

# PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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

[www.unanderraparish.org.au](http://www.unanderraparish.org.au)

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**Parish Pastoral Council President:** Mr Chris Lyon  
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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](mailto:unanderra@dow.org.au)  
 Website: [www.unanderraparish.org.au](http://www.unanderraparish.org.au)  
 Phone: 4271 1068

## THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B) – 18 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 19 Feb	Mass: 7am	
Tues 20 Feb	Mass: 5:30pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:45pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
Wed 21 Feb <i>St Peter Damian, bishop, doctor</i>	Mass: 7am	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm - 5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm
Thurs 22 Feb	<i>Polish Mass: 11am</i> Mass: 5:30pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:45pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
Fri 23 Feb <i>St Polycarp, bishop, martyr</i>	Mass: 7am <b>Stations of the Cross: 7pm</b>	Mass: 9:30am <b>Stations of the Cross: 5:30pm</b>
Sat 24 Feb	Rosary 7am Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 5pm - 5:30pm Mass: 6pm	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am
Sun 25 Feb	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (Polish)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

#### Recently Deceased

**Prayers for the sick**  
 Peter Lathourakis, Peter Stoyles, Antoinette Sakr  
 Kerrie Maidment, Roger Baxendale, Josephine Moran

#### Anniversaries

Dusan Markocic, Norma McCorvey,  
 Helen Warbutton, Fr Hugh Dowdell,  
 Antonia Marciano



### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

[unanderra@dow.org.au](mailto: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*

Have you ever wondered why we do and say certain things at Mass? Or do you want to get more out of Mass by understanding the ritual actions better? You're not alone – many people, even Catholics who have been coming to Mass for decades, have expressed an interest in learning more about the basics of why we do and say and see the things we do at Mass. Each year, I present a "teaching Mass" as part of the usual preparation of adults becoming Catholic at Easter, but this year in response to broader interest it will be open to all. Note, it will not be an actual Mass, but rather a detailed run-through of what we do, say and see during Mass with explanations and Q and A throughout. This will take place at St Therese Church, West Wollongong (as the PowerPoint screens there will assist the teaching) on Sunday March 3rd at 6:15pm to give people time to depart after the normal (actual) Mass at 5pm. All are welcome – and please feel free to invite anyone who you think might be interested, of any age or stage of faith.

As we enter into this sacred season of Lent, I commend to you the document from Bishop Brian entitled "Lenten penance & obligations", which outlines the details of the commitments Catholics are called to make together during this Lenten season – along with the meaning and purposes behind these commitments. Hard copies are available in the church, and electronic copies are attached with the emailed bulletin this weekend. If you don't yet receive the electronic bulletin and would like to, please email unanderra@dow.org.au to join the mailing list.

*We have 13 adults currently preparing to become Catholic from across West Wollongong and Unanderra parishes, who will be celebrating the "Rite of Election" this Sunday with Bishop Brian at St Francis Xavier's Cathedral, together with all of the other adults becoming Catholic across the Diocese. Please keep them all in your prayers!*

**Fr Duane Fernandez**

## *Message from Sr Kerry*

With the ashes freshly placed on my forehead I arrived at St Pius School for a liturgy with the Infant grades. It is hard to get across the concept of Lent, so I was well prepared...or so I thought!

My opening question was 'Do you notice anything different about my face today?' One girl quickly raised her hand, and I thought I had won the lottery until her answer reached my ears. 'Yes. You have more grey hair.' While the answer was correct it certainly was not what I wanted to hear.

Perhaps God is challenging you this Lent and you may not like what you are hearing. Hang in there. The God we have is much greater than the God we know.

If you would like to join the Lenten group being held on Fridays at 2:00pm at 3 Grace St you are more than welcome. I look forward to welcoming you.



**Sr Kerry Gardiner**

### ROSTER – THIS WEEKEND

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

### ROSTER – NEXT WEEKEND

February	Church Washing	Fiona Fernandez	
Sat 24 Feb	Church Cleaning	W & J Rodgers, J Andersson	
Sat 24 Feb	Lawns	<i>No Lawnmowing this week</i>	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
6pm 24 Feb	N O'Donoghue	B Collins	
8am 25 Feb	T Vaafusuaga	A Kelly	Alicia SanchezLevine, Luke Jansons
Counters	M Murphy (FH), C Stratton, M Winner		

## PARISH NEWS

### Blessing of the backpacks - 8am Mass Sunday 18 Feb

We invite everyone, especially students, to bring your backpack or workbag along to be blessed for the new year and then join us for morning tea in the St Joseph's room



### Pieta Lenten Program

A number of people have expressed an interest in obtaining a Lenten Program. Unfortunately, we are all sold out in both our parishes and the Diocesan office. There is however an online option available here, <https://www.dow.org.au/shop/> and please contact the parish office if you would like assistance obtaining these materials.

### STIC Young Adults 2024

Want to go deeper into your faith and also connect with other young Catholics in the region? STIC Young Adults (18-35yrs) are meeting on Thursday nights at St Therese Parish Centre.  
**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](mailto: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

### Project Compassion

This year, Project Compassion brings you the stories of three resilient women: Ronita from the Philippines, Leaia from Samoa and Memory from Malawi. While from three different corners of the world and facing vastly different challenges, they are all united by one dream: to create a better world for all future generations. **Please donate to Project Compassion** [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion)

### Parish Finances - week ending 11 February 2024

\$501	First Collection	- Clergy Remuneration Fund
\$552	Second collection	- Parish expenses
\$230	Tap Point - Parish donations	
\$594	Planned giving envelopes	
\$444	Direct debits (weekly average from Dec).	

Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly

## THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME - AIRS SUNDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2024

On the Journey this week: We begin our Lenten reflection series with Sr Katherine Stone MGL. This week Sr Katherine says Lent leads us into the wilderness to face the wild beasts of our life. Mother Hilda tells the story of Archbishop Thuc of Saigon and how he handled humiliation. Plus, Fr Tony Percy, Darren McDowell, and Sr Mary Helen Hill. Listen at [jcr.org.au](http://jcr.org.au)



## A VOCATION VIEW

In order to hear a call from the Lord, our hearts must be opened to receive His Word. Lent begins with a call to repent so that all which clouds our ears might be stripped away to hear His voice clearly.

(Mark 1:12-15)

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



## VINNIES YOUTH



Looking for a way to live your faith and support your local community in 2024? Vinnies Youth could be for you! If you're aged 18-35 and would like to find out more come along to our "Come and See" night on **Thursday 29 February from 5:30pm** at St Therese Parish!

We'll be creating food packs for the Food Van and talking a bit more about what we do.

Please RSVP to [rebecca.hall@vinnies.org.au](mailto:rebecca.hall@vinnies.org.au) for catering purposes.

## LIGHT TO THE NATIONS - 2024 EASTER YOUTH PILGRIMAGE

You're invited to an Easter experience like no other. Camp under the open skies, joining in the celebration of Easter through prayer, worship, liturgy, drama, music & personal sharing with 1000 people under a massive marquee.

**Held from 28-31 March**, LTTN will be held on the grounds of Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville NSW.

It is a transformative experience designed to bring families, especially youth and young adults, to an encounter with the person of Jesus in the context of the Easter Triduum through prayer, worship, drama, music, and personal sharing.

Register at [dow.sh/LTTN24](http://dow.sh/LTTN24)



## 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/](http://dow.org.au/position-vacant-diocesan-youth-ministry-leader/) or for enquiries contact [helen.bennett@dow.org.au](mailto:helen.bennett@dow.org.au)

## 18 FEBRUARY - THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B)

### First Reading - Genesis 9:8-15

*I will recall the covenant between myself and you...  
the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.*

God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.'

God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.'

### Responsorial Psalm - Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

1. Lord, make me know your ways.  
Lord, teach me your paths.  
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:  
for you are God my saviour. R.
2. Remember your mercy, Lord,  
and the love you have shown from of old.  
In your love remember me,  
because of your goodness, O Lord. R.
3. The Lord is good and upright.  
He shows the path to those who stray,  
He guides the humble in the right path,  
He teaches his way to the poor. R.

### Second Reading - 1 Peter 3:18-22

*The water of the flood is a type of the baptism which saves you now.*

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people 'by water', and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects.

### Gospel Acclamation:

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory.

### Gospel - Mark 1:12-15

*He was tempted by Satan, and the angels looked after him.*

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'