

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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 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
 Website: www.unanderraparish.org.au
 Phone: 4271 1068
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DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY (YEAR A) – 16 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 17 Apr	Mass: 7am	
Tues 18 Apr	No Mass	Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion: 7:45am
Wed 19 Apr	Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion: 9:30am	No Mass
Thurs 20 Apr	No Mass	No Mass
Fri 21 Apr <i>St Anselm, bishop, doctor</i>	No Mass	No Mass
Sat 22 Apr	Rosary 7am Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 5pm - 5:30pm Mass: 6pm	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am
Sun 23 Apr	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (<u>Polish</u>)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm Mass

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Michael Quinn, Jim O'Connor,
Margaret Fitzgerald.

Prayers for the sick

Francesca Quetcher



Anniversaries

Minnette Villanueva, Andrew Browne,
Russell Payne, Fr Leo Stevens,

Bill Nessen, Mary Clifford, Anita Johansson

Gail Bucknall, Bp William Murray,
Brian Cummins.

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 am officially on leave now, but wanted to say a big thank you to every single parishioner who contributed to the preparation and celebration of the Holy Week and Easter ceremonies. There are too many to name, but the state of the church inside and out, the church vessels, the music, the liturgical ministries, the hospitality after Mass, the children's activities, and the participation of so many parishioners coming along was such a blessing to me and to all of us. Special congratulations again to Nadine and Ellie who received Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion at the Easter Vigil – we look forward to continuing to support you and be enriched by your gifts as you continue your faith journey.

Thank you to Bishop Brian Mascord, Fr Peter Gardiner, and Fr Brian Harrison for celebrating the Masses across the two parishes this weekend and next, Fr Jerzy for celebrating a number of weekday Masses at West Wollongong during the coming three weeks, and to the many parishioners taking on extra work in my absence.

Note: this week, Fr Jerzy will be on retreat and the Diocesan Clergy In-service will also take place, so there will be no Masses from Tuesday to Friday in either West Wollongong or Unanderra, though there will be a Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion on Tuesday 18th May at West Wollongong and Wednesday 19th May at Unanderra.

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

Having lived for ten years at Lakemba and being there for 9/11 I have come to respect the Muslim community, who are often branded as evil, due to a few individuals or small groups. If I am out and about during Ramadan and pass a Muslim person I find it very easy and comfortable to say 'Happy Ramadan.' Never once has my greeting been rejected, rather I am greeted back with a huge smile and 'thank you.' It is a great conversation starter.

This Easter I felt challenged. Watching the weather report on the TV I was told to enjoy the long weekend. Reading the news most of it was about the long weekend; what I could enjoy, where I could buy a coffee or do the shopping. One Queensland bakery has even removed the cross from hot cross buns in order to make them non denominational. Very few referred to these days as 'Easter.'

What can you do to keep Easter alive? Did you take a crocus? Perhaps this will be a bigger reminder to us than what I had first envisaged.

We are Easter people, let our lives sing 'Alleluia' to all whom we encounter.

Many thanks to so many people who enhanced and made possible our Easter ceremonies. As always I am bound to miss someone so please accept this as a very personal 'thank you' for the part you played during Holy Week and for the Easter ceremonies.



Sr Kerry Gardiner

Celebrant for Sunday Mass

This weekend's priests: Saturday 6pm (and Reconciliation from 5pm) Bishop Brian; Sunday 8am Fr Peter Gardiner.

Next weekend's priests: Saturday 6pm (and Reconciliation from 5pm) Fr Peter Gardiner; Sunday 8am Bishop Brian

ROSTER – THIS WEEKEND

April	Church Washing	Barbara Faraway	
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 Faraway		

ROSTER – NEXT WEEKEND

April	Church Washing	Barbara Faraway	
Sat 22 Apr	Church Cleaning	F Fernandez, B Rice, R Tassone	
Sat 22 Apr	Lawns	No Lawn mowing this week	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
6pm 22 Apr	D Nugent		
8am 23 Apr	C Walsh	A Kelly	School Holidays
Counters	M Murphy (FT), S Alessi		

PARISH NEWS

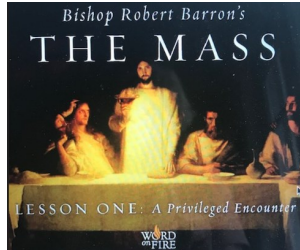
Young Adults Barefoot bowls

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**.

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.



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 9 April 2023

\$1,866 First Collection - Clergy Remuneration Fund
\$846 Second collection - Parish expenses
\$250 Tap Point - Parish donations
\$440 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 began on **Thursday 13th April - 5:30pm Mass, 6pm Holy Hour** beginning with Rosary, with Reconciliation available.

Used Stamps for Peru

Please remember to place all of your used stamps (leaving a 1cm / ½" border) in the box, near the side door of the church. All used stamps donated are sent to Sydney to raise money for the work of the Sisters of St Joseph in Peru.

Recycling bins - \$269 raised this year

This year, together we have raised \$269 from our recycling efforts.

Our bins are located in the church carpark. We welcome the donation of your 10c refundable cans, bottles and plastics.



THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME – AIRS SUNDAY 16 APRIL 2023

On the Journey this week: Fr John Corrigan's reflection for Divine Mercy Sunday. Mother Hilda's story on St Bede, Bishop Brian Mascord's Easter message, the Divine Gardener, plus, Pete Gilmore on the faith of Thomas, the bush deacon Josh Clayton on wilderness, and more great 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 vocations@dow.org.au

SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT

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>

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY AT ST COLUMBKILLE'S CORRIMAL

1:30PM – 5:00PM SUNDAY 16 APRIL 2023

Come and join us at St Columbkille's Corrimal to celebrate the feast of Divine Mercy Sunday, 16 April 2023. The celebration starts at 1:30pm with a period of devotion and reconciliation, which helps prepare us for the Divine Mercy Mass that follows at 3:00pm. We will also have the opportunity to pray with a first-class relic of St Faustina. The music will be led by Gabriella De Battista. There will be an afternoon Tea to follow Mass (please bring a plate to share, if possible.)



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.

16 APRIL – DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY (YEAR A)

First Reading - Acts 2:42-47 *The faithful lived together and owned everything in common.*

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers. The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone. The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed. They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

Responsorial Psalm - Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love is everlasting.

1. Let the sons of Aaron say: 'His love has no end.'
Let those who fear the Lord say: 'His love has no end.' R.
2. I was thrust down, thrust down and falling, but the Lord was my helper.
The Lord is my strength and my song; he was my saviour.
There are shouts of joy and victory in the tents of the just. 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.
This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad. R.

Second Reading - 1 Peter 1:3-9 *He has given us a new birth as his children, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead.*

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which has been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold – only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire – and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! You believe in me Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe. Alleluia!

Gospel - John 20:19-31 *After eight days, Jesus came in and stood among them.*

It In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you', and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.

'As the Father sent me,
so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.
For those whose sins you forgive,
they are forgiven;
for those whose sins you retain,
they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me.
Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

