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*	***Parish School:***	**St Pius X Primary School** *Cnr Hargreaves & Cummins Streets* *(PO Box 358) Unanderra NSW 2526* *Phone:4271 3550 | Fax:4272 2954*
Assistant Priest:	**Fr Joseph Vuong Nguyen** *Email: joseph.vuongnguyen@dow.org.au*	***School Principal:***	**Mrs Lisa Tyson**
Polish Chaplain:	**Fr Jerzy Slowinski** *Email: slowinski54@gmail.com* *Mobile: 0410 225 975*	***Parish Secretary:*** ***Office Hours:***	**Mrs Melissa Bridges** Mon/Wed: 8:30am - 1:30pm Friday: 8:30am - 3:30pm
Parish Assistant:	**Sr Kerry Gardiner** *Email: Kerry.Gardiner@sosj.org.au* *Mobile: 0421 463 871*	***Parish Office:***	*Email: unanderra@dow.org.au* *Website: www.unanderraparish.org.au* *Phone: 4271 1068*
Parish Pastoral Council Chair:	**Mr Chris Lyon** *Mobile: 0403 296 837*		

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) — 19 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 20 July *St Apollinaris, bishop, martyr*	Mass: 8am	
Tues 21 July *St Lawrence of Brindisi, priest, doctor*	Mass: 5:30pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:50pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm	
Wed 22 July *St Mary Magdalene*		Reconciliation: 4:30pm - 5:20pm Adoration: 4:30pm - 5:30pm Mass: 5:30pm
Thurs 23 July *St Bridget*	Mass: 5:30pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:50pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm	
Fri 24 July *St Sharbel Makhluf, priest*		Mass: 7:45am
Sat 25 July *St James. apostle*	Mass: 5pm	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9:30am - 10:30am
Sun 26 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, Mary Stubbs, Rudy Geyling, John Walsh

Annibale Daminato

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, Steven Brown

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

Professor Richard Scolyer died in June this year. He was a man who had a passion for life and for giving his best in the field of pathology. He has been recognised as an Australian of the Year along with being recognised as an Officer of the Order of Australia.

Watching his story on TV I was touched by his simplicity, compassion, integrity, love of family and many other amazing qualities. He also recognised moments when he wasn't the best person he wished to be. Richard finished his interview with the words, ***'Don't just lean in, leap in. That's how you can make a difference.'*** He lived those words.

He reminded me that when it comes to faith we shouldn't just lean in when things get tough. Our relationship with God should want us to leap in. What response do you give to the God who calls you to be the best person you can be? Is your relationship with God a two-way street or just a one-way narrow lane when you need something?

Sr Kerry Gardiner

ROSTER — THIS 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		

ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

July	**Church Washing**	Helen Murphy	
Sat 25 Jul	**Church Cleaning**	D Attard, L Lathourakis	
Sat 25 Jul	**Lawns**	*M & J Winner, M Walsh, S Corrigan, A Bennett, P Meers, T Davis*	
	Lectors	**Welcomers**	**Children's liturgy**
5pm 25 Jul	P Meers	A Frino	
8am 26 Jul	C Walsh	A Kelly, N Dunne	Alexia Palma, Eleisha Benedetti
Counters	M Murphy, C Stratton, M Winner		

PARISH NEWS

Morning tea – Sunday 19 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 6

1st M Jubb No 12
2nd A Gunning No. 1

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.

Catholic Chaplaincy at UoW - with our own Fr Joseph

UOW students and staff are warmly invited to become involved with the UOW Catholic Society. Join us for Mass and lunch, 12:30pm Thursdays during semester in the Building 11 Clubs Room, with Fr Joseph as Chaplain. See @uowcathsoc

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 10 Aug

Thank you to the many who braved the cold and the wind to enjoy our monthly cuppa at Wests. What a great morning thanks to all for shared laughter and conviviality . Our next coffee catch-up will be 10 August at 10:30am.

Parish Finances - week ending 12 July 2026

$617	First Collection	*- Diocesan Clergy Remuneration Fund*
$552	Second collection	*- Parish expenses*
$453	Tap Point donations	
$329	Planned giving envelopes	
$555	Direct debits (weekly average from May).	

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.

.

MENS PRAYER BREAKFAST

Friday 21 August 2026, 6:30am to 8am
Speaker: Peter Gilmore "The Power of Vision"
Xavier Centre, 38 Harbour Street, Wollongong

Join other men for a morning of breakfast, prayer and inspiring input from our Guest Speaker, Peter Gilmore.
Be inspired and strengthened as you connect with others seeking to live as authentic disciples on mission.
Book here dow.sh/MPB26 by Tuesday 18 August
The Men's Prayer Breakfast Series is organised by the Office of Renewal and Evangelisation and menALIVE in the Diocese of Wollongong

THE JOURNEY
CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME
– Airs Sunday 19 July 2026

On The Journey this Week: Fr Mark De Battista says true prayer is not about asking for whatever we want. Using Google Maps reminds Mother Hilda that God also has his own SAT NAV system for us. Bishop Tony Percy says when we do not know how to pray, the Holy Spirit prays within us, interceding for us in our weakness when we lack words. Pete Gilmore explains the ancient practice of "heaping burning coals on their head." Mark Raue says Jesus' command to love one's neighbour demands universal, unconditional charity toward everyone.
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.

WORLD YOUTH DAY
SEOUL

3 -8 August 2027
Diocesan Pilgrimage

Applications are now open for the Diocese of Wollongong's pilgrimage to World Youth Day Seoul 2027!
If you're interested in joining thousands of young Catholics from around the world for this once-in-a-lifetime experience of faith, community and pilgrimage, visit dow.org.au/wyd27 for information on the itinerary, costs, travel arrangements and FAQs.
Not ready to apply just yet? Join our mailing list at dow.sh/wyd27 to receive the latest updates and announcements.

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.

19 JULY 2026 - SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

First Reading – Wisdom 12:13, 16-19 ***In the place of sin, you give repentance***

There is no god, other than you, who cares for every thing,
to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly.
Your justice has its source in strength,
your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all.
You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned
and you expose the insolence of those who know it;
but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement,
you govern us with great lenience,
for you have only to will, and your power is there.
By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people
how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men,
and you have given your sons the good hope
that after sin you will grant repentance.

Responsorial Psalm – Lord, you are good and forgiving.

1. O Lord, you are good and forgiving,
full of love to all who call.
Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer
and attend to the sound of my voice. **R.**
2. All the nations shall come to adore you
and glorify your name, O Lord:
for you are great and do marvellous deeds,
you who alone are God. **R.**
3. But you, God of mercy and compassion,
slow to anger, O Lord,
abounding in love and truth,
turn and take pity on me. **R.**

Second Reading - Romans 8:26-27 ***The Spirit himself pleads for us in a way that could never be put into words.***

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

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 13: 24-43 ***Let them grow together until the harvest.***

Jesus put another parable before the crowds: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this" he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn."'