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 Assistant: **Sr Kerry Gardiner**
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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

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) — 5 JULY 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 6 July *St Maria Goretti*	Mass: 8am	
Tues 7 July *St Peter To Rot, martyr*	Mass: 5:30pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:50pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm	
Wed 8 July		Reconciliation: 4:30pm - 5:30pm Adoration: 4:30pm - 5:30pm Mass: 5:30pm
Thurs 9 July	Mass: 5:30pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:50pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm	
Fri 10 July *St Thomas, apostle*		Mass: 7:45am
Sat 11 Jul *St Benedict, abbot*	Mass: 5pm	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9:30am - 10:30am
Sun 12 July	Mass: 8am *Mass: 10am (Polish)*	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Mary Gillis, Brian Kelly, Angela Corbanese

Anniversaries

Airynna Tanberg, Jacob Smith, Michael Smith, Hans Lambert, Eunice Mannix, Fr David Caterall, Arthur Wiliams Dr Sheila Dwyer

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, 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

I am very grateful to Fr Joseph, along with the other parish staff for taking on extra work during these coming weeks to enable me to enjoy my annual leave with my sister and nephews, visiting from Canada. For urgent matters including last rites, please contact Fr Joseph on 0400 958 405. For less urgent matters you can email Fr Joseph or contact Melissa at the parish office or Sister Kerry Gardiner.

Note - one of my first priorities when returning from leave will be to follow up with those who are exploring becoming Catholic. Until then, please contact the parish office to register your interest and contact details and I will get in touch with you in early August. Also - please all consider who you might invite to consider exploring the Catholic faith as we prepare for the journey towards the Sacraments for our next group of adults.

I assure you of my ongoing prayers and Mass offerings for you all during my time with my family, and look forward to joining my parish families again in early August.

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

Often when driving past Riley Park I spot a man throwing a boomerang. What never ceases to amaze me is that the boomerang does come back to him. This is certainly an art, and I can guarantee the boomerang was not purchased in a souvenir shop for a couple of dollars. It would have been carved lovingly and carefully on the best of timber.

I think of the long hours this person has given to perfecting his art. This thought scares me. I too have been lovingly carved in love by my God. It makes me ask what do I give my energy to? Am I striving to be the best person I can be? I may be busy practising negativity, rudeness, self-importance. Whatever I give my energy to does boomerang for me. I become what I practise. Let's strive this week to be the best person God has called us to be

Sr Kerry Gardiner

ROSTER — THIS 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, Q Nghi, M Boncampagn*	
	Lectors	**Welcomers**	**Children's liturgy**
5pm 4 Jul	T Chicharo	V & C Davis	
8am 5 Jul	M Matos	G Simmmonite, A Arnone	*School holidays*
Counters	A Kelly, B Farraway		

ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

July	**Church Washing**	Helen Murphy	
Sat 11 Jul	**Church Cleaning**	McInerney Family, A Williams, A Luccitti	
Sat 11 Jul	**Lawns**	*No lawn mowing this week*	
	Lectors	**Welcomers**	**Children's liturgy**
5pm 11 Jul	N O'Donoghue	B Farraway	
8am 12 Jul	M Lyon	J Sharwood	*School holidays*
Counters	S Alessi, A Davis, M Lyon		

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 5 July 2026
Our 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 4
1st B Farraway No 31
2nd K Gardiner No. 32

Catholic Women's league meeting - Thurs 9 July
The monthly meeting of the CWL will be held on Thursday, 9 July 2026 at 10 am in St Joseph's Room. Everyone is welcome to join us for a cuppa and chat before the meeting.

'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. If possible please register by latest 17th July to assist with planning.

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 28 June 2026

$664	First Collection	*- Diocesan Clergy Remuneration Fund*
$507	Second collection	*- Parish expenses*
$471	Tap Point donations	
$319	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 5 July 2026

On The Journey this Week: Fr Joshua Scott says Jesus invites us not to carry our burdens — whether mental, physical, or from our past — alone. Mother Hilda says our judgments of others are often flawed as she recalls future legends who were initially dismissed. Bishop Tony Percy explores how Jesus, even amid rejection of his message, prays joyfully to God as "Abba." Christy Honeysett shares her experience with the Eastern Orthodox spirituality of theosis (divinisation). Deacon Josh Clayton says effective discernment comes not from trying to make God fit our plans, but from humbly allowing God to lead us.
.Listen at www.jcr.org.au

MEDJUGORJE PILGRIMAGE
Vatican approved

Queen of Peace – 8 days/7 nights
Commences Monday 31 August 2026

Medjugorje (7 Nights) • Dubrovnik day. Optional 4-night post-tour extension to Rome. Accompanied by: Fr Joseph Pothenparampil
For full details, including itinerary and booking information, https://www.dow.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Medjugorje-Pilgrimage-31-August-2026.pdf

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.

5 JULY 2026 - FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

First Reading - Zechariah 9:9-10 ***See how humbly your king comes to you.***

The Lord says this:

'Rejoice heart and soul, daughter of Zion!
Shout with gladness, daughter of Jerusalem!
See now, your king comes to you;
he is victorious, he is triumphant,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
He will banish chariots from Ephraim
and horses from Jerusalem;
the bow of war will be banished.
He will proclaim peace for the nations.
His empire shall stretch from sea to sea,
from the River to the ends of the earth.'

Responsorial Psalm – I will praise your name forever my King and my God.

1. I will give you glory, O God my King,
   I will bless your name for ever.
   I will bless you day after day
   and praise your name for ever **R.**
2. The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
   slow to anger, abounding in love.
   How good is the Lord to all,
   compassionate to all his creatures **R.**
3. All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,
   and your friends shall repeat their blessing.
   They shall speak of the glory of your reign
   and declare your might, O God. **R.**
4. The Lord is faithful in all his words
   and loving in all his deeds.
   The Lord supports all who fall
   and raises all who are bowed down. **R.**

Second Reading - Romans 8:9, 11-13 ***If by the Spirit you put an end to the misdeeds of the body, you will live.***

Your interests are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him, and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.
So then, my brothers, there is no necessity for us to obey our unspiritual selves or to live unspiritual lives. If you do live in that way, you are doomed to die; but if by the Spirit you put an end to the misdeeds of the body you will live

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you Father, Lord of heaven and earth, you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia!

Gospel - Matthew 11: 25-30 ***I am gentle and humble of heart.***

Jesus exclaimed, 'I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children. Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do. Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.
'Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.'