

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/



Parish Priest: Fr Duane Fernandez
 Email: Duane.Fernandez@dow.org.au
 Mobile: 0414 626 357

Polish Chaplain: Fr Jerzy Slowinski
 Email: slowinski54@gmail.com
 Mobile: 0410 225 975

Parish Assistant: Sr Kerry Gardiner
 Email: Kerry.Gardiner@sosj.org.au
 Mobile: 0421 463 871

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
 Website: www.unanderraparish.org.au
 Phone: 4271 1068
 Fax: 4271 1298

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A) – 23 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 24 Apr <i>St Fidelis of Sigmaringen, priest, martyr</i>	Mass: 7am	
Tues 25 Apr <i>Anzac Day</i>	Mass: 5:30pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm –7pm	Mass: 9am
Wed 26 Apr <i>St Mark, evangelist</i>	No Communion service today	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm—5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm
Thurs 27 Apr <i>St Louis Grignion de Montford, priest</i>	Mass: 5:30pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm- 7pm Reconciliation: 6pm- 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
Fri 28 Apr <i>St Peter Chanel, priest, martyr</i>	Mass: 7am	Mass: 9:30am
Sat 29 Apr <i>St Catherine of Siena, virgin, doctor</i>	Rosary: 7am Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 5pm - 5:30pm Mass: 6pm	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am
Sun 30 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

Charles Dean, Alan Varley, Gail Brodbeck,
Beverley Holding, Allan Parish,

Iris Parish, Roland Stubbs, Colin Heapy,
Jane Roche, Ron Bishop



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 Sr Kerry

My mother, brother and I were asked to be mystery diners. It was a wonderful experience. Peter and I were busy taking notes on our phone as we needed to submit an evaluation of all aspects of the restaurant. Peter and I were scrupulous with our observations. All the while my mum sat quietly in her wheelchair. Every now and again Mum would say, 'Do you think they know who we are?'

As we live this Easter season those words can be haunting. We have lived Lent, we have journeyed Holy Week and now we celebrate the Risen Christ. Because we profess to be the living presence of Christ in our world today we can quietly ask ourselves, 'Do you think they know who we are?' If people observed you and quietly took notes what would you like them to be writing? What would they be writing? I am a great believer that our actions do speak louder than our words. What words do my actions speak? Are we easily identifiable as Christians?



Sr Kerry Gardiner

REFLECTIONS WITH Fr THORNHILL

For many centuries, Christian awareness has not been focused as it should be, on all that the Saviour's Resurrection means in the life of the Church. That the Church lives through 'the power of the resurrection' was the central truth preached by the apostolic Church. This is clearly illustrated in today's readings. The manifesto proclaimed by Peter on the day of Pentecost hinges on this truth – the resurrection is pointed to as unassailable evidence that it is intervention of the God of Israel's faith that is being announced; but more than that, established 'at God's right hand' the Risen Christ now bestows the Holy Spirit on the infant Church and sends it forth on its mission. In the Letter of Peter, probably written shortly before his martyrdom, Peter takes up the same theme – the Saviour has been 'raised from the dead and given glory' so that believers may share in his new life through their 'faith and hope in God'.

Luke's account of what took place on the road to Emmaus inspires us each time we hear it. It is told, that later generations of believers may share the experience the first disciples of Jesus, as they learned to make the Risen Lord the centre of their lives. Their finding of faith is a reversal of all that their earthly expectations had looked forward to: 'Our hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free'. The fulfilment of their hopes was not to be a political triumph, but a messiah who drew close to them at sunset on the dusty road of their disappointment. Recognising him called for a change of heart: coming to know – through the full message of the Scriptures – the ways of God, so different from the ways of worldly wisdom. It is through a renewed appreciation of the great drama recorded in the Scriptures that the Church will find the strength it needs to face today's challenges. 'Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Jesus Christ' – words as true today as they were when they were first written by St Jerome in the 4th century. Touched by the message that makes their hearts 'burn within them', they ask the stranger to stay in their company. How easily, in the bustle of our lives, we pass up the opportunity to enter more deeply into the relationships and special moments that can nourish our faith.

In the end, it is in 'the breaking of bread' that the eyes of faith are fully opened for them, and they joyfully accept the Saviour and enter upon the revolutionary way he has opened up for them. As we strive to give the Eucharist the central place it should have in our relationship with our Risen Lord, it is important to recognise that it is, before all else, in our conscious participation in the Eucharistic action ('Do this in remembrance of me') that this gift of the Saviour will be the great source of the Church's life – enabling us to bring our lives, our needs, and the needs of all God's people, to the Father, as we are caught up by the Saviour into his great self-offering. Veneration of the reserved sacrament - a venerable practice in our Western Church - should not detract from the supreme importance of the Mass; it should, we are told in today's official teaching, increase our hunger to 'take and eat'. In the joy and wonder of their new-found faith, the two disciples 'set out that instant' to rejoin 'the Eleven and their companions' in Jerusalem. It is in a vital Christian community that we will find the support and confirmation we need in our journey of faith.

Celebrant for Sunday Mass

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

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

ROSTER – THIS 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 16 Apr	C Walsh	A Kelly	School Holidays
Counters	M Murphy (FT), S Alessi		

ROSTER – NEXT WEEKEND

April	Church Washing	Barbara Faraway	
Sat 29 Apr	Church Cleaning	J Haywood, L Salway, M Hurley, T Vaafusuaga	
Sat 29 Apr	Lawns	M & J Winner, M Walsh, S Carrigan, A Bennett	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
6pm 29 Apr	M Rodwell		
8am 30 Apr	S Walsh	M Matos	Kylie & Molly Hertsch, Gemma Farrugia
Counters	A Kelly, B Faraway		

PARISH NEWS

Church driveway

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

The driveway exit on Grace Street must be kept clear for the purposes of entry and exit of vehicles—including emergency vehicles. During a recent incident, emergency vehicles did not have access when needed.

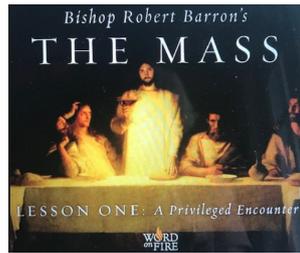
Parking on the grass is also not permitted as the grass is easily damaged and becomes unsafe especially in wet weather.

Thank you for your understanding and co-operation.

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.



Carmelite meeting - 6 May

The next meeting of the Lay Carmelites will be in the St Joseph's room on Saturday 6 May at 10am. *All are welcome.* Call Ann Baumber on 0427 235 955 for more information.

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting—Thursday 27 April

The next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council is 7pm Thursday 27 April in the St Joseph's meeting room. If you have an agenda item for the Pastoral Council, please email the Parish office at: unanderra@dow.org.au

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 16 April 2023

\$669	First Collection	- Clergy Remuneration Fund
\$394	Second collection	- Parish expenses
\$310	Tap Point - Parish donations	
\$360	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.

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 23 APRIL 2023

On the Journey this week: Fr Mike Delaney's gospel reflection, do we want despair or hope? Mother Hilda on Jesus' question: who do you say I am? Fr James Mellon talks about Divine Renovation, plus results from a survey of young people on their faith beliefs. Listen at jcr.org.au



A VOCATION VIEW

'Conduct yourselves with reverence during the time of your sojourning.' Now that Christ is raised from the dead, our actions must be changed to reveal this great gift to the world. (1 Peter 1:17)

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

In the story of the rich man and Lazarus, Pope Francis sees the root problem of the rich man "the failure to heed God's word. As a result, he no longer loved God and grew to despise his neighbour." (*Message for Lent 2017*). According to the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, "[w]e cannot be at peace, eating our fill, in the knowledge that a sister or brother lies hungry or sick at our gate. We know that such a state of affairs is as far as it can be from the vision of God. Our God is revealed as a God of abundance and hospitality who gives life to the world, bread to the hungry and Christ as our guide and saviour. God in Jesus chooses humility, service and self-emptying as the hallmarks of a love which is everlasting, sumptuous and rich. " (*'Lazarus at Our Gate'* <https://justiceandpeace.org.au/lent-easter-social-justice>

AGEING WITH CONFIDENCE

- FREE INFORMATION SESSIONS 9.00 – 12.30PM

CatholicCare, with the assistance of the Committee for the Aged will be holding a FREE information session for Parishioners. Guest speakers will include representatives from My Aged Care, CatholicCare, a local funeral director and a solicitor.

Wollongong – 24 May 2023. Morning Tea will be provided

To register, call: 02 4227 1122

Or online: <http://www.catholiccare.dow.org.au/events>

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. \$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.

23 APRIL – THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A)

First Reading - Acts 2:14, 22-23

It was impossible for him to be held by the power of Hades.

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among you, as you all know. This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and foreknowledge of God, you took and had crucified by men outside the Law. You killed him, but God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades; for it was impossible for him to be held in its power since, as David says of him: I saw the Lord before me always, for with him at my right hand nothing can shake me. So my heart was glad and my tongue cried out with joy: my body, too, will rest in the hope that you will not abandon my soul to Hades nor allow your holy one to experience corruption. You have made known the way of life to me, you will fill me with gladness through your presence.'

'Brothers, no one can deny that the patriarch David himself is dead and buried: his tomb is still with us. But since he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn him an oath to make one of his descendants succeed him on the throne, what he foresaw and spoke about what the resurrection of the Christ: he is the one who was not abandoned to Hades, and whose body did not experience corruption. God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witness to that. Now raised to the heights by God's right hand, he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit.'

Responsorial Psalm - Lord, you will show us the path of life.

1. Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you. I say to the Lord: 'You are my God.
O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup; it is you yourself who are my prize.' R.
2. I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel, who even at night directs my heart.
I keep the Lord ever in my sight: since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. R.
3. And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad; even my body shall rest in safety.
For you will not leave my soul among the dead, nor let your beloved know decay. R.
4. You will show me the path of life, and the fullness of joy in your presence,
at your right hand happiness for ever. R.

Second Reading - 1 Peter 1:17-21

The ransom that was paid to free you was the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ.

If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home. Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake. Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason - so that you would have faith and hope in God.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us. Make our hearts burn with love when you speak. Alleluia!

Gospel - Luke 24:13-35

They recognised him at the breaking of the bread.

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast.

Then one of them, called Cleopas answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.'

Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at the table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?'

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes it is true, The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread .