

# 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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**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](mailto:unanderra@dow.org.au)  
 Website: [www.unanderraparish.org.au](http://www.unanderraparish.org.au)  
 Phone: 4271 1068  
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## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C) – 28 NOV 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.**

Weekly Programme	Immaculate Conception UNANDERRA	St Therese WEST WOLLONGONG
Mon 29 November	Mass: 7am	
Tues 30 November <i>St Andrew, apostle</i>	Adoration: 4:30pm Mass: 5:30pm	Mass: 7.45am
Wed 1 December	Mass: 9.30am Adoration: 4:30pm Mass: 5:30pm	Adoration: 4.30pm Reconciliation: 4.30pm-5.15pm Mass: 5.30pm
Thur 2 December	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm—5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm	Mass: 7:45am
Fri 3 December <i>St Francis Xavier</i>	Mass: 7am Adoration: 4:30pm Mass: 5:30pm	Mass: 9:30am
Sat 4 December	Rosary: 7.10am Mass: 7.30am Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 5pm-5.30pm Vigil Mass: 6pm	Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9.30am-10.30am
Sun 5 December <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am ( <i>Polish</i> ) Adoration: 4:30pm	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

#### Recently Deceased

Andrew Alvares  
 Bishop Bill Wright

#### Anniversaries

Henry Duxbury,  
 Ellen Kathleen Walsh  
 Bill and Edna Marmont

Please also pray for the **sick** and those unable to attend Mass

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

[unanderra@dow.org.au](mailto:unanderra@dow.org.au) / 4271 1068

Monday: 8:30am-3:30pm

Tuesday: Closed

Wednesday: 8:30am-3:30pm

Thursday: Closed

Friday: 8:30am-3pm

## Messages from Fr Duane

The Immaculate Conception and St Therese (ICAST) Parish Pastoral Councils recently met and came to a consensus regarding our Christmas Mass timetable. However, I will consult them again in light of new directives from the Government and the Diocese released today (at the time of writing) and we will aim to publicise our final plans for Christmas Masses across our two parishes next weekend.

This Sunday we begin the **sacred season of Advent**. Let's commit ourselves to finding more time for prayer, reflection, and active works of love in preparation for the celebration of the birth of "God-with-us", our saviour Christ the Lord!

### Catholic Mission Appeal

A big thank you to David Harrison, Diocesan Director of Catholic Mission, and his son Dominic, for their inspirational words at last weekend's Masses. Thank you also to all parishioners who contributed to the work of Catholic Mission by their prayers and/or financial support. Any money in the Catholic Mission envelopes this weekend will go to support the Good Shepherd sisters in Thailand, in their work with supporting single mothers and babies, and educating disadvantaged children. Let's all continue to pray for this wonderful work of the Church!

### Novena in preparation for our Parish Feast Day

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception on 8th December is always among the most important celebrations of the Church year, however it is even more important for us as our Parish Feast Day. We will be preparing for the day with a **Novena of Holy Hours and Masses**; details on the front page of the bulletin. Let us all begin preparing our hearts for this Feast Day, with thanksgiving for the many blessings of our Parish Community and asking God's continued blessings through the intercession of the Immaculate Conception, Mary, our Mother.

### Fr Duane Fernandez — Parish Priest

## Message from Sr Kerry

The local SVdeP were to take up their usual collection for those in need at Christmas. With the class of 8-year-olds we decided to try each day to make a little sacrifice and the money saved from that act would go to our collection for the appeal. The children, and their families, took this very seriously.

Money was collected and it was agreed we would go to the local Fossey's store. Both the boys and the girls wanted to buy an outfit for a child of their gender. It was interesting to see how carefully each item was chosen and agreed upon. Off to the register we went with our bundle of clothing.

Once back at school the items were displayed. The girls were so disappointed. They loved what they purchased but realized the receiver of this gift would not have shoes. They decided to continue their collection of monies and shoes were then able to be purchased.

I have never forgotten that Advent. Each year the thought of these children challenges me as to what Advent means for me. I remember that class with fondness and affection. Little did they know that their actions would continue to stir my heart some thirty years on.



### Sr Kerry Gardiner

### ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

	Church Washing	Helen Murphy
Sun 5 Dec	Counting	M Murphy(FT), S Alessi
Sat 4 Dec	Church Cleaning	Volunteers needed
	Lectors	Lawns — Sat 4 Dec
Sat 4 Dec 6pm Mass	D Ferrer	H Fernandez, Milan Family, N Gamble
Sun 5 Dec 8am Mass	A Kelly	

### ALL YOUR PASTORAL NEEDS



For any pastoral needs:  
please contact



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Sr Kerry Gardiner - 0421 463 871  
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## 2021 CHRISTMAS STORY ART COMPETITION

The Catholic Education Office held the 2021 Christmas Story Art Competition Virtual Event on Wed 24 Nov and St Pius school achieved absolutely FANTASTIC results—we would like to share with the parish.

**Highly Commended:** Year 6 - Rose G, Year 5 - Molly H  
**Finalists:** Year 5 - John C, Year 5 - Olivia S

John C (Year 5) was also awarded the coveted Bishop's Choice Award which means that John's artwork will be printed and used as the Bishop's Christmas card image for this year.

An outstanding achievement all round for our St Pius X entrants!

## ST VINCENT DE PAUL NEWS CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

On the first Sunday of Advent, the Christmas Giving Tree will be up in the church. **Donations of food and toys** for our Christmas hampers is most appreciated. Your generosity will make a difference to many local disadvantaged families.

## VOCATION NEWS



Be on the watch! Allow God to lead you in the ways of truth and justice. God is calling you to serve. (Jeremiah 33:14-16) If you want to talk about your discernment, please contact the

Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Duane Fernandez at [vocations@dow.org.au](mailto:vocations@dow.org.au)

## INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The annual International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women was held this week (**Thursday 25 November**). As Pope Francis noted in February this year: *"The various forms of ill-treatment that many women suffer are acts of cowardice and a degradation of all humanity.... Let us pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded by all."* We will pray together today the following Prayer to End Violence Against Women [here](#)

## PRAYER SEMINARS

Please follow the link to register for Prayer Seminars: <https://www.dow.org.au/events>.

Next **Tuesday, 30 November**, is our final Prayer Seminar for this year and we urge you to join us for what will be a very inspiring seminar! **Paul Elarde**, who witnessed his wife Juliana being healed and walking out of her wheelchair at Lourdes, will lead us to **'Rediscover the Power of the Rosary'**.



The Rosary for some, may seem to be a repetitious and an old-fashioned style of prayer. Heaven, however, would disagree. In every Church approved Marian apparition for the last 150 years, Mary has called us to pray the Rosary. It is THE prayer of our times!

## THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME

— AIRS SUNDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2021 —

On the Journey this week: Fr Mark De Battista says the gospel for the first Sunday of Advent is a call to step outside the secular culture around us, to be faithful in prayer and always be watchful, standing tall, ever ready for the arrival of Jesus. Mother Hilda says don't settle for the superficial. Michelle Vass continues her series of praying in & with the elements, this week, the wind. New presenter, Deacon Josh Clayton tells us to scan a QR code to check into God's Word, love and desire. Listen at [jcr.org.au](http://jcr.org.au)



## BLESSED ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS REFLECTIONS

**Blessed** is a 92-page pocket-size book containing short spiritually rich, yet accessible, daily reflections from the beginning of Advent (28 November 2021) through to the Baptism of the Lord (9 January 2022).

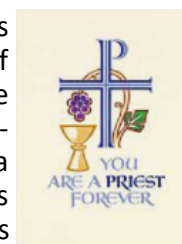


**Blessed** also features beautiful religious artworks from the Masters such as Murillo, Strozzi, Jouvenet, Botticelli and Reni with enlightening "Artwork Spotlight" reflections written by the popular Monsignor Graham Schmitzer.

**Blessed** is available from the seat near the side door of the church and **costs \$3.00**. Please leave your money in the box at the end of the seat.

## FR DUANE'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION MASS

Many of you have heard that Fr Duane is to celebrate his 10th Anniversary of Priestly Ordination. Bishop Brian will be here to join us for this wonderful celebration. We had hoped to share a cuppa after the Mass but with Covid restrictions still in place this won't be possible. It is hoped many of you will be able to join in the Mass celebrated by Fr Duane and Bishop Brian on **Saturday 11th Dec at 6:00 pm**.



## DATE CORRECTION

### —CHRISTMAS PREPARATION

It is hoped a small group of people will be able to come together to prepare for our Christmas Masses. To this end a meeting is proposed for **Wednesday, 1st Dec commencing at 7:00 pm**. The gathering will be held at the Convent. In order to comply with Govt directives it

is imperative that all wishing to attend must be doubly vaccinated. To assist with numbers would you kindly contact me to indicate your intention to attend. With thanks, Sr Kerry



## 21 NOVEMBER 2021 — CHRIST THE KING (YEAR B)

**First Reading** — Jeremiah 33:14-16 *I will cause a good seed to spring forth from David*

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah:

‘In those days and at that time,  
I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David,  
who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land.  
In those days Judah shall be saved  
and Israel shall dwell in confidence.  
And this is the name the city will be called:  
The-Lord-our-integrity.’

**Responsorial Psalm** — **To you, O lord, I lift my soul.**

1. Lord, make me know your ways. Lord, teach me your paths.  
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: for you are God my saviour. R.
2. The Lord is good and upright. He shows the path to those who stray,  
He guides the humble in the right path, He teaches his way to the poor. R.
3. His ways are faithfulness and love for those who keep his covenant and law.  
The Lord’s friendship is for those who revere him; to them he reveals his covenant. R.

**Second Reading** — 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2 *When Christ comes may he strengthen your hearts in holiness.*

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints.

Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia Alleluia! Lord show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

**Gospel** — Luke 21:25-28,34-36 *Your redemption is near at hand*

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.

‘Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.’

### BAPTISMS

Baptisms are held on the 2nd Sunday of every month at West Wollongong (12noon) and the 4th Sunday of every month at Unanderra (12noon). Please email [westwollongong@dow.org.au](mailto:westwollongong@dow.org.au) or [unanderra@dow.org.au](mailto:unanderra@dow.org.au) to ask for a Baptism Enquiry Form to be sent to you.