

# 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:  
 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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## SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR A) – 5 MARCH 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 6 Mar	Mass: 7am	
Tues 7 Mar <i>Collect of Sts Perpetua and Felicity, martyrs</i>	Mass: 5:30pm Rosary 6pm  Adoration: 6pm- 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
Wed 8 Mar <i>Collect of St John of God, religious</i>	Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion: 9:30am	Adoration: 4:30pm  Reconciliation: 4:30pm—5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm
Thurs 9 Mar <i>Collect of St Frances of Rome, religious</i>	Mass: 11am (Polish) Rosary: 6pm  Adoration: 6pm - 7pm  Reconciliation 6pm - 6:50pm Mass: 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
Fri 10 Mar	Mass: 7am Stations of the Cross: 7pm	Mass: 9:30am Stations of the Cross: 5pm
Sat 11 Mar	Rosary: 7am  Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 5pm - 5:30pm Mass: 6pm	Rosary: 8:30am  Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9:30am—10:30am
Sun 12 Mar	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (Polish)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

#### Recently Deceased

Dot Gelfius, Dusan Markocic, Andrea Frino, Assunta Terrone, Dariusz Lipski

#### Prayers for the sick

Francesca Quetcher



#### Anniversaries

Edward Scally, Richard Bampton, Don Bucknall, James Maxwell Brame

William Swift

### 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*

This weekend we celebrate the **“Blessing of backpacks”**, with a special focus on children but also an invitation for anyone to bring their work or study bags for a blessing upon the year ahead. We will also be commissioning and blessing for our teachers at St Pius and elsewhere, catechists, and Children’s Liturgy volunteers, entrusted with teaching our children, that by word and example they will be able to bring the children entrusted to their care closer to God. This blessing will be a powerful reminder that we are called to bring the love of Jesus that we celebrate at Mass into all of our daily work and relationships.

Bishop Brian is visiting our parish, and the parish of St Therese West Wollongong, this coming week. He will be celebrating the Tuesday evening Mass at 5:30pm here at Immaculate Conception Unanderra on 7th March and the Wednesday evening Mass at 5:30pm at St Therese on 8th March. He will then return to celebrate 6pm Vigil on 11th March and 8am on 12th March, as well as 10am and 5pm at St Therese (including a blessing and opening of the Parish Centre). This will be a wonderful opportunity for us to have some time with our Bishop, and to assure him of our support and prayers in his many responsibilities in leading our Diocese.

### **Fr Duane Fernandez**

## *Message from Sr Kerry*

Fr Grynevych met with Pope Francis. Fr Grynevych is a Ukrainian priest. In meeting with Pope Francis, he presented the Pope with a gift; the gift being a cross.

The cross was not something purchased off the shelf. This cross was made especially for the Pope from the shards of glass from the windows of houses destroyed by Russian bombing. In the centre of the cross is the image of a butterfly, which is a sign of hope, hope that one day will bring resurrection.

We too carry a cross made individually for us. What shards of glass have been used to create your cross? Is there a butterfly within your image?



### **Sr Kerry Gardiner**

### ROSTER — THIS WEEKEND

February	Church Washing	Helen Murphy	
Sat 4 Mar	Church Cleaning	P and L Lathourakis	
Sat 4 Mar	Lawns	H Fernandez, Milan Family, Broeckmann Family	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children’s liturgy
6pm 4 Mar	N O’Donoghue		
8am 5 Mar	C Walsh	G Simmonite, H Murphy	Kylie & Molly Hertsch, Gemma Farrugia
Counters	A Kelly, B Farraway		

### ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

March	Church Washing	Helen Murphy	
Sat 11 Mar	Church Cleaning	W & J Rodgers, J Andersson	
Sat 11 Mar	Lawns	No Lawn mowing this week	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children’s liturgy
6pm 11 Mar	D Ferrier	B Farraway	
8am 12 Mar	P Gunning	Zali & Aidan Calvert	Leah Galea, Alison Sharwood
Counters	M Murphy (FT), S Alessi		

## PARISH NEWS

### Parish Lenten Almsgiving

Our Parish Almsgiving box is located on the offertory table during Lent. It will be taken up at the offertory procession during the Vigil and Sunday Masses with your almsgiving. Please give as generously as you are able. All donations will be sent to Caritas.



### 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.



### Catholic Women's League - Thursday 9 March

On Thursday 9th March at 10am, Jane Hollier will visit the parish to speak about My Aged Care. Everyone is welcome to join us in St Joseph's Room to learn more about this important topic. Afterwards Jane will be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding aged care. The CWL meeting will follow Jane's presentation. We hope you will be able to join us.

### 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](mailto:unanderra@dow.org.au)

### The Christian Meditation Group

Now meets weekly on Mondays, 6pm to 7pm, in the St Therese Parish Centre. **Please come and join us anytime** for a short talk and prayer in silence.

Enquiries: Please text Monica 0412 056 877

### Carmelite meeting - 4 March

The next meeting for 2023 will be in the St Joseph's room on Saturday 4 March at 10am. All are welcome.

Call Ann Baumber on 0427 235 955 for more information.

### 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



### Parish Finances - week ending 26 February

\$476 First Collection - Clergy Remuneration Fund

\$476 Second collection - Parish expenses

\$210 Tap Point - Parish donations

\$525 Planned giving envelopes

\$540 Direct debits (weekly average from Jan).

Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly.

### Recycling bins

Your donations of 10c recyclable bottles, cans and plastics are most appreciated. Our bins are located in the church car park.

## THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME – AIRS SUNDAY 5 MARCH 2023

On the Journey this week: : In the Gospel reflection Fr Mark De Battista says this gospel calls us to recognise all the signs God gives us for our trials ahead. Mother Hilda says it's what we think about that we see, so this week think gracious thoughts. Plus, the Triumph Lenten series with Sr Anastasia Reeves and Br Lewis Harwood. Listen at [jcr.org.au](http://jcr.org.au)



## A VOCATION VIEW

"Rise, and do not be afraid." So many experience fear or trepidation when called to the priesthood and/or religious life. God strengthens those who are called if they but respond with a generous heart. (Matthew 5:38-48)

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)



## EXPERIENCE TAIZE

FRIDAY 10 MARCH 2023

ST PAUL'S PARISH, ALBION PARK 7.30PM - 8.30PM

A Service of Prayer, Song and Contemplation. All welcome.



## HARVEST JOURNEYS EASTERN EUROPE PILGRIMAGE OF MERCY COMMENCES 13 JUNE 2023

A rare combination of Eastern Europe's most intriguing cities of Budapest, Krakow and Prague. Be blessed by the powerful graces of the great Shrines of Divine Mercy and the Black Madonna of Czestochowa. Relish a 3-night stay in spectacular Krakow as we retrace the places and graces of Pope St John Paul II.

Departing on 13 June 2023 with Fr Richard Healey.

More info: <https://www.harvestjourneys.com/tour/pilgrimage-of-mercy/>

## 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](http://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](http://www.ascensionpress.com/ciy)

## 5 MARCH - SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR A)

**First Reading** - Genesis 12: 1-4 *The call of Abraham, the father of God's people.*

The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing.

'I will bless those who bless you:  
I will curse those who slight you.  
All the tribes of the earth  
shall bless themselves by you.'

So Abram went as the Lord told him.

**Responsorial Psalm - Lord, let your mercy be on us as we place our trust in you.**

1. The word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted.  
The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love. R.
2. The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love,  
to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine. R.
3. Our soul is waiting for the Lord. The Lord is our help and our shield.  
May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you. R.

**Second Reading** - 2 Timothy 1:8-10 *God has saved us, and called us to be holy.*

With me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God who has saved us and called us to be holy – not because of anything we ourselves have done but for his own purpose and by his own grace. This grace had already been granted to us, in Christ Jesus, before the beginning of time, but it has only been revealed by the Appearing of our saviour Christ Jesus. He abolished death, and he has proclaimed life and immortality through the Good News.

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Glory and praise to you Lord Jesus Christ! From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.  
Glory and praise to you Lord Jesus Christ!

**Gospel** - Matthew 17:1-9 *His face shone like the sun*

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured: his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order, 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

