

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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PALM SUNDAY (YEAR A) – 2 APRIL 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 3 Apr	Mass: 7am	
Tues 4 Apr	No Mass or Adoration	Mass: 7:45am
Wed 5 Apr	Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion: 9:30am	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm—5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm 
Thurs 6 Apr <i>Thursday of the Lord's Supper</i>	Mass: 11am (Polish) Mass: 7pm	Mass: 7pm
Fri 7 Apr <i>Good Friday</i>	Stations of the Cross: 10am Mass: 11am (Polish) Commemoration of the Lord's Passion: 3pm	Stations of the Cross: 10am Commemoration of the Lord's Passion: 3pm
Sat 8 Apr <i>Easter Vigil</i>	Blessing of the food: 10:30am and 11:30am Mass: 6pm	Mass: 7pm
Sun 9 Apr	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (Polish)	Mass: 10am Mass: No 5pm Mass today

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Jim O'Connor, Margaret Fitzgerald,
Dusan Markocic

Prayers for the sick

Francesca Quetcher

Anniversaries

William Dredge, Janina Seweryn,
Leigh Martin, Tadesx Seweryn



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

With Palm Sunday, we now begin Holy Week, the high point of the Church year, as we remember and celebrate the greatest love there ever was, the love of Jesus giving himself up for us on the cross. Holy Week culminates in the Easter "Triduum" – meaning "Three Days" – beginning with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, continuing in one unbroken liturgy to the Commemoration of his Passion at 3pm on Good Friday, and culminating in the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus.

Each year, Holy Week and Easter seems to come around more quickly! If that's true for you, and if Lent has not been as fruitful as you may have wished, let's remember it is not too late for us to make extra time for quiet prayer and reflection, to sacrifice something extra especially on Good Friday, and to give more of ourselves to almsgiving, particularly through Project Compassion – so that the love of Christ on the cross will become more of a reality in our own lives, and through us, for the world.

Finally, as Bishop Brian has encouraged us to do in his pastoral message, let's prayerfully reflect on who we might invite to join us especially for the Easter liturgies this year. There are materials available at the church resource tables that can assist us with this. Let's join together in prayer that Holy Week and Easter will truly be a spiritual high point for all of us this year, bringing new life to our parish community.

Shortly after Easter I will be taking my annual leave, as my sister has just arrived from Canada with her husband and my little nephews (7 years old and 10 months old). I will share more details of the plans for my time away next weekend.

Tuesday evening Mass and Adoration at Unanderra is cancelled on 4th April only, as the clergy will be at a dinner, and then the Chrism Mass. All are invited to attend the Chrism Mass at St Francis Xavier's Cathedral beginning at 7pm."

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

This year I purchased a newly released Lenten reflection book by Sr Joyce Rupp; one of my favourite authors. Each day was like opening up a surprise and some surprises were bigger than others.

One particular day had been a rough day; a stormy day. The reflection was written just for me on that day! Each reflection concludes with a short prayer. The prayer this day started with 'Unexpected visitor.' That hit me between the eyes. My storm was unexpected but Jesus also came to me in the unexpected way of a friend who happened to ask how I was.

As we begin Holy Week, we too experience our triumphs and Calvary's.... A very sick relative; demands of caring for another; isolation; a medical report that causes concern; job insecurity; depression; financial troublesthe list can be endless.

To take Joyce Rupp's words what title sits with you at this time? Companion in my suffering? Channel of healing? Abiding Presence? Merciful Attentive Healer? Source of Serenity? Unexpected Visitor? Kind-Eyed Gazer? Assuring Forgiver? Rest For My Burdens? Courageous Journeyer? Joy of My Life?

As you walk your Calvary this week remember that Jesus walks with you too.



Sr Kerry Gardiner

ROSTER – THIS WEEKEND

March	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 1 Apr	N O'Donoghue		
8am 2 Apr	T Vaafusuaga	G Simmonite, H Murphy	Maria Matos, Anna Gunning
Counters	A Kelly, B Farraway		

ROSTER – NEXT WEEKEND

April	Church Washing	Barbara Farraway	
Sat 8 Apr	Church Cleaning	P & L athourakis, McInerney Family	
Sat 8 Apr	Lawns	No Lawn mowing this week	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
6pm 8 Apr	Special Roster	Marsala, Farraway	
8am 9 Apr	P Gunning	Zali & Aidan Calvert	School Holidays
Counters	A Gunning, M Caudero, C Garrett		

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**.

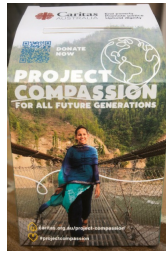
A copy of the statement is included with the parish bulletin.

Parish 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**.

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 26 March 2023

\$483 First Collection - Clergy Remuneration Fund
 \$469 Second collection - Parish expenses
 \$170 Tap Point - Parish donations
 \$332 Planned giving envelopes
 \$500 Direct debits (weekly average from Feb).

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.



Easter Roster

Holy Thursday 7pm	Reading and Prayer of the Faithful A Kelly	Reading M Carolan		Welcomers
Good Friday Stations 10am	Reading M Carolan			
Good Friday The Passion 3pm	Readings 1T Vaafusuaga 2 S Walsh	Gospel Narrator Sr Kerry	Other Reader T Vaafusuaga	
Easter Vigil Saturday 7pm	Readings 1 C Walsh 3 Sr Kerry 5 N O'Donoghue 7 T Vaafusuaga	Mass Readings Prayer of Faithful S Walsh		S Marsala B Faraway
Easter Sunday 8am	Readings - P Gunning			Zali & Aidan Calvert

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME - AIRS SUNDAY 2 APRIL 2023

On the Journey this week: A program to start the Church's "Great Week" with Palm Sunday reflections from Fr Mark De Battista and Mother Hilda, plus three Holy Week reflections from Darren McDowell, Fr Sean Cullen and Fr Antony Jukes, and more great music! Listen at jcr.org.au



A VOCATION VIEW

Our Lord identifies with our suffering and offers His for our salvation. When we unite our sufferings with His, we are bound to Him on the Cross for the salvation of our brothers and sisters.

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?

GENTLE REMINDER

It is important for the safety and accessibility of all that the whole area outside the front entrance to the church (Princes Highway entrance) remain drop off only, for those with mobility impairment, with no parking.

The driveway exit on Grace street must therefore be kept clear for the purposes for entry and exit of vehicles - including emergency vehicles. There was an incident in recent weeks where emergency vehicles did not have access when needed to attend to a parishioner during Mass. Parking on the grass is also not permitted as the grass is easily damaged and becomes unsafe especially in wet weather. Thank you all for your understanding and co-operation."

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.

2 APRIL – PALM SUNDAY (YEAR A)

First Reading - Isaiah 50:4-7

I did not cover my face against insult and I know I will not be ashamed

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

Responsorial Psalm - My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

1. All who see me deride me. They curl their lips, they toss their heads.
'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him; let him release him if this is his friend.' R.
2. Many dogs have surrounded me, a band of the wicked beset me.
They tear holes in my hands and my feet. I can count every one of my bones R.
3. They divide my clothing among them. They cast lots for my robe.
O Lord, do not leave me alone, my strength, make haste to help me! R.
4. I will tell of your name to my brethren and praise you where they are assembled.
'You who fear the Lord give him praise; all sons of Jacob, give him glory.
Revere him, Israel's sons.' R.

Second Reading - Philippians 2:6-11

He humbled himself to become like us and God raised him on high.

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are, and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel Acclamation:

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! Christ became obedient for us even to death, dying on the cross. Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel - Matthew 21:1-11

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Jesus was brought before Pontius Pilate, the governor, and the governor put to him this question, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' Jesus replied, 'It is you who say it.' But when he was accused by the chief priests and the elders he refused to answer at all. Pilate then said to him, 'Do you not hear how many charges they have brought against you?' But to the governor's complete amazement, he offered no reply to any of the charges.

At festival time it was the governor's practice to release a prisoner for the people, anyone they chose. Now there was at that time a notorious prisoner whose name was Barabbas. So when the crowd gathered, Pilate said to them, 'Which do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?' For Pilate knew it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. Now as he was seated in the chair of judgment, his wife sent him a message, 'Have nothing to do with that man; I have been upset all day by a dream I had about him.' The chief priests and the elders, however, had persuaded the crowd to demand the release of Barabbas and the execution of Jesus. So when the governor spoke and asked them, 'Which of the two do you want me to release for you?' they said 'Barabbas'. 'But in that case,' Pilate said to them 'what am I to do with Jesus who is called Christ?' They all said, 'Let him be crucified!' 'Why?' he asked 'What harm has he done?' But they shouted all the louder, 'Let him be crucified!' Then Pilate saw that he was making no impression, that in fact a riot was imminent. So he took some water, washed his hands in front of the crowd and said, 'I am innocent of this man's blood. It is your concern.' And the people, to a man, shouted back, 'His blood be on us and on our children!' Then he released Barabbas for them. He ordered Jesus to be first scourged and then handed over to be crucified. The governor's soldiers took Jesus with them into the Praetorium and collected the whole cohort round him. Then they stripped him and made him wear a scarlet cloak, and having twisted some thorns into a crown they put this on his head and placed a reed in his right hand. To make fun of him they knelt to him saying, 'Hail, king of the Jews!' And they spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head with it. And when they had finished making fun of him, they took off the cloak and dressed him in his own clothes and led him away to crucify him. On their way out, they came across a man from Cyrene, Simon by name, and enlisted him to carry his cross. When they had reached a place called Golgotha, that is, the place of the skull, they gave him wine to drink mixed with gall, which he tasted but refused to drink. When they had finished crucifying him they shared out his clothing by casting lots, and then sat down and stayed there keeping guard over him. Above his head was placed the charge against him: it read: 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.' At the same time two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. The passers-by jeered at him; they shook their heads and said 'So you would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Then save yourself! If you are God's son, come down from the cross!' The chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him in the same way. 'He saved others,' they said 'he cannot save himself. He is the king of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He put his trust in God; now let God rescue him if he wants him. For he did say, "I am the son of God."' Even the robbers who were crucified with him taunted him in the same way. From the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani!' that is, 'My God, my God, why have you deserted me!' When some of those who stood there heard this, they said, 'The man is calling on Elijah,' and one of them quickly ran to get a sponge which he dipped in vinegar and putting it on a reed, gave it to him to drink. 'Wait!' said the rest of them 'and see if Elijah will come to save him.' But Jesus again crying out in a loud voice, yielded up his spirit.

All kneel and pause a moment.

At that, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; the earth quaked; the rocks were split; the tombs opened and the bodies of many holy men rose from the dead, and these, after his resurrection, came out of the tombs, entered the Holy City and appeared to a number of people. Meanwhile the centurion, together with the others guarding Jesus, had seen the earthquake and all that was taking place, and they were terrified and said, 'In truth this was a son of God.'