

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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School Principal: Mrs Pauline Chrostowski

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

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THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B) – 14 JULY 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 15 July <i>St Bonaventure</i>	Mass: 7am	
Tues 16 July <i>Our Lady of Mt Carmel</i>	Mass: 5:30pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:30pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 6:30pm	Mass: 7:45am
Wed 17 July	Mass: 7am	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm - 5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm
Thurs 18 July	Mass: 5:30pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:30pm Adoration: 6pm - 6:30pm	No Mass today
Fri 19 July	Mass: 7am	No Mass today
Sat 20 July <i>St Apollinaris, bishop, martyr</i>	No Reconciliation today Rosary 7am Mass: 7:30am Mass: 5pm	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am
Sun 21 July	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (Polish)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Prayers for the sick
 Michael Murphy (Figtree), Peter Lathourakis,
 Antoinette Sakr, Kerrie Maidment, Josephine Moran, Julie Murphy

Anniversaries

Concesa Mamanglu, Helen Smolenaars,
 Mary Stubbs



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

Last week, we launched the Bishop's Appeal regarding the urgent need for **Foster Carers** in our Diocese. We have more materials available this weekend on our resource table. Please continue to pray for this urgent need, especially for the vulnerable children in need of stability, care and hope, and don't hesitate to contact 4227 1122 or email fosteringfutures@catholiccare.dow.org.au, or go to www.catholiccare.dow.org.au for more information of the various ways you yourself might be able to make a difference in these young people's lives.

Just a final message from me regarding **Alpha** – and then it will be a while before you hear about Alpha again! Some parishioners have wondered whether Alpha is for them if they have been already coming to church for a long time. It certainly is! Alpha has been fruitful for people of all ages, beliefs, and stages of the journey of life and faith, as the following excerpts from previous testimonies illustrate. If you're interested in coming along to the first session on Wednesday 24th July, please register by no later than Sunday 21st July, either through the QR codes or website on the Alpha cards or bulletin, or contacting the parish office.

"I went to Alpha, not quite sure what it would entail. I was raised Catholic and wasn't sure how I might find it, or if it would be things I'd heard before. The content was really engaging and breaking open the talks in small groups after was definitely a highlight of mine." Anthony – 21 years old

"I loved going to Alpha every week to watch the videos, have a good chat with my group and the amazing dinner. By the end of Alpha it was like a family within the church community and I loved how inclusive everyone was no matter the age or religion." Annalise – 21 years old

"Alpha for me was really special, in more ways than one. It opened my eyes to religion & helped me relate to different circumstances in different videos. It helped the Parish community bond & share stories and memories over an amazing dinner." Toby – 23 years old

"When I first heard about Alpha I was a bit hesitant. I kept on hearing about Alpha and decided to give it a go. I met some fantastic and beautiful people through Alpha and connected really well with everyone. Through all the weeks I have done Alpha it really has brought me much closer to God than ever before. I am so grateful for the many blessings Alpha has presented me with. I love Alpha and the beautiful people that come with it." Marko – 28 years old

"For me Alpha was a great introduction to the Catholic faith, as I haven't come from a religious upbringing and didn't attend catholic schools growing up. It helped me to work through some of my fears and anxieties that I didn't even know I had. It has given me a really good insight into the principles of living as a catholic in the modern world and how a lot of the Catholic faith aligns with how I see myself and want to continue to see myself in the future as I continue to grow in this space" Gemma – 32 years old

"Doing the Alpha course I discovered there is so much more to life. I feel happier, I "see" and appreciate God's little miracles every day and made new friends. Alpha became the highlight of my week. It felt like hanging out with good friends, catching up and connecting over delicious meals, being inspired and awakened to new possibilities through the short films. Everyone should gift this experience to themselves because it changes your life for the better." Natalie – 46 years old

"Alpha has been a rewarding three month journey that I have travelled in a difficult time of my life that I have endured for the last three years. Attending the first session in a pleasant environment and with an interesting topic to view had me wanting more. The highlight of the Alpha attendances was the retreat day for me. During the day I came to accept and finally put to rest an issue that has bothered me for eighteen years. I feel that everyone has their story to tell and with the aid of Alpha it may provide answers to some questions." Janko – 57 years old

"I very tentatively joined Alpha thinking I could always drop out. I never missed one session. It helped me deepen my relationship with God & gave more meaning to my prayers. Also, I forged good relations with other members of my group & hope to keep in touch. All up, it has been a wonderful experience, thanks to the organisers." Lucia – 82 years old

Message from Sr Kerry

While enjoying a holiday we stopped at Marree. Marree is at the junction of the Oodnadatta Track and the Birdsville Track. The population of Marree is 65. The town had a general store and a hotel, a disused railway and not much else. As we walked to the hotel this photo shows what captured our eyes. It may not look it, but the tyre was rather large and heavy. Obviously, these people had encountered a problem, and I would think they were locals for the fly nets that fell from their hats.

What do I do when I encounter a puncture in my life? How inventive am I when life throws a spanner in my works? How accepting am I and what response am I prepared to make? Do I accept that God's grace is sufficient for me?

Sr Kerry Gardiner



ROSTER – THIS WEEKEND

July	Church Washing	Helen Murphy	
Sat 13 July	Church Cleaning	W & J Rodgers, J Andersson	
Sat 13 July	Lawns	Fernandez, Milan, Broeckmann and A Oliphant	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
5pm 13 July	D Nugent	B Faraway	
8am 14 July	P Gunning	J Sharwood	School holidays
Counters	A Gunning, M Caudero, C Garrett		

ROSTER – NEXT WEEKEND

July	Church Washing	Helen Murphy	
Sat 20 July	Church Cleaning	F Fernandez, B Rice, R Tassone, K McCrohon	
Sat 20 July	Lawns	No lawn mowing this week	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
5pm 20 July	C & M Carolan		
8am 21 July	M Matos	A Arnone	School holidays
Counters	A Kelly, B Faraway.		

PARISH NEWS

Celebrant for Sunday Mass

This weekend's priests: Saturday 5pm Bishop Brian; Sunday 8am Bishop Brian or Fr Bill Goldman.
Next weekend's priests: Saturday 5pm Fr David Hore; Sunday 8am Fr David Hore

Sea Sunday - 14 July 2024

More than 90% of the world's goods and fuels are transported around the world, thanks to seafarers. Without these essential workers the world economy would grind to a halt.

Day and night for 365 days/year, the Mission to Seafarers is on call providing help to Seafarers in over 200 ports around the world.

Port Kembla Mission to Seafarers looks after the Seafarers who come into Port Kembla Harbour. Unanderra Catholic Women's league supports the Mission by giving gifts to the seafarers at Christmas and Easter. Please pray for all seafarers as they continue their important work to bring us goods from around the world.

If you wish to support this work, you can donate via the box at the side door.

STIC young adults

Young adults (18-35) are warmly welcome to get involved with the great events being hosted by STIC Young Adults right here in the parishes of St Therese and Immaculate Conception.

First Thursday: Guest speaker series (7pm @ St Therese)

Last Thursday: Prayer and Pub (5:30 Mass @ Immaculate Conception + dinner at Collegians Figtree)

Every other Thursday: Faith studies and fellowship (7pm @ St Therese)

For further details, follow "STIC Young Adults" on Instagram and Facebook.



Alpha - 7pm Wed 24 July



You are most welcome to come and experience Alpha for yourself, whatever your age (18+) or stage of faith. Please register as soon as possible and **no later than Wednesday 17 July** to enable sufficient time for catering and logistics for the first Alpha night. Use this QR code to register or go to <http://dow.sh/alphaww>.

Silver Circle results - week 5

1st Shirley Packham No. 26

2nd Phyllis Connell No. 4

Christian Meditation: Inquiries: Please text Monica 0412 056 877



Is on break for school holidays and **resumes Monday 22 July**, meeting weekly at the St Therese Parish Centre. The group looks forward to welcoming parishioners, friends and those of all faiths and none who may be interested to come along.

Parish Finances - week ending 7 July 2024

\$628 First Collection - Clergy Remuneration Fund

\$444 Second collection - Parish expenses

\$110 Tap Point donations

\$350 Planned giving envelopes

\$529 Direct debits (weekly average from June).

Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly

FOSTER CARE - CAN YOU HELP?

Over 350 children and young people in NSW are seeking foster care. Close to 100 of the 350 are living in our diocese alone. CatholicCare Wollongong is doing all it can to meet this need – but more volunteers are desperately needed. Bishop Brian is asking all parishioners throughout Wollongong Diocese to seriously consider whether you might be able to help in some way. A fact sheet is available on the resource table this week-end. For more information you can contact **0418 783956** or email fosteringfutures@catholiccare.dow.org.au

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME – AIRS SUNDAY 14 JULY 2024

On the Journey this week: Mgr Graham Schmitzer says that we're challenged to be active not passive followers, to be givers not just receivers. Mother Hilda shares the wisdom of a friend approaching death. Plus, Fr Tony Percy, Francine Pirola, and Fr Mike Delaney. Listen at jcr.org.au



A VOCATION VIEW

Even before we were formed in the womb, God has chosen and called each of us to be a disciple. To find true happiness, find that pathway that God has uniquely created you to fulfill. (Eph 1:3-14)

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



CCD LEVEL 1 CATECHIST COURSE

VIA ZOOM STARTS ON 19 AUGUST FOR 4 MONDAYS

Dates: Mondays, 19, 26 Aug, 2, 9 Sept (via Zoom)

Time: 9:30am - 1:30pm

Beginning and experienced SRE Catechists are invited to register by following this link dow.sh/ccdlevel1onzoom or contact Sue Clark at support@ccdwoollongong.com.

Please note that the first day of the Level 1 course includes the Child Protection and Classroom Management training update that must be revisited by SRE Catechists every three years.

SOLEMNITY OF SAINT MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP

8 AUGUST 2024

We invite you to celebrate the Solemnity of Saint Mary of the Cross Mackillop on Thursday 8 August 2024 at St Francis Xavier Cathedral at 12:10pm. To assist us with catering, kindly RSVP with the number of attendees by emailing liturgy@dow.org.au

IGNITE CONFERENCE 2024 RISE UP!

SYDNEY 26 - 29 SEPTEMBER

A conference for everyone, from leaders to first-time believers. This is the Church gathered and alive on mission. This is God's people united with one heart.

Ignite Conference is a gathering of Catholics for four days of real-world formation, renewal of faith, great people and powerful worship. Join with young people from our Diocese and over 2000 high schoolers, young adults, leaders, teachers, priests and religious taking part in a life changing encounter with God and His Church.

For more information, go to igniteconference.com.au and contact Arnie Hurdoyal at 0431 611 128 or Arnie.hurdoyal@dow.org.au to be part of our Diocesan Group attending this amazing event

SYDNEY I STAND CAMP

WED 17 JULY - FRI 19 JULY
CARMEL HOUSE, VARROVILLE

iSTAND Events are for students in year 9 -12 (age 14-18 yrs) and are a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow young people in a welcoming environment while learning more about yourself, others and God. This iSTAND Weekend will include activities such as games, group activities, prayer, reflection, testimonies and talks.

COST: \$160 inclusive of all food and activities

Registration: <https://form.jotform.com/240807884793875>

14 JULY - THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B)

First Reading - Amos 7:12-15

Go, prophesy to my people.

Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, said to Amos, 'Go away, seer; get back to the land of Judah; earn your bread there, do your prophesying there. We want no more prophesying in Bethel; this is the royal sanctuary, the national temple.' 'I was no prophet, neither did I belong to any of the brotherhoods of prophets,' Amos replied to Amaziah 'I was a shepherd, and looked after sycamores: but it was the Lord who took me from herding the flock, and the Lord who said, "Go, prophesy to my people Israel."'

Responsorial Psalm - Lord, show us your mercy and love and grant us your salvation.

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace,
peace for his people.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land. R.
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven. R.
3. The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps. R.

Second Reading - Ephesians 1:3-14

Before the world was made, he chose us in Christ.

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all the spiritual blessings of heaven in Christ. Before the world was made, he chose us, chose us in Christ, to be holy and spotless, and to live through love in his presence, determining that we should become his adopted sons, through Jesus Christ for his own kind purposes, to make us praise the glory of his grace, his free gift to us in the Beloved, in whom, through his blood, we gain our freedom, the forgiveness of our sins. Such is the richness of the grace which he has showered on us in all wisdom and insight. He has let us know the mystery of his purpose, the hidden plan he so kindly made in Christ from the beginning to act upon when the times had run their course to the end: that he would bring everything together under Christ, as head, everything in the heavens and everything on earth. And it is in him that we were claimed as God's own, chosen from the beginning, under the predetermined plan of the one who guides all things as he decides by his own will; chosen to be, for his greater glory, the people who would put their hopes in Christ before he came. Now you too, in him, have heard the message of the truth and the good news of your salvation, and have believed it; and you too have been stamped with the seal of the Holy Spirit of the Promise, the pledge of our inheritance which brings freedom for those whom God has taken for his own, to make his glory praised.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called. Alleluia!

Gospel - Mark 6:7-13

He called the twelve and began to send them out.

Jesus made a tour round the villages, teaching. Then he summoned the Twelve and began to send them out in pairs giving them authority over the unclean spirits. And he instructed them to take nothing for the journey except a staff – no bread, no haversack, no coppers for their purses. They were to wear sandals but, he added, 'Do not take a spare tunic.' And he said to them, 'If you enter a house anywhere, stay there until you leave the district. And if any place does not welcome you and people refuse to listen to you, as you walk away shake off the dust from under your feet as a sign to them.' So they set off to preach repentance; and they cast out many devils, and anointed many sick people with oil and cured them.