

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 THIRTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B) – 17 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 18 Nov <i>St Dedication of the Basilicas of Sts Peter and Paul, apostles</i>	Mass: 7am	
Tues 19 Nov	No Mass today	Mass: 7:45am
Wed 20 Nov	No Mass today	No Mass today
Thurs 21 Nov <i>The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	Mass: 5:30pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:30pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
Fri 22 Nov <i>St Cecilia, virgin, martyr</i>	Mass: 7am Adoration: 7:30am - 8am	Mass: 9:30am
Sat 23 Nov <i>St Clement I, pope St Columban, abbot</i>	Rosary 7am Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation 11am Mass: 6pm	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9:30am
Sun 24 Nov	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (Polish)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

George Bezzina, Anna Bazun, Catherine Vojtech

Anniversaries

Fr Tomasz Zaremba (SC), John Richards, Winifred Staunton,

Prayers for the sick

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



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

Our **Parish Social Dinner** is this Friday and it's not too late to RSVP. Some have asked if children are welcome – yes, all are welcome, the more the merrier! It is a relaxed dinner out, a great opportunity to connect a bit more deeply with each other, and feel free to invite any others who you think might be interested in coming along. Details in the main section of the bulletin.

Now that we have established more thorough safeguarding practices in our parish, we are ready to train and commission **new altar servers**. This opportunity is open to Catholic children who have made their First Holy Communion. In addition to serving God and the community at Mass, your child would benefit from this experience in a number of ways, including growing in their understanding of the Mass, learning confidence, responsibility and teamwork, and making new friends. Part of the program will be fostering community among the altar servers through activities designed in consultation with you. If you are interested please contact me at my email address (duane.fernandez@dow.org.au) and I will explain the next steps.

The **St Joseph's Room renovations** have been completed, and all went very smoothly, thanks to many volunteer helpers. Special thanks to the ladies of the Catholic Women's League for working together to accomplish this important project. We also thank Brendan Sharwood who generously volunteered to provide professional plumbing services. All parishioners are welcome to have a look after Mass and we look forward to using the refreshed space again - starting with Children's Liturgy of the Word recommencing this Sunday at our 8am Mass.

In case anyone is wondering why someone is getting up and counting you all after the homily, this is an annual Mass count at all parishes to assist with Diocesan planning throughout the weekends of November. To assist with this, please do not leave the church no matter how much you might dislike my homily!

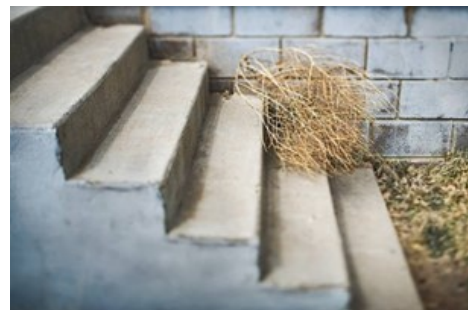
Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

Tumbleweed, once mature and dry, detaches from the root or stem of the plant and rolls due to the force of the wind. Tumbleweed is extremely fine, messy, strong, and annoying. It can also be a fire hazard.

It is something that is common on our dry outback lands. Despite the negativity, its purpose is to spread seeds. If blessed with moisture the tumbleweed then is responsible for the birth of new plants.

We may appear to be like tumbleweed in the eyes of others. However, let us go beyond the surface knowing that we and others are spreading their seeds of love, care, compassion, growth, acceptance, forgiveness, and the list could go on. May our tumbleweed grace the lives of others.



Sr Kerry Gardiner

ROSTER – THIS WEEKEND

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

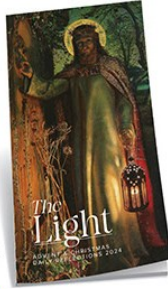
ROSTER – NEXT WEEKEND

November	Church Washing	Helen Murphy	
Sat 23 Nov	Church Cleaning	D Attard, L Lathourakis	
Sat 23 Nov	Lawns	Mannix, Brown, F Caruana, J Lonard, J Sharwood	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
6pm 23 Nov	N O'Donoghue		
8am 24 Nov	C Lyon	A Kelly	Sandra Michielin, Lisa Michielin, Ella Alessi
Counters	A Kelly, B Faraway		

PARISH NEWS

The Light - Advent & Christmas reflections- available now

The Light is a beautiful 88-page book of daily reflections designed to deepen your spiritual journey from the beginning of **Advent (1 December 2024) through to the Baptism of the Lord (12 January 2025)**, offering profound insights and contemplative thoughts that invite you to explore the depths of your faith and anticipate the joy of God's presence in the world. Cost is \$4. Please leave money in the container at the side door.



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 bfaraway@bigpond.com or 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.

Vinnies News



This past week, through your generosity, we have been able to financially help **12 families**, also purchase **2 washing machines** for others, visit one in hospital and assist another with pharmacy bills. Your financial and prayer support is addressing poverty, isolation and loneliness in our community. SVdP members thank you.

Becoming Catholic

Are you interested in becoming Catholic - or do you know anyone who might be interested? 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. Please contact Fr Duane or the Parish office.

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 - final event for 2024

STIC will have our final event on Thursday 28 Nov, and then will be in recess until 2025. Our final event **7pm Thursday 28 Nov** will be a pot luck and trivia night at St Therese - all young adults welcome.



Parish Finances - week ending 10 November 2024

\$882	First Collection	- Clergy Remuneration Fund
\$506	Second collection	- Parish expenses
\$132	Tap Point donations	
\$675	Planned giving envelopes	
\$503	Direct debits (weekly average from Oct).	

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 with the subject heading "Christmas Lunch" to RSVP, for catering purposes. Flyers at the resource table for you to invite others.

THE JOURNEY

CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME

– AIRS SUNDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2024

On the Journey this week. Fr Mark De Battista calls us to reflect on Christ's second coming, urging perseverance and vigilance amidst an apocalyptic theme. Mother Hilca on transforming Broken Heart Syndrome. Fr Tony Percy's cataclysmic moments at end times and in daily life. Trish McCarthy compares the way our muscles work to the way God works in our life, and Pete Gilmore says that God notices the intricate details of our life regardless of how distant we are. Listen at jcr.org.au



JOURNEY
CATHOLIC RADIO

A VOCATION VIEW

As Christians, our sole inheritance is Christ; everything else is temporal and fleeting. Let us rejoice in His calling, that we might have His strength in order to respond to the invitation to "Come! Follow me." (Psalm 16)

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

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 or contact Helen Bennett at helen.bennett@dow.org.au for more information.

DISABLED SURFERS ASSOCIATION

THIRROUL, 30 NOVEMBER

Join the Disabled Surfers Association at Thirroul Beach on Saturday, 30 November, 8:30am to 1pm. This volunteer-driven event provides people with disabilities a chance to experience the joy of surfing in a safe and supportive environment. No surfing experience or swimming skills are required, and all ages are welcome to volunteer.

To register or learn more, visit events.humanitix.com

PARISH NEWS CONTINUED...

CWL news - Christmas hampers for seafarers

The Catholic Women's league are preparing Christmas hampers for distribution to Seafarers. The Mission for Seafarers have requested magazines e.g. Wheels magazine, Sports magazines, National Geographic to give to the Seafarers. They have also requested 4 x guitars.

If you have items to donate, please call **Cathy 0421 189 948** for drop off arrangements.

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

17 NOVEMBER - THE THIRTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading - Daniel 12:1-3

When that time comes your own people will be spared.

At that time Michael will stand up, the great prince who mounts guard over your people. There is going to be a time of great distress, unparalleled since nations first came into existence. When that time comes, your own people will be spared, all those whose names are found written in the Book. Of those who lie sleeping in the dust of the earth many will awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting disgrace. The learned will shine as brightly as the vault of heaven, and those who have instructed many in virtue, as bright as stars for all eternity.'

Responsorial Psalm - Keep me safe, O God, you are my hope.

1. O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;
it is you yourself who are my prize.
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. R.
2. And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;
even my body shall rest in safety.
For you will not leave my soul among the dead,
nor let your beloved know decay. R.
3. You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence,
at your right hand happiness for ever. R.

Second Reading - Hebrews 10:11-14, 14, 18 *By a single offering he has achieved the eternal perfection of those who are sanctified.*

All the priests stand at their duties every day, offering over and over again the same sacrifices which are quite incapable of taking sins away. He, on the other hand, has offered one single sacrifice for sins, and then taken his place forever, at the right hand of God, where he is now waiting until his enemies are made into a footstool for him. By virtue of that one single offering, he has achieved the eternal perfection of all whom he is sanctifying. When all sins have been forgiven, there can be no more sin offerings.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Be watchful, pray constantly, that you may be worthy to stand before the son of Man. Alleluia

Gospel - Mark 13:24-32

He shall gather his elect from the four winds.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'In those days, after the time of distress, the sun will be darkened, the moon will lose its brightness, the stars will come falling from heaven and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory; then too he will send the angels to gather his chosen from the four winds, from the ends of the world to the ends of heaven.

'Take the fig tree as a parable: as soon as its twigs grow supple and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. So with you when you see these things happening: know that he is near, at the very gates. I tell you solemnly, before this generation has passed away all these things will have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

'But as for that day or hour, nobody knows it, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son; no one but the Father.'