

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:
 Mobile:

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 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
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TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) – 24 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 25 Sept | Mass: 7am | |
| Tues 26 Sept <i>Sts Cosmas and Damian, martyrs</i> | Mass: 5:30pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm – 7pm | Mass: 7:45am |
| Wed 27 Sept <i>St Vincent de Paul, priest</i> | Mass: 7am | Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm - 5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm |
| Thurs 28 Sept <i>St Wenceslaus, martyr St Lawrence Ruiz and companions, martyrs</i> | Mass: 5:30pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 7pm | Mass: 7:45am |
| Fri 29 Sept <i>Sts Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, archangels</i> | Mass: 7am Adoration: 7:30am - 8am | Mass: 9:30am |
| Sat 30 Sep <i>St Jerome, priest, doctor</i> | Rosary: 7am Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 5pm - 5:30pm Mass: 6pm | Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am |
| Sun 1 Oct | Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (Polish) | Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm |

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Maria Antonia Morena, Michael Blewitt, Margaret Gray, Roger Doyle, PM Baby

Prayers for the sick

Jan Luke, Peter Lathourakis, John Sweeney, Kerrie Maidment

Anniversaries

Leslie Heffernan, Ron Costello, Helen Duxbury, Ileana Corradini, John Harris, Mark Bogoni



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

Last week was a wonderful celebration of the reopening of our newly renovated church. The entire project has seen so much generosity from so many parishioners, culminating in the wonderful morning tea attended by about 100 people who stayed after Mass. Thank you to the Catholic Women's League for providing such a wonderful morning tea, and to all who attended. We will continue to celebrate this project with photos and stories, as we reflect upon the recent and more distant history of our parish at this time.

It is worthwhile remembering the deeper reason for the beautification of our church buildings – as the Second Vatican Council documents taught, “all things set apart for use in divine worship should be truly worthy, becoming, and beautiful, signs and symbols of the supernatural world...the Church has been particularly careful to see that sacred furnishings should worthily and beautifully serve the dignity of worship” (Sacrosanctum Concilium – The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy – paragraph 122). At the same time, let us also remember the words of Scripture, that we ourselves are living stones building up the Temple of God, the Body of Christ - “Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ (1 Peter 2:4-5). May we all be grateful and inspired by the generosity of the countless living stones in our community, who have worked together to make our church building even more fitting for the dignity of worship.

Finally, one of the most beautiful and fruitful forms of worship is **Eucharistic Adoration**. Pope Francis recently said “*Only in adoration, only before the Lord can the taste and passion for evangelisation be recovered*”. He went on to say, “*Curiously, the prayer of adoration — we have lost it. We have lost it, and everyone — priests, bishops, consecrated men and women, laypeople — have to recover it. It's to be in silence, before the Lord*”, he said, putting before us the example of St Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa), who he said, while “*involved in so many things in life, never gave up adoration even at times when her faith wavered and she wondered if it was all true or not*”. We have now a new opportunity to enter into this beautiful form of worship, finding silence before the Lord in the midst of the busyness and noise of life, in our renewed and beautiful church, starting on Friday 6th October and continuing **every First Friday of the month from 7pm to 10pm**. Thank you to all who have committed themselves to an hour or more of Adoration during this time in order to make this possible. If anyone else would like to commit to a time, there is still time to do so, otherwise simply come along for any part of those 3 hours, where, in the words of the Pope, “we encounter the one who gave everything for us, who sacrificed himself in order to give us life, who loved us to the end.”

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

Following the bend in the road brought us to the distant sight of a magnificent building. The church welcomed us into the town. It looked rather majestic and even more majestic with a second church standing tall next to the first building.

Naturally we stopped for a photo and was even more interested in the church since it had a plaque naming it as a Catholic Church.

After some time my eyes moved away from the building to something much smaller - a padlock on the gate. I felt sad. I could even say the padlock haunted me.

I asked myself what do I lock in? What / whom do I chose to lock out?

Sr Kerry Gardiner



ROSTER — THIS 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 | N O'Donoghue | | |
| 8am 24 Sep | S Walsh | A Kelly / M Graham | School Holidays |
| Counters | A Gunning, M Caudero, C Garrett | | |

ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

| | | | |
|------------|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| October | Church Washing | Barbara Faraway | |
| Sat 30 Sep | Church Cleaning | Volunteers needed | |
| Sat 30 Sep | Lawns | No Lawn mowing this week | |
| | Lectors | Welcomers | Children's liturgy |
| 6pm 30 Sep | N O'Donoghue | C Cleary | |
| 8am 1 Oct | T Vaafusuaga | G Simmonite | School Holidays |
| Counters | A Kelly, B Faraway | | |

PARISH NEWS

Thank you!

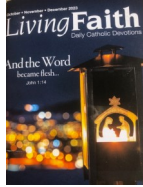
Thank you to all who contributed to our special morning tea to celebrate the reopening of our church. It was a wonderful celebration of a joyous Parish community.

Bishop's Annual Appeal

Through our exit collection last week, we donated \$1,144.15 to the Bishop's Annual Appeal - which supports our retired clergy and seminarians.

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.



Vinnies Winter Appeal - Sunday 8 October

Vinnies are holding their "Winter Appeal" on Sunday 8 October. There are a number of ways to donate - cash, use the envelopes on the pews or via their EFTPOS machine.

Please help us to support the most vulnerable in our local Unanderra Community.



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.

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 17 September 2023

| | | |
|-------|---|----------------------------|
| \$709 | First Collection | - Clergy Remuneration Fund |
| \$641 | Second collection | - Parish expenses |
| \$170 | Tap Point - Parish donations | |
| \$384 | Planned giving envelopes | |
| \$223 | Direct debits (weekly average from August). | |

CALLED BY NAME: MACARTHUR YOUNG ADULTS GATHERING

Campbelltown Catholic Club, Saturday 28 Oct 6:45pm - 9pm

We live in a chaotic world that often leaves us struggling to understand who we truly are, our purpose, and our calling in life. If you've found yourself contemplating these questions, you're not alone! We all crave a profound sense of purpose in our lives, and an understanding of "**whose**" we are and **what we were created for**.

We extend to you this personal invitation to engage with fellow young adults from **17—35 years old**, guided by a panel who will openly share the stories and learnings from their own journeys, with an opportunity for Q&A throughout the discussion.

This event is the beginning of a regional initiative connecting young adults in the Macarthur, though young adults from all throughout the Diocese are most welcome.

Register now: dow.sh/cbn23

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME — AIRS SUNDAY 24 SEPT 2023

On the Journey this week: Fr Mike Delaney says this gospel challenges us to give thanks that God is bigger than we are, and is just to all of us, no matter when or how we hear the word of God. Mother Hilda says for God there is no late in the day, it is always sunrise on our life. Fr Dave Callaghan says that when we meditate on the love that has been shown through Jesus' saving action, we lose the desire to sin. Listen at jcr.org.au



JAMBEROO ABBEY ARTS AND CRAFTS EXHIBITION 'BY THE WORK OF OUR HANDS'

Come and join us for the Jamberoo Abbey Arts & Crafts Exhibition being held at the Old Fire Station Kiama.

Date: 22 – 27 September 2023

Time: 10am- 3:30pm

Bring your friends and family along and enjoy beautiful Kiama and discover the beauty 'By the Work of our Hands'.

CWL WEST WOLLONGONG 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

You are warmly invited to the 60th Anniversary Mass of Thanksgiving on Sunday 8 October 2023, 10am at St Therese, West Wollongong.

Refreshments following in the St Therese Parish Centre.

RSVP: 1 October to **Colleen 0428 788 921** or

Cath 0432 647 285

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 **Thurs 5 Oct until Sun 8 Oct**.

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

MOROCCO EARTHQUAKE

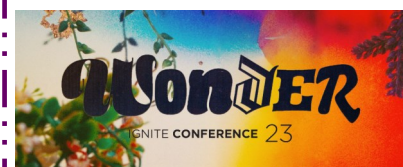
Caritas Australia has launched an appeal for the victims of the earthquake in Morocco. Over 2,000 people have been confirmed dead. Thousands of people have been injured, over 1,000 critically. Search and rescue efforts are ongoing, with many people still trapped under rubble.

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/>

24 SEPTEMBER - TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

First Reading - Isaiah 55:6-9

My thoughts are not you thoughts

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,
call to him while he is still near.

Let the wicked man abandon his way,
the evil man his thoughts.

Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him,
to our God who is rich in forgiving;

for my thoughts are not your thoughts,
my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks.

Yes, the heavens are as high above earth
as my ways are above your ways,
my thoughts above your thoughts.

Responsorial Psalm - The Lord is near to all who call him.

1. I will bless you day after day and praise your name for ever.
The Lord is great, highly to be praised, his greatness cannot be measured. R.
2. The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all, compassionate to all his creatures. R.
3. The Lord is just in all his ways and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him, who call on him from their hearts. R.

Second Reading - Philippians 1:20-24,27 ***For me to live is Christ***

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results – I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake.

Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Open our hearts, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son. Alleluia!

Gospel - Matthew 20:1-16

Why are you jealous because I am generous

Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'