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/

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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

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) — 9 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 10 Aug *St Lawrence*	Mass: 8am	
Tues 11 Aug *St Clare*	Mass: 5:30pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:50pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm	
Wed 12 Aug *St Jane Frances de Chantal*		Reconciliation: 4:30pm - 5:20pm Adoration: 4:30pm - 5:30pm Mass: 5:30pm
Thurs 13 Aug *Sts Pontian And Hippolytus*	Mass: 5:30pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:50pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm	
Fri 14 Aug *St Maximilian Mary Kolbe*	***Mass: 6:30pm (Assumption Vigil)***	Mass: 7:45am
Sat 15 Aug *St Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary*	Mass: 5pm	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9:30am - 10:30am
Sun 16 Aug	Mass: 8am ***No Polish Mass this week***	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

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

Anniversaries

John Packham, Germano Roso, Joseph Fenech, Ron Gandy, Sr Anne King RSJ, Sr Mark Boyle RSJ, Cecil Clarke, Dot Philpott, Joyce Cundy

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 I return from my annual leave, I wish to express my deep gratitude to Fr Joseph, on my own behalf and on behalf of our parishes, for taking on the extra work that enabled me to enjoy my leave – and for doing such a wonderful job (as I have heard from many parishioners). I also thank all the parish staff and volunteers for any extra work they took on during this time. My sister and nephews have now returned to Canada and while it was difficult saying goodbye, I am very grateful for the blessing of the quality time I had with them and my parents. I now find comfort in the continued spiritual closeness that comes from praying for them – the same spiritual closeness with you all that came from praying for you during my leave. I look forward to serving you again with renewed energy. Thank you also for your kind birthday wishes last week!

Next ***Saturday 15th August is the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary***. The Assumption is the high point of all of the Marian feasts of the year, as we celebrate our mother and perfect model of faith being assumed body and soul into heaven. I take this opportunity to share a little more about Catholic devotion to Mary, based on extracts from the Catechism of the Catholic Church which draw heavily from the documents of the Second Vatican Council:

"What the Catholic faith believes about Mary is based on what it believes about Christ, and what it teaches about Mary illumines in turn its faith in Christ. (487)

"Mary's function as mother of men in no way obscures or diminishes this unique mediation of Christ, but rather shows its power…flows forth from the superabundance of the merits of Christ, rests on his mediation, depends entirely on it, and draws all its power from it." (970)

In Mary we contemplate what the Church already is in her mystery on her own "pilgrimage of faith," and what she will be in the homeland at the end of her journey. There, "in the glory of the Most Holy and Undivided Trinity," "in the communion of all the saints," the Church is awaited by the one she venerates as Mother of her Lord and as her own mother. In the meantime the Mother of Jesus, in the glory which she possesses in body and soul in heaven, is the image and beginning of the Church as it is to be perfected in the world to come. Likewise she shines forth on earth until the day of the Lord shall come, a sign of certain hope and comfort to the pilgrim People of God." (972)

The Assumption is a "Holy Day of Obligation", which means that all Catholics are called to come together for the celebration of Mass if possible (as with all of the Sundays of the year and Christmas Day). In order to facilitate this possibility, along with the 9am Saturday Mass at St Therese on 15th August, we will have a Vigil Mass of the Assumption at Immaculate Conception Unanderra at 6:30pm on Friday 14th August. *(Note – the Saturday evening Mass on 15th August will not be a Mass for the Assumption as it will be the Vigil Mass of the 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time.)*

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

As I sat by the water, I was entranced by a woman feeding the ducks. Sensing something exciting the seagulls decided to join in. It was interesting to watch what was unfolding. The ducks quietly partook of the food scattered around them. The sea gulls were the opposite. The seagulls were very territorial and individual. The seagulls left the ducks alone to keep fossicking for the food but with the seagulls they were squawking at each other and chasing them off their patch. From my observation they were so busy defending their territory that no seagull really got to enjoy much of the food that was so freely being given. I was left to contemplate the situation, and I asked myself am I a seagull or am I a duck? Then I asked myself am I both at various times? I can only imagine what I must be missing when I'm a seagull. Are you a seagull or a duck? Or both?

Sr Kerry Gardiner

ROSTER — THIS 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	T Chicharo	B Farraway	
8am 9 Aug	T Vaafusuaga	J Sharwood	Gemma Farrugia, Leah Galea, Ella Alessi
Counters	A Gunning, M Cauduro, C Garrett		

ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

August	**Church Washing**	Susan Adams	
Sat 15 Aug	**Church Cleaning**	G Lord, L Zanetti, S Adams	
Sat 15 Aug	**Lawns**	*W Brown, F Caruana, J Lonard, J Sharwood J Borg.*	
	Lectors	**Welcomers**	**Children's liturgy**
5pm 15 Aug	N O'Donoghue	T Chicharo	
8am 16 Aug	P Gunning	A Browne, J Hoxha	Tierney, Nadine and Scarlett Dunne
Counters	A Kelly, B Farraway		

PARISH NEWS

Morning tea – Sunday 9 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.

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

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

Catholic Women's League meeting – 13 August 2026

The monthly meeting of the CWL will be held on Thursday, 13 Aug at 10 am in St Joseph's Room. Everyone is welcome to join us for a cuppa and chat before the meeting.

Catholic Women's league - Silver circle results week 9

1st P Cundy No. 36
2nd K Heffernan No. 29

Revive Youth: 7pm Friday 7 Aug, 21 Aug, 4 Sep, 18 Sep

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 at the St Therese School Hall.

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

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 2 August 2026

$602	First Collection	*- Diocesan Clergy Remuneration Fund*
$482	Second collection	*- Parish expenses*
$401	Tap Point donations	
$260	Planned giving envelopes	
$555	Direct debits (weekly average from May).	

Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly

Vinnies News – Winter Appeal 22/23 Aug

Vinnies Unanderra Conference will hold its annual Winter Appeal collection after each Mas on the weekend of 22/23 Aug. Envelopes will be available for those requiring a receipt. Also an eftpos machine will be available at the church side door. All money raised is used by the Unanderra Conference to support local families in need. The Unanderra Conference receives on average more than ten requests for help every week for a variety of reasons, especially food and rent assistance. When you give to Vinnies you're helping our volunteers rebuild lives.

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. Book here dow.sh/MPB26 by Tuesday 18 August

THE JOURNEY
CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME
– Airs Sunday 9 August 2026

On The Journey this Week: Fr James Arblaster says this week's Gospel assures us that Christ is always with us, reaching out to lift us up, calling us to trust him. Mother Hilda asks what is it that makes a person officially awesome? Bishop Tony Percy says the 1st reading (1 Kings 19) and the Gospel (Matthew 14) are linked by the revelation of God's effortless mastery. Byron & Francine Pirola reflect on Pope Leo's message for World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. Fr Mike Delaney joy and loss to embrace collaboration and looking with "new eyes" at God's presence in the everyday. Listen at www.jcr.org.au

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.

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.

RENEWED AND SENT

Parish Renewal Summit
Sunday 1-3 October 2026

Bishop Brian Mascord invites you to the Renewed & Sent Parish Renewal Summit, to be held at St Gregory's College, Campbelltown, from 1–3 October 2026.
Join clergy, religious, lay leaders, ministry volunteers and parishioners from across the Diocese of Wollongong for three days of inspiring keynote presentations, practical workshops, prayer, and opportunities to connect with others who share a passion for the future of our parishes. This opportunity aligns with Bishop Brian Mascord's Come & See, Go & Make: A Vision for Parishes, helping us to grow as communities where people encounter Jesus, become his disciples, and are sent to share the Gospel. Whether you come on your own or as part of a parish team, you'll leave encouraged, inspired, and equipped with practical ideas to help your parish grow in faith, mission, and community. Registration at: renewedandsent.com.au.

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. Registration at dow.sh/ma26 by 17 August.

9 AUGUST – NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

First Reading – 1 Kings 19:9, 11-13 ***Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord God.***

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.' Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

Responsorial Psalm – Lord, show us your mercy and love and grant us your salvation

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
   a voice that speaks of peace.
   His help is near for those who fear him
   and his glory will dwell in our land. . **R.**
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met;
   justice and peace have embraced.
   Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
   and justice look down from heaven. **R.**
3. The Lord will make us prosper
   and our earth shall yield its fruit.
   Justice shall march before him
   and peace shall follow his steps. **R.**

Second Reading - Romans 9:1-5 ***I would willingly be condemned if it could help my people.***

What I want to say now is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ – it is the truth – my conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! I hope in the Lord. I trust in his word. Alleluia!

Gospel - Matthew 14:22-33 ***Command me to come to you over the water***

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord,' he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'

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