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*		

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) — 2 AUG 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 3 Aug *St Dominic, priest*	Mass: 8am	
Tues 4 Aug *St John Vianney, priest*	Mass: 5:30pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:50pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm	
Wed 5 Aug		Reconciliation: 4:30pm - 5:20pm Adoration: 4:30pm - 5:30pm Mass: 5:30pm
Thurs 6 Aug *The Transfiguration of the Lord*	Mass: 5:30pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:50pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm	
Fri 7 Aug *St Sixtus II, pope, martyr and companions*	***No First Friday Adoration this month***	Mass: 7:45am
Sat 8 Aug *St Mary of the Cross Mackillop*	Mass: 5pm	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9:30am - 10:30am
Sun 9 Aug	Mass: 8am *Mass: 10am (Polish)*	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Vlaho Carevic, Fr Rick McCann
Juliana delos Santos, Don Harper

Anniversaries

Mary Scally, Cd Edward Clancy, Kathleen McGuiness
Fr Peter Caruana, Bonnie Miller, Frank Toohey
Bernard Gillis, Brian Henderson, Ben Graham
Francis Murphy, Geoff Goodwin
Nic Masi, Geraldine Dries

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

As my annual leave with family draws to a close soon, I am "working from home" to share this message for this weekend. As you will read in the main section of the bulletin, this week is ***"National Vocations Awareness Week".*** As Vocations Director for our Diocese, this is especially a priority for me, as this role brings the responsibility of supporting young people throughout the Diocese in their vocational discernment.

I take this opportunity to share words recently spoken by Pope Leo:

"For so many young people — and not only them — the question, "For whom am I?" resonates as a sincere search for meaning, belonging and self-giving. The human heart is not filled by accumulating experiences, possibilities or a fleeting sense of security; it is filled when it discovers a calling, when it understands that life reaches its fullness only if it is given away. For this reason, vocational ministry…springs from living communities, from happy priests, from families capable of bearing witness to the beauty of fidelity, from a Church that knows how to show with simplicity that following Christ does not impoverish existence, but rather expands it. Where the Gospel is lived with joy, service and communion, the Lord's call can also be heard anew as a promise of life."

Our young people today are surrounded by so many different voices, many of which are drawing them away from the quiet voice of Jesus who longs to reveal to them the true purpose and fullness of joy for which they are created. In the midst of the multiplicity of voices surrounding them, it is all the more important for us to provide our young people – and each other – with these "living communities" spoken of by Pope Leo. I take this opportunity to give thanks to God and to all of you for the ways that you are already making this a reality in our own parish communities, and also draw your attention to the following opportunities to be nourished in our discernment and living of our vocations – with more details in the main section of the bulletin:

For our high school aged youth: I thank our young adult volunteers for their wonderful work with ***"Youth Alpha"*** last term, devoting many hours every week to creating a space where more than 40 high school aged students were able to experience a deepening connection with God and each other. ***"Revive Youth"*** continues fortnightly this term 7pm to 9pm at St Therese School Hall.

For young adults 18+: As well as STIC Young Adults locally (which always welcomes newcomers), I encourage you to join with other young adults of the Diocese at the next ***Vocaris*** event on August 15th at Wilton.

For all married couples: Along with ordained ministry and religious life, we are constantly seeking new ways to nurture the vocation of marriage. We thank CatholicCare for providing a ***Marriage Enrichment Workshop*** on Saturday 19th September at St Therese Parish Centre.

May we each continue to do our part in our families and in our parish and Diocesan family to build living communities where all may come to hear and follow the voice of Jesus leading us into fullness of life.

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

Sitting by the lake I observed the black swans gliding aimlessly, effortlessly, and peacefully as they moved gently through the water. The swans quietly moved along not realising the pattern that was left behind simply because of their movement.

Our living is like that. We go about our day moving forward and making progress, but what trail do we leave behind? May you remember that *'I may only pass this way but once. Any good that I can do, let me do it now, for I may never pass this way again.'*

Sr Kerry Gardiner

ROSTER — THIS 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		

ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

August	Church Washing	Susan Adams	
Sat 8 Aug	Church Cleaning	J Haywood, L Salway, M Hurley, T Vaafusuaga	
Sat 8 Aug	Lawns	*No lawn mowing this week*	
	Lectors	**Welcomers**	**Children's liturgy**
5pm 8 Aug	D Nugent	B Farraway	
8am 9 Aug	T Vaafusuaga	J Sharwood	Gemma Farrugia, Leah Galea, Ella Alessi
Counters	A Gunning, M Cauduro, C Garrett		

PARISH NEWS

Morning tea – Sunday 2 August 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 8

1st C Dean No. 25
2nd E Hubbard No. 6

Revive Youth: For all high school aged young people

Revive Youth invites all high school aged young people to come along to connect with each other and grow in faith together in a relaxed and fun environment. It is fortnightly this term, August 7th and 21st, September 4th and 18th, 7pm to 9pm at St Therese School Hall. Come along and invite others to any or all of these evenings!

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. Cost is now $7.

Morning tea at Wests Illawarra café - 10:30am Mon 10 Aug.

Our next coffee catch-up will be 10 August at 10:30am.
All welcome.

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 26 July 2026

$659	First Collection	*- Diocesan Clergy Remuneration Fund*
$534	Second collection	*- Parish expenses*
$278	Tap Point donations	
$339	Planned giving envelopes	
$555	Direct debits (weekly average from May).	

Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly

Vinnies News

St Vincent de Paul Society NSW has refunded 800 million eligible drink containers in our Return and Earn partnership. Funds raised from the scheme have put $80 million back into our frontline services across the state and we celebrated this milestone at our Unanderra Return and Earn Depot.

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 2 August 2026

On The Journey this Week: Fr Ken Cafe says the feeding of the multitude reveals God's generous, compassionate nature and calls Christians to live with the same spirit. Mother Hilda tells the true story of a disabled woman's reaction to her hand-crafted ceramic teapot. Bishop Tony Percy links Isaiah's invitation, "Come to the water, all you who are thirsty," foreshadows the multiplication of the loaves and is completed at the Last Supper. Trish McCarthy reminds us that Jesus calls all who labour and are burdened to come and rest.
Listen at www.jcr.org.au

NATIONAL VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK – 2 – 9 August

And VOCARIS for Young Adults
Saturday 15 August 2026, 6pm to 9:30pm

National Vocations Awareness Week takes place from 2 - 9 August: a time for every one of us to be renewed in our commitment to living out our Christian vocation or "calling", which begins in baptism and is then lived out through ordained ministry, religious life, marriage or the single life. The next ***Vocaris*** event will provide a unique opportunity for young adults (18+) to learn more about responding to the call of Jesus, on Saturday 15 August from 6pm–9:30pm at the Wilton Community Centre, 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. Go to dow.sh/Vocaristestimony for more info or to register.

CATHOLIC CARE
Marriage Enrichment Course

Saturday 19 September, 10am to 12pm
Location: St Therese Parish Centre

As we mark National Vocations Awareness Week, CatholicCare Wollongong is preparing a day of renewal for married couples. Marriage, like Religious Life and Ordained Ministry, is a sacred calling from God, which needs to be continually nurtured by the church. Join a free session guided by an experienced facilitator to explore common relationship themes and strategies to strengthen your marriage, including:

- Stages of a relationship and what are some of the concerns/needs and expectations in each of these?
- Marriage is a journey – building a culture of connection.

PORTIUNCULA INDULGENCE

Sunday 2 August 2026

The Portiuncula Indulgence is observed throughout the Church annually on 2 August. The indulgence may be obtained for oneself or for a soul in purgatory, under the usual conditions, namely: confession (within 8 days) + attending Mass and receiving Holy Communion + praying for the Holy Father's intentions (i.e. Creed, Our Father, Hail Mary). It may be obtained at any parish Church on 2 August. The Portiuncula Indulgence finds its origins with St Francis of Assisi.

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 Sept 2026 at 2pm at the St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Wollongong. Mass will be followed by light refreshments in the Xavier Centre.
Registration is essential at dow.sh/ma26 by 17 August 2026.

2 AUGUST – EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

First Reading – Isaiah 55:1-3 ***Hasten and eat***

Thus says the Lord:

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty;
though you have no money, come!
Buy corn without money, and eat,
and, at no cost, wine and milk.
Why spend money on what is not bread,
your wages on what fails to satisfy?
Listen, listen to me, and you will have good things to eat
and rich food to enjoy.
Pay attention, come to me;
listen, and your soul will live.
With you I will make an everlasting covenant
out of the favours promised to David.

Responsorial Psalm – The hand of the Lord feeds us, he answers all our needs.

1. 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.**
2. The eyes of all creatures look to you
and you give them their food in due time.
You open wide your hand,
grant the desires of all who live. **R.**
3. The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
who call on him from their hearts. **R.**

Second Reading - Romans 8:35, 37-39 ***No creature can separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ.***

Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us. For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Alleluia!

Gospel - Matthew 14:13-21 ***They all ate and were satisfied.***

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick.

When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, 'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves.' But they answered 'All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here to me' he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining; twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children.