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:
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Website: www.unanderraparish.org.au
Phone: 4271 1068

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY (YEAR A) — 14 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 15 June	Mass: 8am	
Tues 16 June	Mass: 5:30pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:50pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm	
Wed 17 June		Reconciliation: 4:30pm - 5:30pm Adoration: 4:30pm - 5:30pm Mass: 5:30pm
Thurs 18 June	Mass: 5:30pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:50pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm	
Fri 19 June *St Romuald, abbot*		Mass: 7:45am
Sat 20 June	Mass: 5pm	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9:30am - 10:30am
Sun 21 June	Mass: 8am *Mass: 10am (Polish)*	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Maria Belsito, Orlando Ferrer, Peter McLeod

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

Judith Crowe, Michael Edwards, Tamara Barron, Marie Bishop, 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

On Friday we celebrated the ***Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus***, a beautiful opportunity to reflect upon the merciful heart of Jesus. This Solemn Feast day is always followed immediately by the ***Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary***, reminding us of the closeness of Mary's heart to the heart of her Divine Son. It is under this title that Mary is patron of the Diocese of Wollongong, and so throughout our Diocese we celebrate this Feast during our Sunday Masses this weekend. This is especially meaningful for us in the ***Parish and Diocesan Shrine of the Immaculate Conception***. Let us pray for our parish and for our Diocese that through the perfect faith and love of Mary our mother, we may grow individually and as a Diocese into an ever deeper and more wholehearted *"yes"* to God's loving will in our lives.

We are very blessed in our parish to have a monthly feast prepared by the Catholic Women's League on the first Sunday morning of every Month. In addition to this monthly gathering, we have been working towards a roster for simple morning teas on some other Sunday mornings as well. We have not yet committed to a frequency for these simple morning teas as we want to finalise how many volunteers we have for this first. Thank you to the volunteers who have expressed an interest throughout the year; some of those will be serving a ***simple morning tea this Sunday 14th June after the 8am Mass***. Everyone is welcome to come along, and if anyone would be interested in possibly joining a roster for these simple morning teas, you can also come along to meet the new volunteers and learn more about what this might involve.

The next season of ***Alpha*** commences on Wednesday 22nd July, at 7pm at St Therese Parish Centre. This is the eighth straight season, with over 300 people from our parishes and beyond enjoying deepening connections with God and each other through Alpha. Some parishioners have wondered whether this is for them if they have been already coming to church for a long time – or is it only for those not raised in faith? The beauty of Alpha is that it is most certainly for both! It has been fruitful for people of all ages, beliefs, and stages of the journey of life and faith – I myself get a lot out of it every time I participate. Feel free to come along to the first night or two, to see for yourself! You can take cards from the church doors to register or invite others, or use the QR code here.

Congratulations to all of our young people who received the ***Sacrament of Confirmation*** *during this past week in our parishes. It was wonderful to see the prayerfulness and commitment of our young people, and I thank them and their parents for their commitment to the preparation program. Thank you to the Sacramental team, sacristans, acolytes, altar servers, musicians, and of course Bishop Brian for generously celebrating the Sacrament. Let us pray for the newly confirmed young people, that they may be filled more and more with the power of the Holy Spirit as witnesses to Christ's love in their homes, schools and wherever Jesus leads them throughout their lives!*

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

My sister and I were enjoying time together. Being R n R, I didn't wear my emblem. We stopped for breakfast but on the line to order we had struck up conversation with a woman who obviously had a disability. After moving to our table to enjoy breakfast this woman sat at the adjoining table and the conversation continued. We were asked many questions. I was asked if I had children to which I responded that I didn't have children. She said, 'I'm sorry you don't have children.' I explained that I had chosen not to have children. I also said I wasn't married. Within a flash I was asked why I wore a wedding ring. The conversation was fast and furious.

We left after enjoying our breakfast but Michelle, our newfound friend, stayed in my mind. Isn't it amazing how we can give a simple answer to a simple question, yet things get so complicated. Are you honestly warts and all when you converse with your God?

Sr Kerry Gardiner

ROSTER — THIS WEEKEND

June	Church Washing	Fiona Fernandez	
Sat 13 Jun	Church Cleaning	D Attard, L Lathourakis	
Sat 13 Jun	Lawns	*Brown, Caruana, 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		

ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

June	Church Washing	Fiona Fernandez	
Sat 20 Jun	Church Cleaning	F Fernandez, B Rice, R Tassone	
Sat 20 Jun	Lawns	*No lawn mowing this week*	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
5pm 20 Jun	M & C Carolan	T Chicharo	
8am 21 Jun	P Gunning	A Browne & J Hoxha	Alison Sharwood, Luke Jansons
Counters	A Kelly, B Farraway.		

PARISH NEWS

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

Morning tea - Sunday 14 June 2026

Our new hospitality team will be serving tea & coffee in the St Joseph's room after 8am Mass. Please join us for a cuppa and chat after Mass.

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 - thank you
The CWL would like to thank everyone for their kind donations to Cancer Carers at our morning tea last weekend. We raised ***$237.50.*** This money will go to Cancer Carers who help people in our local community on their cancer journey. God Bless you all.

Catholic Women's League - Silver circle results week 1
1st. M Murphy No. 38
2nd. V Parnis No. 11

Confirmation Celebration - A Community of Faith
Thank you to the Parish Choir who accompanied the St Pius X school children and children from other schools during Wednesday evening's Confirmation celebration. Their beautiful singing helped create a prayerful and joyful atmosphere for this special occasion. Opportunities such as these strengthen the bond between our school and parish communities, bringing generations together in faith. We also extend our sincere thanks to Sr Kerry and the parish sacramental leaders for their dedication in preparing the students for this important step in their faith journey. Finally, we thank Bishop Brian, the clergy, and acolyte George for helping make the celebration such a memorable occasion for our candidates and families.

New rosters - July to Dec 2026
The ministry rosters for July to December 2026 have been emailed this week. Please contact the Parish office if you did not receive a copy. Thank you to all our volunteers. Your work in the various ministries is appreciated.

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. All young adults welcome, no need to register, just come along on Thurs 25 June, 7pm at St Therese Parish Centre.

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. No cost, no commitment. For catering and planning, please register by using this QR code or contact the parish office.

Parish Finances - week ending 7 June 2026

$663	First Collection	*- Diocesan Clergy Remuneration Fund*
$527	Second collection	*- Parish expenses*
$383	Tap Point donations	
$315	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 14 JUNE 2026

On The Journey this Week: Fr Josh Whicker MGL says Jesus invites each of us to discover our unique role within his mission. Mother Hilda says a piece of work by a 12th Century monk is so applicable to our 21st century circumstances. Bishop Tony Percy says all baptized Christians—whether in families, workplaces, parishes, or communities—are called to be labourers in the Lord's harvest. Fr Mike Delaney reflects on how two books—*Dear Unity* (ed. Philip Ryall) and *Road to Renewal* (ed. Ron Huntley)—have inspired deeper thinking about Christian unity.

WHO IS THE MAN BEHIND THE SHROUD?
5:30pm - 8:30pm Saturday 27 June 2026
Xavier Conference Centre, Wollongong

Come join us for this inspiring evening with renowned Catholic speaker Francine Pirola as we explore the mystery of the Shroud of Turin and what it reveals about the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Enjoy a wine and cheese reception, view a rare life-size replica of the Shroud, connect with others, and conclude the evening with Eucharistic Adoration in the Cathedral. This is a free event, but registration is essential. Register: dow.sh/summitshroud

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***

SANCTUS ROSEMEADOW
Wednesday 17 June 2026
Location: Our Lady Help of Christians, Rosemeadow

Sanctus Summit is a monthly adoration night, bringing youth and young adults together from different parts of the Diocese! Eucharistic Adoration from 6.30 – 7.30pm (Reconciliation will be available), followed by Dinner at Ambarvale Hotel. Come along to pray before Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament and connect with other young people

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***

IGNITE CONFERENCE SYDNEY 2026
Location: Light of Christ Centre, Wahroonga
9-12 July 2026

Catholic Youth Ministry Wollongong is gathering a group of youth and young adults to attend Ignite Conference Sydney, one of Australia's largest and most dynamic Catholic conferences. Join over a thousand young people, families, clergy, religious, teachers, and ministry leaders.
Cost: $220 subsidised conference ticket (includes meals) + $270 accommodation. For high school students and young adults (18–35). To register, visit igniteconference.com.au and enter the coupon code ***CYMWHigh*** or ***CYMWAdult*** to reveal the Wollongong group ticket.

14 JUNE 2026 - IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY (YEAR A)

First Reading - Exodus 19:2-6 ***You will be a kingdom of priests, a consecrated nation.***

From Rephidim the sons of Israel set out again; and when they reached the wilderness of Sinai, there in the wilderness they pitched their camp; there facing the mountain Israel pitched camp.
Moses then went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, 'Say this to the House of Jacob, declare this to the sons of Israel, "You yourselves have seen what I did with the Egyptians, how I carried you on eagle's wings and brought you to myself. From this you know that now, if you obey my voice and hold fast to my covenant, you of all the nations shall be my very own for all the earth is mine. I will count you a kingdom of priests, a consecrated nation."'

Responsorial Psalm - We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

1. Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.
   Serve the Lord with gladness.
   Come before him, singing for joy. R.
2. Know that he, the Lord, is God.
   He made us, we belong to him,
   we are his people, the sheep of his flock. R.
3. Indeed, how good is the Lord,
   eternal his merciful love.
   He is faithful from age to age. R.

Second Reading - Romans 5:6-11 ***We have been reconciled to God through the death of his Son; we are saved by his life.***

We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners. Having died to make us righteous, is it likely that he would now fail to save us from God's anger? When we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, we were still enemies; now that we have been reconciled, surely we may count on being saved by the life of his Son? Not merely because we have been reconciled but because we are filled with joyful trust in God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have already gained our reconciliation.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! The kingdom of God is near; repent, and believe the Good News. Alleluia!

Gospel - Matthew 9:36-10:8 ***He summoned his twelve disciples and sent them out.***

When Jesus saw the crowds he felt sorry for them because they were harassed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest.'
He summoned his twelve disciples, and gave them authority over unclean spirits with power to cast them out and to cure all kinds of diseases and sickness.
These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew; James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, the one who was to betray him. These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them as follows:
'Do not turn your steps to pagan territory, and do not enter any Samaritan town; go rather to the lost sheep of the House of Israel. And as you go, proclaim that the kingdom of heaven is close at hand. Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out devils. You received without charge, give without charge.'