

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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 Cnr Hargreaves & Cummins Streets
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 Phone: 4271 3550 | Fax: 4272 2954

School Principal: Mrs Pauline Chrostowski

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

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 Phone: 4271 1068
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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A) – 11 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 12 Dec	Mass: 7am	
Tues 13 Dec <i>St Lucy, virgin, martyr</i>	Mass: 5:30pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm	Mass: 7:45am
Wed 14 Dec <i>St John of the Cross, priest, doctor</i>	Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion: 9:30am	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm—5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm
Thurs 15 Dec	Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm Reconciliation: 6pm Mass: 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
Fri 16 Dec	Mass: 7am	Mass: 9:30am
Sat 17 Dec	Rosary: 7am Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 5pm - 5:30pm Mass: 6pm	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9:30am—10:30am
Sun 18 Dec	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (<u>Polish</u>)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Maria Ianuzzi, Therese Suters, Silvana Witheridge

Anniversaries

Norm Bransgrove Snr,
Fr Andrew Apostoli, Ian Ritchie

Prayers for the sick

Craig Battley, Francesca Quetcher,
Jackie Allen, Lesley Lloyd



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

Thank you to all who were able to attend our **Parish Feast Day Mass** – and all who served in various ministries within the Mass, as well as providing the BBQ and refreshments afterwards. It was a blessed evening, and we pray for continued outpouring of blessings through the prayers of Mary, the Immaculate Conception, and our loving Mother who constantly prays for us. This Feast Day was an opportunity to reflect with thanksgiving on the 70 years of blessings poured out through the faithfulness of so many in this Parish. May we be renewed in our mission to bring Christ to the people of Unanderra and beyond.

As we move forward as a Parish, beyond another year that began with pandemic-related uncertainty, it is time for us to start looking outwards again to those who are not presently joining our community. This weekend the Bishop is also calling us to prayerfully consider who we might invite along to Christmas Mass. Perhaps it will be one of the five we were moved to pray for with the **“Pray for Five”** cards? Perhaps someone else? The most important thing: to prayerfully consider, with open minds and hearts, who God might be leading us to invite to join us for a Christmas Mass, that they too may come to experience more of the love of Jesus during this sacred time of year.

Let us remember Fr James Arblaster in our prayers this weekend, with thanksgiving – a wonderful young man ordained to the Priesthood on Saturday 10th December at 10am at St John Vianney’s Co-Cathedral.

Fr Duane Fernandez

CHRISTMAS MASSES

****Saturday 24 December (Christmas Eve)**
6pm TIGS Hall West Wollongong (Fr Duane)
6pm Immaculate Conception Church Unanderra (Fr David)
8pm Immaculate Conception Church Unanderra (Fr Duane)
9pm St Therese Church West Wollongong (Fr David)

****Sunday 25 December (Christmas Day)**
8am Immaculate Conception Church Unanderra (Fr Duane)
10am St Therese Church West Wollongong (Fr Duane)
Note: There is no 5pm Mass at St Therese

****Polish Masses at Immaculate Conception Church, Unanderra**
 Saturday 24 December 10pm (Fr Jerzy)
 Sunday 25 December 10am (Fr Jerzy)

Message from Sr Kerry

Teaching eight-year-olds in a country town brings a variety of lifestyles into the classroom; farming children, transient children, town folk. In class I had taken the different meanings of the Advent candles and we undertook to do something for others this particular Advent. We collected money saved by going without dessert or any other little chores we undertook.

The boys in one group and the girls in the other we walked down to the local Target store with our money in hand. What an exercise! Both parties shopped like savvy shoppers; looking for the best buy, something they themselves would like and so fashion conscious. Both groups had decided on a set of clothes for their cause. The girls had one problem. They had run out of money before they could buy the shoes. That did not deter them. They continued to collect money until they could return and buy shoes to match the outfit.

The children may well have forgotten that experience but I as their teacher certainly have not forgotten. They taught me so much. Will this Advent be memorable for you? If so, in what way?



Sr Kerry Gardiner

ROSTER – NEXT WEEKEND

December	Church Washing	Helen Murphy	
Sat 17 Dec	Church Cleaning	G Lord, L Zanetti, S Adams	
Sat 17 Dec	Lawns	No lawn mowing this week	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children’s liturgy
Sat 17 Dec 6pm Mass	N O’Donoghue	G Simmonite	
Sun 18 Dec 8am Mass	P Gunning	Zali & Aidan Calvert	Kylie & Molly Hertsch, Gemma Farrugia
Counters	M Murphy (FT), S Alessi		

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

The ladies of the Catholic Women's League would like to thank the parishioners for their wonderful support of our Christmas Stall and Raffle. **We raised \$893** which will assist the charities that we support (**Seamen's Mission, Women with Dignity, Farmers in need and our local schools**)
Congratulations to all 13 raffle winners – Mark Walsh, Nida Hough, Iris Brown, Sol Browne, Ruth Wilson, Cathy Dean, Julie Murphy, Lita Harper, Nash Battley, Marie Skylas, Le Nglit, Anne Kelly, Joe Brown.



Church Ministries 2023

Thank you to all those who continue to volunteer to serve on the various Church Ministries. Welcome to the new volunteers. Your commitment is appreciated. The rosters for the six months from Jan to June 2023 have now been emailed to you. Please check your inbox to make sure you have received your copy. If you haven't received your copy please email the parish office and a copy will be forwarded to you. If you don't have email, you will be given a hard copy of the rosters. Please let us know if there are any problems. Many thanks, Barbara (Roster Coordinator).

Thank you for your used stamps:

On behalf of Mary MacKillop Today, I thank you for your generous support in supplying and assisting with used stamps. We've had another wonderful year, **raising approximately \$42,500**. A great effort from many, many people. From 2001 till now, the total raised is \$486,000 (almost half a million!)

It is through your efforts that the legacy of Saint Mary MacKillop continues in Peru today.

Please place your used stamps in the box at the church side door.



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, 10 & 17 December**. All welcome. Call Mark on 0407 604498 for more info.

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.

St Vincent de Paul Giving Tree

Please return your food and gift donations to our Vinnies Giving tree **by Sunday 18 December**

There will be a bucket collection after all Christmas Masses which will go to the Vinnies Christmas Appeal. Envelopes will be available for those wishing to make credit card payments. All money raised will go to St Vincent De Paul Unanderra.



Parish Finances - week ending 3 Dec

\$484	First Collection	- Clergy Remuneration Fund
\$428	Second collection	- Parish expenses
\$190	Tap Point - Parish donations	
\$354	Planned giving envelopes	
\$530	Direct debits (weekly average from Nov).	

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**

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME – AIRS SUNDAY 11 DEC 2022

On the Journey this week. Fr Chima Ofor's Gospel reflection – happy those who trust in me. Mother Hilda has a tip for naming when God is in our life. Plus, extra Advent reflections from Fr Antony Jukes and Br Lewis Harwood, and Men Alive's Stephen Bird on spiritual brotherhood. Listen at jcr.org.au



A VOCATION VIEW

Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand.' Be resolute in following the Lord, whether convenient or difficult. (James 5:8)

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

THANK YOU

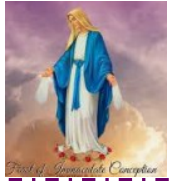
A huge thank you to Mary Gillis, Jean Andersson, Barbara Faraway, Patrick Alessi and Darren McDowell who have given tirelessly of themselves to bring the Good News to the students in our state schools throughout this year. As I said last week, this is an immense commitment; one that I am most grateful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



PARISH FEAST DAY CELEBRATIONS

It was wonderful to join so many in celebrating our parish Feastday.

Thank you to each and everyone involved in bringing this together. A joyful led Mass followed by a great BBQ..... a perfect and fitting celebration.



SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT

Speak out about the sinfulness of family and domestic violence and the responsibility of perpetrators to change. <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

ADVENT APPEAL FOR UKRAINE

At a recent meeting with the country's bishops and Bishop Mykola Bychok CSsR, Eparch of Sts Peter and Paul for the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Australia, the bishops gave strong support to a special appeal to be held during Advent to "support refugees and people in Ukraine during this winter, which will be the most challenging for our country for decades of independence". The Advent Appeal For Ukraine will take place across parishes and churches in our diocese **this weekend 10/11 December**.

A special leaving collection will be held in our parish. To find out more information or to donate online please visit <https://bit.ly/ukraineappeal2022>
Your support of this appeal is greatly appreciated.

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED

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



11 DEC - THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A)

First Reading - Isaiah 35:1-6,10 *God himself will come and save us.*

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;
they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees
and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces;
joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

Responsorial Psalm - Lord, come and save us.

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free R.
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan. R.
3. It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. R.

Second Reading — James 5:7-10 *You also must be patient: do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon.*

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

Gospel — Matthew 11:2-11 *Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?*

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says:

'Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;
he will prepare your way before you.

'I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'