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

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) — 12 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 13 July *St Henry*	Mass: 8am	
Tues 14 July *St Camillus de Lellis, priest*	Mass: 5:30pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:50pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm	
Wed 15 July *St Bonaventure, bishop, doctor*		Reconciliation: 4:30pm - 5:30pm Adoration: 4:30pm - 5:30pm Mass: 5:30pm
Thurs 16 July *Our Lady of Mount Carmel*	Mass: 5:30pm	
Fri 17 July		Mass: 7:45am
Sat 18 July	Mass: 5pm	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9:30am - 10:30am
Sun 19 July	Mass: 8am *Mass: 10am (Polish)*	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Mary Gillis, Brian Kelly, Angela Corbanese

Anniversaries

Concesa Mamanglu, Dr Sheila Dwyer, Fr Carl Ashton, Ruby Stubbs, Marcel Fernandez Warren Markham, Helen Smolenaars

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

Frangipanis have always held a special place in my heart. When I made my vows as a Sister of St Joseph, I was given a crown made of frangipanis. It was part of the Profession ceremony. During the ceremony, this crown was removed and replaced with a crown of thorns. The frangipani reminds me of my profession day and the promises I made. My profession was in the month of January, and it is in this season the frangipani is abundant.

The attached photo was taken in the month of June. How unusual to see the frangipani blossoming at this time. It reminds me that life for each of us can sometimes get out of whack. Whenever life is out of whack for you remember that beauty can still be found and all things are part of our lives for a purpose. Bloom and shine in the in season and out of season times of life. God has made you for greatness. Live that greatness with love, faith and courage.

Sr Kerry Gardiner

ROSTER — THIS 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		

ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

July	**Church Washing**	Helen Murphy	
Sat 18 Jul	**Church Cleaning**	SPX Staff	
Sat 18 Jul	**Lawns**	*No lawn mowing this week*	
	Lectors	**Welcomers**	**Children's liturgy**
5pm 18 Jul	M & C Carolan	T Chicharo	
8am 19 Jul	A Kelly	A Browne, J Hoxha	*School holidays*
Counters	A Kelly, B Farraway		

PARISH NEWS

Morning tea – Sunday 12 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 5

1st C Dean No 25
2nd L Reyes No. 44

Vinnies News

The Unanderra Vinnies would like to thank all the generous parishioners who have supported our Conference with their kind donations via our Church poor box. All money donated to Unanderra Vinnies is used within our Parish boundaries supporting families in need.

'Boots and Soup' at Sr Kerry's

A second 'Boots and Soup' lunch is planned for ***Thurs 27th August***. More information closer to the date, but if you wish to do an early bird booking, please let Sr Kerry know.

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.

Sanctus Unanderra – Wed 15 July, 6:30pm to 7:30pm

Sanctus is a monthly adoration night, bringing together youth and young adults for a night of prayer and community! Eucharistic Adoration (inc. Reconciliation & Vespers) on this night will be led by Fr Benjamin Gandy 6.30pm to 7.30pm, followed by dinner afterwards at Unanderra Hotel. Come along to pray before Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

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 5 July 2026

$641	First Collection	*- Diocesan Clergy Remuneration Fund*
$616	Second collection	*- Parish expenses*
$408	Tap Point donations	
$310	Planned giving envelopes	
$587	Direct debits (weekly average from March).	

Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly

Brown Scapular enrolment – 5:30pm Thurs 16 July

This year marks the 775th anniversary of the presentation of the Brown Scapular by our Blessed Mother to St Simon Stock. There is a special prayer of "enrolment" in the spiritual communion of the Carmelites which accompanies the wearing of the Brown Scapular. If anyone is interested in receiving a Brown Scapular and the accompanying blessing and enrolment, this will take place ***after*** the 5:30pm Mass on Thurs 16 July, the Feast of Our Lady of Mt Carmel, at Immaculate Conception Church.***Note:*** *there will be no rosary, adoration or reconciliation on this night.*

If you would like to enter into this devotion but are unable to attend at this time, please contact the parish office.

THE JOURNEY
CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME – Airs Sunday 12 July 2026

On The Journey this Week: Fr Simon Apablaza says the real question is the quality of our inner "soil." Mother Hilda says like the beauty of ikebana, God works quietly and gracefully within us, simply, unobtrusively. Bishop Tony Percy says the generous Sower throws seed everywhere because Christ knows that the abundant fruit—will far exceed the losses. Byron & Francine Pirola discuss dealing with spiritual emptiness and despite inner struggles, remain faithful even when your efforts seem unreciprocated. Listen at www.jcr.org.au

VOCATIONS VIEW

Make your heart ready to receive the Word of God sown through the Mass and Sacraments in the Church. (Isaiah 55:10-11) If you want to talk about your vocation, please contact the diocesan vocations director, Fr Duane Fernandez at ***vocations@dow.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

VOCARIS – Testimony Night

Saturday 15 August 2026, 6pm to 9:30pm

Young adults (18+) are invited to an profound evening of faith featuring the testimonies of a deacon (soon to be ordained priest), a religious sister and a married couple, each sharing the joy of discovering God's unique call in their lives.
Join us on Saturday, 15 August, from 6pm–9:30pm at the Wilton Community Centre (25 minutes from Macarthur and Wollongong).
Go to dow.sh/Vocaristestimony for more information or to register.

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
More info at: mts.org.au/seasunday

2026 SIGNIFICANT MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARIES MASS

Sunday 6 September 2026

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.

12 JULY 2026 - FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

First Reading – Isaiah 55:10-11 ***The rain makes the earth give growth.***

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

Responsorial Psalm – The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

1. You care for the earth, give it water,
   you fill it with riches.
   Your river in heaven brims over
   to provide its grain. **R.**
2. And thus you provide for the earth;
   you drench its furrows;
   you level it, soften it with showers;
   you bless its growth. **R.**
3. You crown the year with your goodness.
   Abundance flows in your steps,
   in the pastures of the wilderness it flows. **R.**
4. The hills are girded with joy,
   the meadows covered with flocks,
   the valleys are decked with wheat.
   They shout for joy, yes, they sing. **R.**

Second Reading - Romans 8:18-23 ***All creation is waiting for the revelation of the children of God***

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; all who come to him will live forever. Alleluia!

Gospel - Matthew 13: 1-23 ***A sower went out to sow.***

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'