

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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School Principal: Mrs Pauline Chrostowski

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

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TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B) – 19 SEPT 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

This weekend the Diocese of Wollongong is holding the Bishop's Annual Appeal for the support of retired clergy. There are 13 retired clergy in the Diocese of Wollongong, including of course Fr Graham Schmitzer who recently retired from Immaculate Conception Parish Unanderra. There will also be another 5 clergy expected to retire in the next few years. You can watch a video here and see how you may wish to contribute to the support of our retired clergy: <https://www.dow.org.au/giving/> Let's keep them all in our prayers as well, and at the same time pray for our 5 seminarians, and others discerning the Priesthood for our Diocese at this time.

I also encourage you all to join the Tuesday evening sessions coming up in the Diocese (via Zoom) on prayer. It is always good to learn new ways of praying – and especially during lockdown, while some of our usual ways of praying together as a community are not available. While we look forward to returning to Masses together, don't wait until that day comes before seeking to actively deepen your relationship with God – who is with you always. For more information and to register visit: <https://www.dow.org.au/events/prayer-seminars/>

Fr Duane Fernandez—Parish Priest

Upcoming Seminars

Centering Prayer	Praying with the Holy Spirit	The Examen	Lectio Divina	Benedictine Path to Prayer	Prayer Journaling
RACHEL BURNETT MBE	PETER GUNDEL	FRANCES FIELD	HELEN BARNES MBE	DR BRIGID MCGEE MBE	DR KERRY CAMPBELL MBE
21st September	28th September	5th October	12th October	19th October	26th October

Prayer Seminars Weekly live presentations, each focusing on different styles of prayer. Every Tuesday 7pm–8:30pm (via Zoom)

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Jane Barrett, Jereld Dwyer,
Brian Barlow, James Mehl
Alexina Bezzina

Anniversaries

Paul Blood, Ellen Brown
Marie La Brody, Dave Mellor
Leslie Heffernan, Ron Costello
Helen Duxbury

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,

The date escapes me, but the feeling is still very strong within me some thirty plus years on.

With other parishioners in the county town of Tenterfield we were gathered in a home and praying the rosary. Suddenly there was an almighty explosion. Literally you could feel the vibrations move across the house – in one side and out the other.

Some weeks later we were gathered for a memorial service to mark the deaths of two young pilots who had been killed when their F111 crashed into a paddock on the outskirts of the town. We were asked to bring a small rock to the service. During the memorial service each person lovingly placed their rock and so a cairn was built.

The gospel today speaks of Jesus and his disciples leaving for a journey through Galilee. Rocks are often used to mark the beginning or progress of a journey. We too are on a journey, a journey we haven't experienced before.

We are walking together a Covid journey. We are struggling in so many ways. We are all touched by Covid in some way. People are confused, sick, badgered by many media outlets often filled with 'fake news', our own relatives and friends are hospitalised. In one way or another we are all struggling.

This week I would like to invite you to be united with each other. Are you able to take a small rock or stone from your garden, place it in a prominent place in your home, perhaps place a candle near your stone and each day remember a prayer for each of us as we walk this Covid journey? As we continue to be apart let's be united in prayer with each other so that we are not alone.

Always with my blessings and prayers,

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

THE BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL – TO SUPPORT THE RETIREMENT AND HEALTH OF CLERGY AND LOCAL PARISH MINISTRIES

To find out more, **view the special appeal video** and to make a donation, please visit www.dow.org.au/giving or call **(02) 4222 2446** to make a donation over the phone.

“Our faith calls us to help one another through prayer and action. Your donation to this appeal will enable me to provide a dignified retirement for our diocesan clergy and ensure that our parish communities stay connected during this time of pandemic. While I acknowledge the pressure that some households are facing at this time, if you are in a financial position to give, I would be very grateful if you would consider giving generously to this appeal.” + Bishop Brian Mascord



VOCATION NEWS



If we want to be great, we must serve others. Are you willing to serve others? You can make a difference with your life. (Mark 9:30-37)

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

SEASON OF CREATION

The Season of Creation begins September 1, on the designated **World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation**. It concludes on **October 4, the Feast of St. Francis**.

The Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace have created five prayer cards which focus on the themes of the statement. This week's prayer focuses on [Sacramentality](#)



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 19 SEPTEMBER 2021 –

On the Journey this week: Fr Brian Lucas on a gospel with two themes – power versus eternal glory and fear, the enemy of faith. Mother Hilda using Jesus' compassion to heal. Michelle Vass asking us to embrace the great silence, and Torrien Lau overcoming fear to allow Jesus to work miracles through us. Listen at jcr.org.au



ALONE CHRIST ALONE : A WOMEN'S RETREAT

Women of all ages are invited to join the Dominican Sisters of St Cecilia for an online retreat into silence, **24-26 September**.

You will provide the silent times and spaces over the course of the weekend. The sisters will provide common times for Mass, communal and private prayer, and talks that delve deeper into the theme of silence.



For more information or to register: <https://www.trybooking.com/BTYGD>
[Click to download flyer](#)

SERVICE NSW—COVID 19 CHECK IN CARD

There is now a quicker and easier way, with Service NSW launching personalised check-in cards to replace scanning in with QR codes for those without smartphones.

The cards contain a unique QR code that holds a person's registered contact details. When they attend a venue, a staff member can scan the card to register their attendance and details, rather than having them fill out a form. The cards are available from [Service NSW online](#), or by calling 13 77 88.

MEN'S KICKSTART PROGRAM: MONDAY NIGHTS 13 SEPT—4 OCT 7:30PM—8PM

Come join other men at any or all of the remaining sessions of Kickstart is being facilitated by menALIVE for the Diocese of Wollongong, online by Peter Gabauer and Colin Bennett and the menALIVE leaders from the Diocese of Wollongong using the ACBC Men's Gathering online content.

To register go to <https://www.dow.org.au/events/ancmgkickstart>

Sessions are short and sharp and a great way for men in lockdown to come together to engage with the theme **'Brothers What must we Do?'**

- Man of Service: Tim Davis (20 Sept)
- Man of Character: Shayne Bennett (27 Sept)

Missioning and Sending: Archbishop Julian Porteous (4 Oct)

19 SEPTEMBER 2021 — TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B)

First Reading — Wisdom 2:12,17-20 *Let us condemn him to a most shameful death.*

The godless say to themselves:

‘Let us lie in wait for the virtuous man, since he annoys us
and opposes our way of life,
reproaches us for our breaches of the law
and accuses us of playing false to our upbringing.

‘Let us see if what he says is true,
let us observe what kind of end he himself will have.
If the virtuous man is God’s son, God will take his part
and rescue him from the clutches of his enemies.

Let us test him with cruelty and with torture,
and thus explore this gentleness of his
and put his endurance to the proof.

Let us condemn him to a shameful death
since he will be looked after – we have his word for it.’

Responsorial Psalm — The Lord upholds my life.

1. O God, save me by your name; by your power, uphold my cause.
O God, hear my prayer; listen to the words of my mouth. R.
2. For proud men have risen against me, ruthless men seek my life.
They have no regard for God. R.
3. But I have God for my help. The Lord upholds my life.
I will sacrifice to you with willing heart and praise your name for it is good. R.

Second Reading — James 3: 16-4:3 *Justice is the harvest of peacemakers from seeds sown in a spirit of peace*

Wherever you find jealousy and ambition, you find disharmony, and wicked things of every kind being done; whereas the wisdom that comes down from above is essentially something pure; it also makes for peace, and is kindly and considerate; it is full of compassion and shows itself by doing good; nor is there any trace of partiality or hypocrisy in it. Peacemakers, when they work for peace, sow the seeds which will bear fruit in holiness.

Where do these wars and battles between yourselves first start? Isn't it precisely in the desires fighting inside your own selves? You want something and you haven't got it; so you are prepared to kill. You have an ambition that you cannot satisfy; so you fight to get your way by force. Why you don't have what you want is because you don't pray for it; when you do pray and don't get it, it is because you have not prayed properly, you have prayed for something to indulge your own desires.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia Alleluia! God has called us with the gospel to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

Gospel — Mark 9: 30-37 *The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of humanity...
All who wish to be first must make themselves the servants of all.*

After leaving the mountain Jesus and his disciples made their way through Galilee; and he did not want anyone to know, because he was instructing his disciples; he was telling them, ‘The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men; they will put him to death; and three days after he has been put to death he will rise again.’ But they did not understand what he said and were afraid to ask him.

They came to Capernaum, and when he was in the house he asked them, ‘What were you arguing about on the road?’ They said nothing because they had been arguing which of them was the greatest. So he sat down, called the Twelve to him and said, ‘If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all.’ He then took a little child, set him in front of them, put his arms round him, and said to them, ‘Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me; and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.’