

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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School Principal: Mrs Pauline Chrostowski

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

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FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR A) – 26 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 27 Mar | Mass: 7am | |
| Tues 28 Mar | Mass: 5:30pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm- 7pm | Mass: 7:45am |
| Wed 29 Mar | Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion: 9:30am | Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm—5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm |
| Thurs 30 Mar | Mass: 11am (Polish) Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:50pm Mass: 7pm | Mass: 7:45am |
| Fri 31 Mar | Mass: 7am Adoration: 7:30am - 8am Stations of the Cross: 7pm | Mass: 9:30am Stations of the Cross: 5pm |
| Sat 1 Apr | Rosary: 7am Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 5pm - 5:30pm Mass: 6pm | Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9:30am—10:30am |
| Sun 2 Apr | 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

Fr Patrick Landers, Mary Galvin, Ruth Churchill, Peter Speelman, Michael Lavelle, Kathy Wiggins.



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

I thank Fr Ben Gandy for celebrating last weekend's Masses – as well as assisting me it was also a wonderful opportunity for this parish to connect with Fr Ben since he grew up in this parish and now ministers in Sydney Archdiocese. This weekend I share a message from Rachel Walsh who also grew up in this parish updating us on her own Vocational journey with the MGL sisters in Canberra. Let us pray for Rachel as she continues to seek to know and follow God's plan in her life. Rachel asks for prayers for her health also as she approaches surgery soon. Let us also keep the 7 seminarians for the Diocese of Wollongong in our prayers, as well as all young people discerning their vocation to Marriage, Priesthood, Religious Life or Single Life. Message from Rachel below:

"Hey from Canberra. Just another small update on what's been going on in the life of the MGL sisters. Recently I made my first "big" small step and took my Promises, meaning that I officially finished my year as a Pre-Novitiate, and have begun the Novitiate program. With this Promises mass, I received a blessed cross which I am to wear over my heart. This, of course, is a highly symbolic gesture of the new commitment that I am making, and has already inspired many interesting conversations with strangers who have seen it. I am still very much receiving an abundance of grace from God from this new and deeper commitment in relationship to Him, and I ask again that you will all continue to pray for me as this next stage of my journey with the sisters continues. I am keeping you all in my prayers here.

*Blessings and love
Rachel Walsh"*

Finally, as Easter fast approaches, I commend to you the powerful message from Bishop Brian encouraging us to consider who we might pray for and invite to an Easter Mass – and how as a Parish Community we might be more and more welcoming and receptive to all. There are also other materials available from the Office of the Bishop that might assist you in inviting people who you feel prompted to invite to Easter Masses this year.

Thank you to Fr Bernard Gordon for celebrating the 6pm Vigil Mass this weekend as I have to celebrate a wedding outside the area and would not have been able to return in time.

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

It is some years since I was at school. How times have changed! Many of you would remember the blackboard, ink wells, dip in pens etc? Here's your opportunity to become involved in the school of the 21st century. It sounds a little more exciting than my school days!

Mr Hales, the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) teacher at St Pius X, Unanderra is looking for parishioners who may be interested in being a part of a STEM project with the Year 5 and 6 students.

The program is aimed at people who may have limited mobility in their hands or difficulty completing tasks at home that were once easy such as opening jars or writing.

The Year 5 and 6 children will be making products to help with these tasks using the 3D printer and modelling clay and they'd love to have people that can test them and give some feedback.

If you'd be interested in taking part please give the office at St Pius a call on 42 713550 and they'll pass your details onto Mr Andrew Hales, alternatively you can send him an email with your contact details to halesa01@dow.catholic.edu.au



Sr Kerry Gardiner

ROSTER – THIS 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 | | |

ROSTER – NEXT WEEKEND

| April | Church Washing | Barbara Farraway | |
|-----------|---------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Sat 1 Apr | Church Cleaning | G Lord, L Zanetti, S Adams | |
| Sat 1 Apr | Lawns | B Mannix, W Brown, F Caruana, J Lonard | |
| | Lectors | Welcomers | Children's liturgy |
| 6pm 2 Apr | N O'Donoghue | | |
| 8am 2 Apr | T Vaafusuaga | G Simmonite, H Murphy | Maria Matos, Anna Gunning |
| Counters | A Kelly, B Farraway | | |

PARISH NEWS

Parish Audit

The 2022 financial audit of the parish has been completed and a copy of the Income/Expenditure Statement for the year ended 31st December 2022 has been placed on the Church **NOTICE BOARD**.

A copy of the statement is included with the parish bulletin.

Parish Pastoral Council meeting - 30 March

The next meeting of the PPC will be on Thursday 30 March in the St Joseph's meeting room.

If you have any items that you would like the PPC to discuss, please send an email to the Parish office at:

unanderra@dow.org.au

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.



Carmelite meeting - Saturday 1 April

The next Lay Carmelite meeting is on Saturday 1 April, in St Joseph's Room at 10am for 10.30am.

Enquiries: **Ann 0427 235 955**.

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 (Prayer of the Cross (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.

The Christian Meditation Group

Will go into recession after 6pm Monday 27th March weekly meeting at St Therese' Parish Centre until Monday 24th April. Easter blessings to all. After the school holidays, please invite friends and those of all faiths and none who may be interested to come along.

Enquiries: Please text **Monica 0412 056 877**

Parish Finances - week ending 19 March 2023

| | | |
|-------|--|----------------------------|
| \$499 | First Collection | - Clergy Remuneration Fund |
| \$346 | Second collection | - Parish expenses |
| \$170 | Tap Point | - Parish donations |
| \$301 | Planned giving envelopes | |
| \$500 | Direct debits (weekly average from Feb). | |

Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly.

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME - AIRS SUNDAY 26 MARCH 2023

On the Journey this week: Fr Mark De Battista says in the Gospel Jesus leads us into an explicit affirmation of faith in him. Mother Hilda says the raising of Lazarus teaches us how to deal with grief. The Triumph Lenten series continues with Ken Bryant and Br Lewis Harwood. Plus, Mike Delaney on the wonder & restrictions of mobile phones. Listen at jcr.org.au



A VOCATION VIEW

"Yes, Lord, I have come to believe that you are the Christ!" With this belief, Jesus is able to work marvels through those who trust in Him, even to raising the dead to new life. (John 11:27)

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.

A LENTEN INVITATION FROM BISHOP BRIAN MASCORD

"I would like to take this opportunity to remind us of the call of Jesus—a call that was given to all of us—to go out and make disciples (Mt 28:18–20). It is not enough to live good "saintly" lives and then remain silent. This mission is to share the invitation of Christ to "come and see" (Jn 1:39). It is not the work of certain special individuals, but rather the responsibility of all Christians and the communities of faith in which they live." (Bishop Brian Mascord)

Many of us have family and friends that are disconnected from the Church or faith. As Bishop Brian has said, "What are you willing to give for the sake of those you love?" Please take a few moments to read the letter from Bishop Brian and prayerfully consider the question: Who is God asking me to reach out to this Lent?

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.

26 MARCH - FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR A)

First Reading - Ezekiel 37:12-14

I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

Responsorial Psalm - With the Lord there is mercy, and fullness of redemption

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading. R.
2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you. R.
3. My soul is waiting for the Lord. I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak.
(Let the watchman count on daybreak and Israel on the Lord). R.
4. Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity. R.

Second Reading - Romans 8:8-11

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he will give life to your own mortal bodies.

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

Gospel Acclamation:

Glory to you Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will not die forever.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel - John 11:1-45 *I am the resurrection and the life*

There was a man named Lazarus who lived in the village of Bethany with the two sisters, Mary and Martha, and he was ill. It was the same Mary, the sister of the sick man Lazarus, who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair. The sisters sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.' The disciples said, 'Rabbi, it is not long since the Jews wanted to stone you; are you going back again?' Jesus replied:

'Are there not twelve hours in the day? A man can walk in the daytime without stumbling because he has the light of this world to see by; but if he walks at night he stumbles, because there is no light to guide him.'

He said that and then added, 'Our friend Lazarus is resting, I am going to wake him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he is able to rest he is sure to get better.' The phrase Jesus used referred to the death of Lazarus, but they thought that by 'rest' he meant 'sleep', so Jesus put it plainly, 'Lazarus is dead; and for your sake I am glad I was not there because now you will believe. But let us go to him.' Then Thomas – known as the Twin – said to the other disciples, 'Let us go too, and die with him.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to sympathise with them over their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.'

When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in a low voice, 'The Master is here and wants to see you.' Hearing this, Mary got up quickly and went to him. Jesus had not yet come into the village; he was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were in the house sympathising with Mary saw her get up so quickly and go out, they followed her, thinking that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

Mary went to Jesus, and as soon as she saw him she threw herself at his feet, saying, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' At the sight of her tears, and those of the Jews who followed her, Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept; and the Jews said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.