

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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**Parish Pastoral
Council President:**
Email:
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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)

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Website: www.unanderraparish.org.au
Phone: 4271 1068
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THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B) – 14 JANUARY 2024

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 15 Jan	Mass: 7am	
Tues 16 Jan	Mass: 5:30pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm 	Mass: 7:45am
Wed 17 Jan <i>St Anthony, abbot</i>	Mass: 7am	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm - 5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm 
Thurs 18 Jan	Mass: 5:30pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 7pm 	Mass: 7:45am
Fri 19 Jan	Mass: 7am	Mass: 9:30am
Sat 20 Jan <i>St Fabian, pope St Sebastian, martyr</i>	Rosary 7am  Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 5pm - 5:30pm Mass: 6pm	Rosary: 8:30am  Mass: 9am
Sun 21 Jan	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (Polish)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Hiam (Emma) Sassine, Corazon Domingo,
Leigh Lemmon, Anna Martignago, Rina Lizzio.

Prayers for the sick

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

Anniversaries

Doreen Blattman, William C Butler,
ABP Phillip Wilson, Gilbert Gollan,
Roslyn Ann Lee.



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

“Come and see”, says Jesus to his first disciples in today’s Gospel – who in turn went out and started inviting others to “come and see” the one they had encountered, who brought hope, meaning, healing and peace to their lives. As we continue to deepen our own relationship with Jesus, we are also called to look for opportunities to invite others to a possible encounter with this same Jesus, and **Alpha** is the best way I have found to do this. People from all walks of life and stages of faith, throughout the world, have experienced a deepening of their relationship with God or even their first encounter him, through Alpha. Now is the time to register if you’re interested, and to prayerfully consider who you might invite along. There are plenty of Alpha cards for you to take for yourselves or others. Please register by 31st January to assist with planning for the **first night on Wednesday February 7.**

Everyone involved in any form of volunteering in our parish community – in various ministries at Mass, the many behind the scenes volunteers, those who serve the sick and those in any kind of need in their homes, those who have contributed to hosting, helping or catering for Alpha, others who have contributed to one-off events, and more – you are invited to a special **afternoon tea** to thank you for your generosity on **Sunday 4th February, 2pm.** Our parish simply would not be able to operate without so many generous volunteers. Thank you for your service, and please RSVP to unanderra@dow.org.au if you are able to make it to this celebration.

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

Shopping at Woolies I came back to the car and unpacked my groceries. I had more than a big shop. I packed the shopping into the boot and just as I finished the lady near the vehicle next to me said, ‘Would you like me to take your trolley back?’ I was taken by surprise, but I accepted her kind offer.

Never have I offered to do this for anyone nor has anyone ever asked me this question this before. A simple question; a small task; but her thoughtfulness touched me and surprised me.

In some ways are you able to ‘surprise’ someone this week?

Sr Kerry Gardiner



ROSTER – THIS WEEKEND

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

ROSTER – NEXT WEEKEND

January	Church Washing	Barbara Farraway	
Sat 20 Jan	Church Cleaning	W & J Rodgers, J Andersson	
Sat 20 Jan	Lawns	H Fernandez, Milan Family, Broeckmann	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children’s liturgy
6pm 20 Jan	M Rodwell	S Marsala	
8am 21 Jan	C Walsh	A Arnone	<i>School Holidays</i>
Counters	A Kelly, B Farraway		

PARISH NEWS

Australia Day celebrations - Friday 26 January



Come and join us for our Australia Day celebrations - starting with Mass at 8am with Fr Duane.

Parishioners are then invited to a **free breakfast which will be served in the Church grounds**. All are welcome.

High Tea celebration for Parish volunteers

All Parish volunteers are invited to High Tea at 2pm Sunday 4 February 2024 in the St Joseph's room.

RSVP to unanderra@dow.org.au



Living Faith books - are available now at the side door

The new Living Faith books for **January to March 2024** are available now.

Living Faith provides daily reflections based on a scripture passage from the daily Mass. This booklet helps Catholics pray and meditate in spirit with the seasons of the church Year. Cost is \$5. Please leave money in the small drawer.

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

Parish Finances - week ending 7 January 2024

\$439	First Collection	- Clergy Remuneration Fund
\$507	Second collection	- Parish expenses
\$200	Tap Point	- Parish donations
\$300	Planned giving envelopes	
\$444	Direct debits (weekly average from Dec).	

Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly

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

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME - AIRS SUNDAY 14 JANUARY 2024

On the Journey this week: Fr Mark De Battista traces the term "Lamb of God" back to Abraham and Isaac on Mount Moriah. Mother Hilda says that unlike all the sporting replays of player mistakes, God doesn't do replays of our life mistakes. Fr Tony Percy says Jesus' question; what are you seeking, highlights the deepest division that exists between those who are seeking the truth, those who are seeking God, and those who are not seeking the truth and those who are not seeking God. Byron and Francine Pirola explain the difference between liking and loving.

Listen at jcr.org.au

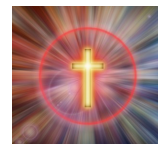


A VOCATION VIEW

"We have found the Messiah!" After his encounter with Jesus, St. Andrew goes first to find his brother Peter to also bring him to Christ. Do not be afraid to bring others to Christ as well! (John 1:41)

If you want to talk about your vocation, please contact the diocesan vocations director, Fr Duane Fernandez at

vocations@dow.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.

Enquiries: 4628 1385 or directly at harvestjourneys.com/tour/pilgrimageof-mercy

Bookings only through Harvest Journeys.

DAY RETREAT

| WALKING WITH JESUS - TO THE JOY OF RESURRECTION

Saturday 17 February 2024, Jamberoo Abbey

Join us for a Lenten reflection day. The Easter story culminates in the joy of Resurrection on Easter Sunday morning. Our Lenten retreat day invites you to reflect on how we will walk the Lenten journey in 2024, so that we are able to enter into the promise and joy of Easter morning.

9am Mass, followed by registration. Morning tea is provided.

Bring your own lunch. The day ends at 3.30pm, and you are invited to stay for Vespers at 5pm.

Cost: \$30 Book early, places limited to 50.

Contact details for Lenten day retreat: register online at jamberooabbey.org.au/retreats/online-retreats or phone 4236 0011 xt106.

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 now close on **Monday, 29 January 2024**

For more information go to: <https://dow/sh/ccdadminpv>

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

14 JANUARY - THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B)

First Reading - 1 Samuel 3:3-10,19

Speak, O Lord, your servant is listening

Samuel was lying in the sanctuary of the Lord, where the ark of God was, when the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' He answered, 'Here I am.' Then he ran to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' Eli said, 'I did not call. Go back and lie down.' So he went and lay down. Once again the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' He replied, 'I did not call you, my son; go back and lie down.' Samuel had as yet no knowledge of the Lord and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. Once again the Lord called, the third time. He got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' Eli then understood that it was the Lord who was calling the boy, and he said to Samuel, 'Go and lie down, and if someone calls say, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

The Lord then came and stood by, calling as he had done before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel answered, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.'

Samuel grew up and the Lord was with him and let no word of his fall to the ground.

Responsorial Psalm - Here I am Lord; I come to do your will.

1. I waited, I waited for the Lord
and he stooped down to me; he heard my cry.
He put a new song into my mouth, praise of our God R.
2. You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings, but an open ear.
You do not ask for holocaust and victim.
Instead, here am I. R.
3. In the scroll of the book it stands written that I should do your will.
My God, I delight in your law in the depth of my heart. R.
4. Your justice I have proclaimed in the great assembly.
My lips I have not sealed; you know it, O Lord. R.

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 6:13-15,17-20 *Your bodies are members of the body of Christ*

The body is not meant for fornication: it is for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. God, who raised the Lord from the dead, will by his power raise us up too.

You know, surely, that your bodies are members making up the body of Christ; do you think I can take parts of Christ's body and join them to the body of a prostitute? Never! But anyone who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him.

Keep away from fornication. All the other sins are committed outside the body; but to fornicate is to sin against your own body. Your body, you know, is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you since you received him from God. You are not your own property; you have been bought and paid for. That is why you should use your body for the glory of God.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! We have found the Messiah: Jesus Christ, who brings truth and grace. Alleluia!

Gospel - John 1:35-42

They saw where Jesus lived and they stayed with him.

As John stood with two of his disciples, Jesus passed, and John stared hard at him and said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God.' Hearing this, the two disciples followed Jesus. Jesus turned round, saw them following and said, 'What do you want?' They answered, 'Rabbi,' – which means Teacher – 'where do you live?' 'Come and see' he replied; so they went and saw where he lived, and stayed with him the rest of that day. It was about the tenth hour.

One of these two who became followers of Jesus after hearing what John had said was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. Early next morning, Andrew met his brother and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' – which means the Christ – and he took Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked hard at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John; you are to be called Cephas' – meaning Rock.