

# 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)

[www.facebook.com/Immaculate-Conception-Unanderra-Parish-102440924742769/](https://www.facebook.com/Immaculate-Conception-Unanderra-Parish-102440924742769/)



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**Parish Pastoral Council President:**  
 Email:  
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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)  
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## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A) – 4 DEC 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 5 Dec	Mass: 7am	
Tues 6 Dec	Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion: 5:30pm	Mass: 7:45am
Wed 7 Dec <i>St Ambrose, bishop, doctor</i>	Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion: 9:30am	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm—5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm 
Thurs 8 Dec <i>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	St Pius School Mass: 9:30am Reconciliation 5pm Rosary: 5:30pm  Mass: 6pm	Mass: 7:45am
Fri 9 Dec <i>St Juan Diego Cuauhtlaotzin, hermit</i>	Mass: 7am	Mass: 9:30am
Sat 10 Dec	Rosary: 7am  Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 5pm - 5:30pm Mass: 6pm	Rosary: 8:30am  Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9:30am—10:30am
Sun 11 Dec	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am ( <u>Polish</u> )	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

Nelson Mandela,  
Fredrick Brame



### 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

## *Message from Fr Duane*

Our Parish Feast Day is this **Thursday, 8th December, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception**. The special Feast Day Mass will take place at 6pm, with Rosary at 5:30pm. Reconciliation will be available from 5pm. After Mass all are invited to join us for a **BBQ in the church grounds**, an opportunity to get to know your fellow parishioners as we celebrate our parish community and the many blessings we have received, and continue to receive, through the intercession of Mary, the Immaculate Conception.

As communicated last month, there will be some changes to the Tuesday and Thursday timetable after the Parish Feast day (commencing Tuesday 13th December). I have prepared a single page summary of these changes, and the reasons for them, attached to the emailed bulletin (with hard copies available at the side table of the church).

There is still an opportunity to indicate your interest in **joining the choir for either Christmas Masses**, or our regular Sunday Masses – you can express your interest by simply writing your name on the sign-up sheets in the middle pew of the church, or for more information contact Greg Parrish on 0439 494 429 or [greg.parrish@dow.org.au](mailto:greg.parrish@dow.org.au).

Thank you to all those who have begun preparations for the Christmas Masses. A full timetable will be provided for both Unanderra and West Wollongong soon; for now I can confirm that the Christmas Masses at Unanderra will be Christmas Eve 6pm Mass (celebrated by Fr David O'Brien), 8pm Mass, and Christmas Day 8am Mass. I encourage you all to purchase an Advent book if you haven't already, and also to consider attending the Advent group at 7pm on Saturday evenings – both wonderful helps to enter more deeply into this sacred season of spiritual preparation for Christmas.

**PRAY FOR FIVE:** A new initiative shared by the Diocesan Office of Renewal and Evangelisation, prayer cards will be shared with all parishioners this Sunday where you are encouraged to note down 5 people who you wish to pray for at this time. We will pray for them as a parish community especially during this sacred season of Advent.

**Fr Duane Fernandez**

## *Message from Sr Kerry*

Walking to Woolies last week my eyes were besieged once I turned the corner into Albert St. Have you noticed the new line markings on the footpaths around Unanderra / Figtree?

There are signs painted on the footpath indicating to keep left or right, bike or walk and it even had a left-hand turn, which did not make sense, for I may well have wanted to walk ahead, even if it meant walking on the grass. The walk from here to Woolies really captured me. All the markings, in my opinion, seemed unnecessary.

My mind turned to Advent. I asked myself do I need to wear signs informing others of who I profess to be or does my lifestyle and actions speak for themselves? What direction are you taking this Advent? Does it lead others to find Christ in Christmas?

**Sr Kerry Gardiner**



### ROSTER – NEXT WEEKEND

December	Church Washing	Helen Murphy	
Sat 10 Dec	Church Cleaning	J Allen, J Haywood, L Salway, M Hurley	
Sat 10 Dec	Lawns	H Fernandez, Milan Family, Broeckmann Family	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
Sat 10 Dec 6pm Mass	M Carolan	B Farraway	
Sun 11 Dec 8am Mass	C Walsh	A Kelly, S Michielin	Maria Matos, Anna Gunning
Counters	A Kelly, B Farraway		

### ALL YOUR PASTORAL NEEDS



For any pastoral needs:  
please contact



**Fr Duane Fernandez - 0414 626 357**  
**[duane.fernandez@dow.org.au](mailto:duane.fernandez@dow.org.au)**  
**Sr Kerry Gardiner - 0421 463 871**  
**[Kerry.Gardiner@sosj.org.au](mailto:Kerry.Gardiner@sosj.org.au)**

## PARISH NEWS

### 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 Bamber on 0427 235 955 for more information.

### 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.



### 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. Saturday evenings at **7pm in St Joseph's room, 3, 10 & 17 December.** All welcome.

Call Mark on 0407 604498 for more info.

### Advent & Christmas reflections, \$4

**Incarante** 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.

### 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.



### 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 27 Nov

\$515	First Collection	- Clergy Remuneration Fund
\$408	Second collection	- Parish expenses
\$160	Tap Point - Parish donations	
\$319	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 4 DEC 2022

On the Journey this week. Fr Michael Meagher's Gospel reflection – An open-hearted welcome. Mother Hilda tells how to pray when we feel there's nothing in it for us. Plus, extra Advent reflections from Fr Mark De Battista and Ken Bryant, and Fr Mike Delaney wonders if you know what your strengths are? Listen at [jcr.org.au](http://jcr.org.au)



## A VOCATION VIEW

A vocation grows in silence, as a shoot sprouts from the ground. Make sure to keep the seed of faith alive in your heart and soul. (Is. 11:1)

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)

## THANK YOU

A huge thank you to Mary Gillis, Jean Andersson, Barbara Faraway, Patrick Alessi and Darren McDowell who have given tirelessly of themselves to bring the Good News to the students in our state schools throughout this year. As I said last week, this is an immense commitment; one that I am most grateful for as many are touched by the goodness of these people.



## 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](http://EnemyLoveRecords.com) (limited tickets)  
Entry by ticket with donation upon entry.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT

Listen to, support, and believe those who are experiencing violence and abuse <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>

## AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED

ACN is the Pontifical Foundation dedicated to supporting the suffering and persecuted Church.

**That Catholic Shop** - Christmas orders from Aid to the Church in Need's online store – That Catholic Shop – can still be made all the way up to 19 December! Choose from our broad range of religious gifts and receive free shipping for orders over \$100. Peruse our Christmas range at [www.thatcatholicshop.com](http://www.thatcatholicshop.com)





## 4 DEC - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A)

**First Reading** - Isaiah 11:1-10 *He judges the poor with justice*

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots:  
on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight,  
a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.  
(The fear of the Lord is his breath.)

He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay,  
but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land.  
His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless, his sentences bring death to the wicked.

Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips.

The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid,  
calf and lion feed together, with a little boy to lead them.

The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together.

The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole;  
into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand.

They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain,  
for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea.

That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples.

It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

**Responsorial Psalm - Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.**

1. O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice,  
that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. R.
2. In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails.  
He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds. R.
3. For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless.  
He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. R.
4. May his name be blessed for ever and endure like the sun.  
Every tribe shall be blessed in him, all nations bless his name. R.

**Second Reading** — Romans 15:4-9 *Christ, the hope of all people.*

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing to your name.

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, Alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

**Gospel** — Matthew 3:1-12 *Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.*

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord,

make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'