

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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 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
 Phone: 4271 1068

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B) – 17 MARCH 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 18 Mar <i>St Patrick, bishop</i>	Mass: 7am	
Tues 19 Mar <i>St Joseph, spouse of the blessed Virgin Mary</i>	Mass: 5:30pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:45pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
Wed 20 Mar	Mass: 7am	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm - 5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm
Thurs 21 Mar	<i>Polish Mass: 11am</i> Mass: 5:30pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:45pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
Fri 22 Mar	Mass: 7am Stations of the Cross: 7pm	Mass: 9:30am Stations of the Cross: 5:30pm
Sat 23 Mar <i>St Turibius of Mogrovejo, bishop</i>	Rosary 7am Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 5pm - 5:30pm Mass: 6pm	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am
Sun 24 Mar	Mass: 8am <i>Mass: 10am (Polish)</i>	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Lolli Forlano, Peter Ruhl

Anniversaries

Ryan Teasdale, Mary Varley, Michele Hall, Wally Serelak.

Prayers for the sick

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



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, at some of our Masses across our two parishes, we will be presenting and welcoming our adults becoming Catholic at Easter. We have 8 adults preparing for baptism, and another 6 preparing to receive Confirmation and First Communion who were baptised in other denominations. It has been wonderful to see God at work in their lives, and their openness to God and each other throughout the preparation. I know that you will all join me in praying for them during this sacred time as they look forward to receiving the Sacraments this Easter, and continuing to offer them our prayers and support as they connect more and more deeply with our parish community after receiving their Sacraments of Initiation. (Note: for our readers, and others who follow the readings in their missals, we are using the optional readings for the 5th Sunday of Lent provided for this purpose, as printed in the bulletins.)

A quick Alpha update: this season of Alpha has been the most well attended of any of our Alphas so far, and continues to bring rich blessings to all involved. Let us continue to pray for all volunteers and guests, especially as they approach the Retreat Day, which is the high point of Alpha, next Saturday 23rd March.

Thank you and welcome back to Fr Peter Gardiner who is celebrating the Saturday Vigil Mass this weekend, as I have to celebrate a wedding in Nowra. He will also be returning to celebrate the Easter Vigil. We are very grateful for his generosity!

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

Sometimes I pinch myself. The event is a memory. It still seems hard to believe. While living in the Philippines I was invited by some sisters to visit their community and stay for an event in which Mother Teresa was going to be present. Mother Teresa arrived amid great cheers, clapping and warm welcome. She spoke.

After speaking she sort me out from the crowd. I was tall, white, and obviously a 'foreigner.' I was so surprised by the encounter that I cannot remember what words were spoken. I do know we held hands and looked into each other's eyes. Writing home of my experience I wrote, 'In one way it was a powerful meeting /experience. In another sense it was all very ordinary and natural.'

I pinch myself for I know I have physically touched the hands of a canonised saint. However, we all can touch the hands of a saint in our everyday lives. We just need the eyes to seek out and embrace. What hands might you reach out to touch today? What experience might be theirs because of you?



Sr Kerry Gardiner

HOLY WEEK at IMMACULATE CONCEPTION 2024

Holy Thursday 28 March

11am Polish Mass (Fr Jerzy)

7pm Mass of the Lord's Supper (Fr. David O'Brien)

Good Friday 29 March

10am Stations of the Cross (Acolyte)

11am Polish Mass (Fr Jerzy)

3pm Commemoration of the Passion (Fr. Duane)

Easter Saturday 30 March

11am Blessing of the food (Polish)

12 noon Blessing of the food (Polish)

7pm Easter Vigil (Fr. Peter Gardiner)

Easter Sunday 31 March

8am Mass (Fr. Duane)

10am Polish Mass (Fr Jerzy)

HOLY WEEK at ST THERESE 2024

Holy Thursday 28 March

7pm Mass of the Lord's Supper (Fr. Duane)

Good Friday 29 March

10am Stations of the Cross (Acolyte)

3pm Commemoration of the Passion (Fr. David O'Brien)

Easter Saturday 30 March

7pm Easter Vigil (Fr. Duane)

Easter Sunday 31 March

8am Mass (Fr. David O'Brien)

10am Mass (Fr. Duane)

There will be no 5pm Mass on Easter Sunday

ROSTER — THIS WEEKEND

March	Church Washing	Helen Murphy	
Sat 16 Mar	Church Cleaning	G Lord, L Zanetti, S Adams	
Sat 16 Mar	Lawns	M & J Winner, Walsh, Carrigan, Bennett, Walker	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
6pm 16 Mar	M Rodwell	S Marsala	
8am 17 Mar	A Browne	A Arnone	Kylie & Molly Hertsch, Gemma Farrugia
Counters	A Kelly, B Farraway		

ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

March	Church Washing	Helen Murphy	
Sat 23 Mar	Church Cleaning	McInerney Family, Ben Collins	
Sat 23 Mar	Lawns	<i>No lawn mowing this week</i>	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
6pm 23 Mar	N O'Donoghue	B Collins	
8am 24 Mar	P Gunning	A Kelly	Sandra Michielin, Ella Alessi, Lisa Michielin
Counters	M Murphy (FT), S Alessi, H Murphy		

PARISH NEWS



Crafty Angels - 10am - 12 noon, Thursday 21 March

Come and have a chat and a cuppa and bring along the craft items that you are working on. Or, learn some new crafty skills from others. Oh! And there might even be cake and cookies.

If you've got some repair works to do on clothing, like sewing on a button, hemming, darning etc they can be dropped off for completion.

Where: St Joseph's room, Unanderra

When: Thursday 21 March 10am—12noon and thereafter every third Thursday of the month.

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

Parish Pastoral Council

View the Parish calendar [here](#).

If you would like to contact the PPC, please call *Chris Lyon* on 0403 296 837.

Christian Meditation:



The Christian Meditation Group meets on Monday evenings in the St Therese Parish Centre 6pm - 7:30pm.

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

Project Compassion

The work of Caritas Australia is only possible with generous supporters and the dedication, passion and tenacity of our local partners who implement the programs.

They are the heroes on the ground working tirelessly behind-the-scenes every day to create a better future for their communities.

Please donate to Project Compassion

caritas.org.au/project-compassion



Parish Finances - week ending 10 March 2024

\$517 First Collection - Clergy Remuneration Fund

\$544 Second collection - Parish expenses

\$240 Tap Point - Parish donations

\$480 Planned giving envelopes

\$556 Direct debits (weekly average from Feb).

Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly

Easter Roster

Palm Sunday 6pm Vigil	Reader N O'Donoghue	Gospel Narrator N O'. Donoghue	Other Reader T Chicharo	Welcomers B Collins B Farraway A Kelly J Sharwood
8am	P Gunning	C Walsh	T Vaafusuaga	
Holy Thursday 7pm	Reader 1 C Walsh	Reader 2 M Carolan		Washing of Feet 1.T Chicharo 2. G Simmonite 3. Volunteer 4. Volunteer
Good Friday Stations 10am	M Carolan			
Good Friday The Passion 3pm	Reader A Kelly	Gospel Narrator T Vaafusuaga	Other Reader Sr Kerry	Welcomers S Michelin G Simmonite
Easter Vigil Saturday 7pm	Readings 1 C Walsh 3 N O'Donoghue 5 A Bill	Epistle T Vaafusuaga	Prayers of Faithful Sr Kerry	Welcomers S Marsala G Simmonite T Chicharo
Easter Sunday 8am	Readings A Browne C Lyon			Welcomers M Matos J Sharwood

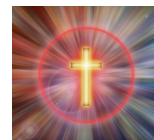
THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME - AIRS SUNDAY 17 MARCH 2024

On the Journey this week: Sr Katherine Stone MGL says Jesus is very clear that following him means taking the road to the cross. Mother Hilda says God's protective concern for us abounds when we face challenges in life. Fr Tony Percy says that the Letter to the Hebrews is magnificent - a fascinating piece of history and literature, arousing curiosity. And from the Pietà Lenten Series, Fr Antony Jukes and Fr Sean Cullen, with their Lenten reflections for the coming week. Listen at jcr.org.au



A VOCATION VIEW

Strangers come to Philip with the simple request: "Sir, we would like to see Jesus." In your actions and words, are you able to show the love of Christ to the stranger in your midst? (John 12:21)



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

2024 SENIORS FESTIVAL 'REACH BEYOND'

11 - 21 MARCH

CatholicCare are hosting a number of fun and informative FREE events for seniors at Wollongong and Campbelltown.

- LIVE SAFE: Falls Prevention Information Session**

Where: 25-27 Auburn St, Wollongong

When: 11am on Tuesday 19 March 2024

FREE - but only 15 spots available so book in quick.

- GET CREATIVE: Art & Social Session (Painting)**

Where: 25-27 Auburn St, Wollongong

When: 10am & 11.15am on Thursday 21 March 2024

FREE - but only 10 spots available per session, so book in quick.

To book your spot at one of the above events call Colleen on **0437 715647**.

MARCH 2024 YOUNG ADULT OVER 18 EVENT

Join us on **Saturday, 23 March, arrival from 5pm, at St Mary's Towers Douglas Park** for a soul-enriching Holy Week and Easter experience. Connect with fellow young adults, engage in prayer, and delve into a catechesis on Holy Thursday and Good Friday events.

The night concludes with an outdoor screening of 'The Passion of the Christ' by Mel Gibson.

BYO dinner and snacks, along with a picnic blanket or chair.

Free event! Register here <https://www.trybooking.com/CPNVW> (Note: Over 18s only)

LIGHT TO THE NATIONS - 2024 EASTER YOUTH PILGRIMAGE

You're invited to an Easter experience like no other.

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



17 MARCH - THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B)

First Reading - Ezekiel 37:12-14

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

Responsorial Psalm - With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading. R.
2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you. R.
3. My soul is waiting for the Lord, I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak.
Let the watchman count on daybreak and Israel on the Lord. R.
4. Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity. R.

Second Reading - Romans 8:8-11

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

Gospel Acclamation:

Glory and praise to you Lord Jesus Christ!

*I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.*

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel - John 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33-45

The sisters Martha and Mary sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.'

Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life.

If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live,

and whoever lives and believes in me

will never die.

Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.

I knew indeed that you always hear me,

but I speak

for the sake of all these who stand round me,

so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.