

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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THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH (YEAR B) – 31 DEC 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 1 Jan <i>Mary, The Holy Mother of God</i>	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (Polish Mass)	
Tues 2 Jan <i>Sts Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, bishops, doctors</i>	Mass: 5:30pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm 	Mass: 7:45am
Wed 3 Jan <i>The Most Holy Name of Jesus</i>	Mass: 7am	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm - 5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm 
Thurs 4 Jan	Mass: 5:30pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 7pm 	Mass: 7:45am
Fri 5 Jan	Mass: 7am Adoration: 7pm - 10pm 	Mass: 9:30am
Sat 6 Jan	Rosary 7am Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 5pm - 5:30pm Mass: 6pm 	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am 
Sun 7 Jan	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (Polish)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Rina Lizzio, Jack Van Riet,
 Vincenza Carnevale, Serafin Gonzalo

Prayers for the sick

Peter Lathourakis, Peter Stoyles, Antoinette Sakr
 Kerrie Maidment, Roger Baxendale, Josephine Moran

Anniversaries

Phyllis Staniforth, Frank Grech,
 Myra Adams, Roland Stubbs,
 John W Brame



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 weekend we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family – Jesus, Mary and Joseph – remembering that in Christ, God not only became human, but became part of a human family, thus showing us the sacred dignity of marriage and family life in his plan for our happiness. I know that family life can be a source of great joy for some, or of great difficulties for others – and often a mix of the two. As we continue in the joy of the Christmas “Octave”, and the Christmas Season that continues until January 8th 2024, we continue to invite Jesus our Saviour into the joys and the sorrows of our lives – including family life. May he bring healing to any wounds that our families might be carrying, deepen our family bonds of unity and peace, and inspire in our society a deeper sense of the sacredness of marriage and family life.

“Family” is my one of the images used for the Church as a whole – and for each parish community. With this image in mind I thank every member of our parish family for all you have brought to our parish this year. There has been such generous sharing of gifts this year in so many initiatives, some of which were listed in our special Christmas bulletin. Moreover, simply being present in our “family gathering” at Sunday Mass is a wonderful way of continuing to build up our love and unity as brothers and sisters in Christ, especially through the Eucharist, the Sacrament of unity. One of the beautiful things about the family of the Church is that it is always seeking new ways to invite others to join this family – which brings me to a friendly reminder to consider who you might invite along to our next “Alpha”, beginning on Wednesday February 7. Feel free to take as many cards as you wish to invite people along, and to register yourself if you haven’t yet experienced it.

Special thanks to everyone who contributed to our Christmas liturgies in any way, as well as the Christmas hampers and St Vincent De Paul special collection at Christmas and the inaugural “Christmas Day Lunch” at St Therese Parish Centre. Every little act of generosity came together to uplift our worship of the Lord in this place, build community with one another, and bring the overflowing love of Jesus to those most in need during Christmas.

Note: Extended Eucharistic Adoration on the First Friday of the month continues here next Friday 5th January, 7pm to 10pm, Reconciliation available throughout

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

There’s a story about two brothers. They were great mates until they had a falling out. They stopped helping each other on their adjacent farms and stopped sharing equipment. The younger brother even went so far as to plough up some land so that the water from the local river cut them off from each other.

The older brother wanted to cut off all contact including even seeing the neighbouring farm of his brother. When a man came asking for some work the older brother asked him to build a fence between the two farms. They went off and bought the materials and the older brother left the man to build the fence.

That evening the older brother arrived home to find there wasn’t a fence. A bridge had been built from one side of the river to the other. The younger brother when seeing the bridge came out just as the older brother was at the other end of the bridge. They walked towards each other and embraced.

In life we are called to build bridges, not fences.



Sr Kerry Gardiner

ROSTER – THIS WEEKEND

January	Church Washing	Barbara Faraway	
Sat 6 Jan	Church Cleaning	G Lord, L Zanetti, S Adams	
Sat 6 Jan	Lawns	B Mannix, W Brown, F Caruana, J Lonard, J	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children’s liturgy
6pm 6 Jan	D Ferrer	C Cleary	
8am 7 Jan	C Lyon	G Simmonite	School Holidays
Counters	A Kelly, B Faraway		

ROSTER – NEXT WEEKEND

January	Church Washing	Barbara Faraway	
Sat 13 Jan	Church Cleaning	McInerney Family, B Collins	
Sat 13 Jan	Lawns	No lawn mowing this week	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children’s liturgy
6pm 13 Jan	D Nugent	T Chicharo	
8am 14 Jan	P Gunning	J Sharwood	School Holidays
Counters	M Murphy (FH), C Stratton, M Winner		

PARISH NEWS

Vinnies thank you!

The Conference would like to thank all the generous parishioners who again supported the Vinnies Giving Tree and the Vinnies Christmas Appeal. Forty four Christmas hampers were distributed and toys given to over 65 children, supporting those in need within the Parish area.

The Vinnies Christmas Appeal **raised \$3,427.55** from the three Christmas Masses. All money raised is used to support the poor of the Parish. The Unanderra Conference receives over fifteen requests for food, rent assistance or general help every week. Your support is much appreciated and the Society supports you in prayer. The Unanderra Parishioners are so generous!



RCIA

It is exciting to have a number of people expressing their desire to become Catholic through the RCIA program. 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

Recycling bins - \$679 raised so far this year

Do you have lots of recycling from your Christmas celebrations? Every bottle recycled helps our Parish. Your donations of 10c recyclable bottles, cans and plastics are welcome. All proceeds go to the Parish.



Used stamps for Peru

On behalf of Mary Mackillop Today, I thank you for your generous support in supplying and assisting with used stamps.

We've had another wonderful

year, raising approximately \$33,600. A great effort from many, many people.

From 2001 till now the **total raised is \$519,650**. There was great excitement as we exceeded the half of a million dollars! Well done all! It is through your efforts that the legacy of Saint Mary Mackillop continues in Peru today.

SUMMER BIBLE CAMP

19 TO 20 JANUARY 2024

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL, VARROVILLE

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Varroville, through the Children's Ministry Team, will conduct a Summer Bible Camp. It is an overnight event for **children ages 8 to 14**. This is an opportunity to grow in the knowledge of God, to deepen their love of Him and to serve Jesus through others, by learning the Bible in their own way.

Through fun activities, they will also learn values in life and skills they need as they grow up in the society, witnessing the Christian way of living. Come along and join with us. Parents, please encourage and support your children to join this BIBLE CAMP.

Last day of Registration will be on **31 December 2023**. Fee by donation. For more details and more enquiries, please contact Sr. Jill through email: asolmcp@parish@gmail.com

A VOCATION VIEW

Mary was called to be open to the extraordinary. What do you need to say "let it be" in response to God's call to you? Trust that the Lord is with you and will guide you always. (Luke 1:26-38)

If you want to talk about your vocation, please contact the diocesan vocations director, Fr Duane Fernandez at vocations@dow.org.au



THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME – AIRS SUNDAY 31 DECEMBER 2023

On the Journey this week: Fr Mark De Battista says the Holy Family as a model for us and for all families. Mother Hilda says make God's day by calling him by name today. Fr Tony Percy calls us to the mysteries of love and life that's celebrated in this feast. Fr Chris Sarkis reflects upon the fundamental aspects of family life, and Fr John Corrigan says the feast of the Holy Innocents reminds us that each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of us is necessary. Listen at jcr.org.au



PURPOSE PILGRIMAGE OF MERCY 11 – 21 JUNE 2024

Father Christopher Sarkis, Parish Priest of Rosemeadow, will be the Chaplain accompanying Harvest Journeys Eastern Europe Pilgrimage of Mercy in June 2024, visiting Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic. It includes the Shrines of Divine Mercy, the Black Madonna of Czestochowa and the Infant of Prague. It visits places of importance to St John Paul II, St. Faustina and St. Maximillian Kolbe, among others.

Optional Extension: There is also an optional 6 night/7-day extension (21 – 27 June) to Bavaria and Austria. It will include the Marian Shrine of Altotting, as well as Markt in Bavaria; Salzburg of the Sound of Music fame and the hometown of Mozart; and the historic, cultural, and artistic city of Vienna in Austria. We will also visit various other shrines and attractions along with some spectacular churches and monasteries.

Enquiries: 4628 1385 or directly at harvestjourneys.com/tour/pilgrimageof-mercy
Bookings only through Harvest Journeys.

SUMMER SCHOOL OF EVANGELISATION (SYDNEY): 7-14 JANUARY 2024, MOUNT CARMEL RETREAT CENTRE, VARROVILLE

Summer School is a week-long, live-in, life-changing retreat featuring praise and worship, inspiring talks, engaging liturgy, time to chill & learn and more in the midst of a community of 150+ young people aged 16-35.

Bookings: summerschool.org.au

CCD ADMIN AND SUPPORT OFFICER CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG

Suitably experienced and qualified persons are encouraged to apply for this position. Appropriate skills and a passion for the work of SRE Catechists in State schools is essential. Applications close on **Wednesday, 10 January 2024**.

For more information and a detailed role description, please go to: <https://dow/sh/ccdadminpv>

For enquiries contact helen.bennett@dow.org.au

DIOCESAN YOUTH MINISTRY LEADER

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG

Suitably experienced and qualified persons are encouraged to apply for the role of Youth Ministry Leader in the Diocese of Wollongong.

Applications close on **Tuesday, 12 January 2024**.

For more information and a detailed role description, please go to: dow.org.au/position-vacant-diocesan-youth-ministry-leader/ or for enquiries contact helen.bennett@dow.org.au

31 DECEMBER - THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH (YEAR B)

First Reading - Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6. 12-14 *Whoever fears the Lord honours his parents.*

The Lord honours the father in his children, and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons.

Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins, he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune.

Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of his own, he shall be heard on the day when he prays.

Long life comes to him who honours his father, he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord.

My son, support your father in his old age, do not grieve him during his life.

Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy, do not despise him in your health and strength; for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten but will serve as reparation for your sins

Responsorial Psalm - The Lord remembers his covenant forever.

1. Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name, make known his deeds among the peoples.
O sing to him, sing his praise; tell all his wonderful works! R.
2. Be proud of his holy name, let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice.
Consider the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face. R.
3. Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, the judgements he spoke.
O children of Abraham, his servant, O sons of the Jacob he chose. R.
4. He remembers his covenant for ever, his promise for a thousand generations,
the covenant he made with Abraham, the oath he swore to Isaac R.

Second Reading - Colossians: 3:15,16 *Concerning the Christian life in the world.*

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you, and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! In the past God spoke to our fathers through the prophets; now he speaks to us through his Son. Alleluia!

Gospel - Luke 2:22-40

The child grew to maturity and he was filled with wisdom.

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord - observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord - and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace,
just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared for all the nations to see,
a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected - and a sword will pierce your own soul too - so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.

Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

