

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A) – 30 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 1 May <i>St Joseph the worker</i>	Mass: 7am	
Tues 2 May <i>St Athanasius, bishop, doctor</i>	Mass: 5:30pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm –7pm	Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion: 7:45am
Wed 3 May <i>Sts Philip and James, apostles</i>	Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion: 9:30am	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm—5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm
Thurs 4 May	Mass: 5:30pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm- 7pm Reconciliation: 6pm- 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
Fri 5 May	Mass: 7am	Mass: 9:30am
Sat 6 May	Rosary: 7am Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 5pm - 5:30pm Mass: 6pm	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am
Sun 7 May	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

Peter O'Keefe, Jean Piper,
Arthur Varley,



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

Having arrived in a foreign country I was totally lost. My ministry was to work for the Catholic Church, which was built in the middle of the city's garbage dump. People built their homes from the garbage and they scavenged through the rubbish in order to make a few dollars on which to live. Three and a half thousand families lived and worked on the garbage dump. One day I was becoming frustrated as I was to visit families but it was just muddy alleyways to which there was no rhyme nor reason. Since it was early days a woman accompanied me, but I knew that couldn't go on forever.

With a sense of frustration, I said to Vicky, 'I will never learn my way around here.' The simple response she gave me was: 'Look for the decorations.' I wanted to say, with a touch of anger in my voice, that I didn't see any decorations but rather just rubbish. I knew to hold my tongue!

That night I prayed asking to see the decorations. Not for a moment did I think my prayer would be answered.

Next morning it was back to the dump and suddenly 'decorations' did appear where I least expected them. I saw a small blue pipe, even a little orange plant in flower, little things stood out for me and marked my paths.

When your road appears to be covered in fog may decorations stand out for you. May the God of your journey fill you with peace.

Sr Kerry Gardiner



REFLECTIONS WITH Fr THORNHILL

The image of the shepherd was long established in the biblical tradition. It was used by the prophets to challenge Israel's corrupt rulers; Israel's Lord, the familiar psalm tells us, will care for them 'like a shepherd'. When, in the passage following today's reading, Jesus declares, 'I AM the Good Shepherd', he is making a messianic claim. In the sequence of John's gospel, today's reading follows immediately after the healing of the blind man. The implication is that the conflict between Jesus and the opponents whose bad faith had been demonstrated on that occasion could be compared to the conflicts that arose between honest shepherds and the thieves who preyed on them.

The shepherd theme gives rise in this passage to a whole complex of comparisons. They can be confusing if they are not considered separately. As our passage begins, Jesus compares himself with his opponents. He comes to God's people with the 'messianic signs' that confirm his mission from the Father. His enemies, on the other hand, are robbing God's people of the blessings he brings – using their authority to undermine the trust and enthusiasm with which he was initially received.

As the passage continues, Jesus – having identified himself with the shepherd who enters the sheepfold with proper authorisation – speaks of the relationship that exists between such a shepherd and his sheep. They recognise his voice when he calls them – as the common people did when he began his ministry. He knows them and leads them to pasture.

The obtuseness of those he is challenging leads Jesus to take up a new comparison – one that makes more clear the claim that he is making for his mission from the Father: 'I am the gate of the sheepfold'. This comparison may have been suggested by words of Psalm 118, a psalm used as a processional hymn for the Feast of Tabernacles (cited several times in a messianic sense in the New Testament): 'This is the gate of Yahweh, where the upright go in'. 'I am the gate' Jesus says, 'Enter through me; you will be safe, and be sure of finding pastures'.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord – these words were to become one of the most meaningful phrases of the Church's common life. In a sense, they sum up the whole of Christian faith: Jesus is for us, 'the Resurrection and the Life'; he is the 'mediator' of the new and everlasting covenant; he is our 'way to the Father'.

Celebrant for Sunday Mass

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

Next weekend's priest: Fr Duane Fernandez returns

ROSTER – THIS 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		

ROSTER – NEXT WEEKEND

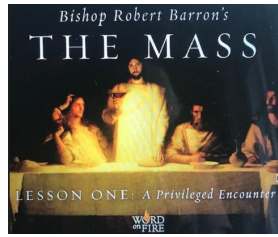
May	Church Washing	Fiona Fernandez	
Sat 6 May	Church Cleaning	G Lord, L Zanetti, S Adams	
Sat 6 May	Lawns	No lawn mowing this week	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
6pm 6 May	N O'Donoghue	Cindy	
8am 7 May	M Matos	G Simmonite, H Murphy	Leah Galea, Alison Sharwood
Counters	M Murphy (FH). C Stratton, M Winner		

PARISH NEWS

Faith enrichment evenings - Wednesday evenings

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.

The Christian Meditation Group

Now meets weekly on Mondays, 6pm to 7pm, in the St Therese Parish Centre. 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 23 April 2023

\$543	First Collection	- Clergy Remuneration Fund
\$408	Second collection	- Parish expenses
\$140	Tap Point - Parish donations	
\$372	Planned giving envelopes	
\$500	Direct debits (weekly average from Feb).	

Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly.

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

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.



FATIMA RETREAT DAY

13 MAY 2023, 4PM - 7PM
ST COLUMBKILLE'S PARISH CENTRE

Please note that this is the Second Saturday of the month to coincide with Fatima Day.

Hosted by Fr Patrick Vaughan

4PM start - Video on "Rocomador" (Our Lady's Sanctuary in France)

4:30pm - Afternoon Tea (Please bring a plate to share)

4:50pm - International Rosary, Exposition & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, Anointing of the Sick

5:30pm - Reconciliation

6pm - Holy Mass with St Columbkille's Parishioners

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME - AIRS SUNDAY 30 APRIL 2023

On the Journey this week: Fr Mike Delaney's gospel reflection for Good Shepherd Sunday. Mother Hilda says you'll be surprised where you can hear God's voice. Divine Renovation author, Fr James Mellon, continues his conversation with Jude Hennessy, plus, Huw Warmenhoven tells us about the new tool from Alpha for Gen Z, and more great music! Listen at jcr.org.au



A VOCATION VIEW

This Sunday is "**Good Shepherd Sunday**" and the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. While we should always support and celebrate all vocations and will do so more explicitly in the first week of August, this Sunday has a special focus on **Priesthood and Consecrated Life**.



Let us pray in particular for the present need for more priests to serve the parishes of Wollongong Diocese. **Prayer cards are available with pictures of our 7 seminarians** as well as a prayer that all would respond to the loving call of Jesus, our Good Shepherd wherever he may lead us.

If anyone would like help discerning a vocation to Priesthood, Religious Life, Marriage or Single Life, please contact Fr Duane Fernandez at vocations@dow.org.au

NATIONAL LITURGY & MUSIC CONFERENCE

If you would like to register for this Conference to be held in Brisbane 28-30 September 2023, please follow this link: <https://mysteryandmission.com.au/register>

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

30 APRIL – FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A)

First Reading - Acts 2:14, 36-41

God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.'

Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.' They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.

Responsorial Psalm - The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

1. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. R.
2. He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort. R.
3. You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. R.
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. R.

Second Reading - 1 Peter 2:20-25

You had gone astray but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty.

This, in fact, is what you were called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd says the Lord; I know my own sheep and mine know me. Alleluia!

Gospel - John 10:1-10

I am the gate of the sheepfold.

Jesus said:

'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.'

Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them.

So Jesus spoke to them again:

'I tell you most solemnly,
I am the gate of the sheepfold.
All others who have come
are thieves and brigands;
but the sheep took no notice of them.
I am the gate.
Anyone who enters through me will be safe:
he will go freely in and out
and be sure of finding pasture.
The thief comes
only to steal and kill and destroy.
I have come
so that they may have life and have it to the full.'