

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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 Phone: 4271 3550 | Fax: 4272 2954

School Principal: Mrs Pauline Chrostowski

Parish Secretary: Mrs Melissa Bridges (Mon/Wed/Fri)

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FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A) – 7 MAY 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 8 May	Mass: 7am	
Tues 9 May	Mass: 5:30pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm –7pm	Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion: 7:45am
Wed 10 May <i>St John de Avila, priest, doctor</i>	Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion: 9:30am	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm—5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm
Thurs 11 May	Mass: 5:30pm Rosary 6pm Adoration: 6pm- 7pm Reconciliation: 6pm- 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
Fri 12 May <i>Sts Nereus and Achilleus, martyrs</i>	Mass: 7am	Mass: 9:30am
Sat 13 May <i>Our Lady of Fatima</i>	Rosary 7am Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 5pm - 5:30pm Mass: 6pm	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am
Sun 14 May	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (<u>Polish</u>)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm Mass

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Fernando Montes, Michael Quinn,
 Jim O'Connor, Margaret Fitzgerald.

Prayers for the sick

Francesca Quetcher

Anniversaries

Jill Bingham, Ronald Monaghan,
 Luka Jukic, Victor Brown.



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

It has been wonderful to have a few weeks of quality time with my family, especially my sister and her family visiting from Canada (including my two wonderful little nephews!) I take this opportunity to thank the many people who took on extra work in my absence: Fr Jerzy for making weekday Masses and Reconciliation available across both West Wollongong and Unanderra, Sister Kerry Gardiner and Helen James for being the main contacts in my absence, and the staff and other parishioners in both places who took on extra work, as well as the weekend supply priests.

It is also good to be back now with you all - my parish family. If it feels like I've taken a lot of leave recently - it's because I have! When my newest nephew was born in Canada last June I took my annual leave as well as a month of long service leave to be with them in July and August. Then when my sister planned a month in Australia this April I timed this year's annual leave accordingly. Rest assured I will be working hard for the rest of the year! Looking back it has been a very fruitful beginning to 2023 for our parish community in many ways, and I look forward to working with you all, each of us using our unique gifts to continue to build up our parish community, united by the Spirit of the risen Christ, through the rest of this Easter season and beyond.

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

Walking back from Woolies my mind was busy replaying the experiences that were just mine. As I walked along one aisle in Woolies the person unpacking the goods asked me what Order I belonged too. That did take me by surprise! Obviously, he did spot my emblem. He knew more about religious life than most people would know. He told me a little of his story and we parted ways with my promise to hold him in my prayer.

With an overflowing basket, I made my way to the self-serve checkout. I put the final item through the scanner and up came an alert! The young man assisting came over and before I had the opportunity to read the screen, he asked me for proof of identity. I was so taken back I asked why he needed that. From out of nowhere an older employee came and said 'She does not need that. She is over eighteen.' I felt sorry for the young man. The woman spoke to him in such a direct and abrupt manner. Once the older lady was out of sight he came over and tried to smooth things over. He explained the matches that I had purchased caused the alert. I made light of it and went on my way. One person recognised me by my emblem and spoke religion. Another noticed me due to an alert.



What identifies you? What do you hope people notice about you? Do you cause any alerts by your lifestyle or actions?

Sr Kerry Gardiner

ROSTER — THIS WEEKEND

May	Church Washing	Fiona Fernandez	
Sat 6 May	Church Cleaning	G Lord, L Zanetti, S Adams	
Sat 6 May	Lawns	<i>No lawn mowing this week</i>	
	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		

ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

May	Church Washing	Fiona Fernandez	
Sat 13 May	Church Cleaning	P & L Lathorakis	
Sat 13 May	Lawns	<i>No lawn mowing this week</i>	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
6pm 13 May	D Ferrer	B Farraway	
8am 14 May	T Vaafusuaga	Zali & Aidan Calvert	Sarah Walsh, Sandra Michielin
Counters	A Kelly, B Farraway		

PARISH NEWS

Morning tea - Sunday 7 May

Morning tea will be served after 8am Mass. All are welcome to join us for a cuppa and a chat.

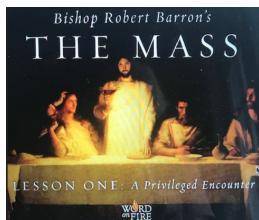


Faith enrichment evenings - Wednesday evenings

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.



Church Ministries

Many parishioners give their valuable time to assist in helping in various ways to enable the smooth running of our parish. Thank you to these generous people who continue to generously give their time. However, there is always a need for more volunteers to assist in the various ministries.

If you are not already involved in any ministry the question is **Are you able to assist in any ministry to help our parish?**

Volunteers are needed for:

Church cleaning – This ministry involves an hour of your time once every 5 weeks and is usually done on Saturday mornings.

Lawn mowing – This roster varies as more mowing is required in summer than in winter. Usually once a month in summer and once every couple of months in winter.

Lectors - to read at Weekend and Weekday masses

Welcomers for the weekend masses.

Leaders for Children's Liturgy after 8am Sunday mass during school term.

Washing of altar linen on a monthly roster.

If you would like to be involved in any of these ministries could you please contact Barbara on **0419 989608** or email **bfarraway@bigpond.com** Your assistance in any ministry is needed and would be most welcome.

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.

Catholic Women's league - Thursday 11 May

Monthly meeting of CWL will be held on Thursday, 11 May in St Joseph's Room. Everyone is welcome to join us for a cuppa at 10.00am. Meeting will follow at 10.30am.

The Diocesan President Karen Fitzgerald will be a guest at our meeting. Hope you will be able to join us.

Parish Finances - week ending 30 April 2023

\$543	First Collection	- Clergy Remuneration Fund
\$311	Second collection	- Parish expenses
\$220	Tap Point - Parish donations	
\$475	Planned giving envelopes	
\$490	Direct debits (weekly average from Apr).	

Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly.

\$429	Good Friday Holy Land collection	
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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"

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 7 MAY 2023

On the Journey this week: Fr Joshua Whitehead says that Thomas and Philip's questions in the Gospel, how can we know the way, is our question too. Mother Hilda says we must spend time staring at God. Plus, Fr Mike Delaney sees God in the random events of everyday life, Trish McCarthy reflects on missionary Jim Elliot's well-known quote "wherever you are – be all there." Listen at jcr.org.au



A VOCATION VIEW

In my Father's house, there are many dwelling places.' Prepare a place in the Father's Mansion by living His promises here on earth. (John 14:2) If you want to talk about your discernment, please contact the diocesan vocations director, Fr Duane Fernandez at vocations@dow.org.au



MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS –

WALK FOR LIFE - FRIDAY 19 MAY 2023

Annual walk for life to raise PRAYERS for Australia for all life issues - the elimination of abortion, euthanasia, family breakdown, and to pray for Australia's Government. We unite our prayer with sacrifice and entrust everything to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

You are warmly welcome to join us praying along the Kiama Coastal Walk to Gerringong (13km). BYO Lunch, snacks, water, and hat. Support vehicle provided all the way, shuttle cars return pilgrims to Kiama.

BENEFITS: Mass. Prayer. Hymns. Exercise. Spectacular scenery. Joyful fellowship. Blessings in abundance.

START: 9:30am Kiama Catholic Church (Holy Mass)

FINISH: 3:30pm Gerringong Catholic Church. For information contact Gabriella De Battista, **0414 205 404**

AGEING WITH CONFIDENCE

- FREE INFORMATION SESSIONS 9.00 – 12.30PM

CatholicCare, 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. \$30 per adult or \$70 per family. Enquiries or to register your interest: **Jude Hennessy 4222 2407 or jude.hennessy@dow.org.au**

TOWARDS PENTECOST

– A JOY FILLED CELEBRATION OF MASS

Friday, 19 May, 7pm – 9pm

**Sacred Heart Church, Stewart St. Wollongong
Presided by Bishop Brian Mascord**

All welcome to come and join us as we invite the Holy Spirit to come and to refresh us in the power of Pentecost, to heal and restore that which has been lost.

Contact: Vince Ph: 0413 126095

7 MAY – FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A)

First Reading - Acts 6:1-7 *They elected seven men filled with the Spirit and wisdom.*

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

Responsorial Psalm - Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

1. Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.
Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp, with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. R.
2. For the word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love. R.
3. The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine. R.

Second Reading - 1 Peter 2:4-9 *You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood.*

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the way the truth and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through me. Alleluia!

Gospel - John 14:1-12 *I am the way, the truth and the life*

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Do not let your hearts be troubled.
Trust in God still, and trust in me.
There are many rooms in my Father's house;
if there were not, I should have told you.
I am going now to prepare a place for you,
and after I have gone and prepared you a place,
I shall return to take you with me;
so that where I am
you may be too.
You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said:

'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.
No one can come to the Father except through me.
If you know me, you know my Father too.
From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me?

'To have seen me is to have seen the Father,
so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"?'
Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?
The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself:
it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work.
You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me;
believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason.
I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me
will perform the same works as I do myself,
he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.'