

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 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
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EASTER SUNDAY (YEAR A) – 9 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 10 Apr <i>Easter Monday</i>	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (Polish)	
Tues 11 Apr	Mass: 5:30pm Rosary 6pm Adoration: 6pm- 7pm	Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion: 7:45am
Wed 12 Apr	Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion: 9:30am	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm—5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm
Thurs 13 Apr	Mass: 5:30pm Rosary 6pm Adoration: 6pm- 7pm Reconciliation: 6pm- 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
Fri 14 Apr	Mass: 7am	Mass: 9:30am
Sat 15 Apr	Rosary 7am Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 5pm - 5:30pm Mass: 6pm	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am
Sun 16 Apr	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (Polish)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm Mass

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Jim O'Connor, Margaret Fitzgerald,
Dusan Markocic

Prayers for the sick

Francesca Quetcher

Anniversaries

Elizabeth Ray, Doris Murphy,
Cynthia Webb, Mary Grecko,
Rita Zamper, Carmen Vella.



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

Happy Easter! It is wonderful to have the opportunity to gather together to celebrate the death and resurrection of Christ on this day - this is the high point of the Church year as we celebrate the victory of God in our world, the turning point of all of history! Indeed every Mass is a "little Easter" where we encounter the risen Christ in the most wonderful way, in each other, in his Word, and above all in the Eucharist. Whatever darkness there may be in our lives, let's give thanks to God for his promise that he is with us there, leading us into his light, one step at a time.

The year so far has been marked by renewal and "resurrection" for our parish community as well, with the Australia Day Mass and BBQ returning to our parish after Covid and being a wonderful community event, the first "Alpha Course" about to be completed, a joint initiative of Unanderra and West Wollongong which exceeded everyone's expectations, the first "Blessing of Backpacks" Mass together with the commissioning of the teachers, catechists and children's liturgy volunteers for the new year, and Children's Liturgy every Sunday at 8am Mass together with morning teas on the first Sunday of the month continuing. This has all been possible through the generosity of so many parishioners and we thank God for their generosity. If anyone would like to share their gifts in any way in our parish or get more involved in the various groups and initiatives, please don't hesitate to contact me or the parish office and we can guide you as to possible ways to do so.

Another sign of renewal has been the wonderful work of the RCIA team across the parishes of West Wollongong and Unanderra which has guided two adults to the celebration of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist this Easter at West Wollongong. With this joint parish team now well equipped for the process, if you or anyone you know may be interested in becoming Catholic, please don't hesitate to contact me, or the parish office, at any time to discuss next steps.

I will be taking my annual leave straight after Easter, as my sister has arrived from Canada with my two little nephews. I thank Bishop Brian Mascord, Fr Brian Harrison, and Fr Peter Gardiner for covering the weekend Masses during my absence and ensuring that the usual weekend timetable can continue. Thank you to Fr Jerzy for covering most weekday Masses across the two parishes – the only exceptions being Tuesday mornings at West Wollongong and Wednesday mornings at Unanderra wherein acolytes will lead a Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion. I will return to work on the weekend of 6-7 May.

Thank you also to the many lay people who will be taking on more work in my absence. Melissa our parish secretary will continue to be the main contact during office hours. If you have any urgent needs outside of office hours, the main contact in my absence will be Sister Kerry Gardiner on 0421 463 871 – including requests for Anointing of the Sick and last rites as Sister Kerry will be able to co-ordinate with the local priests.

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

There are many crocus plants growing in my garden. I have had the plants for a couple of years now. They were given to me by a friend. I had about ten bulbs.

Last week I pulled out some bulbs to replant. I was amazed by the large number of bulbs that had congregated around the plant.

These flowers are beautiful, as well as bountiful.

This Easter I am inviting each of you to take a bulb, which is in the bucket just inside my driveway. Take it home and plant it. Be amazed next Easter at just how much the plant has grown and spread. Note the beauty it adds to the garden.

May this plant symbolise for you the person you are called to be. May your Easter be filled with the goodness and love of the Risen Lord and accompanied by those who challenge you to be the best version of yourself that you can be.

Wishing you a joy filled Easter accompanied by the blessings that only the Risen Christ can give.

Sr Kerry Gardiner



ROSTER – THIS WEEKEND

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

ROSTER – NEXT WEEKEND

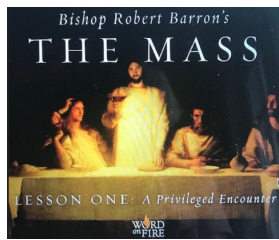
April	Church Washing	Barbara Farraway	
Sat 15 Apr	Church Cleaning	W & J Rodgers, J Andersson	
Sat 15 Apr	Lawns	H Fernandez, Milan Family, Broeckmann Family	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
6pm 15 Apr	D Ferrer	S Marsala	
8am 16 Apr	A Kelly	F Carolan, J Sharwood	School Holidays
Counters	A Kelly, B Farraway		

PARISH NEWS

Faith enrichment evenings - starting Wed 26 April

All are invited to walk through the *Liturgy of the Mass* with Bishop Robert Barron. You will be transformed by his insights on this intimate encounter with Jesus. The series runs for 6 weeks.

Join us for coffee/cake at 7pm— followed by a half hour video at 7:30pm in the St Joseph's room, Immaculate Conception Parish, Unanderra each Wednesday evening. Our first evening starts on 26 April.



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.



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 2 April 2023

\$779 First Collection - Clergy Remuneration Fund
\$572 Second collection - Parish expenses
\$170 Tap Point - Parish donations
\$229 Planned giving envelopes
\$500 Direct debits (weekly average from Feb).

Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly.

Thursday timetable

Thank you to all who participated in the survey about the Thursday timetable. There was a clear preference which will begin from **Thursday 13th April - 5:30pm Mass, 6pm Holy Hour** beginning with Rosary, with Reconciliation available.

Young Adults Barefoot bowls

STIC Young Adults will be battling head to head for barefoot bowls at **2pm on Saturday 15th April** at Wiseman's Park bowling club. \$10 each for bowls but the competition and company are priceless. For more info and to RSVP please see Instagram (@sticyoungadults), the Facebook event at STIC Young Adults or text **Bridget on 0481 842 530**.

Hand Made Cards

Students from St Joseph's Catholic High School have handmade cards for parishes in our diocese to live out the school's Josephite values of compassion and service. Anyone is welcome to take one or to give to someone who might benefit from receiving one. Thanks to Cristina Curcio, a parishioner here and the Youth Ministry Co-ordinator at St Joseph's for organizing this beautiful initiative.

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME - AIRS SUNDAY 9 APRIL 2023

On the Journey this week: Easter Sunday reflections from Fr Mark De Battista and Mother Hilda, plus Fr Mike Delaney, Trish McCarthy and a faith testimonial by Eddy Ferry from menALIVE, and some great contemporary Christian music. Listen at jcr.org.au



A VOCATION VIEW

He is Risen! Salvation has been won; the power of death is broken. Be inspired by Christ's triumph over death that you might be a confident witness of His Resurrection. (Matthew 28:6-7)

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

SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT (MSC MISSION OFFICE)

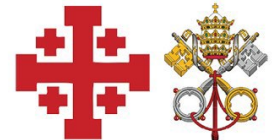
The special place in God's heart for the poor necessitates our preferential option for the poor. In *Evangelii Gaudium* (n. 197 – 201), Pope Francis elaborates on the 'special place in God's heart' for the poor, explaining how we derive from it our principle of the preferential option for the poor and calling our communities to respond to the needs of the poor with insight and creativity. <https://justiceandpeace.org.au/lent-easter-social-justice>

HOLY LAND COLLECTION

The annual Holy Land Collection will be held on **Good Friday, 7 April 2023**. Pope Francis has asked our parishes to support the collection which helps Christians in the Holy Land.

Your support helps the church minister in parishes, provide Catholic schools, orphanages, and medical centres. The Holy Land Collection also helps to preserve the sacred shrines.

To find out more, or to make an on-line donation please visit <http://dow.sh/HolyLand>



COMPASS: CATHOLIC FAMILY CAMPING WEEKENDS FOR 2023

- **19-21 MAY (BOOK NOW!)**
 - **27-29 OCTOBER 2023 (SAVE THE DATE)**
- Guntawang Catholic Youth Centre, Sheehys Creek Road, Oakdale (15 minutes from Picton). Stay in your tent, camper or van – with dorm accommodation also an option. The weekend is designed to unite families of every age to celebrate the incredible gift of family life. There will be shared meals, games, music, prayer, and Sunday Mass led by Bishop Brian Mascord. \$30 per adult or \$70 per family. Enquiries or to register your interest: **Jude Hennessy 4222 2407 or jude.hennessy@dow.org.au**

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.

9 APRIL – EASTER SUNDAY (YEAR A)

First Reading - Acts 10:34, 37-43

We have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead.

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

Responsorial Psalm - This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

1. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.
Let the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end.' R.
2. The Lord's right hand has triumphed; his right hand raised me up.
I shall not die, I shall live and recount his deeds R.
3. The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. R.

Second Reading - Colossians 3:1-4

Look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is.

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

Sequence:

Christians, to the Paschal Victim offer sacrifice and praise.
The sheep are ransomed by the Lamb; and Christ, the undefiled,
hath sinners to his Father reconciled.
Death with life contended: combat strangely ended!
Life's own Champion, slain, yet lives to reign.
Tell us, Mary: say what thou didst see upon the way.
The tomb the Living did enclose;
I saw Christ's glory as he rose!
The angels there attesting;
shroud with grave-clothes resting.
Christ, my hope, has risen: he goes before you into Galilee.
That Christ is truly risen from the dead we know.
Victorious king, thy mercy show!

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Christ has become our paschal sacrifice; let us feast with joy in the Lord. Alleluia!

Gospel - John 20:1-9

The teaching of scripture is that he must rise from the dead.

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb' she said 'and we don't know where they have put him.'

So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

