

PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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www.unanderraparish.org.au



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THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER — YEAR A — SUNDAY 26 APRIL 2020

Message from Fr Duane

I have always been struck by the deeply Christian resonance of ANZAC Day commemorations. The words of Jesus, “no one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends” (John 15:13) remind us of the countless lives willingly sacrificed during and since World War I, for the sake of mates, and in defence of our freedom and peace. As we reflect on the horror of war we pray for peace in our world, knowing this is the will of Christ for our world.

Finally, it is worth noting that ANZAC Day always falls in the Easter season. Part of every ANZAC Day service is “the Rouse”, played after the Last Post – a short tune that was played on a bugle to rouse soldiers from their sleep, now symbolising the hope of resurrection from the dead. As Catholics we know the power of praying for the dead, and this day we remember to pray for all who have died in war, with trust in the power of the resurrection of Christ, who has conquered the darkness of suffering and death with the light of life.

This weekend we mark ANZAC Day in the most unique way of our lifetimes. There will be no marches, or Dawn Services, and no opportunity to gather for ANZAC Day Mass. As a nation and as a Church we will look to more creative ways to remember and honour the sacrifices of the ANZACs, and of all our defence forces since World War I.

From the RSL NSW website: “By standing at the end of your driveway, in your living room, or on your balcony at 6am on ANZAC Day, we can be united in the ANZAC spirit to remember all those who served and sacrificed ... some people may choose to hold candles, or lay wreaths on their driveways. For others, it may be a few minutes of contemplative silence.”

<https://www.rslnsw.org.au/news/light-up-the-dawn-on-anzac-day/>

The Diocese of Wollongong will be broadcasting a prayer liturgy with Bishop Brian Mascord at 6am on ANZAC Day (Saturday 25 April) at:

<https://www.dow.org.au>

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-MkrNKf6btRVRELx2i_HjQ

<https://www.facebook.com/WollongongCatholic>

All are welcome to join Bishop Brian for ANZAC Day Mass at 8am at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbGN5jWLF7dE44R2BF2y14A>



The Ode:

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning

We will remember them.

Lest we forget.



SUNDAY MASS with Fr Duane and Seminarian Sinh Le — live streamed at 5pm every Sunday:

At: <https://www.facebook.com/Immaculate-Conception-Unanderra-Parish-102440924742769/>

Or: <https://www.sttherese.com.au>



Fr Duane Fernandez - Parish Priest

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Anniversaries



Laurie GREENING

Charles DEAN

Beverly HOLDING

Ronald STUBBS

Jane ROCHE

Ron BISHOP

Colin HEAPY

CURRENT PARISH OFFICE DAYS/HOURS

The Parish Office staff are currently working limited days/hours — please call 4271 1068 or email unanderra@dow.org.au only (please do not visit). Magda is working on Mondays and Thursdays, and Sue is working from home on Fridays only.

— KEEPING THE LORD'S DAY HOLY — OUR SUNDAY MASS WILL BE LIVE STREAMED EVERY WEEK!

MASS — EVERY SUNDAY AT 5PM

Join Fr Duane and Seminarian Sinh Le for Sunday Mass live streamed from St Therese Church at the St Therese Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/St-Therese-West-Wollongong-Parish-110018837306434/> and note we will also link to it at the Immaculate Conception Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Immaculate-Conception-Unanderra-Parish-102440924742769/> For those without Facebook, you can still view it through this link <https://www.sttherese.com.au>

This is the perfect time to be reminded of the power of Sundays — this day on which Jesus rose from the dead, the most important event in human history, is the day that Christians have gathered together for prayer, Scripture and the Eucharist, since the time of the Apostles. This is the day that the Lord has made sacred, a day of rest and reflection, a day of gratitude, a day of communion with God and with one another. The Sacrament of the Eucharist is the greatest sign and source of this communion, and while we grieve the loss of this opportunity, the Church has always taught that when attending Mass is not physically possible, we can be assured of the renewed and deepened presence of Christ in our hearts by making an act of Spiritual Communion.

There are many prayers of spiritual communion, but this seems the most popular:

Prayer of "Spiritual Communion", given to us by St Alphonsus Liguori (1696-1787):

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

PASTORAL NEEDS

For any pastoral needs,
please contact

Fr Duane on 0414 626 357 or
duane.fernandez@dow.org.au



HOLY PLACES COLLECTION

The collection for the holy places that would have ordinarily occurred at Easter has not been cancelled, it has simply been *postponed until September 2020*.



SPIRITUAL RESOURCES

For daily Masses, parishioners throughout the Diocese are encouraged to access other home worship resources at:

<https://www.dow.org.au/covid-19/daily-online-masses-and-spiritual-resources/>

For those without internet:

Mass For You At Home is available across the Ten (WIN) Network on Sundays at 6am.



ST VINNIES HELP DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Due to the latest restrictions imposed by the Government, Unanderra Conference have now ceased all service calls.

The Coniston Welfare Centre will be available for phone calls between 10am and 2pm Monday to Friday (4228 9355)

The welfare centre will ask that if the person only requires food support, that they can go to the centre for a hot meal, frozen takeaway meal or small quantity of non-perishable food for overnight. Clothing and material assistance will be limited to emergency items only and through the welfare centre. Unfortunately, assistance for electricity and phone accounts is not available at this time due to the necessity for face-to-face interviews.



STAYING CONNECTED WITH GOD AND EACH OTHER

- Encourage others to join our emailing list by contacting Magda/Sue at unanderra@dow.org.au and ask to be added to the list.



- Join our new Facebook pages: "Immaculate Conception Unanderra Parish" and "St Therese West Wollongong Parish" — please tell others too!

60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES *** CONGRATULATIONS ***

Wishing the following parishioners a very happy 60th Wedding Anniversary!

Tony and Dot GELFIUS



Bill and Mary McKECHNIE

Congratulations!



PLANNED GIVING

Some have asked how they can continue to donate to the Parish, in the absence of collections at Mass. Wollongong Diocese has provided the following link to facilitate any contributions that people still wish to make, in the absence of collections at Mass, and explains where the money goes.

If you wish to contribute, please go to:

www.dow.org.au/plannedgiving/

(Please also inform our Parish office for accounting purposes by emailing Magda/Sue at unanderra@dow.org.au)



E-SAFETY IN THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

If you are new to the internet, get some free advice here:
Social Distancing and Online Safety:



<https://www.esafety.gov.au/about-us/blog/covid-19-online-safety-tips-help-older-australianssocial-distancing>

Be connected – learning resources to engage safely online:
<https://beconnected.esafety.gov.au/>

CATHOLIC CARE

We're always here, if you ever need...

These are challenging times for everyone and CatholicCare are here to support you and your family to navigate the uncertainty.

We offer confidential online and phone counselling to support you with the frustration of managing family emotions, relationship pressures and employment changes.

To find out more about CatholicCare's counselling service call us on **4254 9395** or email intakeservice@catholiccare.dow.org.au



THE CHOSEN

The Chosen - Great Family Viewing on the Life of Jesus

Fr Duane has now watched the entire first season of "The Chosen", and highly recommends it. It is a dramatised series imagining the "behind the scenes" lives of Jesus and his contemporaries, interspersed with many accurate Gospel encounters immersed in well researched and carefully constructed scenes that would accurately reflect those times. You can download "The Chosen" app, or watch it free on YouTube (search "The Chosen", episodes 1



through 8 - there is commentary on the YouTube version, which you can watch or skip). If you do watch it, Fr Duane would like to hear how you found it - with permission, he may share your "review" with others!

PLENARY COUNCIL 2020

Plenary Council 2020: Listen To What The Spirit Is Saying ...

In October 2020, the Catholic Church in Australia will gather for the first Plenary Council to be held since the second Vatican Council. In 2018, the entire People of God in Australia began preparing for this historic moment by listening to God, by listening to one another's stories of faith. Unfortunately, due to the current COVID-19 Pandemic, the **PLENARY COUNCIL 2020 ASSEMBLY 1 HAS BEEN POSTPONED.**



www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME – AIRS SUNDAY 26 APRIL 2020 –

Listen in this week for as we hear from Sr Hilda Scott, Fr Mike Delaney from Tasmania, Pete Gilmore from Wollongong and other inputs from some of Australia's best Catholic presenters. There is some brilliant music as we celebrate joyfully – in isolation – this Easter Season.



Go to www.jcr.org.au or www.itunes.jcr.org.au where you can listen any time and subscribe to weekly shows via email

CATH FAMILY

Fr Duane recently had a look around the CathFamily website – www.cathfamily.org – and was most impressed with the material offered there.



The site is providing a lot of extra material for free during this time of lockdown.

There are great articles and resources for marriage and family life, as well as interactive resources and activities for children at:

<https://cathfamily.org/cathkids-faith-unlimited/>

WOLLONGONG HOSPITAL VISITS

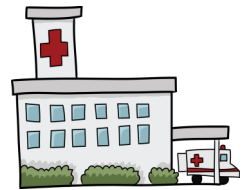
Wollongong Private and Public Hospitals

Fr George Condookala

will be available for visits to the sick.

He can be contacted on

0475 815 506.



A VOCATION VIEW

'Conduct yourselves with reverence during the time of your sojourning.' Now that Christ is raised from the dead, our actions must be changed to reveal this great gift to the world. (1 Peter 1:17)

If you want to talk about your discernment, please contact the Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Duane Fernandez, at vocations@dow.org.au

PRAYER – 7PM EVERY EVENING

A Call to commit to Prayer during the Pandemic every evening at 7pm



The faithful across the Diocese of Wollongong are urged to join with other members of the National Council of Churches, so that all Christians continue to pray at 7pm every night during the Pandemic crisis.

PRAYING FOR OUR WORLD, AMIDST COVID-19:

Gracious God,
We give thanks anew for your providence and presence.
We prayerfully seek your grace, amidst COVID-19 here and overseas.
We pray for those in need of healing.
We pray for your peace with those who are anxious or grieving.
We pray you will continue to strengthen and sustain all those who are serving in response.
We pray for your Holy Spirit's discernment amidst the many choices and decisions facing our national, community and medical leaders.
We pray we each might see quickly what more we can do to help those who are vulnerable.
This prayer for our nation in the family of nations, with all that is on our hearts, we gather now and pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SUNDAY 26 APRIL 2020 — THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A)

First Reading — Acts 2:14, 22-33 — *It was impossible for him to be held by the power of Hades.*

On the day of Pentecost, Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among you, as you all know. This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and foreknowledge of God, you took and had crucified by men outside the Law. You killed him, but God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades; for it was impossible for him to be held in its power since, as David says of him: I saw the Lord before me always, for with him at my right hand nothing can shake me. So my heart was glad and my tongue cried out with joy: my body, too, will rest in the hope that you will not abandon my soul to Hades nor allow your holy one to experience corruption. You have made known the way of life to me, you will fill me with gladness through your presence.

'Brothers, no one can deny that the patriarch David himself is dead and buried: his tomb is still with us. But since he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn him an oath to make one of his descendants succeed him on the throne, what he foresaw and spoke about was the resurrection of the Christ: he is the one who was not abandoned to Hades, and whose body did not experience corruption. God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witnesses to that. Now raised to the heights by God's right hand, he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit.'

Responsorial Psalm — *Lord, you will show us the path of life.*

1. Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you. I say to the Lord: 'You are my God.'
O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup; it is you yourself who are my prize. R.
2. I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel, who even at night directs my heart.
I keep the Lord ever in my sight: since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. R.
3. And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad; even my body shall rest in safety.
For you will not leave my soul among the dead, nor let your beloved know decay. R.
4. You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence,
at your right hand happiness for ever. R.



Second Reading — 1 Peter 1:17-21 — *The ransom that was paid to free you was the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ.*

If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home. Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake. Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason – so that you would have faith and hope in God.

Gospel Acclamation — Luke 24:32

Alleluia, alleluia! Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us: make our hearts burn with love when you speak. Alleluia!

Gospel — Luke 24:13-35 — *They recognised him at the breaking of the bread.*

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast.

Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.'

Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?' They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.