

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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 Email:
 Mobile:

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 Cnr Hargreaves & Cummins Streets
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School Principal: Mrs Pauline Chrostowski

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

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SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) – 12 FEBRUARY 2023

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 13 Feb	Mass: 7am	
Tues 14 Feb <i>Sts Cyril, monk and Methodius, bishop</i>	Mass: 5:30pm Rosary 6pm  Adoration: 6pm- 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
Wed 15 Feb	Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion: 9:30am	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm—5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm 
Thurs 16 Feb	Rosary: 6pm  Adoration: 6pm - 7pm Reconciliation 6pm - 6:50pm  Mass: 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
Fri 17 Feb	Mass: 7am	Mass: 9:30am
Sat 18 Feb	Rosary: 7am  Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 5pm - 5:30pm Mass: 6pm	Rosary: 8:30am  Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9:30am—10:30am
Sun 19 Feb	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (<i>Polish</i>)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Vera Cleary, Jackie Allen, Lesley Lloyd, Andrea Frino, Assunta Terrone

Anniversaries

Bruna Tosti, Beryl Clarke, Bruce Bland, Derek Conroy, Michael Comensoli, Fr Hugh Dowdell

Prayers for the sick

Francesca Quetcher

Vern Mannix, Aldo Tomasiello, Helen Warbutton, Andrew Gilfoyle, John Carolan, Norma McCorvey

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

Our first Alpha night was a wonderful evening! Over 60 people came along at all stages of their journey of life and faith. There was a spirit of joy and welcome, connections between strangers already forming, and we look forward to the weeks ahead. It is impossible to express how grateful I am to our wonderful caterers who managed to feed a larger multitude than we had originally expected, to our wonderful small group hosts and helpers, and to all who have been praying for Alpha. Please keep praying for all involved in Alpha during the coming weeks.

It was heartbreaking to see news of the tragic earthquake in Turkey and Syria this week. Pope Francis shared these words in his Wednesday Audience:

“My thoughts go, at this time, to the peoples of Turkey and Syria who have been hard hit by the earthquake, which has caused thousands of deaths and injuries. With emotion I pray for them and express my closeness to these peoples, to the families of the victims and to all those who are suffering from this devastating calamity. I thank the relief workers and I encourage everyone to show solidarity with those territories, some of which have already been ravaged by a long war. Let us pray together that these brothers and sisters of ours may move on, overcoming this tragedy, and let us ask Our Lady to protect them.”

Let us take up the call to pray for those who have died, for those who mourn, for those bringing aid, and where possible to provide practical support. Caritas Australia provides more information and opportunities to donate here:

<https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/turkey-and-syria-earthquake/>

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS TIMES – FEBRUARY 22ND

Immaculate Conception Unanderra: 7am
 Immaculate Conception Unanderra: 9:30am (St Pius school Mass)
 St Therese West Wollongong: 5:30pm
 (There will also be a St Therese school liturgy at 12pm)

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

Last Monday I was present at the funeral of Noah. Noah was sixteen.

Some years back an organisation asked me if I knew a family who would appreciate tickets to the Royal Easter Show. I nominated Noah’s family and they readily accepted the offer with the words, ‘That will create memories for us.’ Tickets were promised.

As the time for the Show was fast approaching, and I hadn’t heard anymore about the tickets I contacted the organisation only to be told they didn’t have any tickets left. This is despite the promise they had made.

Knowing Noah’s lifespan was limited and he was confined to a wheelchair at that stage I was devastated. By contacting other people the money was raised and given to the family, ‘to create memories.’

Death brings forth many memories and sadly this memory of an unfulfilled promise is glued to my mind. It was my privilege to proclaim the Word at Noah’s funeral. ‘If I have all the eloquence of men or angels, but speak without love, I am simply a gong booming.’

Am I all noise and no action? What memories do I leave in the lives of others? What memories do I carry that need healing?



[Wheel chair art by Noah]

Sr Kerry Gardiner

ROSTER – THIS WEEKEND			
February	Church Washing	Fiona Fernandez	
Sat 11 Feb	Church Cleaning	F Fernandez, B Rice, R Tassone	
Sat 11 Feb	Lawns	No Lawn mowing this week	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children’s liturgy
6pm 11 Feb	D Ferrer	B Faraway	
8am 12 Feb	M Matos	Zali & Aidan Calvert	Sarah Walsh, Sandra Michielin
Counters	M Murphy (FH). C Stratton, M Winner		

ROSTER – NEXT WEEKEND			
February	Church Washing	Fiona Fernandez	
Sat 18 Feb	Church Cleaning	J Haywood, L Salway, M Hurley, T Vaafusuaga	
Sat 18 Feb	Lawns	B Mannix, W Brown, F Caruana, J Lonard	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children’s liturgy
6pm 18 Feb	D Nugent	S Marsala	
8am 19 Feb	T Vaafusuaga	A Kelly	Kirra Calvert, Alicia Sanchez,-Levine
Counters	A Kelly, B Faraway		

PARISH NEWS

2023 Sacramental Program

Registration and parent information nights for this year's Sacramental Program will be held during Term 1.

Confirmation registration will be either:

- 7pm Tuesday 7 March at the St Therese Parish Centre.
- 7pm Thursday 9 March at the St Therese Parish Centre

Reconciliation and First Holy Communion registration either:

- 7pm Tuesday 14 March at the St Therese Parish Centre.
- 7pm Thursday 16 March at the St Therese Parish Centre.

For more information please email the Parish office at:

unanderra@dow.org.au

Children's Liturgy Team meeting

The next meeting of the Children's liturgy team is 9am Sunday 26 February in the St Joseph's meeting room.

For more details please contact Sandra on 0434 685 135

Triumph - Lenten Program 2023 (available in the church now)

Triumph is an 88-page full colour book 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.

Cost is \$5. Please leave money in the box.



Lenten Groups - modified timetable

Lent is just around the corner. This year we are aiming to run 3 Lenten programs in the parish:

- **9am Tuesday** with Sr Kerry Gardiner (Ph 0421 463871)
- **7pm Wednesday** with George Attard (0435 790019),
- **11am Thursday** with Colleen Walsh (0421 443368).

We hope you might be able to join one of these Lenten groups. To register your interest, please call the group host.

Parish Finances - week ending 5 February

\$563 First Collection - Clergy Remuneration Fund

\$585 Second collection - Parish expenses

\$230 Tap Point - Parish donations

\$267 Planned giving envelopes

\$549 Direct debits (weekly average from Dec).

Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly.

Recycling bins

Together we raised \$133.90 from our recycling efforts in January.

Your donations of 10c recyclable bottles, cans and plastics are most appreciated.

Our bins are located in the church car park.



Lost Property

We have an increasing number of items in our lost property boxes—including bibles, rosary beads, glasses, umbrellas and a handbag. Lost property boxes are located in the northern Confessional. You are welcome to collect your belongings at any time.

APPIN MASSACRE MEMORIAL CEREMONY SUNDAY 16 APRIL 2023 CATARACT DAM PICNIC AREA 11AM – 3.30PM

Hosted by: Winga Myamly Reconciliation Group

The event will take place regardless of weather conditions.

Please see [flyer](#) for contacts and additional details.

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME – AIRS SUNDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2023

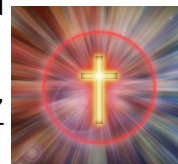
On the Journey this week: In the Gospel reflection Fr Slawek Plonka says it's more than just keeping the commandments; it's also avoiding sins of omission. Mother Hilda's story about Pope John XXIII. Plus, Deacon Josh Clayton, Trish McCarthy and Fr Mike Delaney. Listen at jcr.org.au



A VOCATION VIEW

“You have heard that it was said . . .” Jesus challenges His disciples to a deeper embrace of His teachings. Embrace His teachings with your whole heart, mind and soul. (Matthew 5:20-37)

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



LEVEL 1 TRAINING COURSE FOR SRE CATECHISTS IN FEBRUARY

The CCD Team will shortly commence this training course for all of the new volunteers teaching Special Religious Education in State Schools. Week 1 at each location will cover Child Protection and Classroom Management training, and this half-day part of the course should be completed by Catechists every three years.

The Course starts at Micah House Campbelltown on 6 February and the **Xavier Centre Wollongong on 10 February from 9.30-1.30 pm** over five consecutive weeks with morning tea provided.

Come and join this great ministry. To register please email support@ccdwoollongong.com

CARITAS

- SUPPORT SYRIA AND TUCKEY NOW

Caritas Turkey are responding to a series of powerful earthquakes. Thousands of lives have been lost already and the death toll increases by the hour. Your generous support can help provide emergency relief to help families recover and rebuild from disaster.

Visit caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/turkey-and-syriaearthquake/ or call **1800 024 413** toll free to provide much needed support to our East Emergency Appeal.

GO DEEPER IN YOUR FAITH WITH POPULAR & FREE CATHOLIC PODCASTS

• Bible in a Year

Last year, Ascension Press ran the Catholic Bible in a Year Podcast featuring Fr Mike Schmitz and Jeff Cavins. It was the world's number 1 Religious Podcast with over 250 million downloads. It will run again throughout 2023 – and while a new podcast is released daily, you can do it at your own pace signing up at www.ascensionpress.com/biy and it's not too late to catch up or simply work through at your own pace.

• Catechism in a Year

This year, Ascension Press have commenced the Catechism in a Year podcast which will slowly and prayerfully read through and break open the Catechism over 365 days. It's not too late to catch up, and the daily podcasts can be listened to at your own pace. It is available at www.ascensionpress.com/ciy

12 FEBRUARY - SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

First Reading - Ecclesiasticus 15:16-21 *He never commanded anyone to be godless*

If you wish, you can keep the commandments,
to behave faithfully is within your power.

He has set fire and water before you;
put out your hand to whichever you prefer.

Man has life and death before him;
whichever a man likes better will be given him.

For vast is the wisdom of the Lord; he is almighty and all-seeing.
His eyes are on those who fear him, he notes every action of man.

He never commanded anyone to be godless,
he has given no one permission to sin.



Responsorial Psalm - Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

1. They are happy whose life is blameless, who follow God's law!
They are happy who do his will, seeking him with all their hearts. R.
2. You have laid down your precepts to be obeyed with care.
May my footsteps be firm to obey your statutes. R.
3. Bless your servant and I shall live and obey your word.
Open my eyes that I may see the wonders of your law. R.
4. Teach me the demands of your statutes and I will keep them to the end.
Train me to observe your law, to keep it with my heart. R.

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 2:6-10

God in his wisdom predestined our glory before ages began.

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him.

These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia!

Gospel - Matthew 5:17-37

Such was said to your ancestors; but I am speaking to you.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish but to complete them. I tell you solemnly, till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, not one little stroke, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Therefore, the man who infringes even one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be considered the least in the kingdom of heaven; but the man who keeps them and teaches them will be considered great in the kingdom of heaven.

'For I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court; if a man calls his brother "Fool" he will answer for it before the Sanhedrin; and if a man calls him "Renegade" he will answer for it in hell fire. So then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your offering. Come to terms with your opponent in good time while you are still on the way to the court with him, or he may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. I tell you solemnly, you will not get out till you have paid the last penny.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye should cause you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body thrown into hell. And if your right hand should cause you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body go to hell.

'It has also been said: Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a writ of dismissal. But I say this to you: everyone who divorces his wife, except for the case of fornication, makes her an adulteress; and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all, either by heaven, since that is God's throne; or by the earth, since that is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, since that is the city of the great king. Do not swear by your own head either, since you cannot turn a single hair white or black. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'