

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 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
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THE SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B) – 11 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 12 Feb	Mass: 7am	
Tues 13 Feb	Mass: 5:30pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
Wed 14 Feb <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	Mass: 7am	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm - 5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm
Thurs 15 Feb	Mass: 5:30pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
Fri 16 Feb	Mass: 7am Stations of the Cross: 7pm	Mass: 9:30am Stations of the Cross: 5:30pm
Sat 17 Feb	Rosary 7am Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 5pm - 5:30pm Mass: 6pm	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am
Sun 18 Feb	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (Polish)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

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

Anniversaries

Beryl Jean Clarke, Bruce Bland,
 Derek Conroy, Michael Comensoli, John Carolan,
 Vern Mannix, Aldo Tomasiello, Andrew Gilfoyle



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

We had a record number of guests attend our first session of the **new season of Alpha** on Wednesday, with over 70 people coming along from all stages in their faith journey. Anyone who didn't get the chance to register can look forward to seeing what it's all about later in the year when we look to the second season of Alpha for 2024. Thank you to all who have volunteered in any way to support Alpha, to all who have come along, and to all who have prayed for it – let's continue to pray for all volunteers and attendees at Alpha during the coming weeks.

A big thank you to all who came to our **thanksgiving celebration for our parish volunteers** last Sunday, and to the wonderful volunteers who themselves went above and beyond to prepare the "high tea", led by some members of the Catholic Women's League. I personally didn't know what "high tea" was until I saw the magnificent set up! Next time we will seek to ensure that all volunteers can simply sit back and enjoy the celebration, but for now I say simply an extra big thank you to those who prepared such a wonderful afternoon, and to every volunteer who was present and who was not. God bless you all!

Next Sunday 18th February we will have our annual **"Blessing of Backpacks"** at our Sunday morning Mass. This will also include a simple blessing for our teachers, catechists and Children's Liturgy volunteers – those entrusted with teaching and leading our children in faith throughout the coming year – followed by a morning tea. Spread the word!

This **Wednesday 14th February is Ash Wednesday**, and we begin the sacred season of Lent, patterned on the 40 days of Jesus in the desert as we prepare for the celebration of his death and Resurrection at Easter. As is the ancient custom we are called to discern specific ways that God might be calling us to deepening commitments to prayer, fasting (sacrifices of various kinds), and almsgiving (giving of ourselves in various ways). We also collectively commit to the following on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday:

- *Abstinence from meat: for all who are 14 years or older*
- *Fasting: for all who are 18 to 59 (usually meaning one normal meal and 2 small meals – but be sure to drink plenty of water!)*
- *Anyone who is sick or infirm is excepted from these obligations*

Most importantly, may our observances during Ash Wednesday and Lent assist our continued interior conversion of heart, that through the power of the Holy Spirit we may grow towards an ever deeper freedom to love like Christ.

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

When this photo was taken it was near to eighteen months since the town had experienced the flood. The water has long receded, the town has returned to 'normal.' Walking along the river's edge one can easily see the debris. One wonders why this has not been cleaned up. For most people was it out of sight and therefore out of mind?

It may be a long time since something unwanted nestled itself into our hearts. The incident may well have long receded, and the heart has returned to 'normal.' However what debris remains deep within the pockets of the heart that now desires and needs a good clean up. This Lent lets take a closer look at what lies deep within us. Let us pray for each other as we journey this Lent.

Commencing on Friday 16th Feb a Lenten Reflective group will be held at the Convent commencing at 2:00 pm. If anyone wishes to join this group, you are most welcome. For those interested in being a part of the group would you kindly contact Sr Kerry.

A very blessed and happy Lunar New Year to all who are celebrating this weekend.

Sr Kerry Gardiner



ROSTER – THIS WEEKEND

February	Church Washing	Fiona Fernandez	
Sat 10 Feb	Church Cleaning	G Lord, L Zanetti, S Adams	
Sat 10 Feb	Lawns	<i>No lawn mowing this week</i>	
	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		

ROSTER – NEXT WEEKEND

February	Church Washing	Fiona Fernandez	
Sat 17 Feb	Church Cleaning	D Attard, L Lathourakis	
Sat 17 Feb	Lawns	<i>Mannix, W Brown, F Caruana, Lonard, Sharwood</i>	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
6pm 17 Feb	T Chicharo	S Marsala	
8am 18 Feb	A Kelly	A Amone	Leah Galea, Alison Sharwood.
Counters	A Kelly, B Farraway		

PARISH NEWS

Pieta Lenten books

PIETÀ is an exquisite 80-page (full-color book) containing short daily reflections (**from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday**) perfect for individual devotional reading in addition to the longer-form Sunday Scripture readings, reflections, prayers, questions and visio divina that traditionally form part of Lenten group gatherings. Available at the side door. Cost is \$5.



STIC Young Adults 2024

Want to go deeper into your faith and also connect with other young Catholics in the region? STIC Young Adults will soon be kicking off for the year, starting with our diocese's fantastic Lenten discussion program. So if you're a Catholic in the Illawarra (or beyond) aged between 18 and 35, come along and bring a friend.

WHEN: 7pm Thursday nights, starting 15 February.

WHERE? St Therese Parish Centre, West Wollongong.

Follow us on Facebook or Instagram @sticyoungadults.

Contact Ed Parke at edselparke1995@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Stations of the Cross - Fridays of Lent



On the Fridays of Lent, Stations of the Cross will take place at:
7pm at Immaculate Conception
5:30pm at St Therese West Wollongong

Christian Meditation:

The Christian Meditation Group invites parishioners, friends and those of all faiths who are seeking to know more re the practice of Christian Meditation to attend 3 weekly introductory sessions

WHEN: 3 Mondays...19 and 26 Feb and 4 Mar 6pm - 7.30pm

WHERE: St Therese' Parish Centre.

ENQUIRIES: Please text **Monica 0412 056 877**. All are welcome

2024 Sacramental Program - registration evenings

This year the sacraments of Confirmation, Reconciliation and First Holy Communion will be offered through the Immaculate Conception Parish. Please note that **ALL** registration sessions will be held at the St Therese Parish Centre, West Wollongong. Registration evenings for these sacraments will take place on:

Term 1 - Confirmation

Tuesday 12th March 7pm at St Therese Parish Centre

Thursday 14th March 7pm at St Therese Parish Centre

Term 2 - Reconciliation and First Holy Communion

Tuesday 18th June 7pm at St Therese Parish Centre

Thursday 20th June 7pm at St Therese Parish Centre

Should you wish to register your child for any of the abovementioned sacraments this year, attendance at **ONE** of the above sessions is required.

Project Compassion

Please take home a *Project Compassion box* or a set of *donation envelopes* to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and help support vulnerable people around the world, now and for all future generations.

You can also donate by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion

Parish Finances - week ending 4 February 2024

\$681 First Collection - Clergy Remuneration Fund

\$530 Second collection - Parish expenses

\$230 Tap Point - Parish donations

\$326 Planned giving envelopes

\$444 Direct debits (weekly average from Dec).

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME

– AIRS SUNDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2024

On the Journey this week: Fr Mark De Battista says we're invited to trust ourselves to Jesus, ask him; if you want to you can cure me and see what he says to you. Mother Hilda tells how the Word of God always speaks to us in all our circumstances. Fr Tony Percy says that all the healing that we will have in spirit, soul and body, all of it comes from the blood of Christ. We've got two lead-in reflections for the commencement of Lent from Fr Sean Cullen on discipleship and Fr Chris Sarkis.

Listen at jcr.org.au



A VOCATION VIEW



Today's Gospel says that: "Jesus was moved with pity when He saw a leper". Are you moved with love or pity when you see the outcast of today's society? Who will come forward to minister Christ today?

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

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](#)

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, please go to: dow.org.au/position-vacant-diocesan-youth-ministry-leader/ or for enquiries

contact helen.bennett@dow.org.au

11 FEBRUARY - THE SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B)

First Reading - Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46

As long as he is unclean, he must live alone, outside the camp.

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 'If a swelling or scab or shiny spot appears on a man's skin, a case of leprosy of the skin is to be suspected. The man must be taken to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests who are his sons.

'The man is leprous: he is unclean. The priest must declare him unclean; he is suffering from leprosy of the head. A man infected with leprosy must wear his clothing torn and his hair disordered; he must shield his upper lip and cry, "Unclean, unclean." As long as the disease lasts he must be unclean; and therefore he must live apart: he must live outside the camp.'

Responsorial Psalm - I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

1. Happy the man whose offence is forgiven,
whose sin is remitted.
O happy the man to whom the Lord
imputes no guilt,
in whose spirit is no guile. R.
2. But now I have acknowledged my sins;
my guilt I did not hide.
I said: 'I will confess
my offence to the Lord.'
And you, Lord, have forgiven
the guilt of my sin. R.
3. Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord,
exult, you just!
O come, ring out your joy,
all you upright of heart. R.

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

Whatever you eat, whatever you drink, whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of God. Never do anything offensive to anyone – to Jews or Greeks or to the Church of God; just as I try to be helpful to everyone at all times, not anxious for my own advantage but for the advantage of everybody else, so that they may be saved. Take me for your model, as I take Christ.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people. Alleluia!

Gospel - Mark 1:40-45

The leprosy left him and he was cured.

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to' he said 'you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to!' he said. 'Be cured!' And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured. Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, 'Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.' The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to him.