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*
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Parish Assistant:	**Sr Kerry Gardiner** *Email: Kerry.Gardiner@sosj.org.au* *Mobile: 0421 463 871*
Parish Pastoral Council Chair:	**Mr Chris Lyon** *Mobile: 0403 296 837*
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*

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) — 16 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 17 Aug	No Mass today	
Tues 18 Aug	No Mass today	
Wed 19 Aug *St John Eude, priest*		No Mass today
Thurs 20 Aug *St Bernard, abbott, doctor*	No Mass today	
Fri 21 Aug *St Pius X, pope*		No Mass today
Sat 22 Aug *The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary*	Mass: 5pm	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9:30am - 10:30am
Sun 23 Aug	Mass: 8am *Mass: 10am (Polish)*	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

April Thrift, Vlaho Carevic, Fr Rick McCann

Anniversaries

John Packham, Germano Roso, Beatrice Williams, Gloria Sheppard, Tanya Bajda Tim Fisher, Fr Rom Josko, Joseph Davis Terry Dean, Marjory Dean

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, Kevin Murphy, Paul Murphy.

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

During the coming week, all of the clergy of the Diocese of Wollongong will be gathering for the Annual Clergy Retreat, taking place at Mittagong. Both Fr Joseph and I will be attending this Retreat, so there will be no Masses or Sacraments in the parishes of Unanderra and West Wollongong from Monday to Friday this week only. There will a priest celebrating ***Mass and Reconciliation at St Francis Xavier's Cathedral*** as follows:

- *7am Mass Monday to Friday;*
- *12:10pm Mass Wednesday and Friday;*
- *Reconciliation Wednesday and Friday 11:30am.*

Please pray for Fr Joseph, myself, and all clergy of our Diocese during this sacred time of our year, that we will be spiritually refreshed, deepening our own closeness with the Lord and with each other, the better to serve the parishes of our Diocese.

I am looking forward to our ***parish dinner this coming Friday 21st August*** from 6pm at Figtree Sports – and feel free to invite friends or relatives that don't come to church for a nice relaxed meal and lovely company! Don't forget to RSVP to our parish office so we know how many places to book. Hope to see you there!

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

Being a Catholic is not always easy. The church is often criticised, and rightly so in some instances. As a church we have failed ourselves, our God, and others. However, we can also hold our heads high for besides the Sacramental life of the Church we experience much compassion, goodness, service, faith sharing and community that has been built up for us all to share. Recently I read, 'Heavy is the head that wears the crown.' None of us would have any understanding of what our leaders carry in their heart, what worries must be theirs, what shattered dreams have blown out the window. Of course, it would not be all hardship. There must be the most joyous times too. This week can you hold our church leaders in your prayers thanking God for the many gifts that bless us because of their leadership?

Sr Kerry Gardiner

ROSTER — THIS 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		

ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

August	**Church Washing**	Susan Adams	
Sat 22 Aug	**Church Cleaning**	G Lord, L Zanetti, S Adams	
Sat 22 Aug	**Lawns**	*No lawn mowing this week*	
	Lectors	**Welcomers**	**Children's liturgy**
5pm 22 Aug	T Chicharo	A Frino	
8am 23 Aug	C Lyon	A Kelly, N Dunne	Maria Matos, Anne Vaassen
Counters	S Alessi, A Davis, M Lyon		

PARISH NEWS

Morning tea – Sunday 16 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 10

1st P Cundy No. 22
2nd R Wilson No. 7

Thank you to all who took part, you have helped so many people in need.

Morning tea at Wests Illawarra café - 10:30am Mon 14 Sept.

Our next coffee catch-up will be 14 Sept at 10:30am. We hope to see you there.

Revive Youth: 7pm Friday 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 9 August 2026

$798	First Collection	*- Diocesan Clergy Remuneration Fund*
$526	Second collection	*- Parish expenses*
$437	Tap Point donations	
$340	Planned giving envelopes	
$555	Direct debits (weekly average from May).	

Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly

Vinnies Winter Bucket Appeal 22/23 Aug

Vinnies Unanderra Conference will hold its annual Winter Appeal collection after each Mass next weekend 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 16 August 2026

On The Journey this Week: Fr John Corrigan says this Gospel models Christian prayer through humility, simplicity, courage, and unwavering persistence. Mother Hilda asks what is it that makes a person officially awesome? Bishop Tony Percy says that we're passing through a time of intense spiritual crisis, i.e., a crisis of truth and a crisis of love, and we might also add, a crisis of hope. Pete Gilmore says that prayer can often feel like a one-way "social media status update" to God. Listen at www.jcr.org.au

ST CARLO ACUTIS
– Relic and display

Monday 14 Sept to Monday 21 Sept

Our diocese is excited to be hosting the International Carlo Acutis Major Relic Pilgrimage. The relic will visit the parishes of Oran Park (Mon 14), Rosemeadow (Tue 15) Nowra (16 and 17), and the Wollongong Cathedral (Fri 18 - Mon 21), with opportunities for veneration of the first-class relic of St Carlo, participating in the sacraments, and visiting St Carlo's own Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition. Everyone, but especially students and young adults will be amazed and drawn into a deep experience of faith in encountering St Carlo's story, relic and the display. For more information go to: www.stcarloaustralia.com

CATHOLIC CARE
Marriage Enrichment Course

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

CatholicCare Wollongong is preparing a day of renewal for married couples. 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. 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.

16 AUGUST – TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

First Reading – Isaiah 56:1, 6-7 ***I will lead the foreigners to my holy mountain.***

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest. Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

Responsorial Psalm – O God, let all the nations praise you.

1. O God, be gracious and bless us
   and let your face shed its light upon us.
   So will your ways be known upon earth
   and all nations learn your saving help. **R.**
2. Let the nations be glad and exult
   for you rule the world with justice.
   With fairness you rule the peoples,
   you guide the nations on earth. **R.**
3. Let the peoples praise you, O God;
   let all the peoples praise you.
   May God still give us his blessing
   till the ends of the earth revere him. **R.**

Second Reading - Romans 11: 13-15, 29-32 ***The gifts and call of God are irrevocable.***

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia Jesus preached the Good news of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. Alleluia!

Gospel - Matthew 15:21-28 ***Woman, you have great faith.***

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

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