

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 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
 Website: www.unanderraparish.org.au
 Phone: 4271 1068

THE TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B) – 8 SEPT 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 9 Sep <i>St Peter Claver, priest</i>	Mass: 7am	
Tues 10 Sep	Mass: 5:30pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:30pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
Wed 11 Sep	Mass: 7am	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm - 5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm
Thurs 12 Sep	Mass: 5:30pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:30pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
Fri 13 Sep <i>St John Chrysostom, bishop, doctor</i>	Mass: 7am Adoration: 7:30am - 8am	Mass: 9:30am
Sat 14 Sep <i>The Exaltation of the Holy Cross</i>	Rosary 7am Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 11am Mass: 5pm	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9:30am
Sun 15 Sep	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (Polish)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Bob Lloyd, Clare O'Connor, Dominic Ferrante, Bernie Fitzpatrick, Pasquale Martire, Nick Masi

Prayers for the sick

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

Anniversaries

Dawn McHugh, Hazel McNamara, Bp Thomas McCabe, Jose Diaz



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 Sunday, the culmination of National Child Protection Week, is **Safeguarding Sunday** across the Church in Australia. While it should always be a priority to keep our children and vulnerable adults safe, this is our opportunity to bring this responsibility especially to the forefront of our minds. In our time, there are more and more challenges to children's safety, including online, and the theme for this week is "Every Conversation Matters", encouraging us to cultivate a culture in which children feel safe to speak, ask questions, and share anything, knowing they will be listened to with love and respect no matter what.

I am very grateful to the "Safeguarding Team" across our two parishes which has been meeting with me since September 2023, and has done excellent work improving our procedures in this parish, supported by the Diocesan Office of Professional Standards and Safeguarding (OPSS). With the support of the OPSS we are currently finalizing risk assessments for the ministries of altar server and Children's Liturgy; sign-in and sign-out registers for all involved in these ministries; a simple sacristy checklist for priests and acolytes to be able to follow to ensure safe practices; and safeguarding training for all involved in child-facing ministry.

The Diocese is generously providing free expert **Safeguarding training** to our two parishes of Immaculate Conception and St Therese on **Saturday 12th October, at St Therese Parish Centre, from 1pm to 3:30pm** on best practices relating to safeguarding for children, vulnerable adults, and those who work with them. I strongly encourage all acolytes, adult altar servers and Children's Liturgy volunteers to attend this training (if this is not possible for you, just let me know.) Those not involved in these ministries who are interested in attending, please also feel welcome to attend. For logistical purposes, all who plan to attend please register by emailing training@dow.org.au, including your name and parish, and informing them that you are attending the training on 12th October at St Therese Parish Centre.

MAGNOLIA TREE INITIATIVE – FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND HEALING OF PAST HURTS

As noted previously, our Diocese has begun a new initiative where parishes across our Diocese unite to acknowledge past harms, create a reflective place of healing, and symbolise our ongoing commitment to safeguarding children now and in the future. This initiative is based around the planting of a Saucer Magnolia tree, which is a symbol of youth, innocence and resilience, with a sensitively worded plaque alongside the tree to create a space for healing and reflection. The first tree was planted at Shellharbour Parish in 2022, and the parish of St Therese West Wollongong is the second parish involved. On 6th June this year, this Tree and plaque were blessed at a moving private ceremony with a survivor and her invited guests. Fr Leo Duck was specially invited by the survivor because he had been a great help to her in her time of need. The process both up to and on the day was guided by our Diocesan Office of Professional Standards and Safeguarding, and proved to be deeply moving for all present. I plan to hold a more public ceremony involving this tree and plaque later this year which will be open to both parishes of St Therese and Immaculate Conception, and more information will be shared in time. If you or anyone you know might like to have more information or input into this ceremony, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

Having spent what seemed endless hours driving along many country roads there was one rule of which you were conscious. You learnt not to drive on the edge of the road for that is where the bull dust settles. Since bulldust is an exceptionally fine dust it is extremely easy to lose control of the vehicle should you drive through it. Many serious accidents have occurred because of driving in bulldust.

A couple of years back I took this photo. It caused me to smile but I also knew the meaning of such a sign. What signs do you know that may speak of danger ahead for you? What do you need to drop in safety and surety so that the journey ahead is the best journey you can have? How have things been in the line of forgiving? Respect for yourself and others? Giving yourself time with your God? Giving and receiving with diligence and gratitude? Etc.

God understands bull dust and invites you drop it and be at peace so that your journey is not fraught with danger. God is there with and for you.

Sr Kerry Gardiner



ROSTER – THIS WEEKEND

September	Church Washing	Barbara Faraway	
Sat 7 Sept	Church Cleaning	G Lord, L Zanetti, S Adams	
Sat 7 Sept	Lawns	No lawn mowing this week	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
5pm 7 Sept	C & M Carolan	B Faraway	
8am 8 Sept	A Browne	J Sharwood	Kirra Calvert, Maria Matos
Counters	M Murphy (FT), S Alessi, H Murphy		

ROSTER – NEXT WEEKEND

September	Church Washing	Barbara Faraway	
Sat 14 Sept	Church Cleaning	D Attard, L Lathourakis	
Sat 14 Sept	Lawns	H Fernandez, Milan, Broeckmann, Oliphant	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
5pm 14 Sep	M Rodwell	T Chicharo	
8am 15 Sep	A Kelly	A Arnone	Kylie & Molly Hertsch, Gemma Farrugia
Counters	A Kelly, B Faraway		

PARISH NEWS



Morning tea - Sunday 8 Sept

Morning tea will be served after 8am mass on 8 Sept. Join us in St Joseph's Room for a cuppa and a chat.

Catholic Women's league

The monthly meeting of the CWL will be held on Thursday 12th September at 10.00am in St Joseph's Room. Everyone is welcome to come along and join us for a cuppa at 10.00am before the meeting.

Lunch - 12noon Monday 16 Sept

A lunch gathering will be held at Wests Club on Monday 16th Sept. Please contact Sr Kerry on **0421 463 871** if you are able to join us.

STIC young adults meets each Thursday (18-35)



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). Follow "STIC Young Adults" on

Instagram and Facebook.

Parish Finances - week ending 2 September 2024

\$617 First Collection - Clergy Remuneration Fund

\$584 Second collection - Parish expenses

\$200 Tap Point donations

\$380 Planned giving envelopes

\$554 Direct debits (weekly average from August).

Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly

The Birthday of Blessed Virgin Mary

This is usually celebrated on September 8th – this year, the Sunday liturgy takes precedence, but nevertheless let us remember with gratitude our Blessed Mother this weekend! This is especially noteworthy here in our parish due to the connection with the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (9 months prior, of course!)

Anointing of the sick Mass - 11am Wed 18 Sept



You are invited to a Mass for the Anointing of the Sick and Elderly. The Mass will be celebrated at the Immaculate Conception Church on Wed 18 Sept commencing at 11am.

Following the Mass a light lunch will be served in the St Joseph's room. If you would like transport to and from the Mass, please contact Sr Kerry on 0421 463 871. We look forward to welcoming you.

NATIONAL CODE OF CONDUCT

Last year a new National Code of Conduct entitled "*Integrity in our Common Mission*" was published for the Church in Australia. I share a link to this in our electronic emailed bulletin this weekend – if you are not on the emailing list, I encourage you to join, or if you are not on email you can contact me or the parish office for a copy of this document. This document is especially important for all involved in ministry, but is also relevant for all. The 10 "child safe standards" adopted in Australia:

1. Child safety is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture
2. Children participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously
3. Families and communities are informed and involved
4. Equity is upheld and diverse needs are taken into account
5. People working with children are suitable and supported
6. Processes to respond to complaints of child abuse are child-focused
7. Staff are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children safe through continual education and training
8. Physical and online environments minimise the opportunity for abuse to occur
9. Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is continuously reviewed and improved
10. Policies and procedures document how the organisation is child safe

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME – AIRS SUNDAY 1 SEPTEMBER 2024

On the Journey this week. Fr Simon Apablaza says the readings today emphasize the profound healing and renewal that God offers. Mother Hilda sees unexpected spiritual beauty in a dirty window. Fr Tony Percy says Jesus has 'skin in the game' and desires to connect with us on every level—spirit, soul, and body. Byron and Francine Perola say that loving smart means understanding and loving according to your partner's unique love needs. And Fr Mike Delaney sees a link between Jesus in the Gospels and the crowds at Tas Wine festival. Listen at jcr.org.au



A VOCATION VIEW

The encounter with Jesus never leaves one unaffected, but our ears must be opened to receive His word. (Mark 7:31-37)

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

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, Arnie.hurdoyal@dow.org.au or **0431 611 128**.

WALK FOR LIFE SYDNEY

2 - 4PM SATURDAY 21 SEPTEMBER, HYDE PARK, SYDNEY
Join the movement of Australians making abortion unthinkable in our country! All are welcome to this family-friendly gathering to be a voice for the unborn and call for the protection of every life from the moment of conception. Information and Registration: <https://www.lovesydney.org.au/>

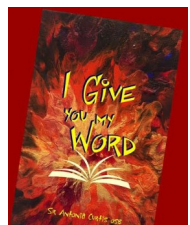
WEEKEND RETREAT

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



CHARISMATIC HEALING MASS

FRIDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2024

**SACRED HEART CHAPEL, STEWART ST, WOLLONGONG
7PM PRAISE AND WORSHIP, 7:30PM HOLY MASS**

A warm invitation is extended to all prayer groups, Alpha graduates, Cursillo, Couples for Christ, Disciples of Jesus, and all members of the public who would like to join us in charismatic praise for our Bishop's Vision for the Wollongong Diocese, followed by Holy Mass celebrated by Fr Paul Clark. There will also be an opportunity for individual healing prayer after Mass and cuppa. For more Info contact **Gabriella De Battista 0414 205 404**

8 SEPTEMBER - THE TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading - Isaiah 35:4-7

Then the ears of the deaf shall be opened and the tongues of the dumb speak.

Say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.
Look, your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy;
for water gushes in the desert,
streams in the wasteland,
the scorched earth becomes a lake,
the parched land springs of water.

Responsorial Psalm - Praise the Lord, my soul.

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. R.
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down.
It is the Lord who loves the just,
the Lord, who protects the stranger. R.
3. The Lord upholds the widow and orphan
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. R.

Second Reading - James 2:1-5

Has not God chosen the poor of the world to inherit the kingdom?

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats'; then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that? Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus preached the Good news of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. Alleluia!

Gospel - Mark 7:31-37

He made the deaf hear and the dumb speak.

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'