

# 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 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C) – 15 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 16 Dec	Mass: 7am	
Tues 17 Dec	Mass: 5:30pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:30pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm 	Mass: 7:45am
Wed 18 Dec	Mass: 7am	Adoration: 4:30pm - 5:30pm Mass: 5:30pm 
Thurs 19 Dec	Mass: 5:30pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:30pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm 	Mass: 7:45am
Fri 20 Dec	Mass: 7am Adoration: 7:30am - 8am 	Mass: 9:30am
Sat 21 Dec <i>St Peter Canisius, priest, doctor</i>	Rosary: 7am Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 11am - 12noon <b>Mass: 6pm</b> 	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9:30am - 10:30am 
Sun 22 Dec	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (Polish)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

#### Recently Deceased

Joy Bonin, Benjamin Antonio,  
Mercedes Ferrer

#### Prayers for the sick

Michael Murphy (Figtree), Peter Lathourakis, Felix Johnson,  
Antoinette Sakr, Josephine Moran

#### Anniversaries

Bruce Reedy, Neta Brown  
Colleen Walter



### 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 passed the halfway point of Advent, and this **“Gaudete Sunday”** (literally, “Rejoice” Sunday) is an opportunity to anticipate the joy of Christmas. In the Gospel of Luke on Christmas night we hear that the birth of Christ is *“news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people”* (Luke 2:10). As we enter these final days of Advent there are a number of practical ways we might share the joy of Christ with relatives, friends, and others in our social circles, such as:

- Inviting people to come with you to a Christmas Mass
- Inviting people to come with you to Alpha which begins in February (invitation cards available at the resource table)
- Inviting people who might benefit from food and company on Christmas Day to our Christmas Day lunch (invitation flyers available at the resource table)
- Contributing to the Christmas giving tree organized by St Vincent De Paul Conference (simply take a tag and bring the corresponding gift/item to the tree, to contribute to Christmas hampers that will go to those most in need this Christmas)
- Purchase Columban Calendars or Christmas Cards which go towards the work of the St Vincent De Paul Conference

Pope Francis once wrote that he understood that joy is not always experienced in the same way, especially in difficult times, but that it *“adapts and changes, but always endures, even as a flicker of light born of our personal certainty that, when everything is said and done, we are infinitely loved”* (Evangelii Gaudium, The Joy of the Gospel). Christ is the one who brings us this conviction of the infinite love of our God who is always with us. Whatever our circumstances this Advent and Christmas, let us remember that Christ’s coming is a cause of comfort and joy for us and for all people, and let’s open our hearts to receive more of his joy and to bring more of his joy to others!

**Fr Duane Fernandez**

## *Message from Sr Kerry*

Every year when I sight the blooming of the Jacaranda trees, I cannot help but think the tree is telling us that Advent is on the horizon. We have the reminders of Christmas dawning as the agapanthus break forth in abundance. Now that we are a couple of weeks into advent, which just to remind you, means preparing, how are things going for you? You are probably busy with preparing presents, writing the shopping list, thinking about the menu, table setting etc. That is all wonderful and certainly adds to the spirit of the day.

This week are you able to put ten minutes aside just to be still, quiet and be present to your God? Like the agapanthus we need to nourish our souls to produce healthy blooms. How vibrant and healthy will your heart be on Christmas day when we gather to celebrate Jesus in our lives? We need to prepare for this. It will not just happen on Christmas morning.



**Sr Kerry Gardiner**

### ROSTER — THIS WEEKEND

December	Church Washing	Susan Adams	
Sat 14 Dec	Church Cleaning	J Haywood, L Salway, M Hurley, T Vaafusuaga	
Sat 14 Dec	Lawns	<i>No lawnmowing this week</i>	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children’s liturgy
6pm 14 Dec	M Rodwell	T Chicharo	
8am 15 Dec	M Matos	A Arnone	Kylie & Molly Hertsch, Gemma Farrugia
Counters	M Murphy (FH), C Stratton, M Winner		

### ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

December	Church Washing	Susan Adams	
Sat 21 Dec	Church Cleaning	G Lord, L Zanetti, S Adams	
Sat 21 Dec	Lawns	<i>Winner, Walsh, Carrigan, A Bennett, P &amp; J Walker</i>	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children’s liturgy
6pm 21 Dec	C & M Carolan		
8am 22 Dec	C Walsh	A Kelly	<i>School holidays</i>
Counters	A Kelly, B Farraway		

## PARISH NEWS

### 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](mailto:unanderra@dow.org.au) with the subject heading "Christmas Lunch" for catering purposes. Flyers at the resource table to invite others



### Christmas Mass times, lectors and welcomers

Christmas Eve - 6pm - Colleen Walsh

Christmas Eve - 8pm - Tina Chicharo and Chris Lyon

Christmas Day - 8am - Didi Browne and Paul Gunning

### Welcomers

Christmas Eve - 6pm - Gloria Simmonite and Sr Kerry Gardiner

Christmas Eve - 8pm - Susan Adams and Barbara Faraway

Christmas Day - 8am - Anna Gunning and Jacob Sharwood.

### Vinnies News



The Vinnies Giving Tree is losing its tags very quickly. Thank you for such generous giving. What a wonderful Parish!

We already have **50 families waiting for a hamper**. These couldn't be distributed without your kindness, love and support. Gifts need to be under the tree by Sunday 22 December.

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

### Used stamps for Peru

On behalf of Mary MacKillop Today, I thank you for your generous support in supplying and assisting with used stamps. We've had another wonderful year, **raising approx. \$37,900**.

A great effort from many, many people!

From 2001 till now the total raised is \$557,500. With your help we are on our way to a million dollars! Well done!

It is through your efforts that the legacy of Saint Mary MacKillop continues in Peru today.

Sr Helen Saunders - For Sisters of St Joseph.

### Church grounds

The gardens around the Church are in need of some care. If you have any spare time between now and Christmas and would like to weed one of the gardens to tidy up the grounds for Christmas could you please contact the Parish office. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

### 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.

### Parish Finances - week ending 8 December 2024

\$734 First Collection - Diocesan Clergy Remuneration Fund

\$556 Second collection - Parish expenses

\$221 Tap Point donations

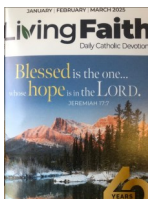
\$310 Planned giving envelopes

\$503 Direct debits (weekly average from Nov).

Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly

### Living Faith books - Jan to March 2025

The new edition of Living Faith books is available now at the side door of the church. This edition includes the 2025 Jubilee prayer on the back page. **Cost is \$6.**



### Recycling bins - \$757 raised this year



Thank you for all of your donations this year. Together we have raised \$757 dollars for the Parish. Please continue to collect your 10c recyclable bottles, cans and plastics over the Christmas period to put into our bins.

## THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME

- AIRS SUNDAY 15 DECEMBER 2024

On the Journey this week. Fr James McCarthy says that the readings this week encourages giving selflessly without expecting anything in return. Mother Hilda reflects on the power of small gestures, both in human relationships. Fr Tony Percy says that John the Baptist challenges us to ask, "What must we do?". Arnie Hurdoyal says that the story of Zechariah and Elizabeth highlights the importance of trusting God's promises, and Fr Chris Sarkis says that God's timing is different from ours, as He works beyond the constraints of time. Listen at [jcr.org.au](http://jcr.org.au)



## A VOCATION VIEW

"What ought we to do?" Let joy and gladness show forth in you. You are called to be the presence of Jesus. (Luke 3:10-18)

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 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, please contact Lisa **0473 100 110** between 8am - 4pm Monday to Friday.



## SHARE HOPE THIS CHRISTMAS

- INVITE OTHERS TO CHRISTMAS MASS

All of us know friends and family who are disconnected from faith. Recent research shows that 37% of people would attend church if invited by close friends and family and 30% are yet to make up their minds (or don't have close friends or family who attend Church) [NCLS, Australian Openness to Invitation, 2020].

That means in practice that if we are courageous enough to invite, there's a good chance you will encounter someone who will say yes or at least be open to considering your invitation. We often think that we need to have all the answers, be a master in apologetics or arguing the faith, or be one of "those types" of Christians. In reality, all that's needed is presence, relationship, willingness to listen, and the courage to say, "hey, this is a bit out there, but I was wondering if you'd like to come to Church with me this Christmas?" Have a look at the helpful tips for inviting others to Church this Christmas and share hope this Christmas.

## SUMMIT NIGHT:

### "GOD, THE UNIVERSE & EVERYTHING"

Join us for a transformative evening of faith formation. Young adults of the diocese, it's time to climb the highest peak and seek truth — and we invite you to do it with us at our Summit Night, a brand new event designed just for you! Whether you're seeking deeper understanding or simply craving a vibrant community of like-minded young adults, this night is for you.

**When: 6.30pm-9.15pm Wednesday 29 January 2025**

**Where: The Xavier Conference Centre, next to the Wollongong Cathedral**

**For whom? This is an 18+ event and primarily for young adults**

We're thrilled to welcome Matt Fradd, renowned Catholic speaker, author, and apologist. Matt will lead us in an inspiring talk on seeking truth through our faith, challenging us to deepen our relationship with God and discovering the fullness of the Gospel. Registration is essential, secure your place ASAP and scan the QR code to register.



