PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

48-50 Princes Highway (PO Box 14) Unanderra NSW 2526

www.unanderraparish.org.au

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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*		

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) — 26 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 27 July	Mass: 8am	
Tues 28 July	Mass: 5:30pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:50pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm	
Wed 29 July *Sts Martha, Mary and Lazarus*		Reconciliation: 4:30pm - 5:20pm Adoration: 4:30pm - 5:30pm Mass: 5:30pm
Thurs 30 July *St Peter Chrysologus, bishop, doctor*	Mass: 5:30pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:50pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm	
Fri 31 July *St Ignatius of Loyola*		Mass: 7:45am
Sat 1 Aug *St Alphonsus Liguori, bishop, doctor*	Mass: 5pm	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9:30am - 10:30am
Sun 2 Aug	Mass: 8am *Mass: 10am (Polish)*	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Juliana delos Santos, Don Harper, Brian Kelly, Angela Corbanese

Anniversaries

Concesa Mamanglu, Ernie Smith, Adam Borg, Beryl Burns, Marguerita Hillman, Fr Chris Riley, Colleen Schmitzer, Xavier Pheobus, Sr Shelia Curnow

Prayers for the sick

Kathleen (Katie) Thomas, Peter Stevens, Rachael Wakeley Iris Brown, Michael Murphy, Mr Leandro, Steven Brown, 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

It is interesting how we see ourselves. We can have titles that describe us, but despite the titles our physical looks speak the truth.

When walking to the shops I usually take a shopping trolley with me as I have often come home with more than the loaf of bread I went to purchase. During the week I set out with the trolley and was happily meandering along until I arrived at the check out and the young woman delighted in telling me her Grandmother used to have a trolley like mine. I suddenly felt ancient and needy.

To all who have matured and lived a longer life than others I say a very blessed day to you for today we celebrate the elderly. We celebrate you for the long life you have lived, the roads you have travelled, the pains you have borne, the disappointments that broke your heart, the love you have given. Celebrate the gift you are …..and are becoming….. for the journey of life has made you the person you are today.

Sr Kerry Gardiner

ROSTER — THIS 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		

ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

August	**Church Washing**	Susan Adams	
Sat 1 Aug	**Church Cleaning**	F Fernandez, B Rice.	
Sat 1 Aug	**Lawns**	*No lawn mowing this week*	
	Lectors	**Welcomers**	**Children's liturgy**
5pm 1 Aug	L Davis	V & C Davis	
8am 2 Aug	D Ferrer	G Simmonite, A Arnone	Kelly Anderson, Miriam Byron, Molly Hertsch
Counters	A Kelly, B Farraway		

PARISH NEWS

Morning tea – Sunday 26 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.

Safeguarding - Children's liturgy QR code registration

Please use this QR code to register your children for Children's Liturgy.

Catholic Women's League - Silver circle results week 7

1st L Battley
2nd H Murphy

'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.

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

Kid's Living Faith books - July to Sept

The new edition of Kid's 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.

STIC Young Adults

7pm, 2nd & 4th Thurs of the month, St Therese Parish Centre

Parish social dinner – Friday 21 August 2026

Please join us for dinner at Figtree Sports Club on Friday 21 August at 6pm. Please RSVP to the Parish office – so we can reserve tables.

Parish Finances - week ending 19 July 2026

$829	First Collection	*- Diocesan Clergy Remuneration Fund*
$669	Second collection	*- Parish expenses*
$249	Tap Point donations	
$325	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 26 July 2026

On The Journey this Week: Fr Josh Whitehead says God's message to each of us is simple and personal: "I love you just the way you are." Mother Hilda uses a little primary school student's experience on a school excursion to see that we're surrounded by the life of God. Bishop Tony Percy says Christians are encouraged to imitate Solomon by praying for wisdom, cultivating prudence, and allowing God to guide our decisions. Fr Dave Callaghan MGL says we are invited to let suffering strengthen our trust in God and lead us more deeply into the mystery of His love. 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 a 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 info 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.

26 JULY 2026 – SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

First Reading – 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12 ***You have asked for wisdom***

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its number cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this' the Lord said 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

Responsorial Psalm – Lord, I Love your commands.

1. My part, I have resolved, O Lord,
   is to obey your word.
   The law from your mouth means more to me
   than silver and gold. **R.**
2. Let your love be ready to console me
   by your promise to your servant.
   Let your love come and I shall live
   for your law is my delight. **R.**
3. That is why I love your commands
   more than finest gold,
   why I rule my life by your precepts,
   and hate false ways. **R.**
4. Your will is wonderful indeed;
   therefore I obey it.
   The unfolding of your word gives light
   and teaches the simple. **R.**

Second Reading - Romans 8:28-30 ***He predestined us to become true images of his son.***

We know that by turning everything to their good, God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

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: 44-52 ***He sells everything he owns and buys the field.***

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

'Have you understood all this?' They said, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.'