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**
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Parish Pastoral Council Chair: **Mr Chris Lyon**
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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

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) — 28 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 29 June *Sts Peter and Paul, apostles*	Mass: 8am	
Tues 30 June	Mass: 5:30pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:50pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm	
Wed 1 July		Reconciliation: 4:30pm - 5:30pm Adoration: 4:30pm - 5:30pm Mass: 5:30pm
Thurs 2 July	Mass: 5:30pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:50pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm	
Fri 3 July *St Thomas, apostle*		Mass: 7:45am
Sat 4 July *St Elizabeth of Portugal*	Mass: 5pm	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9:30am - 10:30am
Sun 5 July	Mass: 8am *Mass: 10am (Polish)*	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Mary Gillis, Brian Kelly, Angela Corbanese Orlando Ferrer, Maria Belsito

Anniversaries

Fr Peter Little (SJ), Warren Yates, RonDaniels Jason Mou, Marie Dawson, Launa Wall, John Nissen Fr George Ratzinger, Fr Doug Rhienburger.

Prayers for the sick

Kathleen (Katie) Thomas, Peter Stevens, Rachael Wakeley, Andre Van der Linden, Iris Brown, Michael Murphy, Mr Leandro, Don Harper, Beryl Burns, Jack Grant, Nelson Meez Peter Lathourakis, Antoinette Sakr, Lien Tran, George Hoyn, Mary Gillis, Noel Meddows, Quoc H Tran, Trace Lee Wood, Julie Connor

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

Thanks to the many volunteers who have generously offered to serve a simple ***morning tea after our 8am Masses***, I am pleased to announce that this will now be available *every* Sunday! This will be a wonderful opportunity to continue building community and friendship in our parish a little more with each passing week. I know that it won't always be feasible for every parishioner to join, but I do encourage you all to consider going to St Joseph's Room when it is possible, not just for a cuppa and biscuits, but to connect a little more with each other.

Thanks also to those who expressed an interest in various groups and ministries at the "Come and See Cup of Tea" last month, and if you haven't yet heard back about next steps, someone will be in touch with you soon. Everyone is always welcome to get more involved in parish life by contacting *unanderra@dow.org.au.*

I will be commencing my annual leave during the coming week. As always, it is timed to coincide with my sister arriving from Canada with my nephews. This year, Fr Joseph will be able to cover all of the Masses such that the weekend and weekday timetable can remain unchanged in my absence. I trust that you will all support Fr Joseph in his first stint as "acting parish priest". You can contact Fr Joseph for emergencies (including last rites) on 0400 958405, or email him or contact Sister Kerry or the parish office for less urgent matters. I am very grateful to Fr Joseph for taking on this extra work to make my leave possible. I will keep you all in my prayers and look forward to returning in early August.

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

Homeless Jesus is a sculpture by Timothy Schmaiz, a Canadian. This sculpture was created in 2013. It has caused some controversy as I fear it may be too confronting for some and excuses were found as to why it should not be placed in certain areas. The Vatican accepted the sculpture, and it greatly moved Pope Francis.

May I suggest you check out the link for such a sculpture in a Sydney Anglican Church at: eternitynews.com.au/australia/have-you-seen-homeless-jesus/

Where do you stand? Can you sit at the feet of the sculpture and be at peace with this imagine of Jesus? What stirs within you?

Sr Kerry Gardiner

ROSTER — THIS 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		

ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

July	Church Washing	Helen Murphy	
Sat 4 Jul	Church Cleaning	G Lord, L Zanetti, S Adams	
Sat 4 Jul	Lawns	*H Fernandez, L Milan, Broeckmann Family, Q*	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
5pm 4 Jul	N O'Donoghue	V & C Davis	
8am 5 Jul	M Matos	G Simmmonite, A Arnone	*School holidays*
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 28 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 3
1st. E Hubbard
2nd. H Briffa

New rosters - July to Dec 2026
The ministry rosters for July to December 2026 have been emailed. Please contact the Parish office if you did not receive a copy. Thank you to all our volunteers.

'Boots and Soup' at Sr Kerry's
Thank you to those who have indicated they would like to share the table on the 27th July for the Boots and Soup lunch. Since the table has now reached capacity a second 'Boots and Soup' lunch is planned for Thurs 27th August. More information will come closer to the date, but if you wish to do an early bird booking, please let me know.
Sr Kerry

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 21 June 2026

$693	First Collection	*- Diocesan Clergy Remuneration Fund*
$430	Second collection	*- Parish expenses*
$303	Tap Point donations	
$335	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 28 June 2026

On The Journey this Week: Fr Rob Galea says many Christians experience their spiritual enthusiasm fading, from being carried to having to pedal uphill. Mother Hilda reflects on Lebanese Maronite Christian poet Kahlil Gibran famous work, "the prophet." Bishop Tony Percy says that baptism initiates Christians into Christ's dying and rising, offering a spiritual path to freedom from addictions. Trish McCarthy says that just like a good wine our faith journey takes time to reach depth of character, integrity, and authenticity. 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.

28 JUNE 2026 - THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

First Reading - Kings 4:8-11, 14-16 ***That is the holy man of God, let him remain there.***

One day as Elisha was on his way to Shunem, a woman of rank who lived there pressed him to stay and eat there. After this he always broke his journey for a meal when he passed that way. She said to her husband, "Look, I am sure the man who is constantly passing our way must be a holy man of God. Let us build him a small room on the roof, and put him a bed in it, and a table and chair and a lamp; whenever he comes to us he can rest there."
One day when he came, he retired to the upper room and lay down. "What can be done for her?" he asked. Gehazi (his servant) answered, "Well, she has no son and her husband is old." Elisha said, "Call her." The servant called her and she stood at the door. "This time next year," Elisha said "you will hold a son in your arms."

Responsorial Psalm - For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;
   Through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.
   Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,
   That your truth is firmly established as the heavens. R.
2. Happy the people who acclaim such a king,
   Who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face,
   Who find their joy every day in your name,
   Who make your justice the source of their bliss. R.
3. For it is you, O Lord, who are the glory of their strength;
   It is by your favour that our might is exalted;
   For our ruler is in the keeping of the Lord;
   Our king in the keeping of the Holy One of Israel R.

Second Reading - Romans 6:3-4, 8-115:12:15 ***Having been buried with him through baptism, we shall walk in a new life***

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life.

But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more. When he died, he died, once for all, to sin, so his life now is life with God; and in that way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy people. Praise God who called you out of darkness and into his marvellous light. Alleluia!

Gospel - Matthew 10: 37-42 ***Anyone who does not accept his cross is not worthy of me. Anyone who welcomes you, welcomes me.***

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: "Anyone who prefers father or mother to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who prefers son or daughter to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of my. Anyone who finds his life will lose it; anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it.
"Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me; and those who welcome me welcome the one who sent me.l
"Anyone who welcomes a prophet because he is a prophet will have a prophet's reward; and anyone who welcomes a holy man because he is a holy man will have a holy man's reward.
"If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward"