

# 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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**Polish Chaplain:** Fr Jerzy Slowinski  
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**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](mailto:unanderra@dow.org.au)  
Website: [www.unanderraparish.org.au](http://www.unanderraparish.org.au)  
Phone: 4271 1068  
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## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A) – 18 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 19 Dec	Mass: 7am	
Tues 20 Dec	Mass: 5:30pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm- 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
Wed 21 Dec <i>St Peter Canisius, priest, doctor</i>	Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion: 9:30am	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm—5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm
Thurs 22 Dec	Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm Reconciliation: 6pm- 6:50pm Mass: 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
Fri 23 Dec <i>St John of Kanty, priest</i>	Mass: 7am	Mass: 9:30am
Sat 24 Dec	Rosary: 7am Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 5pm - 5:30pm Mass: 6pm	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9:30am—10:30am
Sun 25 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  
Fr Tomasz Zaremba, (Society of Christ), Sophie Piec

### Prayers for the sick

Craig Battley, Francesca Quetcher,  
Jackie Allen, Lesley Lloyd

### Anniversaries

Bruce Reedy, Neta Brown,  
Colleen Walter



## 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

As we enter our final week of Advent, let's ensure that we focus on the true meaning of the season, doing our best not to get swept up in the busyness, but making some extra quiet time to be still and enjoy the love of our God, revealed so wonderfully that first Christmas. At the same time, let's look for opportunities to share this love of Christ with others – after all, everyone is looking for the love and peace that only Christ can bring. In our secular society it can be challenging to share our faith with others. Thankfully we have some opportunities coming our way that make it easier. The Bishop's Office has provided us with materials that can assist us in inviting others to join us as a parish family for Christmas. Please take as many of these materials as you think you might use. Also, note that at our Christmas Masses we will be launching "Alpha", which is a program beginning in February across the parishes of Unanderra and West Wollongong that is accessible for everyone, even if they have never had a faith connection, so the invitation to join us at Christmas will flow on into other possible connections for them with God and the parish community. Let's pray about who we may invite along, that they may come to share in the love of Christ that we have been so blessed to have in our lives.

Finally, speaking of reaching out with the love of God – one of our young parishioners, Emma Parrish (22 years old) is about to embark on a year of mission with NET Ministries, focusing on bringing the love of Christ to young people and those most in need around Australia. Emma has been a faithful parishioner in both Unanderra and West Wollongong, one of our leaders with STIC Young Adults, and helping with the Live Local Youth Group. We will have an opportunity to support her financially as she begins fundraising for her missionary with collection boxes at the church, or if you wish to donate in other ways you can contact the parish office for details.

**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)

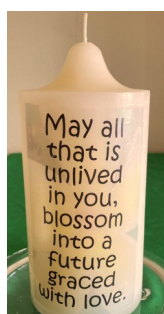
## Message from Sr Kerry

Every picture tells a story.....



An incredibly happy 11th anniversary of your priestly Ordination Fr Duane. Thank you for the gift you are.

**Sr Kerry Gardiner**



### ROSTER – NEXT WEEKEND

December	Church Washing	Helen Murphy	
Sat 24 Dec	Church Cleaning	<b>Volunteers needed</b>	
Sat 24 Dec	Lawns	M & J Winner, M Walsh, S Carrigan	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
6pm 24 Dec	C Walsh	L Gandy	
8pm 24 Dec	T Vaafusuaga		
8am 25 Dec	D Brown	F Carolan	School Holidays
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**

**Sr Kerry Gardiner - 0421 463 871**

**Kerry.Gardiner@sosj.org.au**

## PARISH NEWS

### Advent candles

Four little candles sit in a ring,  
Three of them purple, one of them pink,  
Each of them has its own special meaning,  
The glow of their light has a message to bring.



The first is of hope for the road ahead,  
The second of faith about what has been said,  
The third tells of joy about what is to come,  
The fourth speaks of peace for everyone.

Four little candles sit in a ring,  
Rejoice in the Christmas message they bring.

### 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, 17 December**. All welcome.

### 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 & 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 10 Dec

\$554	First Collection	- Clergy Remuneration Fund
\$465	Second collection	- Parish expenses
\$120	Tap Point - Parish donations	
\$286	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** simply make yourself known to the musicians and singers at any of our Masses.

### Recycling bins

Please save your Christmas recycling (cans, bottles and plastics) and donate to our Parish recycling bins. All proceeds go to the Parish. Our bins are located in the church car park.



## THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME - AIRS SUNDAY 18 DEC 2022



On the Journey this week. Fr Chris Sarkis' Gospel reflection - we too are called to say "yes" to God's will in our lives. Mother Hilda on letting God take up residence in your grief or loss. Plus, extra Advent reflections from Sr Magdalen Mather and Sr Anastasia Reeves, and Fr Mike Delaney on the expectations we have for each day and how they impact what is happening in our life. Listen at [jcr.org.au](http://jcr.org.au)

## A VOCATION VIEW

When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel had commanded him. God's invitation demands a response. If He is calling you, pray for the courage to respond wholeheartedly, as did St. Joseph. (Matt 1:24)

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)

## RECONNECT THIS CHRISTMAS: AN INVITATION FROM BISHOP BRIAN

"Each of us has at least one person in our life that is disconnected from faith. Will you invite them to be with you, with us, this Christmas?" - Bishop Brian  
Perhaps they are a family member - a son or daughter, a sibling, or spouse - or a friend or colleague. You can pray a simple prayer for them (and for yourself!) and then simply ask them, "What are you doing for Christmas this year? Would you like to come to mass with me?"



Please prayerfully read Bishop Brian's letter and consider, "who is God calling me to reach out to?" <https://bit.ly/bishopchristmas2022>

## SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT

Publicise the support available in your area for victim-survivors and for perpetrators who want to change their behaviour <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".  
All donations raised will support the work of Mudra Sprava (Wise Action), a Patriarchal Charitable Foundation in Ukraine. The organisation has three focus areas: Evacuation of people from frontline territories; Food packages for people in need; Shelters for internally displaced persons.  
To find out more information or to donate online please visit <https://bit.ly/ukraineappeal2022>

## 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](http://www.thatcatholicshop.com)





## 18 DEC - FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A)

### First Reading - Isaiah 7:10-14 *The virgin will conceive*

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:  
are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men  
without trying the patience of my God, too?  
The Lord himself, therefore,  
will give you a sign.  
It is this: the maiden is with child  
and will soon give birth to a son  
whom she will call Immanuel,  
a name which means "God-is-with-us."'

### Responsorial Psalm - Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples.  
It is he who set it on the seas; on the waters he made it firm. R.
2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place?  
The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things. R.
3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him.  
Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob. R.

### Second Reading — Romans 1:1-7 *Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.*

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God who, according to the human nature he took was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

### Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia! The virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel: God-is-with-us. Alleluia!

### Gospel — Matthew 1: 18-24 *Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.*

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph; being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son  
and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us.' When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.