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/

Parish Priest: **Fr Duane Fernandez**
Email: Duane.Fernandez@dow.org.au
Mobile: 0414 626 357

Assistant Priest: **Fr Joseph Vuong Nguyen**
Email: joseph.vuongnguyen@dow.org.au

Polish Chaplain: **Fr Jerzy Slowinski**
Email: slowinski54@gmail.com
Mobile: 0410 225 975

Parish Assistant: **Sr Kerry Gardiner**
Email: Kerry.Gardiner@sosj.org.au
Mobile: 0421 463 871

Parish Pastoral Council Chair: **Mr Chris Lyon**
Mobile: 0403 296 837

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

TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) — 21 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 22 June *Sts John Fisher and Thomas Moore*	Mass: 8am	
Tues 23 June *St Paulinus of Nola, bishop*	Mass: 5:30pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:50pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm	
Wed 24 June *The Nativity of St John the Baptist*		Reconciliation: 4:30pm - 5:30pm Adoration: 4:30pm - 5:30pm Mass: 5:30pm
Thurs 25 June	Mass: 5:30pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:50pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm	
Fri 26 June		Mass: 7:45am
Sat 27 June	Mass: 5pm	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9:30am - 10:30am
Sun 28 June	Mass: 8am *Mass: 10am (Polish)*	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Angela Corbanese Maria Belsito, Orlando Ferrer, Peter McLeod

Anniversaries

Milan Zearo, Danny Bransgrove, Fr Geoff Allen, Sr Anne Derwin RSJ, Norman Miller, Norma Melki Michelle Lacerna, Pilar Villanueva, Clare Patton

Prayers for the sick

Kathleen (Katie) Thomas, Peter Stevens, Rachael Wakeley, Iris Brown, Michael Murphy, Mr Leandro, Don Harper, Julie Connor Peter Lathourakis, Antoinette Sakr, Lien Tran, George Hoyn, Mary Gillis, Noel Meddows, Quoc H Tran, Trace Lee Wood,

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

Thank you to all volunteers who have already expressed an interest in helping to serve simple ***morning teas after 8am Sunday Masses.*** I also take this opportunity to thank the Catholic Women's League for their generous hospitality in providing special morning teas on the first Sunday of every month, which I recently learned they have done over the past 20 years – a wonderful service to our parish. They have discerned that they will focus on providing hospitality at the special parish events throughout the year from now on, rather than monthly morning teas. With the number of volunteers who have already expressed an interest in providing simple morning teas, we might still be able to offer a simple morning tea every Sunday with no more than a monthly commitment for any volunteers, though we will finalise this planning this Sunday. If anyone is interested in possibly joining a roster for serving these morning teas, feel free to come and chat with those serving the morning tea this Sunday, or else to contact me or the parish office. Most importantly – I encourage everyone to come along to enjoy refreshments and each other's company whenever possible as we keep building community in our parish, together. (I note that some have asked about refreshments after the Saturday evening Mass, which is something we will consider after finalising the Sunday morning plans.)

A number of people have expressed an interest in ***becoming Catholic***, and I am currently in the process of organising the plans for the next group to begin their journey. If you or anyone you know might be interested in exploring this possibility, please contact me or see me after a Mass, and I will arrange for a chat to let you know the next steps in the process. It will be a wonderful journey for all involved, and we continue to pray for those who became Catholic this past Easter in our parishes and Diocese – the largest number for many years!

Thanks to ***STIC Young Adults*** for organising the special guest speaker Fr Greg Morgan to come to St Therese Parish Centre to speak on the topic of AI this Thursday 25th June at 7pm (with more details in the main section of the bulletin). Fr Greg was in my year group at Seminary and was always extremely gifted, and is a renowned speaker, who will provide an engaging and enlightening talk. This is also a great opportunity to possibly connect for the first time with other local young adults of our region.

This Saturday 20th June is ***World Refugee Day***, and an opportunity for us to reflect on the call to provide safety and security to all who are fleeing violence and persecution to whatever extent that we are able to do so. Let us also remember with thanksgiving the contributions that refugees make to our society when hearts are open in mutual love and fraternity. We have countless examples of this in our own Diocese and parish communities which have been greatly enriched by the faith and generosity of both clergy and lay refugees, after fleeing circumstances that we could scarcely imagine. Let us pray that they will continue to feel welcomed and supported by our parishes and Diocese as they seek to rebuild their lives and share their cultural gifts to continue to build up our local churches.

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

You are invited to 'Boots and Soup' to be held at my residence, 3 Grace St, on Thursday 23rd July arriving at noon.

With the colder days approaching I thought we would share my table with 8. It is a simple get together, gathering around the table with numbers limited to eight people. It is just a time to chat; share a light lunch and perhaps meet someone you have not been able to put a name to. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to be present at my table this day. If numbers exceed 8 another day will also be created to cater for those who wish to accept this opportunity. There are no strings attached. There is no cost. Just gathering for home-made soup and rolls and lots of chatting. I look forward to hearing from you should you like to add your name to the list. Should you require transport you only have to mention that when adding your name to the list. I do look forward to welcoming you to my table.

With anticipation, Sr Kerry 0421 463 871 or email *kerry.gardiner@sosj.org.au*

Sr Kerry Gardiner

ROSTER — THIS 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.		

ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

June	Church Washing	Fiona Fernandez	
Sat 27 Jun	Church Cleaning	J Haywood, L Salway, M Hurley, T Vaafusuaga	
Sat 27 Jun	Lawns	*No lawn mowing this week*	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
5pm 27 Jun	D Nugent	A Frino	
8am 28 Jun	C Lyon	A Kelly & N Dunne	Alana Vezinias, Saige Masters
Counters	A Gunning, M Cauduro, C Garrett		

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 21 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.

Catholic Women's League - Silver circle results week 2
1st. H Briffa
2nd. J Sharwood

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.

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.

Living Faith books - July to Sept
The new edition of Living Faith books is available now at the side door of the church. Each day in Living Faith you are invited to receive the Word of God and then to pause, to reflect and ponder. Cost is now $7.

Morning tea at Wests Illawarra café - 10:30am Mon 13 July
Next coffee catchup will be at Wests on Monday 13 July at 10:30am. Please contact Sr Kerry if you require transport. We look forward to welcoming you. Sr Kerry

Parish Finances - week ending 14 June 2026

$654	First Collection	*- Diocesan Clergy Remuneration Fund*
$495	Second collection	*- Parish expenses*
$303	Tap Point donations	
$289	Planned giving envelopes	
$587	Direct debits (weekly average from March).	

Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly

Recycling bins
Thank you for all of your donations towards our recycling initiative. Please note that the Vinnies Recycle Centre do NOT accept wine bottles. Thank you for not including these bottles.

2026 SIGNIFICANT MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARIES MASS

If you are celebrating 25, 30, 40, 50, 60 or over 60 years of marriage this year, you are warmly invited to the Significant Marriage Anniversaries, celebrated with Bishop Brian Mascord on Sunday 6 September 2026 at 2pm at the St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Wollongong. Mass will be followed by light refreshments in the Xavier Centre Conference Room.
Registration is essential and must be completed online at dow.sh/ma26 by no later than Monday, 17 August 2026.

THE JOURNEY
CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME – AIRS SUNDAY 21 JUNE 2026

On The Journey this Week: Fr James Arblaster says Jesus teaches that faith cannot remain hidden; disciples are called to publicly acknowledge and witness to him. Mother Hilda tells a wonderful story about the German Mystic and theologian in the 14th century, Johannes Tauler. Bishop Tony Percy says that while success brings joy, the spiritual significance of failure may be more important. Pete Gilmore says Jesus teaches that prayer is not about endlessly repeating words in the hope of persuading God.
Listen at www.jcr.org.au

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***

SEA SUNDAY SERVICE

Mission to Seafarers Port Kembla
2pm Sunday 12 July 2026
Location: St Michael's Anglican Cathedral,
74 Church Street, Wollongong

Join our churches worldwide to pray and support the 1.9 million seafarers who face isolation, danger and hardship every day. Help us be Harbours of Hope this Sea Sunday. Just as a harbour offers safety, provision and hope to ships in distress, the church is a spiritual and practical harbour for those in need.
Speakers: John Kewa (Chaplain)
Peter Hayward (Bishop of Wollongong)
More info at: mts.org.au/seasunday

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.

21 JUNE 2026 - TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

First Reading - Jeremiah 20:10-13 ***He has delivered the soul of the needy from the hands of those who are evil.***

Jeremiah said:

I hear so many disparaging me,
'"Terror from every side!"
Denounce him! Let us denounce him!'
All those who used to be my friends
watched for my downfall,
'Perhaps he will be seduced into error.
Then we will master him
and take our revenge!'
But the Lord is at my side, a mighty hero;
my opponents will stumble, mastered,
confounded by their failure;
everlasting, unforgettable disgrace will be theirs.
But you, O Lord of Hosts, you who probe with justice,
who scrutinise the loins and heart,
let me see the vengeance you will take on them,
for I have committed my cause to you.
Sing to the Lord,
praise the Lord,
for he has delivered the soul of the needy
from the hands of evil men.

Responsorial Psalm - Lord, in your great love, answer me.

1. It is for you that I suffer taunts, that shame covers my face,
that I have become a stranger to my brothers, an alien to my own mother's sons.
I burn with zeal for your house and taunts against you fall on me. R.
2. This is my prayer to you, my prayer for your favour.
In your great love, answer me, O God, with your help that never fails:
Lord, answer, for your love is kind; in your compassion, turn towards me. R.
3. The poor when they see it will be glad and God-seeking hearts will revive;
for the Lord listens to the needy and does not spurn his servants in their chains.
Let the heavens and the earth give him praise, the sea and all its living creatures. R.

Second Reading - Romans 5:12:15 ***God's gift to us is nothing like our sin against him.***

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of Truth will bear witness to me, saya the Lord, and you also will be my witnesses. Alleluia!

Gospel - Matthew 10: 26-33 ***Do not fear those who can kill the body.***

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Do not be afraid. For everything that is now covered will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the daylight; what you hear in whispers, proclaim from the housetops. 'Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; fear him rather who can destroy both body and soul in hell. Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny? And yet not one falls to the ground without your Father knowing. Why, every hair on your head has been counted. So there is no need to be afraid; you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows.
'So if anyone declares himself for me in the presence of men, I will declare myself for him in the presence of my Father in heaven. But the one who disowns me in the presence of men, I will disown in the presence of my Father in heaven.'