

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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Email:
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Phone: 4271 3550 | Fax: 4272 2954

School Principal: Mrs Pauline Chrostowski

Parish Secretary: Mrs Melissa Bridges (Mon/Wed/Fri)

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Website: www.unanderraparish.org.au
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TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) – 17 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 18 Sept	Mass: 7am	
Tues 19 Sept <i>St Januarius, bishop, martyr</i>	Mass: 5:30pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm – 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
Wed 20 Sept <i>Sts Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Paul Chong Ha-sang and companions</i>	Mass: 7am	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm - 5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm
Thurs 21 Sept <i>St Matthew, apostle, evangelist</i>	Mass: 5:30pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
Fri 22 Sept	Mass: 7am Adoration: 7:30am - 8am	Mass: 9:30am
Sat 23 Sep <i>St Pius of Pietrelcina, priest</i>	Rosary: 7am Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 5pm - 5:30pm Mass: 6pm	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am
Sun 24 Sep	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (Polish)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Roger Doyle, Elaine Campbell, Ursula Maitz,
Margaret Casey, Erna Lyon

Prayers for the sick

Jan Luke, Peter Lathourakis,
John Sweeney, Kerrie Maidment

Anniversaries

Paul Blood, Flloyd Gourillis,
Anton Hans, Ellen Brown,
Marie La'Brody, Dave Mellor



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 Sunday at 8am Mass followed by a special morning tea, we have the opportunity to celebrate together the recent renovations of the Immaculate Conception Church. We celebrate this with Monsignor Graham Schmitzer concelebrating at 8am Mass, which is only fitting as he made such a vital contribution to this parish, including elevating the beauty of the church, as well as contributing a very generous financial donation to this work.

The outcome of the present work far exceeded my expectations and I have heard many comments to the same effect. As always, the present work builds upon the generosity of countless parishioners and priests throughout the decades. In more recent times, we thank the Parish Finance Council for their faithful and wise stewardship of parish resources, making possible the present works, and especially the sub-committee who became the co-ordinating group for the project, George Attard, Gloria Simmonite, and Mick Winner.

Presently, our parish vision speaks of sharing our gifts and joyfully working together as one – this was lived out wonderfully, mostly behind the scenes, during recent months, with more parishioners than I know, giving more time than I know, to complete more tasks than I know! It is impossible to thank them all in name, but they know who they are and God knows who they are. May you know the lasting fruit that your generosity will bear, helping our present and future parishioners to lift up their hearts to God in this sacred place. We will continue to celebrate this work through photos and stories in the coming weeks and beyond.

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

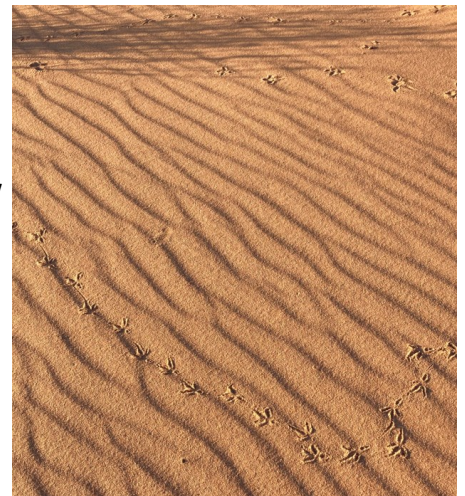
Recently I experienced a few days at Lake Mungo. This is a famous and sacred place for Indigenous people and of course The Mungo Man and Lady Mungo.

There are sand dunes at Lake Mungo called the Wall of China. My brother and I did a sunset tour. The guide drove us to The Wall of China. The dunes were majestic. The tracks, both animal and human, were very obvious. The guide explained how overnight all these tracks will be affected by the wind and in the morning the tracks would be erased and new sand formations formed on the ground.

That image occupied my mind. It seemed hard to imagine, but I believed the guide. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could totally believe and accept that our God starts afresh each day with each of us.

What do I still carry that needs to be erased? What is my loving God saying to me right now?

Sr Kerry Gardiner



ROSTER — THIS WEEKEND

September	Church Washing	Helen Murphy	
Sat 16 Sep	Church Cleaning	J Haywood, L Salway, M Hurley, T Vaafusuaga	
Sat 16 Sep	Lawns	No Lawn mowing this week	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
6pm 16 Sep	M Rodwell	S Marsala	
8am 17 Sep	M Matos	F Carolan A Amone	Sarah Walsh, Alicia Sanchez-Levine
Counters	A Kelly, B Farraway		

ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

September	Church Washing	Helen Murphy	
Sat 23 Sep	Church Cleaning	G Lord, L Zanetti, S Adams	
Sat 23 Sep	Lawns	No Lawn mowing this week	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
6pm 23 Sep	D Ferrer		
8am 24 Sep	S Walsh	A Kelly / M Graham	School Holidays
Counters	A Gunning, M Caudero, C Garrett.		

PARISH NEWS

Special Morning Tea

To celebrate the return to our freshly painted and beautifully cleaned Church there will be a **SPECIAL MORNING TEA** after 8am Mass on Sunday, 17th September. Everyone is invited to come along and join with fellow parishioners to celebrate this special event.

Thank you!

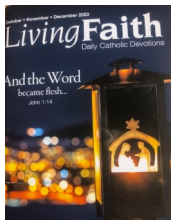
Thank you to the tradespeople who took such great care in their work of renovating our church:

- **Legend Painting (Alchin, Erol, Adam and Mick)** - church and sacristy painting.
- **Illawarra Floor Sanding and Polishing** - sacristy floor
- **Matthew Corradini Electrical** - lighting
- **Silvio Corradini** - lighting

Living Faith books - Oct, Nov, Dec 2023

The new Living Faith books have arrived. There is also a separate Living Faith Kids book—which includes daily reflections, prayers and activities. Cost is \$5.

Please leave money in the small drawer.



Used Stamps for Peru

Please remember to place all of your used stamps (leaving a 1cm / ½" border) in the box, near the side door of the church. All used stamps donated are sent to Sydney to raise money for the work of the Sisters of St Joseph in Peru.

Recycling bins - \$416 raised

With your help, we have raised \$416 this year. Your donations of 10c recyclable bottles, cans and plastics are most appreciated. All proceeds go to the Parish. Our bins are located in the church car park.



Eucharistic Adoration

Starting the First Friday of October, there will be an opportunity for extended Eucharistic Adoration at **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.



Parish Finances - week ending 10 September 2023

\$613	First Collection	- Clergy Remuneration Fund
\$535	Second collection	- Parish expenses
\$120	Tap Point - Parish donations	
\$354	Planned giving envelopes	
\$223	Direct debits (weekly average from August).	

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.

*name has been changed for privacy

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME – AIRS SUNDAY 17 SEPT 2023

On the Journey this week: Fr Mike Delaney asks; Will it cost me to look at forgiveness differently so that I can see God's mercy being poured out both as justice and compassion in every moment of my day? Mother Hilda's meeting with a new dad reminds her of God's excitement about being our father. Listen at jcr.org.au



A VOCATION VIEW

"For if we live, we live for the Lord.

(Romans 14:8)

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



THE BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

"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

Please give generously <https://www.dow.org.au/giving/>

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 Cursillo.

MOROCCO EARTHQUAKE

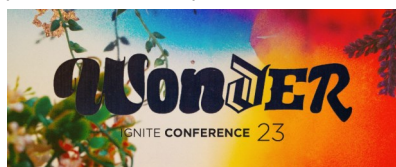
Caritas Australia has launched an appeal for the victims of the earthquake in Morocco. Over 2,000 people have been confirmed dead. Thousands of people have been injured, over 1,000 critically. Search and rescue efforts are ongoing, with many people still trapped under rubble.

The time to act is now. Caritas agencies are on the ground as they assess the scale of the damage and critical needs. Your donation today can help communities affected by the earthquake. Please give generously at www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergencyappeals/morocco-earthquake/

IGNITE CONFERENCE 23 'WONDER'

SYDNEY 28 SEPT - 1 OCT

Ignite Conference is a gathering of Catholics for four days of real-world formation, renewal of faith, great people, and powerful worship.



Join over 2000 high schoolers, young adults, leaders, teachers, priests and religious taking part in a life changing encounter with God and His Church.

Registration: <https://igniteconference.com.au/>

17 SEPTEMBER - TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

First Reading - Ecclesiasticus 27:33-28:9 *Forgive your neighbour's faults and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.*

Resentment and anger, these are foul things,
and both are found with the sinner.
He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord,
who keeps strict account of sin.
Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you,
and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.
If a man nurses anger against another,
can he then demand compassion from the Lord?
Showing no pity for a man like himself,
can he then plead for his own sins?
Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment;
who will forgive him his sins?
Remember the last things, and stop hating,
remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments.
Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will;
remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

Responsorial Psalm - The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. R.
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. R.
3. His wrath will come to an end; he will not be angry for ever.
He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults. R.
4. For as the heavens are high above the earth so strong is his love for those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins. R.

Second Reading - Romans 14:7-9 *Whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.*

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life: it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you. Alleluia!

Gospel - Matthew 18:21-35 *I tell you that you forgive not seven times, but seventy times seven.*

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.'

'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time" he said "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me" he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'