

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

THIRTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) – 19 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 20 Nov	Mass: 7am	
Tues 21 Nov <i>The Presentation of Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	Mass: 5:30pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
Wed 22 Nov <i>St Cecilia, virgin, martyr</i>	Mass: 7am	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm - 5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm
Thurs 23 Nov <i>St Clement I, pope St Columban, abbot</i>	Mass: 5:30pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
Fri 24 Nov <i>Sts Andrew Dung-Lac, priest and companions, martyrs</i>	Mass: 7am	Mass: 9:30am
Sat 25 Nov	Rosary: 7am Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 5pm - 5:30pm Mass: 6pm	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am
Sun 26 Nov	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (Polish)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

John Sweeney, Giuseppe Masi,
Louise Packham

Prayers for the sick

Jan Luke, Peter Lathourakis, Peter Stoyles
 Kerrie Maidment, Roger Baxendale, Josephine Moran

Anniversaries

John Richards, Winifred Staunton



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

About 100 people have done Alpha this year in our parishes! Come and see what Alpha is all about on **Wednesday 29th November at 7pm** when we celebrate with those who completed the most recent Alpha and hear some of their experiences (with a free meal provided). Invite anyone else you think might be interested also, and for catering purposes please register through this QR code (or via contacting the parish office) by Sunday 25th November.



The Australian Catholic Bishops have recently published a statement entitled **“Praying for a Lasting Peace”** (attached with electronic bulletin; some copies available at churches or contact parish office). As we continue to witness the suffering of so many in the Middle East, it can be easy to be tempted to despair, or else to become desensitised and indifferent to the suffering. Let us instead continue to pray for the vulnerable and for those caring for them, and for a way to a just and lasting peace to be found swiftly. We can also make a financial contribution to the vital humanitarian work of Caritas in that region, online www.caritas.org.au/gaza or phone **1800 024 413**. Every prayer and every contribution will make a difference.

Congratulations to the children who received their First Holy Communion last Saturday. We are excited to celebrate with those who are able to come to our Sunday 8am Mass this weekend, including with celebratory cake after Mass during a parish morning tea.

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

During my recent holiday we drove through a town that I thought was rather sad. The buildings were falling down, on a lean or just a crumpled pile of bricks. One such building was the Convent. I thought of the sisters who would have ministered in this town and given all their energy and love to those they shared the community with. In return I thought of the love and energy given to the sisters.

I pondered the places where I have been and wondered.

What our legacy is we have no idea, but may it be life giving to all who share our lives.



Sr Kerry Gardiner

ROSTER — THIS 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 Amone	Maria Matos, Luke Janson
Counters	M Murphy (FT), S Alessi		

ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

November	Church Washing	Fiona Fernandez	
Sat 25 Nov	Church Cleaning	J Haywood, L Salway, M Hurley, T Vaafusuaga	
Sat 25 Nov	Lawns	B Mannix, W Brown, F Caruana, J Lonard, J	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
6pm 25 Nov	B Farraway		
8am 26 Nov	A Kelly	A Kelly / M Graham	Sandra Michielin Sarah Walsh
Counters	A Kelly, B Farraway		

PARISH NEWS

St Vincent De Paul Giving Tree

The Vinnies Giving Tree will be placed, next weekend, near the Sacred Heart Altar full of tags for children's toys and Christmas food. The gifts received from this tree are used by the Unanderra Vinnies Conference to distribute approximately 40 Christmas hampers and toys for about seventy children, to the needy within the Unanderra area.

Gifts need to be placed under the Giving Tree **by Sunday 17 December** as hampers and toys will be delivered on Tuesday 19 December. A big thank you to all the generous parishioners who have supported the Vinnies Giving Tree for many years.



Morning Tea

Morning Tea will be served after 8am mass on Sunday. This will give the parish an opportunity to celebrate with the children who made their First Holy Communion last weekend. Everyone is invited to come along for a cuppa and some cake.



CWL Christmas raffle

Catholic Women's League will have a Christmas raffle to raise money to support their Charities. There will be several prizes that will appeal to all - **\$50 vouchers, bottles of wine, beer, picnic set, cooking set, Bluey, Rabbit and snack pack.**

You win and you choose your prize. Tickets will be available before mass next Sunday. Tickets will be \$2 each or 3 for \$5.

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



We are arranging 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.

Planned Giving

The easiest way for our parish to budget for the many and rising expenses of the parish is via the Planned Giving program – preferably Direct Debit via this QR code (2nd collection, and you can choose weekly, fortnightly or monthly and change your contribution at any stage if you need to). Planned Giving envelopes for cash are also still an option – contact the parish office if you'd like these.



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 12 November 2023

\$467	First Collection	- Clergy Remuneration Fund
\$732	Second collection	- Parish expenses
\$200	Tap Point - Parish donations	
\$215	Planned giving envelopes	
\$489	Direct debits (weekly average from October).	

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME – AIRS SUNDAY 19 NOV 2023

On the Journey this week: Fr Mark De Battista says that this is a parable about the Lord trusting us with talents and skills and burying them simply doesn't cut it with the Lord. Mother Hilda has been reading the book of Ezekiel and its recurring line "and they will know that I am God." Plus, Fr Tony Percy, Mark Raue, and Pete Gilmore. Listen at jcr.org.au



PURPOSE CONFERENCE FREE BUS FROM WOLLONGONG/ MACARTHUR - 18-35 YEARS OLD

The 'Purpose Conference' will feature world renowned Catholic speakers Jason Evert and Matt Fradd, and hundreds of young adults from Sydney and all over Australia. We are also providing a free bus from Wollongong Diocese where you can connect with other local young adults on the way to the event. Tickets to the event are limited and so are spots on the bus, so register for both as soon as you can!

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

Book your travel on Free Gong Bus: Feel free to make your own way to the Conference on Thursday 7 December, but be sure to reserve your spot on our Free Gong Bus for Friday 8 December by registering here (dow.sh/YA-BUS) and connect with other young adults from our Diocese on the journey - departing from West Wollongong Parish at 4pm or Rosemeadow Parish at 4.45pm.

Deadline for booking a spot on the bus is 3 December. Contact Fr Duane and the team at vocations@dow.org.au if you have any questions.

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**

RETREAT DAY "LET THERE BE LIGHT"

**BENEDICTINE ABBEY JAMBEROO
SATURDAY 2 DECEMBER 10AM-3:30PM**

This day is especially set aside as a day of reflection with Christmas in mind. We see it as, a day to visit hope, a day to look forward toward the light that may just have escaped us during this past year, and yet still shines brightly beyond the clouds, beckoning us toward all that is good in the time head. There will be three input sessions by the Sisters along with time for quiet reflection and a guided meditation by one of the Sisters as well.

Mass: 9am for anyone who would like to come

Lunch: Bring your own, plenty of tea and coffee here

Cost: \$30 (Morning Tea provided)

To register please phone 4236 0011 Ext 106 (Just leave your name and number)

19 NOVEMBER - THIRTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

First Reading - Proverbs 31: 10-13, 19-20, 30-31 *Give her a share in what she has worked for.*

A perfect wife – who can find her? She is far beyond the price of pearls.
Her husband's heart has confidence in her, from her he will derive no little profit.
Advantage and not hurt she brings him all the days of her life.
She is always busy with wool and with flax, she does her work with eager hands.
She sets her hands to the distaff, her fingers grasp the spindle.
She holds out her hand to the poor, she opens her arms to the needy.
Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty; the woman who is wise is the one to praise.
Give her a share in what her hands have worked for, and let her works tell her praises at the city gates.

Responsorial Psalm - Happy are those who fear the Lord.

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat. You will be happy and prosper. R.
2. Your wife will be like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive, around your table. R.
3. Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion all the days of your life! R.

Second Reading - 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6 *The day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night.*

You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers, about 'times and seasons', since you know very well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. It is when people are saying, 'How quiet and peaceful it is' that the worst suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant woman; and there will be no way for anybody to evade it. But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all sons of light and sons of the day: we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Live in me and let me live in you says the Lord; my branches bear much fruit. Alleluia!

Gospel - Matthew 25: 14 - 30

Because you have been faithful over a few things; enter into the joy of the Lord.

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of Heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out.

'The man who had received the five talents promptly went and traded with them and made five more. The man who had received two made two more in the same way. But the man who had received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

'Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made."

'His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness."

'Next the man with the two talents came forward. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with two talents; here are two more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness."

'Last came forward the man who had the one talent. "Sir," said he "I had heard you were a hard man, reaping where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered; so I was afraid, and I went off and hid your talent in the ground. Here it is; it was yours, you have it back." But his master answered him, "You wicked and lazy servant! So you knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered? Well then, you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have recovered my capital with interest. So now, take the talent from him and give it to the man who has the five talents. For to everyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from the man who has not, even what he has will be taken away. As for this good-for-nothing servant, throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth."