

PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

48-50 Princes Highway (PO Box 14) Unanderra NSW 2526

www.unanderraparish.org.au

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 Phone: 4271 3550 | Fax: 4272 2954

School Principal: Mrs Pauline Chrostowski

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

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THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B) – 4 FEBRUARY 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 5 Feb <i>St Agatha, virgin, martyr</i>	Mass: 7am	
Tues 6 Feb <i>St Paul Miki and Companions, martyrs</i>	No Mass today	Mass: 7:45am
Wed 7 Feb	Mass: 7am	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm - 5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm 
Thurs 8 Feb <i>St Jerome Emilani St Josephine Bakhita</i>	No Mass today	Mass: 7:45am
Fri 9 Feb <i>The Presentation of the Lord</i>	Mass: 7am	Mass: 9:30am
Sat 10 Feb <i>St Scholastica</i>	Rosary 7am  Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 5pm - 5:30pm Mass: 6pm	Rosary: 8:30am  Mass: 9am
Sun 11 Feb	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (Polish)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Hiam (Emma) Sassine, Corazon Domingo, Leigh Lemmon.

Prayers for the sick

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

Anniversaries

Brian Brooks, Sheila Fowler, Pat Rogan



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 is the final opportunity to register for the next instalment of **Alpha (which begins Wednesday 7th February)**. To register either use the QR codes on the Alpha cards at the resource table or contact the parish office. For all those who won't be attending I ask that you all please add Alpha to your prayer intentions during the coming weeks. Let us pray that God will give many people the courage to come along and to open their hearts to God and to each other, bless and guide those who are hosting and helping in small groups and serving as caterers, and pour out his Holy Spirit upon all involved. As with all things, the only way that Alpha will bear fruit is through the power of prayer!

As we begin the school year, let us also pray for teachers, students and families returning to school. We will continue what has now become the customary back-to-school **"blessing of backpacks", on Sunday 18th February at the 8am Mass**, followed by refreshments. Please spread the word to anyone that you think might be interested in coming along, as an extra opportunity for connection with young families who might not regularly come to Mass.

As we approach the sacred season of **Lent**, note that 14th February will be Ash Wednesday, and I will celebrate the usual 7am Mass at Unanderra with Fr Jerzy, and the usual 5:30pm Mass at West Wollongong. Stations of the Cross will also take place on Fridays of Lent, at 5:30pm at West Wollongong, and 7pm at Unanderra. Let us start preparing prayerfully for a fruitful season of Lent for each one of us, our parish communities, and for the Church throughout the world.

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

How often do we or others complain about how much time children spend playing on their devices?

Recently I was at the park with my grandnieces. It was a wonderful park with many varied activities suitable for toddlers through to the young at heart. I was sitting enjoying the scenery, the fun and minding the stroller. Another woman sat down to enjoy the seat. Conversation started up and she complained! Her complaint was that the park was too busy. It was busy but not crowded and everyone had an activity that kept them occupied. I just wondered where do we strike a balance? Isn't it good that the children and adults are out enjoying the day together?

Does my vision need a change of direction this week? Is what I gripe about genuine? How small is my world? What am I missing due to blurred vision?



Sr Kerry Gardiner

ROSTER — THIS WEEKEND

February	Church Washing	Fiona Fernandez	
Sat 3 Feb	Church Cleaning	J Haywood, L Salway, M Hurley, T Vaafusuaga	
Sat 3 Feb	Lawns	M & J Winner, M Walsh, S Carrigan, A Bennett	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
6pm 3 Feb	D Ferrer	C Cleary	
8am 4 Feb	C Walsh	G Simmonite	Kirra Calvert, Maria Matos
Counters	A Kelly, B Farraway		

ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

February	Church Washing	Fiona Fernandez	
Sat 10 Feb	Church Cleaning	G Lord, L Zanetti, S Adams	
Sat 10 Feb	Lawns	No lawn mowing this week	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
6pm 10 Feb	D Nugent	B Farraway	
8am 11 Feb	M Matos	J Sharwood	Kylie & Molly Hertsch, Gemma Farrugia
Counters	M Murphy (FT), S Alessi, H Murphy		

PARISH NEWS

Catholic Women's league



The monthly CWL meeting will be held on **Thursday 8th February** at 10am in St Joseph's Room. The morning will begin with a cuppa and a chat followed by the meeting. Everyone is invited to join us and learn about the work we do in the parish and in the community.

Carmelite meeting

The next meeting of the Lay Carmelites will be on **Saturday 3rd February** 10am for 10.30am in St Joseph's room. Call Ann on 0427 235 955 for details. Everyone is welcome.

Palms from last year

You are invited to bring your palms from last year and place them in the basket at St Joseph's altar. These palms will be burnt and the ashes used on Ash Wednesday.



Stations of the Cross - Fridays of Lent



On the Fridays of Lent, Stations of the Cross will take place at: 7pm at Immaculate Conception 5pm at St Therese West Wollongong

Parish Pastoral Council meeting

The PPC met this week. The following items were discussed.

- Welcomed new member Rob Capilli to the PPC.
- Christmas lunch was a huge success.
- Calendar of key dates is being developed for the Parish.
- Progress on Parish safeguarding processes.
- Preparing ways of unpacking the Bishop's Vision for Parishes.

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 28 January 2024

\$576	First Collection	- Clergy Remuneration Fund
\$420	Second collection	- Parish expenses
\$210	Tap Point - Parish donations	
\$254	Planned giving envelopes	
\$444	Direct debits (weekly average from Dec).	

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.

Our bins are located in the church car park.



POSITION VACANT (RE ADVERTISED) 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 Thursday, 29 February 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.

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME – AIRS SUNDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2024

On the Journey this week: Fr Daniel Serratore MGL says today's Gospel calls us out of our comfort zone to live out Jesus' mission in our lives. Mother Hilda has another tip on how to surrender to God's will. Fr Tony Percy focuses on the healing of Saint Peter's mother-in-law and the relationship it has with the resurrection. Trish McCarthy says that we should stop and spend time remembering what God's done for each of us. Plus, more great music! Listen at jcr.org.au



A VOCATION VIEW



Christ raises up, from among our midst, those called to the Consecrated Life so that they might be unique signs of the Kingdom and "to be all things to all people. (1 Cor 9:22)" We pray for those who have left everything to follow Him.

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. Maximilian 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

CCD LEVEL 1 CATECHIST COURSE

The Level 1 course is mandatory for all new SRE Catechists (Teachers and Helpers). Experienced Catechists are also welcome to attend to refresh skills and knowledge.

The course will run 9:30am - 1:30pm for 5 weeks on Fridays in Campbelltown and on Mondays in Wollongong:

Campbelltown: Fridays 9, 16, 23 February and 1 and 8 March at the Campbelltown Catholic Club (20/22 Camden Rd, Campbelltown)

Wollongong: Mondays 12, 19, 26 February and 4 and 11 March at the Xavier Centre Conference Room (38 Harbour Street, Wollongong).

To register for the Level 1 course click here [RSVP: CCD 2024 Level 1 Course](#)

The first day of the course in both locations will include the Child Protection and Classroom Management training, which is required of all SRE Catechists every three years. To register for the Child Protection and Classroom Management update click here [RSVP: CCD CP and CM Training Update](#)

EXCITING NEWS!

The newest 'It's Who We Are' video has been launched. Narrated by our beloved Bishop Brian, this uplifting sub-three-minute clip illuminates the remarkable people and everyday works within our diocese. It celebrates all that is "Good News" in our diocese and features many of our Clergy, Seminarians, Parishes, Schools, CatholicCare programs and more! To view, please visit the diocesan website here and/or its FB page <https://fb.watch/oOkvt0G8-6/>

4 FEBRUARY - THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B)

First Reading - Job 7:1-4, 6-7

Job began to speak:

I am filled with sorrow all day long.

Is not man's life on earth nothing more than pressed service,
his time no better than hired drudgery?
Like the slave, sighing for the shade,
or the workman with no thought but his wages,
months of delusion I have assigned to me,
nothing for my own but nights of grief.
Lying in bed I wonder, 'When will it be day?'
Risen I think, 'How slowly evening comes!'
Restlessly I fret till twilight falls.
Swifter than a weaver's shuttle my days have passed,
and vanished, leaving no hope behind.
Remember that my life is but a breath,
and that my eyes will never again see joy.

Responsorial Psalm - Praise the Lord, who heals the broken hearted

1. Praise the Lord for he is good;
sing to our God for he is loving:
to him our praise is due. R.
2. The Lord builds up Jerusalem
and brings back Israel's exiles,
he heals the broken-hearted,
he binds up all their wounds.
He fixes the number of the stars;
he calls each one by its name. R.
3. Our Lord is great and almighty;
his wisdom can never be measured.
The Lord raises the lowly;
he humbles the wicked to the dust. R.

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23

Punishment will come to me if I do not preach the Gospel.

I do not boast of preaching the gospel, since it is a duty which has been laid on me; I should be punished if I did not preach it! If I had chosen this work myself, I might have been paid for it, but as I have not, it is a responsibility which has been put into my hands. Do you know what my reward is? It is this: in my preaching, to be able to offer the Good News free, and not insist on the rights which the gospel gives me.

So though I am not a slave of any man I have made myself the slave of everyone so as to win as many as I could. For the weak I made myself weak: I made myself all things to all men in order to save some at any cost; and I still do this, for the sake of the gospel, to have a share in its blessings.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! He bore our sickness, and endured our suffering. Alleluia!

Gospel - Mark 1:29-39

He cured many who suffered from diseases of one kind or another.

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them.

That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was.

In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.' He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.' And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils.