

# 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 School:** St Pius X Primary School  
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 (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 THIRTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B) – 10 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
<b>Mon 11 Nov</b> <i>St Martin of Tours, bishop</i>	Mass: 7am	
<b>Tues 12 Nov</b> <i>St Josaphat, bishop, martyr</i>	Mass: 5:30pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:30pm Rosary 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
<b>Wed 13 Nov</b>	Mass: 7am	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm - 5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm
<b>Thurs 14 Nov</b>	Mass: 5:30pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:30pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
<b>Fri 15 Nov</b> <i>St Albert the Great, bishop, doctor</i>	Mass: 7am Adoration: 7:30am - 8am	Mass: 9:30am
<b>Sat 16 Nov</b> <i>St Margaret of Scotland, St Gertrude, virgin</i>	Rosary 7am Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation 11am <b>Mass: 6pm</b>	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9:30am
<b>Sun 17 Nov</b>	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (Polish)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

#### Recently Deceased

Catherine Vojtech

#### Prayers for the sick

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

#### Anniversaries

Mrs Parisi, Peter Hanrahan.  
 Hose Adlawan, Frank Cordina,  
 Peter Lech, Des Fitzgerald



### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

[unanderra@dow.org.au](mailto: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*

We have about 70 people already registered for Connect Groups across our two parishes. This excellent response means it is taking longer to finalize the groupings than we had expected, and I will be meeting with the organizers later this week to finalize the next steps. During this time there have also been a number of questions about the initiative, and as such I include below answers to "Frequently Asked Questions". With these clarifications now provided below we are extending one final opportunity for you to register for this first roll out of Connect Groups by latest this **Tuesday 12th November** if you are interested, before we finalize the next steps.

**1. "Do you have to have done Alpha to join a Connect Group? Would I be the only one there who hasn't done Alpha?"**

No. The registrations already include many people who have not done Alpha - including people of all ages, long time parishioners and new parishioners. The main similarity between the two initiatives is that they both provide opportunities to connect more deeply in a faith context with smaller groups of people than what is possible at Mass.

**2. "I don't have many availabilities - is that a problem?"**

No. The registration form will give you an opportunity to select your availabilities. We will then collate the responses and get back to you when there is enough interest that matches one of your availabilities.

**3. "Are the groupings random?"**

We will collate availabilities, people you might indicate you wish to be grouped with, demographics etc to try to form groups that we believe will be most fruitful for all involved. This collation of various factors is why it is taking so long to finalize – and to those who have registered a while ago, thank you for your patience!

**4. "Is it a lifelong commitment?"**

No. There are no contracts to sign! However we hope that once Connect groups begin, you will enjoy them so much that you won't want it to end!

**5. "What if I miss a session?"**

We know how busy life can be. This is why we have chosen fortnightly gatherings for the groups – we felt that weekly might be too frequent for many, but fortnightly means that even if you miss one here and there, it is not too long between drinks.

**6. "When will Connect Groups start to meet?"**

Not every group will begin at the same time. Once all of the factors above are collated we will gather the first groups for a first meeting which will be a chance to meet each other and explain the process for the group. The first groups will hopefully be able to meet in the next few weeks.

**7. "Will there be future opportunities to join a Connect Group if I can't join now?"**

Yes! But don't forget to register by this Tuesday 12th November if you'd like to be part of the first roll out of Connect Groups in our two parishes!

*Congratulations to Denzel, Soraya and Zara who receive their First Holy Communion this weekend. It has been a privilege for me to journey with these wonderful young people this year, as they have chosen of their own free will to receive Confirmation, First Reconciliation and First Communion this year. Thank you to their parents for supporting them in their commitments. Let us keep these young people in our prayers – that now that they have received all of the Sacraments of initiation, they will continue to grow closer to Jesus and be filled more and more with his Holy Spirit all the days of their lives!*

**Fr Duane Fernandez**

## *Message from Sr Kerry*

Only after contemplating the flowers for a few minutes did I realise I had experienced an optical illusion.

As always, the flowers adorning our altar were beautiful. From my pew I thought I saw some wheat amongst the flowers. It was a lovely feeling. Often during my days in the country parishes, wheat would decorate our altars. This was especially so when the harvesting of the wheat began. I felt so united to those in far flung places where they too were gathering for Mass.

After some time, I realised that it was not wheat but rather the finer top of a grevillea. I was not disappointed for I appreciated my vision and prayer being broadened. Who do you hold in your prayer today? What do you hold in prayer?



**Sr Kerry Gardiner**

### ROSTER – THIS 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		

### ROSTER – NEXT WEEKEND

November	Church Washing	Helen Murphy	
Sat 16 Nov	Church Cleaning	G Lord, L Zanetti, S Adams	
Sat 16 Nov	Lawns	<i>No lawn mowing this week</i>	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
6pm 16Nov	C and M Carolan	T Chicharo	
8am 17 Nov	T Vaafusuaga	A Amone	Leah Galea, Alison Sharwood
Counters	A Gunning, M Caudero, C Garrett		

## PARISH NEWS

### Church Ministries

Many parishioners give their valuable time to assist in helping in various ways to enable the smooth running of our parish. Thank you to these generous people who continue to commit to assisting the parish by giving their time. There is always a need for more volunteers to assist in the various ministries. If you are not already involved in any ministry the question is Are you able to assist in any ministry to help our parish?

Volunteers are needed for:

- **Church cleaning** – This ministry involves an hour of your time once every 5 weeks and is usually done on Saturday mornings.
- **Lawn mowing** – This roster varies as more mowing is required in summer than in winter. Usually once a month in summer and once every couple of months in winter.
- **Lectors** to read at weekend and weekday masses
- **Welcomers** for the weekend masses.
- **Leaders for Children's Liturgy** after 8am Sunday mass during school term.
- **Washing of altar linen** on a monthly roster.
- **Flower arrangers.**

If you would like to be involved in any of these ministries could you please contact Barbara by email [bfarraway@bigpond.com](mailto:bfarraway@bigpond.com) By phone **0419 989608**

Your assistance in any ministry is needed and would be most welcome. We are always in need of more volunteers particularly for church cleaning, lawn mowing and welcoming.

### 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.

### 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](mailto: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 3 November 2024

\$715	First Collection	- Clergy Remuneration Fund
\$574	Second collection	- Parish expenses
\$270	Tap Point donations	
\$259	Planned giving envelopes	
\$535	Direct debits (weekly average from Sept).	

*Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly*

### Christmas Day lunch - 12pm at St Therese Parish Centre

If you or anyone you know might be interested in attending as a guest, or as a volunteer, please contact [unanderra@dow.org.au](mailto: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.

### Thank you for your prayers for Goran Andersson

Goran is now home and is recovering from surgery.



## THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME

– AIRS SUNDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2024

On the Journey this week. Fr Joshua Whicker MGL says that we're called to hold nothing back from God. Mother Hilda says God often says "yeah" in our conversations with him. Fr Tony Percy says that all we do is small but not insignificant. Byron & Francine Pirola say that men value respect and women cherishment when expressing their love, and Fr Mike Delaney's story of the Parish roadside display sign turning into an unexpected "sign from God." Listen at [jcr.org.au](http://jcr.org.au)



JOURNEY  
CATHOLIC RADIO

## A VOCATION VIEW

Jesus upholds the example of the widow who puts two small coins into the Temple treasury as the greatest treasure given.

We are to give not out of our surplus, but from our very selves. (Mark 12:38-44)

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)



## ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

MONTAGUE STREET, NORTH WOLLONGONG

Vinnies are looking for your help. They need volunteers to help sort our ever-growing donations. As little as 3 hours/week will make a big difference.



If you are available and would like to share some of your time, it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Lisa **0473 100 110** between 8am - 4pm Monday to Friday.

## DIOCESAN ANNUAL CATECHIST MASS

9:30AM 7 DECEMBER

AT ST FRANCIS XAVIER CATHEDRAL, WOLLONGONG

All active and retired SRE Catechists and those involved in the Sacramental preparation of children are warmly invited to the Annual Catechist Mass and Awards Ceremony.

This special gathering is a wonderful opportunity to come together with fellow Life Members, fellow catechists, award recipients, special guests, and their families. Whether you're new to the CCD ministry or have served for many years, we look forward to celebrating with you!

Join Bishop Brian Mascord, clergy, and fellow SRE and sacramental teachers and helpers for this celebration, followed by a light luncheon.

RSVP [dow.sh/cm24](http://dow.sh/cm24) or contact Helen Bennett at [helen.bennett@dow.org.au](mailto:helen.bennett@dow.org.au) for more information.

## 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](http://dow.sh/nov2024)

## A YOUNG ADULTS ADVENT SPECIAL! (OVER 18 EVENT)

Register at: <https://www.trybooking.com/CWEOF>

After one awesome and blessed year since our first Vocations Promotions Event in late October 2023 (at the Campbelltown Catholic Club) we have plenty to celebrate at our last event of the year!

Join us for a night of great company and Outdoor Screening of the Chosen Christmas Special **on Saturday, 16 November from 5pm** at 415 Douglas Park Drive, Douglas Park (25 mins from Campbelltown and Wollongong). Follow signage onsite to parking and event site. We hope to see you there!



# 10 NOVEMBER - THE THIRTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## First Reading - 1 Kings 17: 10-16

*The widow made a little scone from her flour and brought it to Elijah*

Elijah the Prophet went off to Sidon. And when he reached the city gate, there was a widow gathering sticks; addressing her he said, 'Please bring me a little water in a vessel for me to drink.' She was setting off to bring it when he called after her. 'Please' he said 'bring me a scrap of bread in your hand.' 'As the Lord your God lives,' she replied 'I have no baked bread, but only a handful of meal in a jar and a little oil in a jug; I am just gathering a stick or two to go and prepare this for myself and my son to eat, and then we shall die.' But Elijah said to her, 'Do not be afraid, go and do as you have said; but first make a little scone of it for me and bring it to me, and then make some for yourself and for your son. For thus the Lord speaks, the God of Israel:

"Jar of meal shall not be spent,  
jug of oil shall not be emptied,  
before the day when the Lord sends  
rain on the face of the earth."

The woman went and did as Elijah told her and they ate the food, she, himself and her son. The jar of meal was not spent nor the jug of oil emptied, just as the Lord had foretold through Elijah.'

## 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 - Hebrews 9:24-28

*Christ offered himself only once to take the faults of many on himself.*

It is not as though Christ had entered a man-made sanctuary which was only modelled on the real one; but it was heaven itself, so that he could appear in the actual presence of God on our behalf. And he does not have to offer himself again and again, like the high priest going into the sanctuary year after year with the blood that is not his own, or else he would have had to suffer over and over again since the world began. Instead of that, he has made his appearance once and for all, now at the end of the last age, to do away with sin by sacrificing himself. Since men only die once, and after that comes judgement, so Christ, too, offers himself only once to take the faults of many on himself, and when he appears a second time, it will not be to deal with sin but to reward with salvation those who are waiting for him.

## Gospel Acclamation:

**Alleluia, alleluia! Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs! Alleluia**

## Gospel - Mark 12:38-44

*This poor widow has put in more than all who contributed.*

In his teaching Jesus said, 'Beware of the scribes who like to walk about in long robes, to be greeted obsequiously in the market squares, to take the front seats in the synagogues and the places of honour at banquets; these are the men who swallow the property of widows, while making a show of lengthy prayers. The more severe will be the sentence they receive.'

He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the treasury, and many of the rich put in a great deal. A poor widow came and put in two small coins, the equivalent of a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, this poor widow has put more in than all who have contributed to the treasury; for they have all put in money they had over, but she from the little she had has put in everything she possessed, all she had to live on.'