

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 Assistant: Sr Kerry Gardiner
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Parish Pastoral Council President: Mark Walsh
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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 Pauline Chrostowski

Parish Secretary: Mrs Melissa Bridges (Mon/Wed/Fri)

Parish Office: Email: unanderra@dow.org.au
Website: www.unanderraparish.org.au
Phone: 4271 1068
Fax: 4271 1298

TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B) – 29 AUGUST 2021

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.

Message from Fr Duane

As I mentioned two weeks ago, Magda, our parish secretary who has been with us for 2 years, job-sharing first with Sue Briscoe and more recently with Melissa, is leaving this role to move to a new challenge. Sadly it is impossible for us to get together to give Magda a proper farewell at this time, to show our gratitude to her for all she has brought to us and wish her all the best for this next chapter - however we look forward to the first safe opportunity to do so. For now, on behalf of the parish community I thank Magda once again for her dedicated service, and for her friendship and support to me, Fr Jerzy and many others in our parish community. Thankfully, Melissa has agreed to take on extra hours, and please see the new office hours from this week onwards. Magda has formed a wonderful team with Melissa, and Magda has provided training and handover to Melissa during these past two weeks to enable Melissa to take on the additional tasks now required of her. We have been very blessed with our parish secretaries in Sue, Magda and Melissa during my time here, and let us continue to support Melissa as she takes on the new tasks entrusted to her.

This Sunday is Social Justice Sunday, and I encourage you all to read the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Statement, responding to Pope Francis's call to an action plan arising from his encyclical Laudato Si. In the spirit of our Catholic commitment to social justice it is also timely that Caritas Australia is giving us an opportunity to make a real difference for those suffering around the world in the various human emergencies of our time. You can donate at <https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/> and if you don't have the financial means to do so, please continue to hold in prayer the present crises in Haiti, Ethiopia, Afghanistan and elsewhere.

Finally I know there are also many people struggling in a variety of ways locally, and if you or anyone you know is struggling in any way please do not hesitate to reach out for help. Vinnies can provide a range of financial assistance and also other services, which you can access by calling Mick Winner (0423 658 411) or Josephine Haywood (0425 236 214). For counselling services you may wish to call CatholicCare through 4254 9395 or email intakeservice@catholiccare.dow.org.au, or you can find a number of mental health services at this site: <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/mentalhealth/Pages/mental-health-line.aspx>. As always please never hesitate to contact Sister Kerry or myself for general pastoral needs. Our "care call" team is continuing to call parishioners as well, and if you would like to receive a call please let Melissa know at unanderra@dow.org.au or 4271 1068.

Fr Duane Fernandez—Parish Priest

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Dorothy Philpott, Barry Bolt
Goitom Woldermariam
Filomena Maruca, Jane Barrett
Jereld Dwyer, Brian Barlow

Anniversaries

Colleen Schmitzer, Nancy Crowe,
Aubrey Phillips, John Andrews
Gary Samways, Dorothy May Costello

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

unanderra@dow.org.au / 4271 1068

Monday: 8:30am-3:30pm

Tuesday: Closed

Wednesday: 8:30am-3:30pm

Thursday: Closed

Friday: 8:30am-3pm

Message from Sr Kerry

Dear Parishioners and Friends of Immaculate Conception Parish Unanderra,

Last week, via live streaming, I attended the funeral of a family friend. Paul died suddenly, so one could say he lived his life to the full to the very last minute.

Paul was a good man. It would be very easy to speak well of him and his goodness. However, something really struck me during the funeral. A word that kept coming through was his 'connectedness' to others. Upon reflection I think that says so much about a person. To be connected we must communicate, listen, respond, be present to the other.

When speaking with Paul's sister, my best friend since we were children, Catherine spoke of how she had heard so many wonderful things about Paul since his death. Also, how she heard from so many people she didn't even know, but obviously they were part of Paul's life. Catherine learnt beautiful attributes of Paul she wasn't even aware of e.g he visited others in prison.

It seems to all present at the funeral that Paul lived the words from our second reading, 'Humbly welcome the word that has been planted in you.' Paul humbly welcomed the word that God had planted within him, and with goodness and love, lived the word.

Are you able to sit quietly and ponder what is the word planted within you? Are you grateful for this gift? More so, how do you live this gift? What word or phrase would you like spoken about you at your funeral?

This week may each of us have the courage to live the gift we are.

Sr Kerry Gardiner

LIVE STREAMED MASSES



Sunday 5pm Mass at West Wollongong with Fr Duane continues to be live-streamed every week:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/ICASTImmaculateConceptionStThereseParishes>



**MASS
FOR YOU**
at home

Mass for you at home: <https://massforyou.com.au/>

ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

	Church Washing	
Sun	Counting	
Sat	Church Cleaning	
	Lectors	Lawns —
Sat 6pm Mass		No Lawn mowing this week
Sun 8am Mass		

ALL YOUR PASTORAL NEEDS



For any pastoral needs:
please contact



Fr Duane Fernandez - 0414 626 357
duane.fernandez@dow.org.au
Sr Kerry Gardiner - 0421 463 871
Kerry.Gardiner@sosj.org.au

PARISH GIVING

We have received requests from parishioners asking how they can financially support the parish of Immaculate Conception during COVID lockdown while unable to attend Sunday mass.

In a previous message from the Parish Finance Council it was strongly recommended that regular contributions be made by electronic funds transfer. These can be a one off donation or a regular weekly or monthly contribution.

One off donations can be made directly into the parish bank account: Immaculate Conception Church

BSB: 066-711 Account No: 001789

Regular contributions can be organised by completing the Catholic Development Fund Planned Giving Direct Debit Form on www.dow.org.au/plannedgiving.

Monthly contributions are deducted on the 10th of each month.

If you organise a regular contribution or make a one off donation, please advise the parish office either by email unanderra@dow.org.au or by contacting the parish office on **4271 1068** so the parish records can be updated. Thank you.

VOCATION NEWS



You are called to be a person of integrity. Live in a way that shows that God is your centre. (Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23)

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

BISHOP'S SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM PARENTAL SURVEY

A discussion paper to assist in the development of a Sacraments of Initiation policy for the Diocese is being developed and Bishop Mascord is seeking feedback from parents and, via parishes, is reaching out especially to parents with children in state schools who have presented their sons daughters for the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. If that is you, we would love to hear from you!

You can access the Survey by simply clicking here: <https://dow.sh/SacramentsSurvey> and we would be most grateful for your feedback.

ONLINE ALPHA

Catholic Youth Ministry Wollongong is holding an online youth alpha series for all young people **aged 13 to 18 years old**.

Youth Alpha is a video series that tackles questions on faith, life, and God. The weekly online youth group will run from **7pm to 8pm each Friday** starting soon. For more information and to register your interest, please visit <https://forms.gle/oXmRjx6QkNeydihs8>

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME – AIRS SUNDAY 29 AUGUST 2021 –

On the Journey this week: Dr Sandie Cornish explains this year's social justice statement. Fr Mark De Battista says the gospel calls for ruthless honesty with ourselves and the willingness to see the truth about ourselves as it really is. Plus, Mother Hilda on our true heritage & identity with God, our Father and Trish McCarthy about simplicity, being intentional, and compassionate. Listen at jcr.org.au



CARITAS AUSTRALIA – YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED



Your support can provide aid and relief to humanitarian crisis, like the one currently unfolding in Afghanistan,

Lebanon and Haiti, where hundreds of thousands of people are now facing displacement, drought, COVID-19 and poverty.

To provide support, you can donate to Caritas Australia's Emergency Response Appeal at <https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/> or by calling 1800 024 413 toll free.

SOCIAL MEDIA TEAM

Our Parish Social Media Team kicked off during last year's lockdown and has been doing wonderful work. We are now looking for more volunteers to take it to another level, so that we can provide more and more opportunities for us to connect with each other and with the broader community online. If you are willing to join the Social Media Team, contact Melissa at unanderra@dow.org.au

SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT

We celebrate **Social Justice Sunday on 29 August**. The Australian Bishops' Social Justice Statement, Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor, invites us to join in responding to Pope Francis' invitation to take a seven-year journey towards total ecological sustainability guided by seven Laudato Si' Goals. The Statement provides theological foundations to ground and inspire our efforts to care for creation while responding to the needs of the disadvantaged and excluded. To read more:

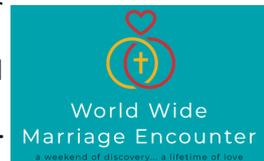
<https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2021/06/24/social-justice-statement-2021-22/>

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT

We are offering an opportunity for you to learn to become the best version of yourselves together and live your best life in love!

Come and join us on **September 10 - 12, 2021** for a Virtual Marriage Encounter Weekend via Zoom. Open to married couples, priests & religious.

Book online at www.wwme.org.au or contact Christine & Terry Mahony on 0490 774 419 or nswbookings@wwme.org.au



29 AUGUST 2021 — TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B)

First Reading — Deuteronomy 4:1-2,6-8

You may add to the word which I speak to you—keep the commands of the Lord

Moses said to the people: ‘Now, Israel, take notice of the laws and customs that I teach you today, and observe them, that you may have life and may enter and take possession of the land that the Lord the God of your fathers is giving you. You must add nothing to what I command you, and take nothing from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God just as I lay them down for you. Keep them, observe them, and they will demonstrate to the peoples your wisdom and understanding. When they come to know of all these laws they will exclaim, “No other people is as wise and prudent as this great nation.” And indeed, what great nation is there that has its gods so near as the Lord our God is to us whenever we call to him? And what great nation is there that has laws and customs to match this whole Law that I put before you today?’

Responsorial Psalm — **The just will live in the presence of the Lord.**

1. Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain? He who walks without fault;
he who acts with justice and speaks the truth from his heart. R.
2. He who does no wrong to his brother, who casts no slur on his neighbour,
who holds the godless in disdain, but honours those who fear the Lord. R.
3. He who keeps his pledge, come what may; who takes no interest on a loan
and accepts no bribes against the innocent.
Such a man will stand firm for ever. R.

Second Reading — James 1:17-18,21-22,27

Be doers of the word.

It is all that is good, everything that is perfect, which is given us from above; it comes down from the Father of all light; with him there is no such thing as alteration, no shadow of a change. By his own choice he made us his children by the message of the truth so that we should be a sort of first-fruits of all that he had created.

Accept and submit to the word which has been planted in you and can save your souls. But you must do what the word tells you, and not just listen to it and deceive yourselves.

Pure, unspoiled religion, in the eyes of God our Father is this: coming to the help of orphans and widows when they need it, and keeping oneself uncontaminated by the world.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia Alleluia! The Father gave us birth by his message of truth, that we might be as the first fruits of his creation. Alleluia!

Gospel — Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23

You forget the commandments of God to hold on to human tradition.

The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus, and they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. For the Pharisees, and the Jews in general, follow the tradition of the elders and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow; and on returning from the market place they never eat without first sprinkling themselves. There are also many other observances which have been handed down to them concerning the washing of cups and pots and bronze dishes. So these Pharisees and scribes asked him, ‘Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders but eat their food with unclean hands?’ He answered, ‘It was of you hypocrites that Isaiah so rightly prophesied in this passage of scripture:

This people honours me only with lip-service,
while their hearts are far from me.
The worship they offer me is worthless,
the doctrines they teach are only human regulations.

You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.’ He called the people to him again and said, ‘Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean. For it is from within, from men’s hearts, that evil intentions emerge: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within and make a man unclean.’