

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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 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
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FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C) – 1 DEC 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 2 Dec	Mass: 7am	
Tues 3 Dec <i>St Francis Xavier, priest</i>	Mass: 5:30pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:30pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm	No Mass today
Wed 4 Dec <i>St John Damascene, priest, doctor</i>	Mass: 7am	No Mass today
Thurs 5 Dec	Mass: 11am (Polish) Mass: 5:30pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:30pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm	No Mass today
Fri 6 Dec	Mass: 7am Adoration: 7:30am - 8am Extended Adoration: 7pm - 10pm	No Mass today
Sat 7 Dec <i>St Ambrose, bishop, doctor</i>	Rosary 7am Mass: 7:30am Mass: 6pm	No Mass today
Sun 8 Dec	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (Polish)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Benjamin Antonio, Mercedes Ferrer, Francisca Quetcher, Sr Michelle Condon RSJ, George Bezzina, Anna Bazun,

Prayers for the sick

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

Anniversaries

Victor and Connie Tabone,
 Mary and Charlie Micallef,
 Nelson Mandela



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

Happy new (Church) year! We begin the new Liturgical Year with the sacred season of Advent. The word **“Advent”** derives from the Latin “Adventus” meaning “coming”. It is a time of preparation for celebrating Christ’s first coming into the world in the humility of Bethlehem, while continuing to prepare our hearts with joyful hope and anticipation of his second coming in glory.

This Advent, we are also preparing for the launch of the **“Jubilee Year”** together with the Church all throughout the world, commencing Christmas Eve 2024. A Jubilee Year is a special year celebrated usually every 25 years in the Church with special opportunities for celebrating God’s mercy and renewing and deepening our faith, through prayer, pilgrimage, and the Sacraments. In our Diocese, Bishop Brian has chosen 6 churches to serve as Jubilee Pilgrimage sites for the Holy Year, including our own Immaculate Conception Church, Unanderra (which is also the Diocesan Shrine of Our Lady). Bishop Brian will be sharing more information with us soon about what this will entail.

The theme chosen by Pope Francis for this Jubilee Year is **“Pilgrims of Hope”**. There are a number of resources shared via email with all on our mailing list this weekend, including letters from Pope Francis and Bishop Brian to inaugurate the Jubilee Year. If you aren’t on the email list and would like to join, simply email the parish office. If you would like hard copies of any of the materials, also feel free to contact the office or myself. Jubilee prayer cards are also available this weekend at our churches.

Parish Feast Day – Monday, December 9 Special Mass, 7pm followed by refreshments

This year, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and our Parish Feast Day is moved from the usual December 8th, where the Second Sunday of Advent takes precedence, to Monday December 9th. We will celebrate a special Mass at 7pm, followed by refreshments in our newly renovated St Joseph’s Room. This will also be an opportunity to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the blessing and opening of our beautiful parish Church of the Immaculate Conception, which was blessed and opened on 21st November 1954. Let us give thanks to God for the generosity of the Scalabrinian Order and so many others who contributed to the building of this beautiful sacred place, and to all of the “living stones” who have built up this parish community over the decades – including each of us today.

Parish Social Dinner

Thank you to all who came to the Parish Social last Friday together with St Therese Parish West Wollongong. We had about 50 people from across the parishes of Unanderra and West Wollongong, and a great atmosphere of connecting more deeply with each other. Thank you to Mary O’Rourke for organizing this, and we look forward to more of these next year!

CANCELLATION OF WEEKDAY MASSES AND OTHER ACTIVITIES AT ST THERESE

Monday 2nd December to Saturday 7th December

Due to concreting and electrical work at the parish carpark gates, Masses and other activities have been cancelled at St Therese for Monday 2nd December to Saturday 7th December.

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

Advent evokes a profound sense of anticipation. Inevitably my mind goes back to the mid 80’s.

I was teaching Year 2 in a country school. For religion we were studying the four Advent candles and made a concerted effort to do something positive as a class this particular Advent. One week it was going without dessert and putting the money in a box in the classroom. We had collected a reasonable amount of money. Using the money we had collected off we went as a class to do our maths lesson by purchasing a gift for a boy and girl aged seven. Talk about savvy shoppers! We came back to school with an outfit for a boy and a girl, except the girls had used all their money before they could buy shoes. They were far from satisfied. They continued to collect so they could buy shoes and give the entire outfit to someone more needy.

Forty years later those children still challenge me as we approach Advent. How meaningful will your Advent be? Am I challenged in some way to go a further step? More importantly, am I prepared to take that step?

Sr Kerry Gardiner



ROSTER – THIS WEEKEND

December	Church Washing	Susan Adams	
Sat 30 Nov	Church Cleaning	W & J Rodgers, J Andersson	
Sat 30 Nov	Lawns	No lawn mowing this week	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children’s liturgy
6pm 30 Nov	D Ferrer	C Cleary	
8am 1 Dec	P Gunning	G Simmonite	Alicia Sanchez– Levine, Luke Janson
Counters	M Murphy (FT), S Alessi, H Murphy		

ROSTER – NEXT WEEKEND

December	Church Washing	Susan Adams	
Sat 7 Dec	Church Cleaning	F Fernandez, B Rice, R Tassone, K McCrohon	
Sat 7 Dec	Lawns	H Fernandez, Milan, Broeckmann, A Oliphant	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children’s liturgy
6pm 7 Dec	D Nugent	B Faraway	
8am 8 Dec	A Browne	J Sharwood	Maria Matos, Sandra Michelin
Counters	A Kelly, B Faraway		

PARISH NEWS

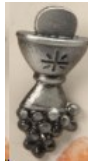
Morning Tea - Sunday 1 December

Everyone is invited to join us for morning tea after 8am Mass. Come along for a cuppa and a chat and enjoy our renovations in St Joseph's Room.



First Holy Communion - thank you

A very sincere thank you to each and everyone involved with the preparation and celebration of First Eucharist for those in our care. May you be blessed abundantly. Sr Kerry



Vinnies News - sharing with you the Vincentian works



Besides 10 or more other families, we assisted this week a young mother with 4 small children. They were facing homelessness, because of an eviction notice due to rent arrears. They were desperate for immediate food also. Because of your generous giving, we were able to assist in all these areas of need. God bless you in your kindness.

On sale this week at the side door of the church, **Columban calendars \$10, Christmas cards \$5**

New altar servers welcome

We are in the process of recruiting new altar servers - any children who have already received their First Holy Communion are eligible. If your child is interested, please contact the parish office by Friday 29th November.

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.

Christmas Day lunch -

12pm at the St Therese Parish Centre

If you or anyone you know might be interested in attending as a guest, or volunteer, please RSVP to **unanderra@dow.org.au** with the subject heading "Christmas Lunch" for catering purposes. Flyers at the resource table to invite others



Becoming Catholic

Are you interested in becoming Catholic - or do you know anyone who might be interested? 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, please contact the parish office.

Parish Finances - week ending 24 November 2024

\$821	First Collection	- Clergy Remuneration Fund
\$573	Second collection	- Parish expenses
\$230	Tap Point donations	
\$244	Planned giving envelopes	
\$503	Direct debits (weekly average from Oct).	

Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly

Wedding - Congratulations and thank you from the Curcio family

The Nuptial Mass of Cristina Curcio and Adrian Macri celebrated by our much loved and generous Parish Priest Father Duane Fernandez on the 16 November 2024 at Hartzler Park Chapel in Burradoo.

Congratulations to the newly wed couple. Please keep them in your prayers.



THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME - AIRS SUNDAY 1 DECEMBER 2024

On the Journey this week. Fr Mark De Battista says that Advent invites Christians to prepare for Christ's coming through watchfulness and prayer, fostering spiritual growth and joy in anticipation of His birth. Mother Hilda highlights the enduring influence of parents' simple, sincere acts of faith on their children. Fr Tony Percy says Advent emphasizes the intimate relationship between three supernatural realities: Faith, Hope, and Promise. Fr John Corrigan says that Christian joy is not a mere feeling but a fruit of the Holy Spirit. Listen at jcr.org.au



A VOCATION VIEW

Be on the watch! Allow God to lead you in the ways of truth and justice. God is calling you to serve. (Jeremiah 33:14-16) 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 on Saturday, 7 December, at 9:30 am at St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Wollongong.

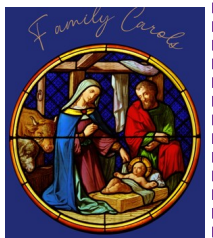
Join Bishop Brian Mascord, for this celebration, followed by a light luncheon. RSVP dow.sh/cm24 or helen.bennett@dow.org.au

GATHER CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Christmas Carols will be held on **Monday 16 December from 5pm**. BYO picnic in the grounds of Edmund Rice College, enter via Mt Keira Rd, with community carol singing from 7pm.

All ages, individuals & families most welcome. For further information:

Fiona 0413 121383



ADVENT DAY RETREAT JAMBEROO ABBEY

WITH MOTHER HILDA SCOTT OSB,
SR MAGDALEN MATHER OSB AND SR JULIAN GRIGOR
SATURDAY 7 DECEMBER 2024

Mass: 9am Talks: 10.30am - 3.30pm

Cost: \$50 Morning tea provided, bring your own lunch

Register: www.jamberooabbey.org.au/retreats/abbey-retreat-programs

Advent is ushered in with the lighting of the first Advent candle. The beautiful purple candle represents Hope, and its lighting represents the Light with which the Christ enlightens our hearts and world. On this day of retreat, we explore how the hope and promise of the coming of the Lord continues to sing in the deepest places of our soul.

1 DECEMBER - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C)

First Reading - Jeremiah 33:14-16

I will cause a good seed to spring forth from David.

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah:

‘In those days and at that time,
I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David,
who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land.
In those days Judah shall be saved
and Israel shall dwell in confidence.
And this is the name the city will be called:
The-Lord-our-integrity.’

Responsorial Psalm - To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

1. Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. R.
2. The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
He guides the humble in the right path,
He teaches his way to the poor. R.
3. His ways are faithfulness and love
for those who keep his covenant and law.
The Lord’s friendship is for those who revere him;
to them he reveals his covenant. R.

Second Reading - 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

When Christ comes may he strengthen your hearts in holiness.

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints.

Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Lord show us your mercy and love and grant us your salvation. Alleluia

Gospel - Luke 21:25-28,34-36

Your redemption is near at hand.

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.

‘Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.’