

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
 Website: www.unanderraparish.org.au
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SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A) – 14 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 15 May	Mass: 7am	
Tues 16 May	Mass: 5:30pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm –7pm	Mass: 7:45am
Wed 17 May	Mass: 7am	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm—5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm
Thurs 18 May <i>St John I, pope, martyr</i>	Mass: 5:30pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm- 7pm Reconciliation: 6pm- 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
Fri 19 May	Mass: 7am Adoration: 7:30am - 8am	Mass: 9:30am
Sat 20 May <i>St Bernadine of Siena, priest</i>	Rosary: 7am Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 5pm - 5:30pm Mass: 6pm	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am
Sun 21 May	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (<i>Polish</i>)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm Mass

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Genowefa (Genia) Suryak,
Lucia (Lucy) Arnone, Fernando Montes

Prayers for the sick

Francesca Quetcher

Anniversaries

Paul Downing, Victor Brown,
Bob Hawke, Ilma Saunders,

Fr Joe Gillis



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 Mothers Day to all the mothers of our community, and all “mother figures” (including my own many mother figures in the parish!) We give thanks to God this weekend for the beautiful way in which maternal love gives a unique revelation of God’s own heart. We pray also for those for whom Mothers Day brings any kind of grief, that they may find comfort from God and from the loving embrace of our mother Mary. Indeed, the whole month of May is traditionally the month devoted to Mary. We give thanks for the gift of Mary, who was given to all disciples of Jesus when he said to the beloved disciple (representing all of us) “this is your mother”. May our ever-deepening devotion to our heavenly mother draw us closer to Jesus and to one another as a parish family entrusted to the patronage of Mary.

During this past week the first complete Alpha in our parishes of Unanderra and West Wollongong came to a close with a celebration evening. About 50 people attended Alpha and many spoke of the experience as being one of feeling welcomed and loved no matter what, which enabled them in turn to come to a deeper understanding and experience of the love of God and a stronger connection with the community of the Church. I am deeply grateful to all who gave of their time as group hosts and helpers, caterers, and in praying for the success of Alpha – and of course to everyone who came as a guest. We plan to hold another Alpha in August, and twice a year moving forward – if you or anyone you know might be interested, feel free to send contact details to the parish office at any stage and we will add your details to the database of expressions of interest for the next Alpha.

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

Part of my Saturday routine is to water my roses. Last Saturday I was surprised, and saddened, to see that my hose had been cut. For a few seconds I felt a little angry, but that anger very quickly subsided when I thought about the person who had the need to cut out a piece of my hose. My anger turned to a little prayer for that person in their need. Having repaired the hose, I was still left pondering....pondering the person in their need; pondering the fact they must have come prepared with a very sharp knife; pondering their arrival in the darkness. Throughout the day this incident came to mind. I counted the days until Mother’s Day. If I started today, I could make a novena that will conclude next Sunday, Mother’s Day.

Reverently I placed the piece of hose on my sacred space. It is there to remind me to pray for all mothers as they prepare for Mother’s Day. There will be some mums who long to hear from their child, but the call will never come. There are some mums who long to know what has happened to their missing child. There are some mums who quietly mourn the child who never lived to full term; there are some mums longing to know who gifted them with life; there are some mums..... the list goes on.

As we celebrate Mother’s Day know each of you are held in my prayers. Whatever the day is for you I do pray it carries deep peace and the presence of our God. Thank you for the gift of who you are. To all women who have never known the gift of a child, a happy Mother’s Day for you bless our world with your femininity and gentleness. Celebrate the gift you are.



Sr Kerry Gardiner

ROSTER – THIS 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 Faraway	
8am 14 May	T Vaafusuaga	Zali & Aidan Calvert	Sarah Walsh, Sandra Michielin
Counters	A Kelly, B Faraway		

ROSTER – NEXT WEEKEND

May	Church Washing	Fiona Fernandez	
Sat 20 May	Church Cleaning	W & J Rodgers, J Andersson	
Sat 20 May	Lawns	B Mannix, W Brown, F Caruana, J Lonard	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children’s liturgy
6pm 20 May	D Nugent	S Marsala	
8am 21 May	P Gunning	F Carolan, J Sharwood	Kirra Calvert, Alicia Sanchez-Levine,
Counters	A Gunning, M Caudero, C Garrett		

PARISH NEWS

Novena at Immaculate Conception, Unanderra

We invite you to participate in a Novena to Our Lady starting Monday 15 May to Wed 24 May. This will include rosary after each weekday Mass and 7am Mass on Wednesdays with Fr Jerzy.



Welcomers

Are you able to welcome parishioners as they come to mass each weekend? We are in need of more volunteers for this ministry. You would be rostered once a month to hand out bulletins and welcome people as they come to mass. If you are able to help please contact Barbara at: bfarraway@bigpond.com

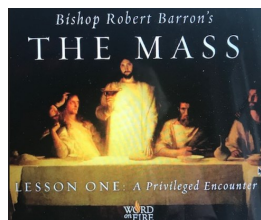
Faith enrichment evenings - Wednesday evenings

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

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.

Parish Finances - week ending 7 May 2023

\$639 First Collection - Clergy Remuneration Fund

\$419 Second collection - Parish expenses

\$150 Tap Point - Parish donations

\$249 Planned giving envelopes

\$490 Direct debits (weekly average from Apr).

Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly.

Recycling bins - \$52 raised during April

Your donations of 10c recyclable bottles, cans and plastics are most appreciated.

Our bins are located in the church car park.



ACN - NIGERIA CAMPAIGN

The Catholic Charity Aid to the Church in Need has launched their "**Nigeria: Young, Faithful, Crucified**" global campaign.

Did you know that **in 2022 a total of 5,014 Christians were killed for their faith in Nigeria?** These were not Nigerians who happened to be Christian, but rather, their allegiance to the Lord saw them face a brutal death.

This is a Church being crucified with Christ. To watch testimonies and to make an offering visit www.aidtochurch.org/nigeriaglobal

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME – AIRS SUNDAY 14 MAY 2023

On the Journey this week: Fr Rob Galea on the way life works through the Holy Spirit. Mother Hilda says we just need to find the good and concentrate on that. Plus, John and Patrick, David and Robbie share their experiences of participating in a MenAlive Growing Good Men weekend, and more great music! Listen at jcr.org.au



A VOCATION VIEW

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments." The Holy Spirit gives us the courage to embrace our Faith with a whole heart, but we must receive this gift in humility. (John 14:15)

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 9AM – 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

14 MAY – SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A)

First Reading - Acts 8:5- 8,14- 17

They laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Responsorial Psalm - Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

1. Cry out with joy to God all the earth, O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise. Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds! R.
2. Before you all the earth shall bow; shall sing to you, sing to your name!'
Come and see the works of God, tremendous his deeds among men. R.
3. He turned the sea into dry land, they passed through the river dry-shod.
Let our joy then be in him; he rules for ever by his might. R.
4. Come and hear, all who fear God. I will tell what he did for my soul:
Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer nor withhold his love from me. R.

Second Reading - 1 Peter 3:15-18

In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong.

Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them. Alleluia!

Gospel - John 14:15-21

I shall ask the Father and he will give you another advocate.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If you love me you will keep my commandments.

I shall ask the Father,

and he will give you another Advocate

to be with you for ever,

that Spirit of truth

whom the world can never receive

since it neither sees nor knows him;

but you know him,

because he is with you, he is in you.

I will not leave you orphans;

I will come back to you.

In a short time the world will no longer see me;

but you will see me,

because I live and you will live.

On that day you will understand that I am in my Father

and you in me and I in you.

Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them

will be one who loves me;

and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father,

and I shall love him and show myself to him.'