commend to all of us the beautiful letter of Pope Francis on St Joseph from 2020 – "*With a Father's Heart*" – which reminds us of the beauty of fatherhood, especially as expressed in the humble and powerful figure of St Joseph, entrusted with the fatherly care of Jesus himself – and who continues to care for the church with his fatherly heart.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

In response to interest in extended Eucharistic Adoration after hours, we are hoping to begin First Friday Adoration in October from 7pm to 10pm. If there is enough interest it may extend to every Friday. To maximise safety for people leaving the church at 10pm, I want to ensure a number of people are attending especially for that final hour. If you are interested, please sign up at the Google Form here <https://bit.ly/adorationunanderra> or on the sign up sheets at the door of the church.

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

Many years ago while on a retreat I was asked to ponder: if I was dying name three people that you would like around your death bed. That is a confronting question, but it definitely made me think.

Had my dad been alive he would have been named. Today as we celebrate Father's Day we think of our own dads. Some are easy to love, others may leave nightmares in our heart. Whatever this day means to you I hope you can name three people who mean much to you in life; those who have encouraged you and even carried you during hard times. May these people give you an inkling of who God is in your life; for you are loved and carried by the God who calls you to life and living.

Sr Kerry Gardiner



ROSTER – THIS WEEKEND

September	Church Washing	Helen Murphy	
Sat 2 Sep	Church Cleaning	No cleaning this week	
Sat 2 Sep	Lawns	No lawn mowing this week	
	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 Farraway		

ROSTER – NEXT WEEKEND

September	Church Washing	Helen Murphy	
Sat 9 Sep	Church Cleaning	F Fernandez, B Rice, R Tassone	
Sat 9 Sep	Lawns	H Fernandez, Milan Family, Broeckman Family	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
6pm 9 Sep	D Nugent	B Farraway	
8am 10 Sep	P Gunning	J Sharwood	Leah Galea, Alison Sharwood.
Counters	M Murphy(FH), C Stratton, M Winner.		

PARISH NEWS

Alpha update:

Alpha began with a bang on Wednesday at St Therese Parish Centre – a joint initiative of West Wollongong and Unanderra. It was a wonderful atmosphere enjoyed by over 50 people who attended. Thank you to all of the hosts, helpers, caterers, servers and those doing wash-up, and to all who have been praying for Alpha. Thanks also to everyone who attended – we continue to pray abundant blessings upon all involved!

September Parish Novena

Please join in an upcoming parish novena with all your family, in thanksgiving for our newly painted church and all those who participated in any way to make this happen. The novena can be said at home at any convenient time **during the day that suits your family situation, on the 9 consecutive days** nominated below, using the standard daily mysteries for those days as outlined:

1. Thurs, 7 Sep Luminous mysteries
2. Friday, 8 Sep Sorrowful mysteries *Feast of the Nativity of the BVM*
3. Sat, 9 Sep Joyful mysteries
4. Sun, 10 Sep Glorious mysteries
5. Mon 11 Sep Joyful mysteries
6. Tues 12 Sep Sorrowful mysteries
Optional Memorial of the Holy Name of Mary
7. Wed 13 Sep Glorious mysteries
8. Thurs 14 Sep Luminous mysteries
9. Friday 15 Sep Sorrowful mysteries *Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows*

Thank you in advance for your participation in this novena; give generously in thanksgiving prayer for the beauty of our repainted church.

Carmelite meeting - 2 Sept

The next meeting of the Lay Carmelites will be in the St Joseph's room on Saturday 2 Sept 10am. All are welcome. Call Ann Baumber on 0427 235 955 for more information.

PPC meeting

The Parish Pastoral Council met on Thursday 31 August. The following items were discussed: Church reopening celebration, Friday night Adoration, Safeguarding plans including Foster Carer needs, Alpha update and preparations for Christmas.

Parish Finances - week ending 27 August 2023

\$420	First Collection	- Clergy Remuneration Fund
\$289	Second collection	- Parish expenses
\$120	Tap Point - Parish donations	
\$194	Planned giving envelopes	
\$711	Direct debits (weekly average from July).	

CATHOLIC CARE FOSTERING FUTURES

The Fostering Futures team are urgently looking for a forever home for Ollie* who is 8 years old. Ollie is a very engaging, outgoing, polite and active boy. Ollie enjoys swimming, going to the park, playing Nintendo, watching movies, colouring in, and trying new foods. Ollie would love to learn to ride a bike and play soccer or Oz Tag. Ollie is looking for a forever home with carers who are kind, caring, calm, and patient who can give him a sense of security and belonging.

You can find out more by calling **0418 783 956**, email fosteringfutures@catholiccare.dow.org.au or go to www.catholiccare.dow.org.au for more information.

Fostering Futures will support you every step of the way. *name has been changed for privacy

catholic care
Diocese of Wollongong

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME – AIRS SUNDAY 3 SEPT 2023

On the Journey this week: Christopher del Rosario says that there is no mediocre path of Christianity. Mother Hilda has been using AI and Siri to check out where God is. Plus, Fr Tony Percy, Trish McCarthy, and Deacon Josh Clayton. Listen at jcr.org.au



A VOCATION VIEW

"O God, you are my God whom I seek." As St. Augustine recognized, our hearts are restless until they rest in the Lord; eliminate that which blocks your seeking for God. (Psalm 63:2)

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



THE BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

Will be promoted in our parish on the **weekend of 16/17 September.**

"Our faith calls us to help one another through prayer and action. Offering dignified support and care for our retired clergy, who have always cared for us; and a sound and holistic formation of our young seminarians, our future priests, are my responsibilities as your Bishop. I seek your prayers and practical support to help me ensure that I can do this. Your donation to this appeal is very much appreciated." + Bishop Brian Mascord

A WOMAN'S OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE A CURSILLO 3 DAY WEEKEND

Do you feel there is more to your life? Is your Spiritual life a little sluggish at the moment? Join fellow Catholic women as we explore our faith and discuss where this faith is taking us. Father Chris Roberts is our Spiritual Director and will offer Mass daily.

Our next weekend is being run at Carmel House, Varroville, from the evening of **Thursday 5th October until Sunday afternoon, 8th October.**

Please phone Geraldine on 0421 329 365 or click [here](#) for more information on what Cursillo is.

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

In the Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, I wanted to warn against the danger of experiencing the economy in an unhealthy way. "Such an economy kills" (n. 53), I said in 2013, decrying an economic model that produces waste and that fosters what we could call the "globalization of indifference". Many of you work in the economic sector: you know how everyone can benefit from a way of imagining reality that places the person at the centre, that does not belittle the worker and that seeks to create good for all. - ADDRESS OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE "CENTESIMUS ANNUS PRO PONTIFICE" FOUNDATION, Clementine Hall, 5 June 2023

3 SEPTEMBER - TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

First Reading - Jeremiah 20:7-9

The word of the Lord God has meant derision for me

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced;
you have overpowered me: you were the stronger.

I am a daily laughing-stock,
everybody's butt.

Each time I speak the word, I have to howl
and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!'

The word of the Lord has meant for me
insult, derision, all day long.

I used to say, 'I will not think about him,
I will not speak in his name any more.'

Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart,
imprisoned in my bones.

The effort to restrain it wearied me,
I could not bear it.

Responsorial Psalm - My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God

1. O God, you are my God, for you I long; for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you like a dry, weary land without water. R.
2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life, my lips will speak your praise. R.
3. So I will bless you all my life, in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, my mouth shall praise you with joy. R.
4. For you have been my help; in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast. R.

Second Reading - Romans 12:1-2

May you present your bodies as a living sacrifice

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart, that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called. Alleluia!

Gospel - Matthew 16: 21-27

Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself.

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord;' he said 'this must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'