

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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THIRTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) – 12 NOV 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 13 Nov	Mass: 7am	
Tues 14 Nov	Mass: 5:30pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
Wed 15 Nov <i>St Albert the Great, bishop, doctor</i>	Mass: 7am	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm - 5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm
Thurs 16 Nov <i>St Margaret of Scotland</i>	Mass: 5:30pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
Fri 17 Nov <i>St Elizabeth of Hungary</i>	Mass: 7am	Mass: 9:30am
Sat 18 Nov	Rosary: 7am Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 5pm - 5:30pm Mass: 6pm	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am
Sun 19 Nov	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (Polish)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Cecilia Donohue, William Blattman
 Giuseppe Masi, Louise Packham

Prayers for the sick

Jan Luke, Peter Lathourakis, Peter Stoyles
 John Sweeney, Kerrie Maidment, Roger Baxendale

Anniversaries

Frank Cordina, Peter Lech,
 Des Fitzgerald, Fr Tomasz Zaremba SC



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 Sally Alessi, chair of the Parish Finance Council, shared a financial update with the parish. I'll provide a brief summary here especially for the benefit of those who weren't present:

where do the two collections at Mass go to? The First Collection goes to a common clergy fund shared with priests throughout the Diocese; the Second Collection remains here in the parish for parish expenses. All parish costs depend entirely on the generosity of parishioners past and present through the second collection, planned giving, and the tap point device

The parish income has taken a significant hit since Covid (as with all parishes) and we are currently running at a loss. The vast majority of parish expenditure goes towards essentials such as building maintenance, insurance, staff salaries, utilities etc (all of which are rising), but we are also committed to supporting initiatives to build community and reach out to share our faith with new people, such as through Alpha, Community Fun Days, STIC young adults and more

Of the various forms of financial contributions from parishioners, the preferred option is Planned Giving option through Direct Debit, as this provides the most predictable income to assist with planning and budgeting. Planned Giving envelopes are also still available.

We know that not everyone can commit to financial giving at this time, and we are grateful for the varied gifts that each one of us brings to our community – including simply your presence and prayers at Mass. As for those who are in a position to financially contribute – and every little bit helps – the QR code in this bulletin takes you to Direct Debit option to support our parish (second collection), where you can decide whether to give weekly, fortnightly or monthly and you can cancel or change the amount given at any stage if circumstances change for you. Please feel free to contact the parish office or myself for assistance or questions.



I reiterate my deep gratitude to parishioners past and present for your generosity; to Sally and the Parish Finance Council and Pastoral Council for all their work in preparing and presenting this information; and to past and present members of these Councils for the faithful and wise stewardship of your generous contributions in maintaining and growing our parish now and into the future.

Our second ALPHA for this year has just concluded, and what a wonderful experience it was for all involved! A big thank you to everyone who hosted and helped in the small groups and so generously volunteered to cater and serve the meals – and to every guest who came along! We look forward to our next Alpha early in 2024 – for now, the best way for you to get a taste of what Alpha is about will be to come along to the Celebration Evening on **Wednesday 29th November at 7pm**, with a free meal provided. Invite anyone else you think might be interested also, and please register through this QR code for catering purposes by Sunday 25th November (or email the parish office).



Congratulations to the children who receive their First Holy Communion at special First Communion Masses for them and their guests this Saturday. We are excited to celebrate with those who are able to come to our Sunday Masses next weekend, especially Sunday 19th November when we will have celebratory cake after Mass!

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

The first time I saw Grace St in flood I did panic a little. Once the water started to recede, I breathed a sigh of relief. As I have experienced a few more times this event in my street I am now at the stage where I can almost predict the upcoming event. I no longer panic. My biggest learning in understanding this event is that the flooded road is linked to the high tides of the day.

The remnants of the flood are obvious: bins are knocked over, rubbish washed into the yards, pools of water preventing me from accessing the garage, woodchips washed onto the driveway. My neighbour has become quite inventive. Last weekend I watched as she blocked her driveway. It was more than a matter of placing the tin there. It was rigged up with ties. It was her work of art and proves to be quite effective.

We are God's work of art. Sometimes we spoil the masterpiece. What needs my attention to be the best person I can be? What 'high tides' do I experience that play havoc with the masterpiece created by my God?



Sr Kerry Gardiner

ROSTER — THIS WEEKEND

November	Church Washing	Fiona Fernandez	
Sat 11 Nov	Church Cleaning	W & J Rodgers, J Andersson	
Sat 11 Nov	Lawns	M & J Winner, M Walsh, S Carrigan, A	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
6pm 11 Nov	M Rodwell	B Farraway	
8am 12 Nov	T Vaafusuaga	J Sharwood	Sarah Walsh, Alicia Sanchez- Levine
Counters	A Kelly, B Farraway		

ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

November	Church Washing	Fiona Fernandez	
Sat 18 Nov	Church Cleaning	F Fernandez, B Rice, R Tassone	
Sat 18 Nov	Lawns	No lawn mowing this week	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
6pm 18 Nov	N O'Donoghue	S Marsala	
8am 19 Nov	S Walsh	F Carolan/ A Arnone	Sandra Michielin, Luke Jansons
Counters	M Murphy (FT), S Alessi		

PARISH NEWS

RCIA program

It is exciting to have a number of people expressing their desire to become Catholic through the RCIA program (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults). The first step will be for Fr Duane to meet with each one during the coming weeks. If you're interested or would like more information please let Fr Duane know either after Mass or at duane.fernandez@dow.org.au

New Defibrillator in the church

Our new defib machine is located at the rear of the church, in the northern confessional.

Twelve parishioners attended training in the use of our defib machine. Following on from this, we will arrange for a **First Aid**



Training Day (including the use of the defib machine) to be held in the St Joseph's meeting room. The course is 5 hours held over 2 days, with a certificate issued upon completion. The cost of the course is \$95. Please contact the Parish office if you are interested in attending this First Aid Training.

An invitation

Would you like an opportunity to meet other Parishioners? We need volunteers to assist in the many ministries that help our Parish to run smoothly. You can offer your help in any of the following ways: *Readers, Welcomers, Children's liturgy, Church cleaners, Mowing team.*

Please consider joining one of the teams. Your assistance is valued. If you would like more information, please contact Barbara on **0419 989 608**.

Christmas lunch at the St Therese Parish Centre.

We will be offering Christmas lunch at the St Therese Parish Centre. If you would like to join us, please contact Melissa at the Parish Office unanderra@dow.org.au

Eucharistic Adoration (first Friday of each month)

The next Eucharistic Adoration is **Friday 1 December, 7pm until 10pm.**



Parish Finances - week ending 5 November 2023

\$612	First Collection	- Clergy Remuneration Fund
\$437	Second collection	- Parish expenses
\$200	Tap Point - Parish donations	
\$280	Planned giving envelopes	
\$489	Direct debits (weekly average from October).	

Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly.

Recycling bins

Your donations of 10c recyclable bottles, cans and plastics are welcome. All proceeds go to the Parish.



Used stamps for Peru

Please remember to place all of your used stamps (leaving a 1cm / 1/2" 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.

EL ROI: THE GOD WHO SEES ME

Summer School of Evangelisation (Sydney): 7-14th Jan 2024,

Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville NSW

Young people aged 16-35. Registrations open 31st Oct.

Register by 30th November to receive early bird rates (concession \$525/adult \$625).

More info: contact@summerschool.org.au.

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME

– AIRS SUNDAY 12 NOV 2023

On the Journey this week: Fr John Corrigan says we need to be like the wise bridesmaids and remain vigilant, Mother Hilda says St Gertrude's story is a great example if we feel life is one big mess. Plus, Fr Tony Percy, Byron & Francine Pirola, and Fr Mike Delaney.

Listen at jcr.org.au



DOW YOUNG ADULT EVENT

Join Us for the Young Adults '**Purpose Conference**' on December 8! After the success of our 'Called by Name' event in Macarthur last October, we're excited to invite all Young Adults to be part of our Diocesan group heading to the purpose conference.

Date: Thursday, 7 December and Friday 8 December 5-10pm

Location: Rosebank College, Five Dock.

Featuring renowned Catholic speakers Matt Fradd and Jason Evert, this conference offers a transformative encounter with Jesus Christ and an inspiring journey into the Catholic faith. Discover your purpose as a child of God and step into intentional discipleship.

Tickets: Book your own ticket to the conference via: dow.sh/Purpose23

Travel: Feel free to make your own way on the Thursday if you are able. However, be sure to reserve your spot on our Free Gong Bus (dow.sh/YA-BUS) for the Friday evening with the Wollongong young adult group for a convenient ride departing from West Wollongong Parish at 4pm or Rosemeadow Parish at 4.45pm. Spots are limited, so seize this opportunity to connect with our dynamic group of young adults!

If you haven't connected with our Young Adults and Vocations Team yet, reach out to us at dow.sh/DOWYA, or explore our new Vocations page at vocations.dow.org.au for upcoming events and valuable resources.

If you're discerning your vocation, Fr. Duane is eager to hear from you at vocations.dow.org.au. Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to grow and deepen your faith journey.

CARITAS AUSTRALIA'S GAZA CRISIS APPEAL

An estimated 1 million people have been displaced in Gaza with immediate food, shelter, health, and psychosocial needs.

'This is a period of incredible turmoil and sadness. The escalation of violence has only exacerbated needs for the people in Gaza and West Bank, who already live in dire conditions. We are working with our partners on the ground to provide comprehensive and critical support to over 17,000 families affected by this devastating conflict.' Sally Thomas, Humanitarian Lead, Caritas Australia

With your support, we will be able to help our partners on the ground to assist people displaced and affected by the current conflict. Please donate to Caritas Australia's Gaza Crisis Appeal. You can donate online www.caritas.org.au/gaza or phone **1800 024 413**

AUSTRALIAN YOUNG CATHOLIC WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP 2024/2025

This initiative of the Bishops Commission for Evangelisation, Laity and Ministry (BCELM) has been offered since 2006 to young women aged 25- 35 years. Fellowship inclusions and schedule can be found at www.nce.catholic.org.au/womensfellowship

Applications close Thursday 16 November

12 NOVEMBER - THIRTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

First Reading– Wisdom 6:12-16

Wisdom is found by those who look for it.

Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim.

By those who love her she is readily seen,
and found by those who look for her.

Quick to anticipate those who desire her, she makes herself known to them.

Watch for her early and you will have no trouble;
you will find her sitting at your gates.

Even to think about her is understanding fully grown;

be on the alert for her and anxiety will quickly leave you.

She herself walks about looking for those who are worthy of her
and graciously shows herself to them as they go,
in every thought of theirs coming to meet them.

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. On my bed I remember you. On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help; in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. R.

Second Reading - 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Those who died as Christians, God will bring to life with Jesus.

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him. We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have died. At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them; to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord for ever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Be watchful and ready: you know not when the Son of Man is coming. Alleluia!

Gospel - Matthew 25: 1-13

Look, the bridegroom comes. Go out to meet him.

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'