

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

Parish Office: Email: unanderra@dow.org.au
 Website: www.unanderraparish.org.au
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PALM SUNDAY (YEAR B) – 24 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 25 Mar	Mass: 7am	
Tues 26 Mar	No Mass today - all welcome to 7pm Chrism Mass at the Cathedral.	Mass: 7:45am
Wed 27 Mar	Mass: 7am	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm - 5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm 
Thurs 28 Mar <i>Holy Thursday</i>	Polish Mass: 11am Mass of the Lord's Supper: 7pm Night prayer: 8pm - 9pm	Mass: 7:45am Mass of the Lord's Supper: 7pm Night prayer: 8pm - 9pm
Fri 29 Mar <i>Friday of the Passion of the Lord</i>	Stations of the Cross: 10am Polish Mass: 11am Commemoration of the Passion: 3pm	Stations of the Cross: 10am Commemoration of the Passion: 3pm
Sat 30 Mar <i>Holy Saturday</i>	Blessing of the food (Polish): 11am Blessing of the food (Polish): 12noon Mass: 7pm	Mass: 7pm
Sun 31 Mar <i>Sunday of the Resurrection</i>	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (Polish)	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am No 5pm Mass today

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Lolli Forlano, Peter Ruhl

Anniversaries

Mother Angelica, Mary Galvin,
 Ruth Churchill, Michael Lavelle, Jim O'Connor,
 Fr Patrick Landers, Peter Speelman

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

We now enter into the most sacred week of the year – “**Holy Week**”. During this week, in connection with the institution of the Priesthood at the Last Supper, all priests of the Diocese gather with Bishop Brian at the Cathedral for the “**Chrism Mass**” together with all the faithful who are able to attend, where our priests renew our priestly vows and the Sacramental oils are blessed by the Bishop for the coming year. You are most welcome to attend this special Mass at St Francis Xavier’s Cathedral, Tuesday 26th March, 7pm (note – the usual Tuesday evening Mass here will be cancelled this week).

Holy Week culminates in the “**Easter Triduum**” (triduum = “3 days”), which is marked by a single, continuous liturgy beginning with the Mass of the Lord’s Supper (Holy Thursday evening), the Commemoration of the Lord’s Passion (Good Friday 3pm – with Communion from the Mass of the Lord’s Supper) and the Easter Vigil Mass – the longest but also most beautiful Mass of the year. On Easter Sunday we celebrate the greatest event of history, the Resurrection of Jesus, and we continue to celebrate the joy of his Resurrection every Sunday of the year.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a wonderful way to encounter the healing mercy of our God that we celebrate during Holy Week. In addition to the usual times of Reconciliation I will be available for Reconciliation on Good Friday at St Therese Church after 10am Stations of the Cross, and at Immaculate Conception Church after the 3pm Commemoration of the Passion of the Lord. No matter how long it might have been, feel free to come back to this Sacrament – you can even let the priest know that you need some guidance, and he will happily guide you through the Sacrament. **Please note: there will be no Mass or Reconciliation on Saturday 30th March before the Easter Vigil Mass at 7pm.**

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

Tracks have always fascinated me, as did this one. I was out walking and to the side of the walking track I spotted this sight. I liked the bend in the road and the unknown that followed the bend. For this reason, I took the photo. The photo sat with me, and I pondered. I pondered what was behind this track and then thought about the tracks of my own life.

This week I suggest you sit with the photo and ponder the tracks in your life.

Where has God been for 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 23 Mar	Church Cleaning	McInerney Family, Ben Collins	
Sat 23 Mar	Lawns	No lawn mowing this week	
	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		

ROSTER – NEXT WEEKEND

March	Church Washing	Helen Murphy	
Sat 30 Mar	Church Cleaning	W & J Rodgers, J Andersson	
Sat 30 Mar	Lawns	<i>Mannix, Brown, F Caruana, Lonard, Sharwood</i>	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children’s liturgy
6pm 30 Mar	A Browne	B Collins	
8am 31 Mar	P Gunning	M Matos	Alicia Sanchez-Levine, Luke Jansons
Counters	A Kelly, B Farraway		

PARISH NEWS

Come and See Cup of Tea - Saturday and Sunday 6/7 April



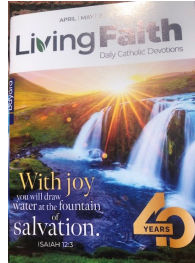
For anyone who would like to get more involved in Parish life, we are holding a **Come and See Cup of Tea**, after the Vigil and 8am Sunday morning Masses.

It will be an informal opportunity to find out more about what's happening in the Parish and to meet some of the people involved in the various ministries - CWL, Vinnies, reading team, lawn mowing team, catechists etc. We look forward to sharing a cuppa after Mass.

Living Faith books (April - June)

The new Living Faith books for April to June 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.



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

As Project Compassion 2024 comes to an end, we want to thank you for your incredibly generous support throughout Lent. This year, we shared with you the story of three inspiring women from across the globe, who overcame challenges to complete their education, access water and find secure employment. With the support of compassionate people like you, they are now forging a path to a better future for their families and their communities.

Please donate to Project Compassion
caritas.org.au/project-compassion



Parish Finances - week ending 17 March 2024

\$648 First Collection - Clergy Remuneration Fund
\$405 Second collection - Parish expenses
\$230 Tap Point - Parish donations
\$284 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 24 MARCH 2024

On the Journey this week: Sr Katherine Stone MGL highlights the two Gospel readings for Palm Sunday. In the first Jesus accepts the adulation of the crowds and then a week later the crowds are calling for his execution. Mother Hilda says when Jesus died, he surrendered himself to you, and no matter what you think of yourself, that is irreversible. Fr Tony Percy says we are being asked to feel what Jesus felt, it's not about head-knowledge but about intimacy with God. Listen at jcr.org.au



A VOCATION VIEW

We are presented with two options in today's Mass: do we welcome Christ into Jerusalem or scream out to crucify Him? Our willingness to give testimony to Christ helps determine where we are.

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



EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT | WELCOMING AND INFORMATION - CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG

An exciting opportunity exists for a suitably experienced and qualified person to apply for the role of Executive Assistant | Welcoming and Information.

Please visit the website dow.org.au/JOBS/

Applications can be emailed to recruitment@dow.org.au
For all enquiries, call Robin Williams on (02) 4222 2402

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS AT ST COLUMBKILLE'S PARISH CENTRE, CORRIMAL | 6 APRIL (EACH MONTH A DIFFERENT DEVOTION)

April is devoted to Divine Mercy with a video presentation at 3 pm. Enjoy shared afternoon tea at 4 pm, followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, International Rosary, Benediction, Anointing of the Sick at 4:30 pm. Reconciliation starts at 5:30 pm, leading to Holy Mass at 6 pm. All are welcome! Please bring a plate to share if possible

SOCIAL JUSTICE POINTS

The Church teaches the need for and encourages the practice of interreligious dialogue as part of building communion among all peoples. In a world of violence and fragmentation, a witness is ever more urgent to the unity of humanity, its common origin and common destiny, in a coordinated and reciprocal solidarity toward social justice, peace, reconciliation and care for our common home. The Church is aware that the Spirit can speak through women and men of every religion, belief and culture. -- 'XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops' (Synod on Synodality) Synthesis Report.

LIGHT TO THE NATIONS

- 2024 EASTER YOUTH PILGRIMAGE

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



24 MARCH - PALM SUNDAY (YEAR B)

First Reading - Isaiah 50:4-7

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue.
So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech.
Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple.
The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away.
I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;
I did not cover my face against insult and spittle.
The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults.
So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

Responsorial Psalm - My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

1. All who see me deride me. They curl their lips, they toss their heads.
'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him; let him release him if this is his friend.' R.
2. Many dogs have surrounded me, a band of the wicked beset me.
They tear holes in my hands and my feet I can count every one of my bones. R.
3. They divide my clothing among them. They cast lots for my robe.
O Lord, do not leave me alone, my strength, make haste to help me! R.
4. I will tell of your name to my brethren and praise you where they are assembled.
'You who fear the Lord give him praise; all sons of Jacob, give him glory. Revere him, Israel's sons. R.

Second Reading - Philipians 2:6-11

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel Acclamation: *Glory and praise to you Lord Jesus Christ! Christ became obedient for us even to death, dying on the cross. Therefore, God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!*

Gospel - Mark 15: 1-39

First thing in the morning, the chief priest together with the elders and scribes, in short the whole Sanhedrin, had their plan ready. They had Jesus bound and took him away and handed him over to Pilate.
Pilate questioned him, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' 'It is you who say it' he answered. And the chief priests brought many accusations against him. Pilate questioned him again, 'Have you no reply at all? See how many accusations they are bringing against you!' But to Pilate's amazement, Jesus made no further reply.
At festival time Pilate used to release a prisoner for them, anyone they asked for. Now a man called Barabbas was then in prison with the rioters who had committed murder during the uprising. When the crowd went up and began to ask Pilate the customary favour, Pilate answered them, 'Do you want me to release for you the king of the Jews?' For he realised it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed Jesus over. The chief priest, however, had incited the crowd to demand that he should release Barabbas for them instead. Then Pilate spoke again. 'But in that case,' he said 'what am I to do with the man you call king of the Jews?' They shouted back. 'Crucify him!' Pilate asked them, 'What harm has he done?' But they shouted all the louder, 'Crucify him!' So Pilate, anxious to placate the crowd, released Barabbas for them and, having ordered Jesus to be scourged, handed him over to be crucified.
The soldiers led him away to the inner part of the palace, that is, the Praetorium, and called the whole cohort together. They dressed him up in purple, twisted some thorns into a crown and put it on him. And they began saluting him, 'Hail, king of the Jews!' They struck his head with a reed and spat on him; and they went down on their knees to do him homage. And when they had finished making fun of him, they took off the purple and dressed him in his own clothes.
They led him out to crucify him. They enlisted a passer-by, Simon of Cyrene, father of Alexander and Rufus, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross. They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha, which means the place of the skull.
They offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he refused it. Then they crucified him, and shared out his clothing, casting lots to decide what each should get. It was the third hour when they crucified him. The inscription, giving the charge against him read: 'The King of the Jews.'
And they crucified two robbers with him, one on his right and one on his left.
The passers-by jeered at him; they shook their heads and said, 'Aha! So you would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Then save yourself: come down from the cross!' The chief priests and the scribes mocked him among themselves in the same way. 'He saved others, they said 'he cannot save himself. Let the Christ, the king of Israel, come down from the cross now, for us to see it and believe.' Even those who were crucified with him taunted him.
When the sixth hour came there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Ebi, Eli, lama sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you deserted me?' When some of those who stood by heard this, they said, 'Listen, he is calling on Elijah.' Someone ran and soaked a sponge in vinegar and, putting it on a reed, gave it to him to drink, saying, 'Wait and see if Elijah will come to take him down.' But Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.
All kneel and pause a moment
And the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The centurion, who was standing in front of him, had seen how he had died, and he said, 'In truth this man was a son of God.'