

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/



Parish Priest: Fr Duane Fernandez
 Email: Duane.Fernandez@dow.org.au
 Mobile: 0414 626 357

Polish Chaplain: Fr Jerzy Slowinski
 Email: slowinski54@gmail.com
 Mobile: 0410 225 975

Parish Assistant: Sr Kerry Gardiner
 Email: Kerry.Gardiner@sosj.org.au
 Mobile: 0421 463 871

Parish Pastoral Council President:
 Email:
 Mobile:

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A) – 27 NOV 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 28 Nov	Mass: 7am	
Tues 29 Nov	Mass: 5.30pm	Mass: 7:45am
Wed 30 Nov <i>St Andrew, apostle</i>	Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion: 9:30am	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm—5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm 
Thurs 1 Dec	Mass: 11am (Polish)  Adoration: 4:30pm-5:15pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm-5:15pm  Rosary: 5pm Mass: 5:30pm	Mass: 7:45am
Fri 2 Dec	Mass: 7am	Mass: 9:30am
Sat 3 Dec <i>St Francis, Xavier</i>	Rosary: 7am  Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 5pm - 5:30pm Mass: 6pm	Rosary: 8:30am  Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9:30am—10:30am
Sun 4 Dec	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (Polish)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Kevin Court, Tomasi Luigi

Prayers for the sick

Craig Battley, Francesca Quetcher, Jackie Allen

Anniversaries

Annie Clark, Henry Duxbury,
Ellen Kathleen Walsh,
Bill and Edna Marmont



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

There has been a lot to celebrate over this past week. Last Saturday, we celebrated the **70th Anniversary of the Scalabrinian Order in Australia**. The Mass was a truly special occasion, with a number of Scalabrinian priests concelebrating, as well as local Diocesan clergy. It was a fitting tribute to the wonderful work of the Scalabrinian missionaries, and on that day and since I have been hearing many stories from parishioners here at Immaculate Conception Parish whose lives had been touched in some way by the Scalabrinian Fathers, who founded our parish and built our beautiful church. May God continue to bless the fruit of their labours around the world – including in our own parish!

During this past week we also celebrated the **First Holy Communion for over 100 children across the parishes of Immaculate Conception and St Therese**. Congratulations to all the children who received their First Holy Communion – they were truly a credit to themselves and their families. Thank you also to their parents, the first and most important teachers of their children. A big thank you to the Sacramental Team across the two parishes for their wonderful efforts throughout the year, and also to the staff of St Pius school who supported the celebrations so well this week. We hope to welcome many of these children and families **this Sunday morning at a special morning tea**, and also in the future at our Parish Masses. Let's pray that these children will continue to grow in their closeness with Jesus all throughout their lives.

We look forward to our **Parish Feast Day celebrations on Thursday 8th December – the Feast of the Immaculate Conception**. To enable more people to attend, we will celebrate a special 6pm Mass, preceded by Rosary at 5:30pm. After the Mass we will have a BBQ in the church grounds to continue to build community in our parish. I encourage you all to save the date and come together to celebrate our wonderful parish!

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

My dad, in my eyes, is the unofficial patron saint of catechists.

I do not know if my dad's siblings were baptised Catholic. My dad was baptised but there was very little in his home to encourage the development of the gift of faith. Thanks to the lady living next door to my dad when he was a child, my dad's seed of faith was watered and nurtured by this woman. My dad never forgot her and spoke often of her. Due to this woman my dad lived a lively and loving faith throughout his life. It was even said at his funeral how one of the things my dad loved to do was to sit in the backyard and contemplate his God.

Being a catechist is a big commitment. For around thirty-two weeks of the year a catechist commits to going into the classroom on a regular day at a regular time. There is also lesson preparation to be organised.

Our parish needs catechists for next year. God is not asking you are you suitable, allow God to ask you: are you available? If you answered 'yes' to this question Sr Kerry looks forward to hearing from you.



This week has been a huge week for the parish. The wonderful celebration for the 70 years of the Scalabrinian Order in Australia and the foundation of our parish, along with First Communion Masses and then the usual things that just carry on without fuss or bother. On more than one occasion I was told what a welcoming parish we are. I stood there proud of what you bring to life within the parish. Thank you to so many of you who have given so generously to the needs of the parish over the last few weeks. It would be impossible to name you, but you know what you have given, be it big or small. You may not realise how others see the parish because of you. Thank you for revealing the face of Christ to those around us.

Sr Kerry Gardiner

ROSTER – NEXT WEEKEND

December	Church Washing	Helen Murphy	
Sat 3 Dec	Church Cleaning	F Fernandez, B Rice, R Tassone	
Sat 3 Dec	Lawns	No Lawn mowing this week	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
Sat 3 Dec 6pm Mass	D Ferrer	Vera Cleary & Cindy	
Sun 4 Dec 8am Mass	A Kelly	F Fernandez	K Calvert, A Sanchez- Levine, Linda Malaki
Counters	A Gunning, M Caudero, C Garrett		

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 NEWS

CWL Christmas Stall and Raffle - 3 and 4 Dec

Our Christmas Raffle will have 10 amazing prizes. **Tickets will be \$2 each or 3 for \$5** Buy your tickets before mass on the weekends of **26/27 Nov or 3/4 Dec**.

Raffle will be drawn at morning tea on 4th Dec. Our stall will have a variety of cooking and craft items for sale. It will be held on **3rd and 4th December** after mass. Come along and see our great selection. We'd be happy to see you.



Advent & Christmas reflections, \$4

Incarnate is a 86-page pocket-size book containing short spiritually rich, yet accessible, daily reflections from the beginning of Advent (27 Nov 2022) through to the Baptism of the Lord (9 Jan 2023). Available at the side door.

Parish Feast Day - Thursday 8 Dec

We will celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception with a special 6pm Mass followed by a BBQ and other festivities. Save the date! All are welcome.



Advent Program:

Come and join us in preparing for Christ's arrival by participating in this year's Advent program. Four Saturday evenings at **7pm in St Joseph's room, starting 26 Nov, 3, 10 & 17 December**. All welcome.

RSVP to Melissa on 4271 1068 or unanderra@dow.org.au Call Mark on 0407 604498 for more info.

St Vincent de Paul Giving Tree

The Giving Christmas Tree is in the church, full of tags for children's toys and Christmas food. The gifts received from this tree are used Unanderra Vinnies Conference to distribute approximately **40 Christmas Hampers and toys for about 70 children** in need, within the Unanderra area. Gifts need to be placed under the Giving Tree **by Sunday 18 Dec** as hampers and toys will be delivered to families on Tues 20 Dec.



Carmelite meeting - Saturday 3 Dec

The last Carmelite meeting for 2022, will be held in the St Joseph's room on **Saturday 3 Dec from 10am to 12noon**. Morning tea will be provided. Anyone, who is interested will be very welcome.

The first meeting for 2023, will be on Saturday 4 February in St Joseph's Room, all are welcome. Please call Ann Baumber on **0427 235 955** for more information.

STIC Young Adults prayer mini series - Thurs 8 Dec

The next STIC YA prayer mini series every will be held at **St Therese, primary school hall 7pm- 8:30pm**. Entrance from the top of Powell Street. Come along for faith formation, community, and a good time!

Parish Finances - week ending 20 Nov

\$646	First Collection	- Clergy Remuneration Fund
\$514	Second collection	- Parish expenses
\$190	Tap Point	- Parish donations
\$225	Planned giving envelopes	
\$540	Direct debits (weekly average from Oct).	

Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly.

Christmas choir

All are welcome to join the choir to help lift the singing at any of our Christmas Masses. You would know all the songs as they will be Christmas songs! If you're interested please contact **Greg Parrish on 0439 494 429 or greg.parrish@dow.org.au** – or simply make yourself known to me or the musicians and singers or myself at any of our Masses.

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME – AIRS SUNDAY 27 NOV 2022

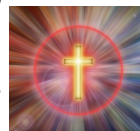
On the Journey this week. Fr Chima Ofor's Gospel reflection for Advent week 1 – Stay Awake Keep Watch! Mother Hilda wonders who consoles God when he has his heart broken. Extra Advent reflections from Fr Sean Cullen and Darren McDowell, Doug Black from Men Alive on men's spirituality, isolation, floods and the Refuel strategy, and more great music! Listen at jcr.org.au



A VOCATION VIEW

Let us go rejoicing to the House of the Lord! In God's House is found true joy, blessed are those called to minister in His Temple. (Psalm 122).

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



TAIZE

"PRAYER AROUND THE CROSS"

To celebrate Advent, Bulli Church is hosting an evening of reflection using Taizé chant, prayer, scripture and silence. An invitation is extended to all who would like an hour of retreat from the busy end-of-year schedule.

7:30pm - 8:30pm, Friday, 2 December 2022 at St Joseph's Catholic Church, Bulli

ENEMY LOVE RECORDS GIG

Enemy Love Records (David Kruse & Emma Fradd) are an independent record label producing and promoting good Catholic music. They are touring Australia to present three brand new releases and they will be playing in Wollongong!

When: Sunday 4 December 2022 @ 07:00 PM
Where: Xavier Centre, 38 Harbour St, Wollongong
Tickets: EnemyLoveRecords.com (limited tickets)
Entry by ticket with donation upon entry.

SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT

We call for faith communities to support and believe those going through domestic and family violence and abuse, to hold perpetrators to account and work towards individual and social transformation.

<https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

MENALIVE'S—REFUEL WEEKLY SHARING AND JOURNALING SESSIONS

reFUEL is a weekly hour-long gathering of men every Tuesday evening 7:30pm 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. Join via this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88436558468>

POSITION VACANT - PARISH SECRETARY - ST MICHAEL'S, NOWRA

Nowra parish is seeking the services of a part time secretary for **10 hrs per week. 4 days x 2.5 hours (Tues, Wed, Thurs & Fri 9.30am- 12 Noon)**. The position requires skills in administration, bookkeeping and maintaining a database. The parish secretary needs to be a committed and practising Catholic, embracing the teachings and ethos of the Catholic Church in their daily life. If interested, please email frances.vanleerdam@dow.org.au to request an application pack for this position. Appl'n close 2 Dec.

27 NOV - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C)

First Reading - Isaiah 2:1-5 *The Lord will gather all nations in eternal peace in the kingdom of God.*

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In the days to come
the mountain of the Temple of the Lord
shall tower above the mountains
and be lifted higher than the hills.
All the nations will stream to it,
peoples without number will come to it; and they will say:
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the Temple of the God of Jacob
that he may teach us his ways
so that we may walk in his paths;
since the Law will go out from Zion,
and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.'
He will wield authority over the nations
and adjudicate between many peoples;
these will hammer their swords into ploughshares,
their spears into sickles.
Nation will not lift sword against nation,
there will be no more training for war.
O House of Jacob, come,
let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm - Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

1. I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house.'
And now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem. R.
2. It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord.
For Israel's law it is, there to praise the Lord's name.
There were set the thrones of judgement of the house of David. R.
3. For the peace of Jerusalem pray: 'Peace be to your homes!
May peace reign in your walls, in your palaces, peace!' R.
4. For love of my brethren and friends I say: 'Peace upon you!'
For love of the house of the Lord I will ask for your good. R.

Second Reading — Romans 13:11-14 *The time has come, our salvation is near.*

You know 'the time' has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon – let us give up all the things we prefer to do under cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation:

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

Gospel — Matthew 24:37-44 *Stay awake, you must be ready.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this, that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'