

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/



Parish Priest: Fr Duane Fernandez
 Email: Duane.Fernandez@dow.org.au
 Mobile: 0414 626 357

Polish Chaplain: Fr Jerzy Slowinski
 Email: slowinski54@gmail.com
 Mobile: 0410 225 975

Parish Assistant: Sr Kerry Gardiner
 Email: Kerry.Gardiner@sosj.org.au
 Mobile: 0421 463 871

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

THE THIRTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B) – 3 NOV 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 4 Nov <i>Sts Charles Borromeo, bishop</i>	Mass: 7am	
Tues 5 Nov	Mass: 5:30pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:30pm Rosary 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
Wed 6 Nov	Mass: 7am	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm - 5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm
Thurs 7 Nov	Mass: 11am (Polish) Mass: 5:30pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:30pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
Fri 8 Nov	Mass: 7am Adoration: 7:30am - 8am	Mass: 9:30am
Sat 9 Nov <i>The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica</i>	Rosary 7am Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation 11am Mass: 6pm	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9:30am
Sun 10 Nov	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (Polish)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Beverly Mattiske, Margaret Collins

Prayers for the sick

Michael Murphy (Figtree), Peter Lathourakis, Felix Johnson, Antoinette Sakr, Josephine Moran, Tonina Volpato, Goran Andersson

Anniversaries

Leo Haywood, Ron Fowler, Vincent Stubbs, Teresa Leggott, Bertha Varley, Aileen Brown, William Varley



PARISH OFFICE HOURS

unanderra@dow.org.au / 4271 1068

Monday: 8:30am-1:30pm
 Tuesday: Closed
 Wednesday: 8:30am-1:30pm
 Thursday: Closed
 Friday: 8:30am-3:30pm

Message from Fr Duane

During this month of November, beginning with the joyful celebration of **All Saints**, we move into the **Commemoration of All Souls** and are reminded that we belong to a Communion of faith, hope and love that transcends death. The Saints constantly pray for us, that we may attain the perfect happiness of heaven as they have. Our own Masses and prayers for those who have died can assist them in ways known only to God as their souls are finally purified and perfected in love. I am reminded of the words of Pope Benedict in his encyclical on the virtue of Christian hope – “Spe Salvi” – where he wrote beautifully about our call to pray for the dead:

“Our lives are involved with one another; through innumerable interactions they are linked together. No one lives alone. No one sins alone. No one is saved alone. The lives of others continually spill over into mine: in what I think, say, do and achieve. And conversely, my life spills over into that of others: for better and for worse. So my prayer for another is not something extraneous to that person, something external, not even after death. In the interconnectedness of Being, my gratitude to the other—my prayer for him—can play a small part in his purification. And for that there is no need to convert earthly time into God’s time: in the communion of souls simple terrestrial time is superseded. It is never too late to touch the heart of another, nor is it ever in vain.”

So let us lovingly offer our prayers and Masses for our beloved dead throughout this month of November, and also for those who have no one to pray for them. If you wish to include names of your departed loved ones in our **book of remembrance**, you can still do so by contacting the parish office.

While speaking of Papal Encyclicals, I encourage you to begin reading the most recent Encyclical Letter from Pope Francis published last week, entitled “Dilexit Nos” (“He loved us”) – “On the Human and Divine Love of the Heart of Jesus Christ”. I am slowly progressing through this letter and encourage you also to take your time reading it in the coming weeks, as it is full of depth and inspiration for reflection and prayer. Let me know if you have any difficulty accessing the letter.

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

While stationed in a particular parish many of the parishioners were Vietnamese. Every year it was my task to type up the names of those we wished to remember during the month of November. So many individual names made up the list but years later I still recall a couple of things that touched me during those years.

Inevitably every year one person wrote: ‘for those who died in prison.’ I often asked myself what story is behind this? What I loved was that the Vietnamese people did not print individual names but simply said, ‘My ancestors.’

How many ancestors have gone before you? Those you do not even know about but whose blood is part of your makeup.

Since those days, my names have gone beyond listing individual names and further adding ‘my ancestors.’ Can you add your ‘ancestors’ to your list?

Sr Kerry Gardiner



ROSTER — THIS WEEKEND

November	Church Washing	Helen Murphy	
Sat 2 Nov	Church Cleaning	F Fernandez, B Rice, R Tassone, K McCrohon	
Sat 2 Nov	Lawns	No lawn mowing this week	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children’s liturgy
6pm 2 Nov	T Chicharo	C Cleary	
8am 3 Nov	A Kelly	J Sharwood	<i>No children’s liturgy this week</i>
Counters	M Murphy (FH), C Stratton, M Winner		

ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

November	Church Washing	Helen Murphy	
Sat 9 Nov	Church Cleaning	J Haywood, L Salway, M Hurley, T Vaafusuaga	
Sat 9 Nov	Lawns	Winner, Walsh, Carrigan, Bennett, P & J Walker	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children’s liturgy
6pm 9 Nov	D Nugent	B Farraway	
8am 10 Nov	C Walsh	J Sharwood	<i>No children’s liturgy this week</i>
Counters	A Kelly, B Farraway		

PARISH NEWS

No Morning tea - Sunday 3 November

There will be no morning tea on Sunday 3 November as preparations for the installation of the new kitchen in St Joseph's room has begun. We look forward to enjoying this updated space soon.

Becoming Catholic

Are you interested in becoming Catholic - or do you know anyone who might be interested? We have already had our first few people registering their interest to join the next group to become Catholic. The first step in the process will be an individual meeting with Fr Duane, who will guide those interested into a preparation plan that will work best for them. Spread the word!

Joint Parish Social night - 6pm Friday 22 Nov

Please join us at Figtree Sports Club at 6pm Friday 22 Nov for the next joint Parish social night with St Therese Parish. RSVP to the parish office **4271 1068** or unanderra@dow.org.au



Children's Liturgy Team and Baptism preparation team 2025

We are looking for volunteers to join the Children's Liturgy Team and the Baptism Preparation Team in 2025. These are both deeply rewarding ministries for all involved and help children and families draw closer to God and the Church. If you're interested to know more, please contact the parish office for more information.

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 Collegians Figtree)

Every other Thursday: Faith studies and fellowship (7pm @St Therese). Follow "STIC Young Adults" on

Instagram and Facebook.

Parish Finances - week ending 27 October 2024

\$922 First Collection - Clergy Remuneration Fund
\$457 Second collection - Parish expenses
\$284 Tap Point donations
\$398 Planned giving envelopes
\$535 Direct debits (weekly average from Sept).

Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly

\$1,554.90 - Catholic Mission Appeal. Thank you for your very generous support of this appeal.

Christmas Day lunch - 12pm at St Therese Parish Centre

Thank you to all who have already volunteered to assist with the Christmas Day Lunch for those who might be in need of food or company this Christmas. We are now ready to start inviting people to RSVP to attend as guests. If you or anyone you know might be interested in attending as a guest, or as a volunteer, please contact unanderra@dow.org.au with the subject heading "Christmas Lunch" to RSVP, for catering purposes. We also have flyers at the resource table for you to take to invite others.

Connect groups update

There have been over 60 registrations for Connect Groups across Unanderra and West Wollongong parishes – an excellent response to this new initiative!

We are busily collating possible groupings and will be in touch with those who registered as soon as possible to let you know the next steps. If anyone is interested in joining a Connect Group now or in the future and hasn't registered yet, feel free to contact the parish office to indicate your interest or to ask any questions about this initiative

Recycling bins - \$599 raised this year

Your donations of 10c recyclable bottles, cans and plastics are welcome.



THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME – AIRS SUNDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2024

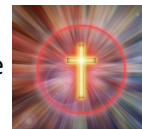
On the Journey this week. Fr James McCarthy says that self-love, often overlooked, is essential. Mother Hilda tells how we can offer comfort to God. Fr Tony Percy says that misplaced desires lead to frustration, but aligning with God brings order and fulfillment to all forms of love. Trish McCarthy asks what is your anchor point during life's storms, and Deacon Josh Clayton says that while life includes hardship and uncertainty, God's promises provide hope and strength to persevere. Listen at jcr.org.au



A VOCATION VIEW

Love of God and love of neighbour are not mutually exclusive, but rather are mutually enriching. Demonstrate the love you have for God by acting in service to your neighbour in Christ. (Mark 12:28-34)

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



ALL SOULS DAY MEMORIAL SERVICE LAKESIDE MEMORIAL PARK

Saturday 9 November 2024 at 10:30am

Celebrated by Most Rev Bishop Brian Mascord

RSVP by Friday 1 November bookings@lakesidecrem.com.au

SOCIAL JUSTICE POINTS

Not every increase in power represents progress for humanity. We need only think of the "admirable" technologies that were employed to decimate populations, drop atomic bombs and annihilate ethnic groups. There were historical moments where our admiration at progress blinded us to the horror of its consequences. But that risk is always present, because "our immense technological development has not been accompanied by a development in human responsibility, values and conscience... We stand naked and exposed in the face of our everincreasing power, lacking the wherewithal to control it. We have certain superficial mechanisms, but we cannot claim to have a sound ethics, a culture and spirituality genuinely capable of setting limits and teaching clear-minded self-restraint". It is not strange that so great a power in such hands is capable of destroying life, while the mentality proper to the technocratic paradigm blinds us and does not permit us to see this extremely grave problem of present-day humanity. - *Laudate Deum – Pope Francis - To All People of Good Will on The Climate Crisis*

COME & SEE, GO & MAKE FORMATION PATHWAY

NOVEMBER REGISTRATION OPEN

Campbelltown Tuesday 12 November 7 – 9:30pm

Wollongong & Zoom Wednesday, 13 November 7-9:30pm

"Principles & Foundations of Come & See, Go & Make" (Module 107).

Register today @ dow.sh/nov2024

CHARISMATIC HEALING MASS SACRED HEART CHAPEL, STEWART ST, WOLLONGONG FRIDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2024

A warm invitation is extended to all prayer groups, Alpha graduates, Cursillo, Couples for Christ, Disciples of Jesus, and parishioners who would like to join us in charismatic praise for our Bishop's Vision for the Wollongong Diocese, followed by Holy Mass. There will also be an opportunity for individual healing prayer after mass and cuppa.

7:00pm Praise and Worship

7:30pm Holy Mass For more information, pls contact Gabriella De Battista **0414 205 404**

3 NOVEMBER - THE THIRTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading - Deuteronomy 6:2-6

Hear Israel, you shall love the Lord with all your heart.

Moses said to the people: 'If you fear the Lord your God all the days of your life and if you keep all his laws and commandments which I lay on you, you will have a long life, you and your son and your grandson. Listen then, Israel, keep and observe what will make you prosper and give you great increase, as the Lord the God of your fathers has promised you, giving you a land where milk and honey flow.

'Listen, Israel: the Lord our God is the one Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength. Let these words I urge on you today be written on your heart.'

Responsorial Psalm - I love you Lord, my strength.

1. I love you, Lord, my strength,
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.
My God is the rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.
The Lord is worthy of all praise,
when I call I am saved from my foes. R.
2. Long life to the Lord, my rock!
Praised be the God who saves me,
He has given great victories to his king
and shown his love for his anointed. R.

Second Reading - Hebrews 7:23-28

This one, because he remains forever, has an eternal priesthood.

There used to be a great number of priests under the former covenant, because death put an end to each one of them; but this one, because he remains for ever, can never lose his priesthood. It follows, then, that his power to save is utterly certain, since he is living for ever to intercede for all who come to God through him.

To suit us, the ideal high priest would have to be holy, innocent and uncontaminated, beyond the influence of sinners, and raised up above the heavens; one who would not need to offer sacrifices every day, as the other high priests do for their own sins and then for those of the people, because he has done this once and for all by offering himself. The Law appoints high priests who are men subject to weakness; but the promise on oath, which came after the Law, appointed the Son who is made perfect for ever.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them, and will come to them. Alleluia

Gospel - Mark 12:28-34

This is the first commandment, and the second is similar to it.

One of the scribes came up to Jesus and put a question to him, 'Which is the first of all the commandments?' Jesus replied, 'This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.' The scribe said to him, 'Well spoken, Master; what you have said is true: that he is one and there is no other. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice.' Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken, said, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And after that no one dared to question him any more.