

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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School Principal: Mrs Pauline Chrostowski

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

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TWENTY SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) – 1 OCT 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 2 Oct | Mass: 7am | |
| Tues 3 Oct | Mass: 5:30pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm | Mass: 7:45am |
| Wed 4 Oct <i>St Francis of Assisi</i> | Mass: 7am | Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm - 5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm |
| Thurs 5 Oct <i>St Faustina Kowalska, virgin</i> | Mass: 5:30pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 7pm | Mass: 7:45am |
| Fri 6 Oct <i>St Bruno, priest</i> | Mass: 7am Adoration: 7pm - 10pm | Mass: 9:30am |
| Sat 7 Oct <i>Our Lady of the Rosary</i> | Rosary: 7am Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 5pm - 5:30pm Mass: 6pm | Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am |
| Sun 8 Oct | Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (Polish) | Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm |

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Florence McNamara, Maria Antonia Morena, Michael Blewitt, Margaret Gray, PM Baby

Anniversaries

Graeme Mayo, Marta Boncompagni, Walter Van der Linden, Giuseppe Rostirola, Tracey Marchesi

Prayers for the sick

Jan Luke, Peter Lathourakis, John Sweeney, Kerrie Maidment



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

As we enter the month of October in our parish dedicated to Our Lady, the Immaculate Conception, we remember that October is the Month of the Rosary. The Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary takes place on October 7 – see plans for a Rosary Novena after Masses in the parish news. Handouts containing extracts from the Apostolic Letter of St John Paul II – On the Most Holy Rosary (Rosarium Virginis Mariae), 2002, are available. May we all come to a deeper love of this simple and powerful prayer of the Rosary during this month.

Thank you to all who have committed to a timeslot for Adoration, starting this Friday 6th October. There will be an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation during this time and Benediction will begin at 9:50pm. We will repeat this on the First Fridays of November and December and discern whether to extend this to every Friday in the new year. All are welcome to come to any part of the extended Adoration between 7pm and 10pm, whether you have committed to a timeslot or not – even if this is your first time experiencing the beauty of this ancient form of prayer.

The Parish Pastoral Councils of Unanderra and West Wollongong are hoping to host a Christmas Day lunch for those most in need in our community. Christmas Day can be a time of great joy – or of deep sadness for those who are lacking food or company – and we are hoping to host a 12pm lunch on Christmas Day at St Therese Parish Centre to brighten up Christmas day for them. The first step in planning is to determine whether we have enough volunteers to make this possible. We understand that this might be a challenge, especially on Christmas Day. If you are willing to assist – either in food preparation, or setting up the tables, or serving the food, or packing up afterwards, please let us know by emailing the parish office with the subject “Christmas Lunch” (or see me after Mass).

This Sunday 1st October, our “partner parish”, St Therese West Wollongong, celebrates the Feast of St Therese (which takes precedence over the ordinary Sunday for St Therese Parish). This is an opportunity for us to celebrate the mutual co-operation across our two parishes that has taken many forms, including joint initiatives such as Alpha, Community Fun Days, Parish Dinners, a Social Media Team, the new Safeguarding Team, and many other ways in which the wisdom and gifts of parishioners have been shared across the two communities to the benefit of all. Happy Feast Day, St Therese Parish West Wollongong!

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

As yet the family of five hadn't arrived but it seemed their arrival caused excitement in the town with a population of forty six. The following week the population would be fifty one.

This little isolated township was alive. Conversations were easy to start up. Fresh bread could be purchased from the freezer. A house and land could be purchased for \$85,000.

This township spoke to me of their welcome and friendliness, their outreach to strangers. It caused me to question myself. What welcome do I extend to a new neighbour in the street? In my community? In my church?

Sr Kerry Gardiner



ROSTER – THIS WEEKEND

| | | | |
|------------|---------------------|--|--------------------|
| October | Church Washing | Barbara Farraway | |
| Sat 30 Sep | Church Cleaning | <i>Volunteers needed</i> | |
| Sat 30 Sep | Lawns | M & J Winner, M Walsh, S Carrigan, A Bennett | |
| | 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 Farraway | | |

ROSTER – NEXT WEEKEND

| | | | |
|-----------|------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| October | Church Washing | Barbara Farraway | |
| Sat 7 Oct | Church Cleaning | W & J Rodgers, J Andersson | |
| Sat 7 Oct | Lawns | <i>No Lawn mowing this week</i> | |
| | Lectors | Welcomers | Children's liturgy |
| 6pm 7 Oct | D Nugent | B Farraway | |
| 8am 8 Oct | T Vaafusuaga | J Sharwood | School Holidays |
| Counters | M Murphy(FT), S Alessi | | |

PARISH NEWS

Our Lady of the Rosary Novena

Come and join us during October as we say a Rosary novena in honour of Our Lady of the Rosary. The Rosary mystery of the day will be said either before or after the daily Mass as detailed below. If you are not able to say the Rosary with us in the church, perhaps you can say the Rosary at home, either individually or with your family:

| Day | Date | Mass | RosaryTime | Note |
|-----|------|--------|------------|-----------------------------|
| Sat | 7th | 7:30am | 7am | Our Lady of the Rosary |
| Sun | 8th | 8am | 11:30am | After 10am Polish Mass |
| Mon | 9th | 7am | 7:30am | After Mass |
| Tue | 10th | 5:30pm | 6pm | After Mass |
| Wed | 11th | 7am | 7:30am | After Mass |
| Thu | 12th | 5:30pm | 6pm | After Mass during Adoration |
| Fri | 13th | 7am | 7:30am | After Mass during Adoration |
| Sat | 14th | 7:30am | 7am | Before Mass |
| Sun | 15th | 8am | 11:30am | After 10am Polish Mass |

Vinnies Winter Appeal - 7 and 8 October

Vinnies Unanderra Conference will hold its annual Winter Appeal bucket collection after each Mass next Weekend (7/8 October).

Envelopes will be available for those requiring a receipt and/or credit card payment. An eftpos machine will be available at the church side door.

All money raised is used by Unanderra Conference to support local families in need. The Unanderra Conference receives on average more than ten request for help every week for a variety of reasons especially for food and rent assistance. When you give to Vinnies you're helping our volunteers rebuild lives.



Spirituality of Aging - Thurs 19 October

Good Samaritan Sister, Yvonne Parker, will present a morning input on the Spirituality of Aging for women and men around retirement age and later, at St Joseph's Meeting Room Unanderra, **Thursday 19 October, 9.30am-1pm**.

This session will be repeated at the St Therese Parish Centre, West Wollongong, the following Wed 25 October, 9.30am-1pm.

Topics include the Journey of Letting Go, Prayer in later life, and Living in deeper trust and hope as we move towards the later part of our life's journey. These inputs can also be helpful for those who are caring for elderly people.

Please write your name on the list at the church side door or phone Sr Yvonne 0409 125 622.

Eucharistic Adoration

Starting the First Friday of October, there will be an opportunity for extended Eucharistic Adoration at **Immaculate Conception Church, 7pm until 10pm**.



Parish Finances - week ending 24 September 2023

| | | |
|-------|---|----------------------------|
| \$403 | First Collection | - Clergy Remuneration Fund |
| \$469 | Second collection | - Parish expenses |
| \$170 | Tap Point - Parish donations | |
| \$292 | Planned giving envelopes | |
| \$223 | Direct debits (weekly average from August). | |

Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly.

Thank you from Jan Luke

Thank you Parishioners for your thoughts, prayers and food dishes. I can feel your prayers, please feel mine in return. So very grateful. Jan

Parish Pastoral Council meeting

The PPC met this week and discussed a new church sign, the possibility of hosting a Christmas lunch at St Therese Parish Centre, Safeguarding team update and Foster Carer speaker at Mass in October.

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME - AIRS SUNDAY 1 OCT 2023

On the Journey this week: Fr Mike Delaney asks where do we stand today in our response to God's call to be a disciple in the vineyard? Mother Hilda on harnessing the energies of love. Fr Tony Percy on acceptance, conversion, change, - acceptance of the person is not necessarily approval of their behaviour. Trish McCarthy on purity of heart and our capacity to respond to change. Listen at jcr.org.au



SOCIAL JUSTICE POINTS

Something that I read from a great Italian jurist, Paolo Grossi, who was also the President of the Constitutional Court and who died last year. He said: "The community is always a safety belt for the vulnerable and also provides a voice for those who have no voice of their own" - Address of His Holiness Pope Francis to the Members of the "Centessimus Annus Pro Pontifice" Foundation, Clementine Hall, Monday, 5 June 2023

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/

CALLED BY NAME: MACARTHUR YOUNG ADULTS GATHERING

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

1 OCTOBER - TWENTY SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

First Reading - Ezekiel 18:25-28

The sinner who decides to turn against sinfulness deserves to live

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'

Responsorial Psalm - Remember your mercies, O Lord.

1. Lord, make me know your ways. Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: for you are God my saviour. R.
2. Remember your mercy, Lord, and the love you have shown from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth.
In your love remember me, because of your goodness, O Lord. R.
3. The Lord is good and upright. He shows the path to those who stray,
He guides the humble in the right path, He teaches his way to the poor. R.

Second Reading - Philippians 2:1-11

In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus.

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus:

His state was divine, yet he did not cling
to his equality with God but emptied himself
to assume the condition of a slave,
and became as men are;
and being as all men are,
he was humbler yet,
even to accepting death,
death on a cross.
But God raised him high
and gave him the name
which is above all other names
so that all beings in the heavens,
on earth and in the underworld,
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus
and that every tongue should acclaim
Jesus Christ as Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me. Alleluia!

Gospel - Matthew 21:28-32

He went out moved by regret. The tax collectors and prostitutes will precede you into the kingdom of God.

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go," but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir," but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'