

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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THE SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR C) – 20 FEB 2022

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 21 February <i>St Peter Damian</i>	Mass: 7am	
Tues 22 February	Mass: 5.30pm	Mass: 7:45am
Wed 23 February <i>St Polycarp</i>	Mass: 9:30am	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm—5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm
Thur 24 February	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm—5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm	Mass: 7:45 am
Fri 25 February	Mass: 7am	Mass: 9:30am
Sat 26 February	Rosary: 7:10am Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 5pm—5:30pm Mass: 6pm	Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9:30am
Sun 27 February	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (<i>Polish</i>)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Marina Putrina
 Bernard Trudgett
 Aida Macalakad
 Alfred Bezzina

Anniversaries

Antonia Marciano
 Micky Walsh, Joseph Dredge

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 Fr Duane

I begin this week's message passing on the recent announcements from the NSW Government regarding Covid restrictions in the context of our parish life. **Masks remain mandatory until Friday February 25th.** I will be consulting with our music ministry as we look towards the reintroduction of congregational singing in coming weeks. But the most significant change is that, as of **Friday 18th February, QR codes are no longer required at churches.** Not only are they not required, we will remove them immediately since, as many experts point out, the added risk brought by queueing and crowding at the entrance to the church now outweighs the benefit of QR codes.

This means an end to the ministry of "Covid monitor" as we knew it. For me, this brings more feelings than I thought it would! There is a symbolism in this move towards normality, with unrestricted and unregistered attendance at our churches now possible. But the dominant feeling it brings is a deep gratitude to our wonderful monitors. I think back to the first time in our lifetimes when churches were closed in 2020 - and the subsequent reopening. At that point I made a call out to parishioners to consider serving in a brand new role of "Covid monitor" so that we could comply with regulations and reopen as quickly and safely as possible. It was so wonderful to see so many people, especially younger people who were less vulnerable to Covid, saying "yes" to this call. They then came together for many meetings to share their wisdom along the way and have served faithfully and generously through many challenging times - always with a smile! To our monitors, on behalf of all the parishioners who have attended Masses since Covid began - thank you and God bless you for your work!

I will provide further updates next week as restrictions continue to ease. Let us continue to pray for those sick, isolated or anxious due to Covid, and for our health workers and civil leaders, and continue to take reasonable measures to keep ourselves and each other safe - while continuing to take new opportunities to reconnect with each other and reach out to new people throughout the coming year!

Fr Duane Fernandez — Parish Priest

Message from Sr Kerry

It was a Sunday morning when I called in to see a woman I knew. The previous evening there had been a murder in the town. I knew no other details except that it was just a couple of blocks from where I lived.

How shocked I was when I visited Imelda to learn it was her brother who was arrested for the murder. The town was tense. Retribution and payback is very much part of the culture.

Ben was charged and was to appear in the local court via video link from the jail where he was now imprisoned. Imelda asked me to go to court with them as they needed protection. It was frightening.

On the day of the hearing I called for Imelda and her partner. Off to the courthouse we went. I was very nervous and very much out of my comfort zone. I parked the car and there we sat. Another car parked next to us. The driver got out of the car and walked to my car. The tension escalated as the woman approaching was the sister of the murdered woman.

I was there to protect Imelda and Craig! Craig was more than double my size. I seized with fear.

The backdoor was opened. The sister of the deceased said, 'Give us time and we will forgive you. We just need some time.'

In all my life I have never heard such words of forgiveness spoken and extended to another. My fear melted away. We are called to love. How does your life correspond with the gospel today?

Sr Kerry Gardiner



ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

February	Church Washing	Barbara Farraway	
Sat 26 Feb	Church Cleaning	F Fernandez, B Rice, R Tassone	
Sat 26 Feb	Lawns	H Fernandez, Milan Family, N Gamble	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
Sat 26 Feb 6pm Mass	M Rodwell	Gloria Simmonite	No children's liturgy
Sun 27 Feb 8am Mass	P Gunning	Helen Murphy	No children's liturgy
Counters	M Murphy (FT), S Alessi		

ALL YOUR PASTORAL NEEDS



For any pastoral needs:
please contact



Fr Duane Fernandez - 0414 626 357
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Sr Kerry Gardiner - 0421 463 871
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2022 SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

One of the most profound ways by which Catholics believe we can encounter Jesus is through the Sacraments of the Church. Each Sacrament provides a unique, tangible encounter with Jesus, and helps draw us closer to God and to one another. ***The Sacraments are significant milestones in the faith journey of not only your children but also your whole family.***

Sacramental Program for 2022 is about to begin. If your son or daughter would like to receive sacraments this year, please refer to attached information or pick up the note at the church door.

PARISH AUDIT

The 2021 financial audit of the parish has been completed and a copy of the Income/Expenditure Statement for the year ended 31st December 2021 has been placed on the Church NOTICE BOARD.

A copy of the statement is included with the parish bulletin. For further information, please contact the parish office by email at unanderra@dow.org.au.

MENALIVE'S – REFUEL WEEKLY SHARING AND JOURNALING SESSIONS – EVERY TUESDAY 7.30PM

reFUEL is a weekly hour-long gathering of men every Tuesday evening on Zoom providing the chance to:

- break open the Sunday reading using a Lectio Divina style exercise
- “catch up” with great men from across Australia and New Zealand.
- gain strength and inspiration by the witness of other men.
- pray as a group for individual needs and the needs of others.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87979703609>

SYNOD OF BISHOPS

Have you had your say?

February 27 is fast approaching. What does that date represent? It is the deadline for submissions to be made to the Synod of Bishops. Reflect and prayerfully have your say for we are the church and the church is our future.

Click [here](#) for a wonderful link.

VOCATION NEWS

Jesus helps our faith be fruitful when we follow where he leads. Where is Jesus leading you today? (Luke 6:27-38)

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



LENTEN GROUP

Covid restrictions continue to impact our lives. With Easter approaching I am considering hosting a Lenten group on a **Tuesday morning commencing at 10:15**. Covid safe measures will be followed. The meeting will be either in the St Joseph's room or at my home. If you think you may be interested in joining the group - interest doesn't mean you have made a commitment to be there - would you kindly let me know. Thank you . Sr Kerry

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME – AIRS SUNDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2022

On the Journey this week: Fr Paul Maunder OCD says this Gospel defines Christian love and behaviour in which Jesus insists on the lengths we must go to demonstrate our Christian love and behaviour towards others. Mother Hilda on being the miracle God wants us to be. Fr Anthony Crook with positive psychology, plus Huw Warmenhoven from Alpha Australia, Fr Dave Callaghan, and more great music! . Listen at jcr.org.au



CURSILLO THREE-DAY WEEKEND

Ladies of the Wollongong Diocese. Life has been so unsettled and erratic for many of us. If you are feeling in need of revitalisation in your Spiritual life, please join us for our next 3-day Cursillo weekend. The weekend will be held at St Mary's Towers, Douglas Park and consist of talks, discussion, friendship, daily Mass, and spiritual guidance on request. Our Spiritual Director is Father Chris Roberts. The weekend commences at **6pm on 17 March and concludes at 4pm on 20 March 2022.**

Accommodation and all meals included in the cost. The weekend organisation will be compliant with all COVID safe requirements. Please contact Denise **0438 254 139**

OLD PALMS FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

Please bring last years palms to the church and leave in the basket at the side door. These palms are burnt and ashes used on Ash Wednesday.

LENTEN BOOKS—AVAILABLE NOW

Remember is a 72-page full colour book (240x170mm) containing short daily reflections (**from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday**) perfect for individual devotional reading in addition to the longer-form Sunday Scripture readings and reflections, prayers and questions that traditionally form part of Lenten group gatherings.

Available in the church now.
Cost is \$5. Please leave money in the container.



AMORIS LAETITIA (THE JOY OF LOVE)

Pope Francis' post-synodal Apostolic Exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia* (The Joy of Love) on love in the family is an Apostolic Exhortation published after the conclusion of a two-year synod process discussing both the beauty and challenges of family life today. The 2015 Synod's theme was *“the vocation and mission of the family in the Church and the modern world.”*

Fr Bernard Gordon and James Arblaster will be presenting a **9-week course on *Amoris Laetitia* commencing Wed 27 April 2022, 7pm** at St Francis Xavier Cathedral in the Monsignor Rigney Meeting Room. To follow the talk, please purchase a copy of *Amoris Laetitia* from St Pauls Publications or from the parish office.

To register please contact Lumen Christi Parish Office on **4211 0500** or go to: www.lumenchristi.org.au/AmorisLaetitia

20 FEBRUARY 2022—THE SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR C)

First Reading — 1 Samuel 26: 2, 7-9, 11-13, 22-23 *The Lord has put you in my power, but I will not raise my hand against you.*
Saul set off and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, accompanied by three thousand men chosen from Israel to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph.

In the dark David and Abishai made their way towards the force, where they found Saul lying asleep inside the camp, his spear stuck in the ground beside his head, with Abner and the troops lying round him.

Then Abishai said to David, 'Today God has put your enemy in your power; so now let me pin him to the ground with his own spear. Just one stroke! I will not need to strike him twice.' David answered Abishai, 'Do not kill him, for who can lift his hand against the Lord's anointed and be without guilt? The Lord forbid that I should raise my hand against the Lord's anointed! But now take the spear beside his head and the pitcher of water and let us go away.' David took the spear and the pitcher of water from beside Saul's head, and they made off. No one saw, no one knew, no one woke up; they were all asleep, for a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen on them.

David crossed to the other side and halted on the top of the mountain a long way off; there was a wide space between them. He called out, 'Here is the king's spear. Let one of the soldiers come across and take it. The Lord repays everyone for his uprightness and loyalty. Today the Lord put you in my power, but I would not raise my hand against the Lord's anointed.'

Responsorial Psalm — The Lord is kind and merciful.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. R.
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. R.
3. The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.
He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults. R.
4. As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins.
As a father has compassion on his sons, the Lord has pity on those who fear him. R.

Second Reading — 1 Corinthians 15:45-49 *Just as we have carried the earthly image, we must carry the heavenly image.*

The first man, Adam, as scripture says, became a living soul; but the last Adam has become a life-giving spirit. That is, first the one with the soul, not the spirit, and after that, the one with the spirit. The first man, being from the earth, is earthly by nature; the second man is from heaven. As this earthly man was, so are we on earth; and as the heavenly man is, so are we in heaven. And we, who have been modelled on the earthly man, will be modelled on the heavenly man.

Alleluia Alleluia! I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you. Alleluia!

Gospel — Luke 6:27-38 *Be merciful as your father is merciful.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'