

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

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR A) – 19 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 20 Mar <i>St Joseph</i>	Mass: 7am	
Tues 21 Mar	Mass: 5:30pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm- 7pm 	Mass: 7:45am
Wed 22 Mar	Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion: 9:30am	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm—5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm 
Thurs 23 Mar <i>Collect of St Turibius of Mogrovejo, bishop</i>	Mass: 11am (Polish) Rosary: 6pm  Adoration: 6pm - 7pm  Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:50pm Mass: 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
Fri 24 Mar <i>St Patrick, bishop</i>	Mass: 7am Adoration: 7:30am - 8am  Stations of the Cross: 7pm	Mass: 9:30am Stations of the Cross: 5pm
Sat 25 Mar <i>Collect of St Cyril of Jerusalem, bishop, doctor</i>	Rosary: 7am  Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 5pm - 5:30pm Mass: 6pm	Rosary: 8:30am  Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9:30am—10:30am
Sun 26 Mar	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (Polish)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

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

Prayers for the sick

Francesca Quetcher



Anniversaries

Michele Hall, Wally Serelak, Mother Angelica

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

It was a pleasure to welcome Bishop Brian to our parish last week. It was the first time since I have been parish priest that I have experienced an “Episcopal Visitation” – and I haven’t been sacked, so that was a good outcome! On the contrary, Bishop Brian enjoyed his time with us, and a big thank you to all parishioners for making him feel so welcome. Reflecting upon his visit, it occurred to me that his decision to spend time with us in our parish community has given us a broader vision of the Church, and of the way that our parish fits in to the bigger picture and mission of the Diocese of Wollongong – and in turn with the universal mission of the Church throughout the world. Let us continue to pray for Bishop Brian in his vital ministry of shepherding the Diocese of Wollongong.

This weekend, Fr Ben Gandy has offered his services to celebrate Mass, and I am grateful that he is able to celebrate both the Vigil Mass and Sunday 8am Mass. I am sure that many of you will enjoy this opportunity to see Fr Ben in action, after watching him grow up among you over the years. Let us also show him our support and prayers in these early stages of his priestly ministry.

As we celebrate “Laetare Sunday” (Laetare meaning “rejoice” in Latin), the penitential tone of the Lenten season lightens as we mark the passing of the halfway point of the season. If you are anything like me, you might be noticing ways that you haven’t yet made the most out of this sacred season so far. Remember, that’s the whole point of the season – that we recognize we don’t have it all together, and regularly come back to Jesus for his forgiveness and help, which he always gives us so freely. After all, if we did Lent perfectly, we wouldn’t need Lent! Let’s receive his mercy again this day with gratitude and joy, and let’s ask him to help us to make the most of the remaining weeks of Lent, through a renewed and deepened commitment to prayer, fasting in whatever form that might take, and almsgiving, especially through Project Compassion.

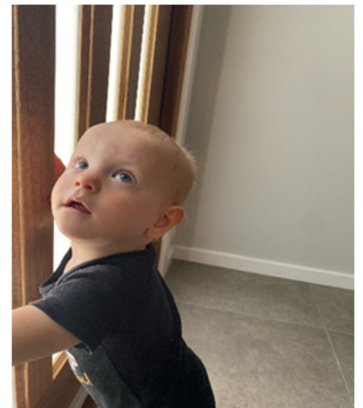
Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

Two weeks ago, I was bowled over by a thirteen-month-old near baldy-headed Maddox. I experienced something I had never experienced before.

Fr Duane was reading the gospel. Maddox, who was positioned between where I stood and where Fr Duane was standing couldn’t help but be in my gaze. Maddox was in the arms of his grandmother. As I tried to focus on the gospel, Maddox was living the gospel. Maddox’s eyes were fixed on the light streaming into the church. He became mesmerised. When he had taken all that in his glance changed and became fixated on something else. At one point the choir caught his attention. His eyes did not flit from here to there. No, Maddox took something in, he gazed upon it or was ‘transcended’ to use the language of the gospel. He saw, he contemplated and savoured.

Have I the eyes of Maddox who truly sees, contemplates, and recognises the gifts around him? As Helen Keller said, ‘The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision.’



Sr Kerry Gardiner

ROSTER – THIS WEEKEND

March	Church Washing	Helen Murphy	
Sat 18 Mar	Church Cleaning	F Fernandez, B Rice, R Tassone	
Sat 18 Mar	Lawns	M & J Wiinner, M Walsh, S Carrigan, A Bennett	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children’s liturgy
6pm 18 Mar	N O’Donoghue	S Marsala	
8am 19 Mar	M Matos	F Carolan, J Sharwood	Sarah Walsh, Sandra Michielin
Counters	A Kelly, B Farraway		

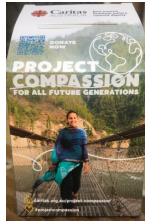
ROSTER – NEXT WEEKEND

March	Church Washing	Helen Murphy	
Sat 25 Mar	Church Cleaning	J Haywood, L Salway, M Hurley, T Vaafusuaga	
Sat 25 Mar	Lawns	No lawn mowing this week	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children’s liturgy
6pm 25 Mar	M Rodwell		
8am 26 Mar	S Walsh	A Kelly	Kirra Calvert, Alicia Sanchez-Levine
Counters	M Murphy (FH). C Stratton, M Winner		

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.



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



Holy Week at Immaculate Conception Unanderra

Holy Thursday 6 April

- 11am Polish Mass
- 7pm Mass of the Lord's Supper (Fr Duane)

Good Friday 7 April

- 10am Stations of the Cross (Acolyte)
- 11am (Polish)
- 3pm Commemoration of the Passion (Fr John Stork)

Easter Saturday 8 April

- 10:30am Blessing of the food (Polish)
- 11:30am Blessing of the food (Polish)
- 6pm Easter Vigil (Fr John Stork)

Easter Sunday 9 April

- 8am Mass (Fr Duane)
- 10am Mass (Polish)

Living Faith Books (Apr, May and June)

New Living Faith books for children and adults (Apr, May and June) are now available in the church. Cost is \$5 each.

Living Faith provides reflections based on a scripture passage from the daily Mass. Please leave money in the container.



Holy Week/ Easter ceremonies

Holy Week is fast approaching and we need volunteers to assist with the Holy Week and Easter liturgies.

Holy Thursday - Lector, welcomers, washing of the feet volunteers - 6 needed

Good Friday Stations - Lector

Good Friday - 2 Lectors

Easter Vigil, Holy Saturday - Welcomers, Lectors (4)

If you would like to participate by volunteering for any of these roles please add your name to the roster sheet in the middle aisle of the church or you may contact Barbara (bfarraway@bigpond.com)

Legion of Mary Diocese of Wollongong ACIES CEREMONY

Immaculate Conception Church Princes Hwy, Unanderra
Sunday 26 March 2023 at 2pm Legion of Mary Prayers and Rosary. Refreshments afterward in St Joseph's room.
Celebrant: Fr Stork
Enquiries to President Tom on 0414 573 305
Everyone welcome!

Parish Finances - week ending 12 March 2023

\$616 First Collection - Clergy Remuneration Fund
\$453 Second collection - Parish expenses
\$180 Tap Point - Parish donations
\$337 Planned giving envelopes
\$540 Direct debits (weekly average from Jan).
Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly.

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME - AIRS SUNDAY 19 MARCH 2023

On the Journey this week: Fr Mark De Battista says this Gospel takes us on a journey into true spiritual insight. Mother Hilda says it is not what we see that has its lasting effects, it is how we see it. The Triumph Lenten series continues with Sr Anastasia Reeves and Ken Bryant.
Listen at jcr.org.au



A VOCATION VIEW

Jesus opens the eyes of the blind man, as He can open our eyes blinded by the sins we have committed. Be open to new areas that God is leading you to trust His promises. (John 9:2-3)

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

EXPERIENCE TAIZE

GOOD FRIDAY 7 APRIL 2023

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, BULLI 7:30PM - 8.30PM
A Service of Prayer, silence and Contemplation. All welcome.

JOELLE MARYN: MASTER OF THE PIECES BOOK TOUR

We would like to invite all those interested in adult faith formation to join us for a very special evening on Monday 20 March 2023 at 7pm.

Award winning Actress, Speaker and TV Host, Joelle Maryn will be speaking at the new CCD and Evangelisation Resource Centre in Campbelltown and sharing her message of God's healing love as a part of her "Master of the Pieces" book tour. The event will include refreshments, good company, as well as the opportunity for Q and A and books to purchase.

To register: www.dow.org.au/events

POSITION VACANT

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE
CHIEF OPERATIONS MANAGER
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG

An exciting opportunity exists for a suitably experienced and qualified person to apply for the role of Executive Assistant to the Chief Operations Manager.

Please visit the website <https://www.dow.org.au/news-and-events/> Applications can be emailed to recruitment@dow.org.au

For all enquiries, call Robin Williams on (02) 4222 2402

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 MARCH - FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR A)

First Reading - 1 Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13 *In the presence of the Lord God, they anointed David King of Israel.*

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him: God does not see as man sees: man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

Responsorial Psalm - The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

1. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit R.
2. He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort. R.
3. You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. R.
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. R.

Second Reading - Ephesians 5:8-14 *Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.*

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said:

Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

Gospel Acclamation:

Glory to you Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel - John 9:1-41 *The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored.*

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, for him to have been born blind?' 'Neither he nor his parents sinned,' Jesus answered 'he was born blind so that the works of God might be displayed in him.

'As long as the day lasts I must carry out the work of the one who sent me; the night will soon be here when no one can work.

As long as I am in the world I am the light of the world.'

Having said this, he spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man, and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.' So they said to him, 'Then how do your eyes come to be open?' 'The man called Jesus' he answered 'made a paste, daubed my eyes with it and said to me, "Go and wash at Siloam"; so I went, and when I washed I could see.' They asked, 'Where is he?' 'I don't know' he answered.

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man. However, the Jews would not believe that the man had been blind and had gained his sight, without first sending for his parents and asking them, 'Is this man really your son who you say was born blind? If so, how is it that he is now able to see?' His parents answered, 'We know he is our son and we know he was born blind, but we do not know how it is that he can see now, or who opened his eyes. He is old enough: let him speak for himself.' His parents spoke like this out of fear of the Jews, who had already agreed to expel from the synagogue anyone who should acknowledge Jesus as the Christ. This was why his parents said, 'He is old enough; ask him.'

So the Jews again sent for the man and said to him, 'Give glory to God! For our part, we know that this man is a sinner.' The man answered, 'I don't know if he is a sinner; I only know that I was blind and now I can see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He replied, 'I have told you once and you wouldn't listen. Why do you want to hear it all again? Do you want to become his disciples too?' At this they hurled abuse at him: 'You can be his disciple,' they said 'we are disciples of Moses: we know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.' The man replied, 'Now here is an astonishing thing! He has opened my eyes, and you don't know where he comes from! We know that God doesn't listen to sinners, but God does listen to men who are devout and do his will. Ever since the world began it is unheard of for anyone to open the eyes of a man who was born blind; if this man were not from God, he couldn't do a thing.' 'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

Jesus said: 'It is for judgement that I have come into this world, so that those without sight may see and those with sight turn blind.'

Hearing this, some Pharisees who were present said to him, 'We are not blind, surely?' Jesus replied:

'Blind? If you were, you would not be guilty, but since you say, "We see," your guilt remains.'