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
Phone: 4271 1068

THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST (YEAR A) — 7 JUNE 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 8 June	Mass: 8am	
Tues 9 June *St Ephrem, deacon, doctor*	Mass: 5:30pm Rosary: 6pm ***No Reconciliation or Adoration***	
Wed 10 June		Reconciliation: 4:30pm - 5:30pm Adoration: 4:30pm - 5:30pm Mass: 5:30pm
Thurs 11 June *St Barnabas, apostle*	Mass: 5:30pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm ***No Reconciliation***	
Fri 12 June *The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus*	Mass: 6pm	Mass: 7:45am
Sat 13 June *The Most Immaculate Heart of Mary*	Mass: 5pm	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9:30am - 10:30am
Sun 14 June	Mass: 8am *Mass: 10am (Polish)*	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Orlando Ferrer, Shirley Noonan, David Parr, Peter McLeod, Arthur Infante Boer, Rosemarie Saad

Prayers for the sick

Kathleen (Katie) Thomas, 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

Brenda Geary, Joseph Bugeja, Bonifacio Milan Fr Tarsisius Prevedello, Elena Milan, Michelle Lacerna, Pilar Villanueva

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

This weekend's celebration of the ***Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ*** (also called "Corpus Christi") is our opportunity to reflect more deeply upon the wonderful mystery of the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. Having now begun our journey towards the International Eucharistic Congress in Sydney in 2028, may this year's celebration of this Solemnity be even more fruitful for us and for our nation.

The Friday after Corpus Christi is always the ***Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus*** – a beautiful connection reminding us that it was his heart full of love and mercy for us and all the world that led Jesus to willingly offer himself on the cross, and that we encounter this same sacrifice of love and Sacred Heart of Jesus most wonderfully in the Eucharist. In addition to the usual Friday 7:45am Mass at St Therese West Wollongong, there will be an additional 6pm Mass at Immaculate Conception Unanderra this Friday 12th June for the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

This is the final weekend for young men to register for the special ***"Ephphatha: Be Opened"*** event with Bishop Brian, myself, Fr Joseph, and the seminarians of our Diocese. We already have a good number coming from around the Diocese and would love to see more of our local young men attending too! More details in the main section of the bulletin.

Thank you to everyone who came along to the ***"Come and See Cup of Tea"*** last weekend, and to the Parish Pastoral Council for organising. Many came along in the morning; a handful braved the cold after the vigil! For anyone who wasn't able to come but might be interested in getting more involved in a group or ministry in the parish, please don't hesitate to contact the parish office. One specific new ministry that we are excited to launch soon is an extension of hospitality after 8am Mass; in addition to the wonderful spread that the Catholic Women's League provide on the first Sunday of each month, we are planning to provide simple morning teas on some other Sundays. The frequency of this is still to be determined, and will largely depend on how many people volunteer – if you're interested you can come along and see what's involved at the first instalment on Sunday 14th June after the 8am Mass, or contact the parish office. I also take this opportunity to acknowledge that while we are blessed with so many generous volunteers, I also know that not everyone is in a position to volunteer in ministries, and your presence and prayers at Mass are themselves a precious gift to our community!

This Tuesday and Thursday, Fr Duane and Fr Joseph will join Bishop Brian for Confirmation at St Therese at 6:30pm. This means there will be Rosary only after Tuesday evening Mass; and Rosary and Adoration (without Reconciliation or Benediction) after Thursday evening Mass.

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

It was a Saturday afternoon when I received a phone call informing me that my brother-in-law had been involved in a profoundly serious accident. I dropped everything and went to my sister who had four primary school aged children. The car had been hit by a drunken driver and caught fire. It wasn't until the police contacted my sister that they realised there had been no children in the car. The following weeks were worrying and for my brother-in-law months of operations and healing once he had been discharged from intensive care.

At Mass that weekend I remember one thing only. We sang the hymn, "Yahweh, I know you are near.' I couldn't help but cry. My emotions just overflowed like a dam that had exploded. God felt far away and I felt I was on a desert island in my pain, and anxiety. I wanted to believe God was with me/us in this scary situation. In hindsight God was very much with each of us. God is with you in your difficulties and disappointments, your fears, and concerns, but it can be hard to believe that at times.

Sr Kerry Gardiner

ROSTER — THIS WEEKEND

June	Church Washing	Fiona Fernandez	
Sat 6 June	Church Cleaning	A Williams, K Quinte	
Sat 6 June	Lawns	*No lawn mowing this week*	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
5pm 6 June	T Chicharo	S Adams	
8am 7 June	D Ferrer	G Simmonite and A Arnone	Tierney, Nadine & Scarlett Dunne
Counters	A Kelly, B Farraway		

ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

June	Church Washing	Fiona Fernandez	
Sat 13 Jun	Church Cleaning	D Attard, L Lathourakis	
Sat 13 Jun	Lawns	Brown, Caruana, J Lonard, J Sharwood, J Borg	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
5pm 13 Jun	T Chicharo	B Farraway	
8am 14 Jun	T Vaafusuaga	J Sharwood	Maria Matos, Anne Vaassen
Counters	M Murphy, C Stratton, M Winner		

PARISH NEWS

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

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.

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 meeting
The monthly meeting of the CWL will be held on Thursday, 11 June 2026 at 10 am in St Joseph's Room. Everyone is welcome to join us for a cuppa and chat before the meeting.

Your help would be appreciated
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)

Please give some thought to volunteering. For more information contact Barbara on ***0419 989608***

STIC Young Adults - Special Presentation 7pm 25 June
"Falling in Love with a False Image: Identity, Technology, and the Search for Truth". Fr Greg Morgan, a nationally renowned speaker, will be giving a talk about AI and the search for our true identity. Come along to learn and discuss how genuine self-knowledge only arises through encounters with realities that transcend us – friendship, love, suffering, truth, and ultimately the gaze of God. This will be a wonderful opportunity for formation and connection – all young adults welcome, no need to register, just come along on Thursday 25th June, 7pm at St Therese Parish Centre.

UoW Catholic Society retreat - Thursday 11 June
Young adults are invited to join Fr Joseph and UOWCathSoc for a retreat on Thu 11 June at Gerringong. Details and registration here: tinyurl.com/UOWCSRetreat

Alpha - 7pm Wed 22 July 2026 . Register now.
Alpha explores life's deepest questions in a welcoming and relaxed space. Sessions begin with a meal followed by some great video input that leads into small group conversation. Whatever your beliefs, you will be welcome and you can say anything you like or nothing at all. No cost, no commitment, feel free to just come and see! For catering and planning, please register by using this QR code or contact the parish office.

Parish Finances - week ending 31 May 2026

$815	First Collection	*- Diocesan Clergy Remuneration Fund*
$505	Second collection	*- Parish expenses*
$285	Tap Point donations	
$285	Planned giving envelopes	
$587	Direct debits (weekly average from March).	

Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly

THE JOURNEY
CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME – AIRS SUNDAY 31 MAY 2026

On The Journey This Week: Mons Graham Schmitzer says Jesus presents himself as the new Moses, establishing a new and eternal covenant sealed by his own blood on Calvary. Mother Hilda says that blame is a destructive cycle that rarely solves problems. Trish McCarthy describes a rich spiritual toolkit that can be built up to help navigate life's changing circumstances.

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.
For further information or to request a full position description, please email ***louise.macdonald@dow.org.au***

CORPUS CHRISTI RETREAT

Sunday 7 June 2026
Location: Our Lady Help of Christians, Rosemeadow

As we prepare for the Eucharistic Congress, join with people from across the Diocese for a retreat to deepen your love of the Eucharist. St Joachim Hall, Our Lady Help of Christians, Rosemeadow from 11am–3:30pm (Following 10am Mass). Lunch will be provided. Open to adults (ages 14–17 with parent/guardian). For more information or to register go to: dow.sh/corpuschristi26

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!
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. ***The series will run on Zoom Tuesdays, 7:00–8:15pm, from 26 May to 16 June.*** Register here: tinyurl.com/RRPZoomSeries

7 JUNE 2026 - THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST (YEAR A)

First Reading - Deuteronomy 8:2-3,14-16 ***He gave you food which you and your ancestors did not know.***

Moses said to the people: 'Remember how the Lord your God led you for forty years in the wilderness, to humble you, to test you and know your inmost heart – whether you would keep his commandments or not. He humbled you, he made you feel hunger, he fed you with manna which neither you nor your fathers had known, to make you understand that man does not live on bread alone but that man lives on everything that comes from the mouth of the Lord.
'Do not become proud of heart. Do not forget the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery: who guided you through this vast and dreadful wilderness, a land of fiery serpents, scorpions, thirst; who in this waterless place brought you water from the hardest rock; who in this wilderness fed you with manna that your fathers had not known.'

Responsorial Psalm - Praise the Lord, Jerusalem.

1. O praise the Lord, Jerusalem! Zion, praise your God!
   He has strengthened the bars of your gates he has blessed the children within you. R.
2. He established peace on your borders, he feeds you with finest wheat.
   He sends out his word to the earth and swiftly runs his command. R.
3. He makes his word known to Jacob, to Israel his laws and decrees.
   He has not dealt thus with other nations; he has not taught them his decrees. R.

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 10:16-17 ***Though we are many, we form a single body because we share this one loaf.***

The blessing-cup that we bless is a communion with the blood of Christ, and the bread that we break is a communion with the body of Christ. The fact that there is only one loaf means that, though there are many of us, we form a single body because we all have a share in this one loaf.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the living bread from heaven, says the Lord; whoever eats this bread will live forever. Alleluia!

Gospel - John 6:51-58 ***God sent his Son to save the world through him.***

Jesus said to the crowd:

'I am the living bread which has come down from heaven.
Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever;
and the bread that I shall give is my flesh,
for the life of the world.'
Then the Jews started arguing with one another: 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' they said. Jesus replied:
'I tell you most solemnly,
if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood,
you will not have life in you.
Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood
has eternal life,
and I shall raise him up on the last day.
For my flesh is real food
and my blood is real drink.
He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood
lives in me
and I live in him.
As I, who am sent by the living Father,
myself draw life from the Father,
so whoever eats me will draw life from me.
This is the bread come down from heaven;
not like the bread our ancestors ate:
they are dead,
but anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.'