

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

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) – 19 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 20 Feb	Mass: 7am	
Tues 21 Feb <i>St Peter Damien, bishop, doctor</i>	Mass: 5:30pm Rosary: 6pm  Adoration: 6pm- 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
Wed 22 Feb <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	Mass: 7am Mass: 9:30am (St Pius School) Mass: 11:30am (Polish)	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm—5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm 
Thurs 23 Feb <i>Collect of St Polycarp, bishop, martyr</i>	Mass: 11am (Polish) Rosary: 6pm  Adoration: 6pm - 7pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:50pm  Mass: 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
Fri 24 Feb	Mass: 7am Stations of the Cross: 7pm	Mass: 9:30am Stations of the Cross: 5pm
Sat 25 Feb	Rosary: 7am  Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 5pm - 5:30pm Mass: 6pm	Rosary: 8:30am  Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9:30am—10:30am
Sun 26 Feb	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (Polish)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

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

Prayers for the sick

Francesca Quetcher

Anniversaries

Antonia Marciano, Micky Walsh,
 Joseph Dredge.



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

We enter into the sacred season of Lent during this coming week, beginning with Ash Wednesday. The observances of Ash Wednesday and Lent are given to us to help to focus our minds and hearts on God, in preparation for the high point of the Church year at Easter. This weekend is a good time to begin prayerfully considering the commitments we might make during Lent, especially in relation to prayer, fasting and almsgiving. How might we ensure that prayer becomes more of a priority in our timetable? What might we sacrifice that will help us to simplify our lives and recognize our dependence on God? How might we give more of ourselves to others – especially those most in need?

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

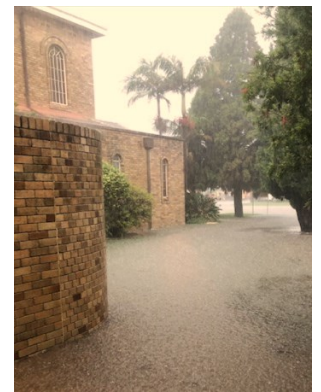
The memory of the heavy rain the previous week is probably still in your memory.

Many of us were gathered at the church either for a funeral or a CWL meeting. The rain was pelting down like a machine gun with limitless ammunition. The road began to flood and people were desperate to remove their cars from the street.

If ever I have experienced community care and spirit, it was that day. One parishioner was stranded in her stalled car; another parishioner fell as she tried to save her car. Lots of things were happening. While I acknowledge many people came to the rescue there was one parishioner who went well beyond duty. He not only did all he could do there and then but afterwards he ensured the cars that had been moved were safe to drive before they drove home. He did many things that even now I would be unaware of.

I have said since I arrived here, 'The people of Unanderra are city people with a country heart.' I cannot give you a greater compliment. What a community we are part of and what amazing individuals make up this community. How about an extra prayer this week for our community that we will continue to be the face and hands of Christ in our world today?

Sr Kerry Gardiner



ROSTER — THIS 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, -
Counters	A Kelly, B Farraway		

ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

February	Church Washing	Fiona Fernandez	
Sat 25 Feb	Church Cleaning	G Lord, L Zanetti, S Adams	
Sat 25 Feb	Lawns	No lawn mowing this week	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
6pm 25 Feb	M Rodwell		
8am 26 Feb	A Kelly	F Carolan, J Sharwood	Maria Matos, Anna Gunning
Counters	A Gunning, M Caudero, C Garrett		

PARISH NEWS

Stations of the Cross

On the Fridays of Lent, Stations of the Cross will take place at:
7pm at Immaculate Conception
5pm at St Therese West
Wollongong.



Lenten Penance & Obligations

On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday

- All who are 14 years or older are obliged to abstain from meat
- All who are 18 to 59 are obliged to fast (Canon 1252)
- Anyone who is sick or infirm is not obliged by these laws

Blessing of the backpacks - 8am Mass Sunday 5 March

We invite everyone, especially students, to bring your backpack or work bag along to be blessed for the new year and then join us for morning tea.

This will also be a commissioning Mass for our teachers, catechists and Children's liturgy volunteers as they teach the faith to our children this coming year.



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.**

Lenten Groups - modified timetable

This year, the parish will run 2 Lenten programs:

- **9am Tuesday has been cancelled.**
- **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.

Old Palms

Please bring along your old palms and place them in the basket at the side door of the church.

Parish Finances - week ending 12 February

\$596	First Collection	- Clergy Remuneration Fund
\$455	Second collection	- Parish expenses
\$130	Tap Point	- Parish donations
\$305	Planned giving envelopes	
\$549	Direct debits (weekly average from Dec).	

Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly.

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME - AIRS SUNDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2023

On the Journey this week: In the Gospel reflection Fr Mark De Battista says use the word "complete" and you'll get the Gospel's full meaning. Mother Hilda says make it easy for people to be who God wants them to be. Plus, we commence the Triumph Lenten series with Fr Antony Jukes and Fr Chris Sarkis Listen at jcr.org.au



A VOCATION VIEW

'Be Holy, for I, the LORD, your God, am holy!' Embrace the call to holiness, and everyday will bring new adventures of following where Christ leads.

(Leviticus 19:2)

If you want to talk about your discernment, please contact the diocesan vocations director, Fr Duane Fernandez at

vocations@dow.org.au



ILLAWARRA WOMEN'S DAY OF DANCE & CULTURE SUNDAY 5TH MARCH 2023 EDMUND RICE COLLEGE 12PM - 3PM

All women are welcome to join us to celebrate International Women's Week for an afternoon of connection through conversation, dance, food, and culture.

For more information and to purchase tickets please visit <https://bit.ly/3kckBiz> or scan the QR code

ILLAWARRA
WOMEN'S DAY OF
DANCE +
CULTURE



Sunday 5th March, 2023 | 12-3pm
Edmund Rice College, 112 Mt Keira Rd, Mt Keira

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

19 FEBRUARY - SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

First Reading - Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18

You must love your neighbour as yourself

The Lord spoke to Moses; he said: 'Speak to the whole community of the sons of Israel and say to them:

“Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy.

“You must not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. You must openly tell him, your neighbour, of his offence; this way you will not take a sin upon yourself. You must not exact vengeance, nor must you bear a grudge against the children of your people. You must love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord.”

Responsorial Psalm - The Lord is kind and merciful.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. R.
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. R.
3. The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.
He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults R.
4. As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins.
As a father has compassion on his sons, the Lord has pity on those who fear him. R.

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 3:16-23

All things are yours, but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple.

Make no mistake about it: if any one of you thinks of himself as wise, in the ordinary sense of the word, then he must learn to be a fool before he really can be wise. Why? Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As scripture says: The Lord knows wise men's thoughts: he knows how useless they are; or again: God is not convinced by the arguments of the wise. So there is nothing to boast about in anything human: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life and death, the present and the future, are all your servants; but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia! Whoever keeps the word of Christ, grows perfect in the love of God. Alleluia!

Gospel - Matthew 5:38-48

Love your enemies

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you: offer the wicked man no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well; if a man takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him. Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike. For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not? And if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.'

