# 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*
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## TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) — 30 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 31 Aug** | Mass: 8am | |
| **Tues 1 Sep** *World Day of prayer for creation* | Mass: 5:30pm<br>Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:50pm<br>Rosary: 6pm<br>Adoration: 6pm - 7pm | |
| **Wed 2 Sep** | | Reconciliation: 4:30pm - 5:20pm<br>Adoration: 4:30pm - 5:30pm<br>Mass: 5:30pm |
| **Thurs 3 Sep** *St Gregory the Great, pope, doctor* | Mass: 5:30pm<br>Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:50pm<br>Rosary: 6pm<br>Adoration: 6pm - 7pm | |
| **Fri 4 Sep** | Adoration: 6pm - 9pm | Mass: 7:45am |
| **Sat 5 Sep** *The Teresa of Calcutta* | Mass: 5pm | Rosary: 8:30am<br>Mass: 9am<br>Reconciliation: 9:30am - 10:30am |
| **Sun 6 Sep** | Mass: 8am<br>*Mass: 10am (Polish)* | Mass: 10am<br>Mass: 5pm |

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

**Recently Deceased**
*Ana Frkovic, Michael Murphy, Michael Abellar, Adriana Colella*

**Anniversaries**
*Gary Samways, Nancy Crowe, Richard Roche, Bruce Walsh, Michael Van Linden, Dorothy Costello*

**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

The last Sunday in August is ***"Social Justice Sunday",*** and an opportunity to turn our attention to this year's Social Justice Statement of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, entitled *"Living the Gospel in Times of Social Division"* (and the Statement can be accessed online by searching this title; if you have difficulty accessing it please contact the parish office.) This is a timely theme, as the Bishops rightly note the increasing division and polarisation across the world including in Australia. I encourage you all to read and reflect upon the Social Justice Statement; as they say, the transformation we want to see will begin in our own hearts:

*"The love of Christ and the witness of His life offer a powerful answer to a fractured and polarised world, with a vision of community and flourishing that goes beyond mere 'tolerance' or 'coexistence'. Jesus calls His followers to a radically different way of living, marked by mercy, forgiveness and a genuine commitment to the good of others. This transformation begins in the conversion of the human heart; social cohesion grows when individuals allow their attitudes and actions to be shaped by love and humility."*

I also take this opportunity to encourage everyone who might be interested in how we can continue renewing and growing our parish community to register for the ***"Renewed and Sent"*** Conference on 1-3 October. This will be an inspiring and informative conference with hundreds of committed parishioners from our Diocese and beyond, and internationally renowned speakers. If you are interested in knowing more about it, or need subsidisation for the cost of the conference, or even if you simply register – please contact the parish office to let us know. The more parishioners who can make it, the better!

*We offer the 8am Sunday Mass for Stephen Wilson, who was called home to God earlier this year. We pray also for his parents Ruth and Peter and all Stephen's family as they celebrate his birthday. May Stephen enjoy perfect peace and joy in the loving embrace of our God, and his family find comfort in that same embrace, supported by our prayers.*

***Fr Duane Fernandez***

# Message from Sr Kerry

While on a family trip we stopped in the town of Holbrook to stretch the legs and enjoy a coffee. As we passed the old Convent which was in the main street, I was taken by a plaque in the grounds. The plaque was for a sister who had come from Ireland. At the age of twenty-one Nora joined the Sisters and came to Australia where she was stationed at Holbrook. Nora died at the age of twenty-six. The plaque mentions that she didn't live long enough to even make her Final Profession. It was here she was buried.

This sister's story goes back one hundred and fifty years. I know nothing else about her but can only imagine what life was like for her and how she dedicated her life in love and service for God's people.

Imagine how this was for her and for her family. Imagine the heartache of not ever having your daughter return home but die in a foreign land on the other side of the world…..and at such a young age. I wouldn't think there would be too many tombstones that survive such time and still tell the story.

Have you ever read *'The Dash.'* I suggest you google it and think of the gift you are to our world and our community…..and give thanks to God.

***Sr Kerry Gardiner***

## ROSTER — THIS 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** | J Haywood | M Matos | Alison Sharwood, Luke Jansons |
| **Counters** | A Kelly, B Farraway | | |

## ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **September** | **Church Washing** | Barbara Farraway | |
| **Sat 5 Sept** | **Church Cleaning** | D Attard, L Lathourakis | |
| **Sat 5 Sept** | **Lawns** | H Fernandez, L Milan, Broeckmann Family, Q Nghi, M Boncampagni. | |
| | **Lectors** | **Welcomers** | **Children's liturgy** |
| **5pm 5 Sept** | M and C Carolan | V and C Davis | |
| **8am 6 Sept** | M Matos | G Simmonite and A Arnone | Alexia Palma, Eleisha Benedetti |
| **Counters** | M Murphy, C Stratton, M Winner | | |

# PARISH NEWS

***Morning tea – Sunday 30 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 – thank you***

The Unanderra Conference of St Vincent de Paul Society would like to thank all the generous Parishioners who supported our Winter Bucket Appeal. A Total of **$4,699.05** has been raised to date. Donations can still be made using the poor box in the church or by placing an envelope addressed to St Vincent De Paul Society Unanderra Conference in the Mass collection plate. All monies raised are used to support the poor of our parish. 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 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.

***Eucharistic Adoration – 6pm to 9pm Friday 4 Sept***

All are invited to Eucharistic Adoration next Friday 4 Sept, 6pm to 9pm, in the church. Come for any part of the evening with the Sacrament of Reconciliation also available.

***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 23 August 2026***

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| $657 | First Collection | *- Diocesan Clergy Remuneration Fund* |
| $468 | Second collection | *- Parish expenses* |
| $436 | Tap Point donations | |
| $265 | Planned giving envelopes | |
| $555 | Direct debits (weekly average from May). | |

*Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly*

***Invitation – Volunteers afternoon tea – 2pm Sunday 20 Sept***

Parish volunteers are invited to afternoon tea at St Pius X school hall on Sunday 20 Sept at 2pm. Please RSVP to the parish office by 13 September for catering purposes.

***Recycle bins***

Thank you for 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.

# THE JOURNEY
## CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME – Airs Sunday 30 August 2026

On The Journey this Week: Fr Joshua Scott says being a Christian means we are called not to comfort but to greatness. Mother Hilda says we can begin to see situations through God's eyes by showing compassion and mercy. Tony Percy reflects on the theology of the body. Mark Raue delves into this year's Social Justice Sunday statement, "Living the Gospel in Times of Social Division." Fr Mike Delaney looks at practical aspects of today's Social Justice statement. 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

# FORMATION PATHWAY
## The next Faithful Step

**Wednesday 2 September, 7pm to 9pm**

What is God asking of our parish now?
Parish renewal isn't about finding the perfect programme or copying what worked somewhere else. It's about learning to recognise where God is moving, discerning what he may be asking of us, and having the courage to take the next faithful step. This important formation is for clergy, parish and ministry leaders, and parishioners, and is the perfect preparation for the Parish Renewal Summit in October.
To register: dow.sh/fpsept2026

# 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

# 30 AUGUST – TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

**First Reading – Jeremiah 20:7-9** ***The word of the Lord God has meant derision for me.***

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced;
you have overpowered me: you were the stronger.
I am a daily laughing-stock,
everybody's butt.
Each time I speak the word, I have to howl
and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!'
The word of the Lord has meant for me
insult, derision, all day long.
I used to say, 'I will not think about him,
I will not speak in his name any more.'
Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart,
imprisoned in my bones.
The effort to restrain it wearied me,
I could not bear it.

**Responsorial Psalm – My Soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.**

1. O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water. **R.**
2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise. R.
3. So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy. **R.**
4. For you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast. R.

**Second Reading - Romans 12:1-2** ***May you present your bodies as a living sacrifice.***

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

**Gospel Acclamation:**

**Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart, that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called. Alleluia!**

**Gospel - Matthew 16:21-27** ***Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself.***

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord;' he said 'this must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'
Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?
'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'