

# PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

48-50 Princes Highway (PO Box 14) Unanderra NSW 2526

[www.unanderraparish.org.au](http://www.unanderraparish.org.au)



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**School Principal:** Mrs Pauline Chrostowski

**Parish Secretaries:** Mrs Magda Pires (Mon/Thu)  
Mrs Sue Briscoe (Fri)

**Parish Office:** Phone: 4271 1068  
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## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR A – SUNDAY 3 MAY 2020

### *Message from Fr Duane*

#### **GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY – 57TH WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS:**

This Sunday — the fourth Sunday of Easter — is “Good Shepherd Sunday” and the 57th World Day of Prayer for Vocations. In my capacity as Vocations Director for our diocese, I have provided a video message for this weekend, beautifully put together by Pete Gilmore, Daniel Hopper, Seth Harsh and Jeremy Yuen from the Office of the Bishop. The video has been shared through our Parish Facebook page and is also available on the diocesan website at <https://dow.sh/VocationsMessage2020>. Let us take this opportunity to pray for all of us to grow in our vocations, and all young people to come to hear God’s call in their lives – to marriage, single life, consecrated life and ordained ministry.

Let’s also take this opportunity to pray for our current Seminarians, James Arblaster and our own Sinh Le, as they continue their priestly formation for Wollongong Diocese. We also remember in prayer the 4 young men from Vietnam - James Minh Quy Tran, Martin Hoang Dang-Pham, Peter Thanh Cong Tran and Joseph Huu Minh Vuong Nguyen – who are spending 3 months in Parishes of Wollongong Diocese, receiving intensive English tuition and experiencing Parish life as they and the Diocese discern together whether they will return for 12 months next year, and possibly proceed to subsequent seminary formation for our Diocese. Finally there are also a number of other young men actively discerning their vocation with the Diocese. Let us hold them all in prayer this weekend and continue to pray for more priests to serve the people of our Diocese into the future.

#### **NEW YOUTUBE CHANNEL:**

Fr Duane and Sinh have created a YouTube Channel called “ICAST Immaculate Conception & St Therese Parishes”. It is a combined channel for both parishes partly for ease of live streaming Masses, and also to maximise “subscriptions” to the channel, because YouTube works in such a way that the more people who click “subscribe” to our channel, the more functions become available for us to use. So please “subscribe” to the channel at [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCG6HKCV4D\\_a1JMWx0gS7rTw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCG6HKCV4D_a1JMWx0gS7rTw) (you need a YouTube account to subscribe, but you can sign up for free if you wish). **Note:** we hope to upload videos other than Masses into the future, and by clicking “subscribe” you will receive notifications of our videos as we upload them.

**Fr Duane Fernandez - Parish Priest**

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

### Recently Deceased

Allan PARRISH

Joy CULLEN

### Anniversaries

Laurie GREENING

Moira DOYLE

Peter O'KEEFE

Arthur VARLEY



## 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](mailto: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!**

**ONLINE MASS — EVERY SUNDAY AT 5PM**

Join Fr Duane and Seminarian Sinh Le for Sunday Mass live streamed from St Therese Church 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>

And this week we will also stream it through our new YouTube channel at [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCG6HKCV4D\\_a1JMWx0gS7rTw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCG6HKCV4D_a1JMWx0gS7rTw)

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.**

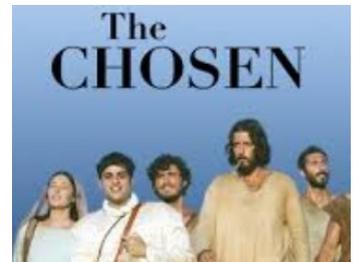
## CORONA MINISTRIES

**UPDATE:** Some weeks ago we asked for volunteers for "Corona Ministries" who may be willing to help reach out to the elderly and isolated in our community during these times. There was a great response to this call. The protocols for Corona ministries, ensuring the safety for all involved during these complex times, have now been finalised after much discussion within the Parish and with the Diocese. The protocols have been shared with those who have volunteered. At the moment it is primarily a phone call ministry, matching a volunteer to one of our isolated parishioners who would love a chat. There is also a mailing list now for those without internet, with the bulletins and a written homily. If anyone would be willing to add some uplifting content to our mailouts – especially those with children who may like to contribute pictures or messages – please contact me at [duane.fernandez@dow.org.au](mailto:duane.fernandez@dow.org.au) with the subject "Corona Ministries". Also we are relying on all of you to connect us with those in the community who may benefit from these ministries.

## "THE CHOSEN"

**UPDATE:** A number of people have watched "The Chosen" and sent reviews to Fr Duane.

Most were positive, except for one important negative review which reminded Father that episode 1 is NOT suitable for small children.



There are no "ratings" on YouTube but we would suggest an "M" rating for episode 1, with some violence, sexual references, and a scene involving demonic possession. However from episode 2 onwards Fr Duane would suggest a "PG" rating.

It becomes more interesting and uplifting as the series progresses.

Free on YouTube, or download the app.

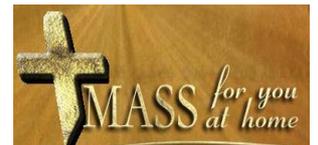
## SPIRITUAL RESOURCES

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.



## PASTORAL NEEDS

**For any pastoral needs,  
please contact Fr Duane**

**on 0414 626 357 or  
[duane.fernandez@dow.org.au](mailto:duane.fernandez@dow.org.au)**



## PLANNED GIVING DURING THE PANDEMIC

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/](http://www.dow.org.au/plannedgiving/) or call the office 4271 1068.

**(If you use the above link to sign up for planned giving, please also inform our Parish office for accounting purposes by contacting Magda/Sue at [unanderra@dow.org.au](mailto:unanderra@dow.org.au) / 4271 1068).**



## COLLECTING USED STAMPS FOR PERU



### Did you know that your used stamps can help the poor of Peru?

The Sisters of St Joseph carrying out much-needed charity and educational work amongst Peru's poor and youth — and our used postage stamps are sold to raise funds for this work.

Please continue to collect them at home and/or work, and maybe ask your family and friends to save their used stamps too ... your contribution is greatly appreciated! When we're all able to go back to church, you will be able to place your big bundle of used stamps in the Used Stamp Box in our church.

*Please remember to cut a 1cm/½" border around the stamp(s).*

## CATHOLIC CARE

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



These are challenging times for everyone and CatholicCare is 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, please call us on **4254 9395** or email [intakeservice@catholiccare.dow.org.au](mailto:intakeservice@catholiccare.dow.org.au)

## 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 10am—2pm Monday—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 a 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.

## PRAY WITH POPE FRANCIS DURING MAY FOR AN END TO THE PANDEMIC

Pope Francis has asked Catholics to make a special effort in May (the month especially dedicated to Mary) to pray the Rosary, knowing that by doing so they would be united with believers around the world asking for Mary's intercession in stopping the coronavirus pandemic. Pope Francis has written the prayer below that can be recited at the end of the rosary, which he said he would be reciting "in spiritual union with all of you." If you like you can aim for 7pm to know you are praying at the same time as other parishioners. Find out more about the Rosary at: <https://www.marian.org/mary/rosary/>



### Prayer to recite at the end of the Rosary this May:

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who, at the foot of the cross, were united with Jesus' suffering, and persevered in your faith. You know our needs, and we know that you will provide, so that, as at Cana in Galilee, joy and celebration may return after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the will of the Father and to do what Jesus tells us. For he took upon himself our suffering, and burdened himself with our sorrows to bring us, through the cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

*Note: The Feast Day of Our Lady Help of Christians, Patroness of Australia, will be on 24 May. Our Lady Help of Christians, Pray for us.*

## STAYING CONNECTED WITH GOD & EACH OTHER

- Encourage others to join our emailing list by contacting Magda/Sue at [unanderra@dow.org.au](mailto:unanderra@dow.org.au) and ask to be added to the list.
- Please join our new Facebook pages: "Immaculate Conception Unanderra Parish" and "St Therese Parish West Wollongong"



*Please tell others too!*

## WEEKLY ADORATION



Adoration will be live-streamed Wednesday nights. The NET Team will be hosting a **Holy Hour every Wednesday at 6.30pm**. This will be a time set aside for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

This will be broadcast via:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cymdow/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/wollongongnetteam/>

## 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**.



## SUNDAY 3 MAY 2020 — FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A)

**First Reading** — Acts 2:14,36-41 — *God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ.*

On the day of Pentecost, Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd with a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.'

Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.' They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.

**Responsorial Psalm** — *The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

1. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose.  
Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. R.
2. He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name.  
If I should walk in the valley of darkness, no evil would I fear.  
You are there with your crook and your staff;  
with these you give me comfort. R.
3. You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes.  
My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. R.
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life.  
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. R.



**Second Reading** — 1 Peter 2:20-25 — *You had gone astray but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.*

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty. This, in fact, is what you were called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

**Gospel Acclamation** — John 10:14

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me. Alleluia!

**Gospel** — John 10:1-10 — *I am the gate of the sheepfold.*

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.'

Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them.

So Jesus spoke to them again:

'I tell you most solemnly, I am the gate of the sheepfold.

All others who have come are thieves and brigands; but the sheep took no notice of them. I am the gate.

Anyone who enters through me will be safe: he will go freely in and out and be sure of finding pasture.

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.'