# 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 Lisa Tyson**

***Parish Secretary:*** **Mrs Melissa Bridges**
***Office Hours:*** Mon/Wed: 8:30am - 1:30pm
Friday: 8:30am - 3:30pm

***Parish Office:***
*Email: unanderra@dow.org.au*
*Website: www.unanderraparish.org.au*
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## PENTECOST SUNDAY (YEAR A) — 24 MAY 2026

***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 25 May** *Our Lady Help of Christians* | Mass: 8am | |
| **Tues 26 May** *St Phillip Neri, priest* | ***No Mass today due to Clergy Inservice*** | |
| **Wed 27 May** *St Augustine of Canterbury, bishop* | | ***No Mass today due to Clergy Inservice*** |
| **Thurs 28 May** | Mass: 5:30pm<br>Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:50pm<br>Rosary: 6pm<br>Adoration: 6pm - 7pm | |
| **Fri 29 May** *St Paul VI, pope* | | Mass: 7:45am |
| **Sat 30 May** | Mass: 5pm | Rosary: 8:30am<br>Mass: 9am<br>Reconciliation: 9:30am - 10:30am |
| **Sun 31 May** | Mass: 8am<br>*Mass: 10am (Polish)* | Mass: 10am<br>Mass: 5pm |

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

**Recently Deceased**

*Shirley Noonan, David Parr, Fr John Pickering, Peter McLeod, Arthur Infante Boer, Rosemarie Saad*

**Prayers for the sick**

*Peter Stevens, Rachael Wakeley, Iris Brown, Michael Murphy, Mr Leandro, Don Harper, Peter Lathourakis, Antoinette Sakr, Lien Tran, George Hoyn Mary Gillis, Noel Meddows, Quoc H Tran, Trace Lee Wood*

**Anniversaries**

*Connie and Victor Tabone, Daniel Micallef, Mary and Charlie Micallef, Thomas Staniforth, Joe Winner*

**COMMITMENT TO SAFEGUARDING OUR CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE PEOPLE**

For any suggestions or concerns about safeguarding our children and vulnerable people, please contact the Parish Office, or the Diocesan Office of Professional Standards and Safeguarding at ***safeguarding@dow.org.au*** or ***4222 2428.***

# Message from Fr Duane

***Pentecost*** – literally meaning "fiftieth" – takes place 50 days after Easter. Pentecost was the *"birth of the Church"* when the Apostles received the Holy Spirit, as promised by Jesus who had now risen and ascended to the glory of the Father. It was the Holy Spirit who empowered the Apostles to begin proclaiming the good news of the risen Christ amidst all kinds of persecution. We thank God for the courage of the Apostles, who have enabled us to know Jesus and to receive the same Holy Spirit!

When the Apostles first proclaimed Christ, people of many languages and cultures miraculously heard the good news in their own language. This same Holy Spirit continues to unite us in the midst of our diversity, and empower us to continue the mission that began with the Apostles but now depends on us, individually and united as one, as reflected in our 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."*

***COME AND SEE CUP OF TEA – NEXT WEEKEND***

In our Second Reading for Pentecost Sunday Mass, St Paul reminds us that the Holy Spirit gives unique gifts and ways of service to each and every one of us. Next weekend, after both the 5pm Saturday Vigil Mass, and the Sunday 8am Mass, we will have our annual ***"Come and See Cup of Tea"*** in the St Joseph's room, co-ordinated by our Parish Pastoral Council – whose role includes unite and supporting the various activities of the parish. This will be a special gathering showcasing the various parish groups and activities, and give everyone an opportunity to discern your own gifts and ways you might be called – whether at this time or in the future – to serve in our parish and broader community. We hope to see you all there!

***MINISTERS OF COMMUNION TO THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND – MEETING JUNE 6***

For all who take Communion to the sick and housebound, either in their homes or in aged care facilities (other than to members of your own family), we will be holding an important meeting on Saturday 6th June at 6pm in St Joseph's Room. Please contact the Parish Office to confirm your availability. Thank you for your vital ministry of bringing the Blessed Sacrament to so many who would not otherwise be able to receive this most precious Gift of God!

*Tuesday and Wednesday evening Masses are cancelled this week due to the Annual Diocesan Clergy In-Service.*

***Fr Duane Fernandez***

# Message from Sr Kerry

This photo is one of my favourites. It is at an isolated property with the minimum of conveniences inside a large tin shed. The seat is metres from the hut and overlooks a flowing creek where one can enjoy a swim or fishing. It is easy to sit amongst nature and soak in the goodness of all that surrounds you. I also see the empty seat as an invitation to come and share time with my God.

Today are you able to sit quietly with your God and soak in all that God has to offer you? Today what image or quality are you able to attribute to God? Think about it. Who is God for you in this moment?

***Sr Kerry Gardiner***

## ROSTER — THIS WEEKEND

| May | Church Washing | Susan Adams | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sat 23 May | Church Cleaning | J Haywood, L Salway, M Hurley, T Vaafusuaga | |
| Sat 23 May | Lawns | *Winner, Carrigan, Bennett, Meers, P&J Walker* | |
| | Lectors | Welcomers | Children's liturgy |
| 5pm 23 May | M Carolan | A Frino | |
| 8am 24 May | A Kelly | A Kelly and N Dunne | Cath Hailstone, Kelly Anderson, Molly |
| Counters | A Kelly and B Farraway | | |

## ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

| May | Church Washing | Susan Adams | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sat 30 May | Church Cleaning | G Lord, L Zanetti, S Adams | |
| Sat 30 May | Lawns | *No lawn mowing this week* | |
| | Lectors | Welcomers | Children's liturgy |
| 5pm 30 May | M Rodwell | | |
| 8am 31 May | C Walsh | A Kelly and N Dunne | M Matos |
| Counters | Gemma Farrugia, Leah Galea, Ella Alessi | | |

# PARISH NEWS

***Safeguarding - Children's liturgy QR code registration***
Please use this QR code to register your children for Children's Liturgy.

***2026 Reconciliation and First Holy Communion Program***
Registration and information sessions will be held at the St Therese Parish Centre, Powell St, West Wollongong on either:

- 6:30pm Tuesday 16 June 2026.
- 6:30pm Thursday 18 June 2026.

***Catholic Women's League - Silver circle tickets***
CWL will be selling Silver Circle tickets after Mass on the weekends of 30/31 May and 6/7 June. It will commence on 8 June and run for 10 weeks. Tickets are $20 each.
Monday night lotto draw- 1st supplementary number receives $20 & 2nd supplementary $10 each week. Final week draw - winner receives $100.

***Catholic Women's league - Morning tea Sunday 7 June***
We are raising funds for the local Cancer Carers. There will be a donation box in the St Joseph's room. Cash donations will be greatly received to go towards supporting our community in time of need.

***Morning tea at Wests Illawarra café***
Due to the long weekend in June, we will not be gathering at Wests in June. Sr Kerry.

***Your help would be appreciated***
Every week many parishioners volunteer in various ministries to keep our parish running smoothly. We are grateful for all the work they do. Would you be able to give one hour of your time each month to volunteer in one of the parish ministries to help those who are already volunteering? We urgently need more people to:

- Clean our beautiful church (1hour every 5 weeks)
- To mow the lawns in the church grounds (Every 6 weeks)

Other ministries that need volunteers include Lectors and Welcomers at weekend masses, Children's Liturgy during 8am mass on Sunday and Flower Arranging. Please give some thought to volunteering. For more information contact Barbara on ***0419 989608***

***STIC Young Adults - 7pm in the St Therese Parish Centre***
Meets 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month. Message us on FB or Insta(@sticyoungadults) to join our WhatsApp for regular updates

***Parish Finances - week ending 17 May 2026***

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| $624 | First Collection | - Diocesan Clergy Remuneration Fund |
| $421 | Second collection | - Parish expenses |
| $438 | Tap Point donations | |
| $334 | Planned giving envelopes | |
| $587 | Direct debits (weekly average from March). | |

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

***Catholic Chaplaincy at UoW - with our own Fr Joseph***
UOW students and staff are warmly invited to become involved with the UOW Catholic Society. Join us for Mass and lunch, 12:30pm Thursdays during semester in the Building 11 Clubs Room, with Fr Joseph as Chaplain. See @uowcathsoc

# AGEING WITH CONFIDENCE

**Tuesday 9 June 9am - 1pm**
**The Fraternity Club, Fairy Meadow**

Join us for a free community event featuring Dr Emily Steel from the Australian Human Rights Commission focusing on practical approaches to ageing well. Register by using the QR code or calling ***1800 967 894.*** If you require transport, please contact Sr Kerry who is happy to assist.

# THE JOURNEY
## CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME – AIRS SUNDAY 24 MAY 2026

On The Journey This Week: Fr James Arblaster says God consistently chooses unlikely and flawed individuals for His purposes, then gives them the gifts and strength they need. Mother Hilda tells the story of a teacher who asked her students to complete the prompt "I wish my teacher knew…" Bishop Tony Percy says Pentecost is presented as the reversal of the Tower of Babel. Listen at www.jcr.org.au

# EPHPHATHA: BE OPENED!

**Calling young men 18-35 years old**
**Sat 13 June, 12:30pm for 1pm lunch**
**St Therese Parish Centre, West Wollongong | cost FREE**

How can we become more open to discovering God's plan in our daily lives? How do we know if we are called to marriage, priesthood or religious life? There are many opportunities now available through the Vocations and Youth Ministries of our Diocese, for young people to grow in faith and encourage each other. This is the first young men's discernment event, for all unmarried young men aged 18-35 to join Bishop Brian Mascord, the priests of the Vocations Team and our Seminarians for lunch, formation, Q&A, one to one chats and Eucharistic Adoration.

Register through this QR code or go to dow.sh/Ephphatha
If any young men or women would like help discerning their vocation, contact Fr Duane at ***vocations@dow.org.au***

# CLERGY CARE COORDINATOR ASSISTANT

The Office of the Bishop | Catholic Diocese of Wollongong is seeking a suitably qualified and experienced ***Registered or Enrolled Nurse*** to join the team as an assistant to the Clergy Care Coordinator.
This is a permanent part-time position, starting at 2 days/ week with the possibility of extended hours in the future. The role involves providing general healthcare assistance including phone and email enquiries from clergy, providing transport for medical appointments and assisting with Clergy Health Assessments.
Please note this role may be required to cover annual or personal leave relief for the Coordinator as required.
For further information or to request a full position description, please email ***louise.macdonald@dow.org.au***

# MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

**19 – 21 June 2026**
**Location: Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville**

We are offering an opportunity for you to learn to become the best version of yourselves together and live your best life in love!
Come and join us on 19-21 June 2026 at a Marriage Encounter Weekend at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW – a stunning & tranquil oasis on the edge of Sydney.
Book online at www.wwme.org.au or phone ***0490 774 419***

# EUCHARISITIC FORMATION OPPORTUNITY—REAL PRESENCE

Join the Office of Renewal and Evangelisation for Rediscover the Real Presence, a FREE four-part Zoom series exploring Christ's real presence in the Eucharist. Three sessions feature a FORMED.org video series, with a final deep dive into the riches of the Church's teaching on the Eucharist. Each session includes opportunities to reflect on the content and to connect with other participants. This series is a great means to assist you in your journey towards the International Eucharistic Congress 2028. ***The series will run on Zoom Tuesdays, 7:00 –8:15pm, from 26 May to 16 June.***
Register here: tinyurl.com/RRPZoomSeries

# 24 MAY 2026 - PENTECOST SUNDAY (YEAR A)

**First Reading - Acts 2:1-11** ***They were all filled with the Holy Spirit.***

When Pentecost day came round, they had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.
Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished. 'Surely' they said 'all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; as well as visitors from Rome – Jews and proselytes alike – Cretans and Arabs; we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.'

**Responsorial Psalm - Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.**

1. Bless the Lord, my soul! Lord God, how great you are,
   How many are your works, O Lord! The earth is full of your riches. R.
2. You take back your spirit, they die, returning to the dust from which they came.
   You send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the earth. R.
3. May the glory of the Lord last for ever! May the Lord rejoice in his works!
   May my thoughts be pleasing to him. I find my joy in the Lord. R.

**Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13** ***In the one Spirit we were all baptised, making one body.***

No one can say, 'Jesus is Lord' unless he is under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose.

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

***Please remain seated and join in the Pentecost Sequence:***

Holy Spirit, Lord of light, From the clear celestial height Thy pure beaming radiance give.
Come, thou Father of the poor, Come with treasures which endure; Come, thou light of all that live!
Thou, of all consolers best, Thou, the soul's delightful guest, Dost refreshing peace bestow;
Thou in toil art comfort sweet; Pleasant coolness in the heat; Solace in the midst of woe.
Light immortal, light divine, Visit thou these hearts of thine, And our inmost being fill:
If thou take thy grace away, Nothing pure in man will stay; All his good is turned to ill.
Heal our wounds, our strength renew; On our dryness pour thy dew; Wash the stains of guilt away:
Bend the stubborn heart and will; Melt the frozen, warm the chill; Guide the steps that go astray.
Thou, on us who evermore Thee confess and thee adore, With thy sevenfold gifts descend:
Give us comfort when we die; Give us life with thee on high; Give us joys that never end.

**Gospel Acclamation:**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia!**

**Gospel - John 20:19-23** ***As the father sent me, so I send you: Receive the Holy Spirit.***

In the evening of the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you', and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.

'As the Father sent me,
so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.
For those whose sins you forgive,
they are forgiven;
for those whose sins you retain,
they are retained.'