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*		

TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) — 23 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 24 Aug *St Bartholomew, apostle*	Mass: 8am	
Tues 25 Aug *St Louis, St Joseph Calasanz*	Mass: 5:30pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:50pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm	
Wed 26 Aug		Reconciliation: 4:30pm - 5:20pm Adoration: 4:30pm - 5:30pm Mass: 5:30pm
Thurs 27 Aug *St Monicar*	Mass: 5:30pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:50pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm	
Fri 28 Aug *St Augustine, bishop, doctor*		Mass: 7:45am
Sat 29 Aug *The Passion of St John the Baptist*	Mass: 5pm	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9:30am - 10:30am
Sun 30 Aug	Mass: 8am *Mass: 10am (Polish)*	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Michael Murphy, Michael Abellar, Adriana Colella April Thrift, Vlaho Carevic

Anniversaries

Des Cundy, John Packham, Germano Roso, Margaret Walsh, Thomas Brown, Nancy Bugeja, Bob Lloyd, Mary Evans, Clare O'Neil.

Prayers for the sick

Kathleen (Katie) Thomas, Peter Stevens, Rachael Wakeley Iris Brown, Mr Leandro, Steven Brown, Kevin Murphy, Peter Lathourakis, Antoinette Sakr, Lien Tran, George Hoyn, Noel Meddows, Quoc H Tran, Trace Lee Wood, Julie Connor, 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

This weekend we will hold the ***St Vincent De Paul annual Winter Appeal***. This is our opportunity as a parish community to provide prayerful and financial support to the work of our local St Vincent De Paul volunteers, who tirelessly reach out to those most in need in our community. I take this opportunity on behalf of our parish community to thank these volunteers for being the face of Christ to people in times of crisis, bringing not only practical support, but compassion, understanding, hope, and a reminder of their true dignity and worth, when most needed. Every donation will help this work to continue to meet the growing needs throughout our region – thank you all for your generosity and prayers for this vital work of the Church.

Fr Joseph and I have been grateful for the opportunity this week to enter into our annual spiritual retreat with the other clergy of the Diocese. We prayed for you all, and thank you for your best wishes and prayers for us. Our Diocese of Wollongong is blessed with a number of retreat centres and opportunities throughout the year, which you might like to consider taking up yourself at some stage. If you would like to know more, please contact the parish office and we will provide you with more details.

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

It is easy to get caught up in the busyness of the day; the noise of the television, the addiction of checking our phones, the noise surrounding us in the shopping centre, the demands of housework etc, etc.
I would think very few of us could testify to witnessing an enormous miracle, but every day miracles come our way; a friendly smile, a thoughtful gesture by another, an unexpected phone call, the kindness of a stranger.

Have you the eyes to recognise these little miracles. Are you able to express a prayer of gratitude? Are you seeing or just looking?

Sr Kerry Gardiner

ROSTER — THIS WEEKEND

August	**Church Washing**	Susan Adams	
Sat 22 Aug	**Church Cleaning**	McInerney Family, A Williams, A Luccitti	
Sat 22 Aug	**Lawns**	*No lawn mowing this week*	
	Lectors	**Welcomers**	**Children's liturgy**
5pm 22 Aug	N O'Donoghue	A Frino	
8am 23 Aug	C Lyon	A Kelly, N Dunne	Maria Matos, Anne Vaassen
Counters	S Alessi, A Davis, M Lyon		

ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

August	**Church Washing**	Susan Adams	
Sat 29 Aug	**Church Cleaning**	St Pius X school staff	
Sat 29 Aug	**Lawns**	*No lawn mowing this week*	
	Lectors	**Welcomers**	**Children's liturgy**
5pm 29 Aug	M Rodwell	S Adams	
8am 30 Aug	Hayward	M Matos	Alison Sharwood, Luke Jansons
Counters	A Kelly, B Farraway		

PARISH NEWS

Morning tea – Sunday 23 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.

Vinnies Winter Bucket Appeal 22/23 Aug

Vinnies Unanderra Conference will hold its annual Winter Appeal collection after each Mass this weekend. Envelopes are 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.

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. It is fortnightly this term 21 August, 4 & 18 September, 7pm to 9pm at St Therese School Hall. Come along and invite others to any or all of these evenings!
Contact ***reviveyouth25@gmail.com*** for more information.

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

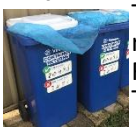
7pm, 2nd & 4th Thurs of the month, St Therese Parish Centre. Message us on FB or Inst (@sticyoungadults) to join our WhatsApp for regular updates.

Parish Finances - week ending 16 August 2026

$848	First Collection	*- Diocesan Clergy Remuneration Fund*
$581	Second collection	*- Parish expenses*
$374	Tap Point donations	
$312	Planned giving envelopes	
$555	Direct debits (weekly average from May).	

Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly

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

THE JOURNEY
CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME
– Airs Sunday 23 August 2026

On The Journey this Week: Fr Josh Whitehead says through Jesus we can come to know God's mind, heart and will. Mother Hilda reflects on the African philosophy of Ubuntu which translated means I am because you are. Bishop Tony Percy reflects on how the Church has survived and thrived. Christy Honeysett reflects on a gap between knowing intellectually that God loves us unconditionally while still struggling to trust and experience that love in our hearts. 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.
Registration at: renewedandsent.com.au.

ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD OF REV SETH HARSH

10:30am Saturday 12 September 2026
Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church, Rosemeadow

The Diocese of Wollongong warmly invites you to celebrate the ordination to the priesthood of Rev Seth Harsh, to be conferred by Bishop Brian Mascord.
RSVP: 1 September 2026 rsvp.dow.org.au Ph: 4222 2400
Light refreshments immediately to follow.
Thanksgiving Mass – 5pm Sunday 13 September 2026
You are also warmly invited to attend a Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated by Fr Seth at All Saints Catholic Church 19 College Avenue, Shellharbour

23 AUGUST – TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

First Reading – Isaiah 22:19-23 ***I will lead the foreigners to my holy mountain.***

Thus says the Lord of Hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace:

I dismiss you from your office,
I remove you from your post,
and the same day I call on my servant
Eliakim son of Hilkiah.
I invest him with your robe,
gird him with your sash,
entrust him with your authority;
and he shall be a father
to the inhabitants of Jerusalem
and to the House of Judah.
I place the key of the House of David
on his shoulder;
should he open, no one shall close,
should he close, no one shall open.
I drive him like a peg
into a firm place;
he will become a throne of glory
for his father's house.

Responsorial Psalm – Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart:
you have heard the words of my mouth.
In the presence of the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple. **R.**
2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love,
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul. **R.**
3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly
and the haughty he knows from afar.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands. **R.**

Second Reading - Romans 11: 33-36 ***From him, through him, and in him are all things***

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church and the gates of hell will not hold out against it. Alleluia!

Gospel - Matthew 16:13-20 ***You are Peter, to you I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven.***

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.