

# 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 Priest:** Fr Duane Fernandez  
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 Mobile: 0414 626 357

**Polish Chaplain:** Fr Jerzy Slowinski  
 Email: [slowinski54@gmail.com](mailto:slowinski54@gmail.com)  
 Mobile: 0410 225 975

**Parish Assistant:** Sr Kerry Gardiner  
 Email: [Kerry.Gardiner@sosj.org.au](mailto:Kerry.Gardiner@sosj.org.au)  
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**Parish Pastoral Council President:** Mr Chris Lyon  
 Mobile: 0403 296 837

**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 TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B) – 25 AUGUST 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 26 Aug	Mass: 7am	
Tues 27 Aug <i>St Monica</i>	Mass: 5:30pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:30pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 6:30pm	Mass: 7:45am
Wed 28 Aug <i>St Augustine, bishop, doctor</i>	Mass: 7am	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm - 5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm
Thurs 29 Aug <i>The Passion of St John the Baptist, martyr</i>	Mass: 5:30pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:30pm Adoration: 6pm - 6:30pm	Mass: 7:45am
Fri 30 Aug	Mass: 7am Adoration: 7:30am - 8am	Mass: 9:30am
Sat 31 Aug	Rosary 7am Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 11am <b>Mass: 5pm</b>	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9:30am
Sun 1 Sep	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (Polish)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

#### Recently Deceased

Pasquale Martire, Dominic Ferrante, Nick Masi

#### Prayers for the sick

Michael Murphy (Figtree), Peter Lathourakis, Gloria Simonite, Antoinette Sakr, Kerrie Maidment, Josephine Moran.

#### Anniversaries

Nancy Bugeja, Mary Evans, Dorothy Costello, Colleen Schmitzer, Xavier Pheobus,

Diana P of Wales, Gary Samways, Nancy Crowe



### 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*

This Sunday is **“Social Justice Sunday”**, and the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference have published a powerful Statement entitled **“Truth and Peace: A Gospel Word in a Violent World”**. I encourage you all to read the statement in full – it can be found relatively easily on the internet free of charge or feel free to contact me or the parish office if you have difficulty accessing it. I share here just a very brief taste of the statement.

“The first step to peace is speaking the truth”, write the Bishops, as they lament what they call a “post-truth world” where many believe that “there is only your truth and my truth, your facts and my facts; and truth can be manufactured or at least manipulated in any way you choose”. As Christians, we believe in a God of truth, who has revealed in Christ the truth of the dignity of every person, and has called us to be co-workers with him in making peace:

*“Instead of closing in on ourselves and clinging to our own positions and convictions, we choose instead to welcome opportunities to listen to others and understand what they think and why...A renewed commitment to a culture of dialogue based on encounter in social relationships and in international relations would not only break down misunderstanding and build trust; it would lead us to discover more deeply the truth that the other is not my enemy but is my sister, my brother, even my friend.”*

The Bishops remind us that we can all begin making peace by sincerely seeking the truth in our everyday encounters with one another, and in our interactions with social media and other news outlets, which, the Bishops point out, are increasingly partisan, ideological and sensationalist. May we all rise above these divisive trends of our time, in our families, our friendships, and our parish. During the sign of peace at Mass this weekend, let’s especially remember the truth of the infinite dignity of every person, and pray and work together for the peace that springs from this truth.

**Fr Duane Fernandez**

## *Message from Sr Kerry*

This is Hung, a word which means, ‘brave.’ We met during my time assisting in an orphanage in Vietnam. Words failed us completely as we could not speak each other’s language. That certainly did not stop us from communicating. Hung taught me words are not necessary. When it was time to assist with lunch, I would hurry to be amongst the first to collect the food, for then I could feed Hung. One particular day it was rice and chicken. Hung would point to the pieces of chicken so that I would give him the chicken first. Once all the chicken had been eaten, he would then eat the rice.

What actions do your words speak?

**Sr Kerry Gardiner**



### ROSTER — THIS WEEKEND

August	Church Washing	Susan Adams	
Sat 24 Aug	Church Cleaning	F Fernandez, B Rice, R Tassone, K McCrohon	
Sat 24 Aug	Lawns	<i>Mannix, Brown, F Caruana, Lonard, J Sharwood</i>	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children’s liturgy
5pm 24 Aug	N O’Donoghue	B Collins	
8am 25 Aug	P Gunning	A Kelly	Alicia Sanchez-Levine, Luke Jansons
Counters	A Gunning, M Caudero, C Garrett		

### ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

September	Church Washing	Barbara Farraway	
Sat 31 Aug	Church Cleaning	J Haywood, L Salway, M Hurley, T Vaafusuaga	
Sat 31 Aug	Lawns	<i>No Lawn mowing this week</i>	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children’s liturgy
5pm 31 Aug	D Ferrer		
8am 1 Sept	M Matos	G Simmonite	Sandra & Lisa Michielin, Ella Alessi
Counters	A Kelly, B Farraway		

## PARISH NEWS

### Vinnies Winter Appeal - thank you

The Unanderra Conference of St Vincent de Paul Society would like to thank all the generous parishioners who supported our Winter bucket Appeal. **A total of \$2,595.95** has been raised to date. Donations can still be made by using the poor box in the church or by placing an envelope addresses to St Vincent de Paul Society Unanderra Conference in the Mass collection plate. All monies raised are used to support the poor of our Parish.

The Unanderra Conference receives more than ten requests for assistance every week, usually food, rent assistance or help with medical bills. Your support is much appreciated and the society supports you in prayer.



### Funeral Mass for Dominic Ferrante

Dominic Ferrante's funeral will take place on **Friday 30th August at 1pm** at Immaculate Conception Unanderra. Let us keep Dominic's family in our prayers during this time of loss. Eternal rest grant to him O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in eternal peace. Amen.

### Lunch - Monday 16 Sept

A lunch gathering will be held at Wests Club on Monday 16th Sept. It is hoped you will be able to join us. These gatherings are very informal and most enjoyable. To assist Sr Kerry with reserving a table would you kindly inform her if you would like to join us for this occasion. Sr Kerry can be contacted by email, text or call. Her number is **0421 463 871**. We plan to gather at noon.

### Extended Adoration - Friday 6 Sept, 7pm to 10pm

Reconciliation available throughout.



### STIC young adults meets each Thursday

Young adults (18-35) are warmly welcome to get involved with the great events being hosted by STIC Young Adults

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

**Last Thursday:** Prayer and Pub (5:30pm 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.

### Christian Meditation: Inquiries: Please text Monica 0412 056 877



Meets weekly at 6pm Mondays at St Therese' Parish Centre. Please invite friends and those of all faiths and none who may be interested to come along.

**Each must learn just to be.....open to the silent presence of the Spirit.. John Main OSB**

### Parish Finances - week ending 18 August 2024

\$852	First Collection	- Clergy Remuneration Fund
\$379	Second collection	- Parish expenses
\$200	Tap Point donations	
\$543	Planned giving envelopes	
\$949	Direct debits (weekly average from July).	

Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly

### Carmelite meeting - Saturday 7 Sept

The next meeting of the Lay Carmelites will be Saturday 7 September 10am for 10:30am in St Joseph's room. Call Ann on 0427 235 955 for more information.

### Recycling bins - \$443 raised this year

Your donations of 10c recyclable bottles, cans and plastics are welcome. Our recycling bins are located in the church car park.

### Thank you for your prayers

Julie Murphy is progressing well in her recovery and wishes to thank those who have prayed for her.



## THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME - AIRS SUNDAY 25 AUGUST 2024

On the Journey this week. Fr Daniel Serratore MGL with a simple acronym PRAY (Pause, Rejoice, Ask, Yield) to help us be fully open to God. Mother Hilda says that our emptiness is a blessing, not a curse. Fr Tony Percy on two symbols of the Holy Spirit—breath and dewfall. Peter Abela calls us to re-dedicate ourselves daily to God.

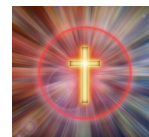
And a special announcement: Mother Hilda and The Benedictine Sisters of Jamberoo Abbey are facing a severe financial crisis due to extensive structural damage to their abbey, with repairs estimated to cost up to \$4 million. Now it's time for Mother Hilda's supporters on the Journey to help, go to [www.jamberooabbey.org.au](http://www.jamberooabbey.org.au) to donate.



## A VOCATION VIEW

"As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." These words form the last words that Joshua leaves the people of Israel; let us also embrace these words that we, too, may live in freedom. (Joshua 24:15)

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)



## IGNITE CONFERENCE 2024 RISE UP!

SYDNEY 26 - 29 SEPTEMBER

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.

The Diocese of Wollongong is taking a group 30 young people to the conference at a subsidised cost.

There a few spots left, if you would like to join us, know someone who would, or would like to sponsor someone to attend, please contact Arnie Hurdoyal, Diocesan Youth Ministry Leader, [Arnie.hurdoyal@dow.org.au](mailto:Arnie.hurdoyal@dow.org.au) or **0431 611 128**.

## WEEKEND RETREAT

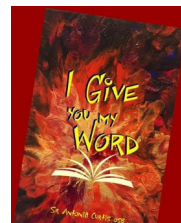
JAMBEROO ABBEY - 26 TO 28 SEPTEMBER

The Jamberoo Abbey invites all people to come and join in a face-to-face retreat at the Abbey 26 to 28 September 2024, titled "**Encountering God in Lectio Divina**".

The retreat will be co-ordinated by local author Sr Antonia Curtis, who has put together an amazing weekend of prayer, learning and reflection. The retreat will make use of the new resource written by Sr Antonia.

There is also the option of staying on at the Abbey for private reflection after the retreat ends on Sunday afternoon 28 September 2024. Please note that cottage accommodation must be vacated by Monday morning at 9am. For more information, please visit

[jamberooabbey.org.au](http://jamberooabbey.org.au)



## PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY - PARISH SECRETARY

ST PAUL'S ALBION PARK

Albion Park parish is seeking the services of a part-time secretary for **16 hrs per week - Tuesday to Friday**, start and finish times negotiable. The position requires skills in administration, bookkeeping, maintaining a database, and high skills in MS Word, Excel and PowerPoint.

The parish secretary needs to be a person who is supportive of the Catholic ethos of the Parish, who bears witness to Christ and Christian values in their own lives and in their work. If interested, please make contact via email to request an application pack for this position to

[frances.vanleerdam@dow.org.au](mailto:frances.vanleerdam@dow.org.au) Appl'n close 5pm 3 Sept 24

## 25 AUGUST - THE TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**First Reading - Joshua 24:1-2, 15-18**

***We will serve the Lord God, because he is our God.***

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people, 'If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.'

The people answered, 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord and serving other gods! Was it not the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed? What is more, the Lord drove all those peoples out before us, as well as the Amorites who used to live in this country. We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

**Responsorial Psalm - Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.**

1. I will bless the Lord at all times,  
his praise always on my lips;  
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.  
The humble shall hear and be glad. R.
2. The Lord turns his face against the wicked  
to destroy their remembrance from the earth.  
The Lord turns his eyes to the just  
and his ears to their appeal. R.
3. They call and the Lord hears  
and rescues them in all their distress.  
The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;  
those whose spirit is crushed he will save. R.
4. Many are the trials of the just man  
but from them all the Lord will rescue him.  
He will keep guard over all his bones,  
not one of his bones shall be broken. R.
5. Evil brings death to the wicked;  
those who hate the good are doomed.  
The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.  
Those who hide in him shall not be condemned. R.

**Second Reading - Ephesians 5:21-32**

***This is the great mystery, it applies to Christ and the Church***

Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body – and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

**Gospel Acclamation:**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Your words, Lord, are spirit and life: you have the words of everlasting life. Alleluia!**

**Gospel - John 6:60-69**

***Lord, whom shall we go to? You have the words of everlasting life.***

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before?

'It is the spirit that gives life,  
the flesh has nothing to offer.  
The words I have spoken to you are spirit  
and they are life.

'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him.

Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'