

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:
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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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THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD (YEAR A) – 21 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 22 May <i>St Rita of Cascia</i>	Mass: 7am	
Tues 23 May	Mass: 5:30pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm –7pm	Mass: 7:45am
Wed 24 May <i>Our Lady, Help of Christians</i>	Mass: 7am	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm—5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm
Thurs 25 May <i>St Bede the Venerable St Gregory VII, pope St Mary Magdalene de Pazzi</i>	Mass: 5:30pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm- 7pm Reconciliation: 6pm- 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
Fri 26 May <i>St Philip Neri, priest</i>	Mass: 7am Adoration: 7:30am - 8am	Mass: 9:30am
Sat 27 May <i>St Augustine of Canterbury, bishop</i>	Rosary: 7am Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 5pm - 5:30pm Mass: 6pm	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am
Sun 28 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

Thomas Staniforth, Joe Winner



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

A massive thank you to all who have sent messages, prayers, offers of help and have brought help to my door when needed during the past week since I tested positive on Sunday morning. Thank you to Sister Kerry for stepping up with very minimal notice as she was on her way to the 8am Mass to provide a Liturgy for those who were there; and Fr David O'Brien for celebrating 10am and 5pm Mass as well as a 12pm baptism, at such short notice (even changing other significant plans he had for the day.)

I am on the mend, but am grateful that Fr Ben Gandy and Fr Peter Gardiner will cover my Masses this coming weekend. I look forward to hopefully returning to normal work on Tuesday 23rd May, if not before.

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

With her three young boys my sister and I headed to Taronga Park Zoo. There was great excitement.

Having arrived at the top of the park after alighting from the chairlift we stopped to map out our route. In no time David, who was four, was not with us. This threw us into a panic. My sister stayed with the other two boys while I set out on the search. It didn't take me long to guess where David was. An intense circle of people had formed around something. From the middle of the circle, one could hear screaming. I didn't see the person screaming but I recognised the scream. From outside the circle I called, 'David.' With that the circle was broken and David flew into my arms. I said with great relief in my voice, 'What happened?' David who was sobbing said, 'You lost me.'

This incident has stayed with me for some thirty years now. How often do I think God has lost me, or disappeared out of my life? How often have I moved, but I blame God?

Whatever the event or feelings know God looks for you with anticipation, open arms and welcome.



Congratulations to Angelo and Doria Galea who this weekend are celebrating with gratitude and thanks the gift of 60 years of married life.

Sr Kerry Gardiner

ROSTER — THIS 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		

ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

May	Church Washing	Fiona Fernandez	
Sat 27 May	Church Cleaning	F Fernandez, B Rice, R Tassone	
Sat 27 May	Lawns	No Lawn mowing this week	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
6pm 27 May	M Rodwell		
8am 28 May	C Walsh	A Kelly	Maria Matos, Anna Gunning
Counters	A Kelly, B Farroway		

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.



Australia's Biggest Morning Tea

The Catholic Women's League will collect donations for the Cancer Council after the masses on the **27th and 28th May**. Everyone who gives a donation will receive tea bags and biscuits to take home to enjoy a cuppa. Every donation will make a difference in the fight against cancer. All donations will be sent directly to the Cancer Council. We thank you for your support.

Our Paschal Candle

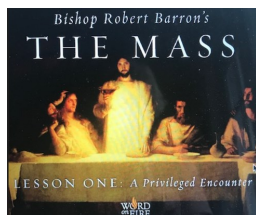
In years gone by, Fr Joe Gillis and Leo Haywood would make the candles including our Paschal Candle. To renew this tradition, John de Battista made our Paschal candle for us this year (John also makes our altar candles) and Cecilia Carolan painted it.

Our Paschal candle this year was certainly a community effort. A big thank you to you both for sharing your talents with our Unanderra community.



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. 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

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 – 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.

Washing of altar linen on a monthly roster.

If you would like to be involved please contact Barbara on **0419 989608** or email bfarraway@bigpond.com

Parish Finances - week ending 14 May 2023

\$514	First Collection	- Clergy Remuneration Fund
\$335	Second collection	- Parish expenses
\$200	Tap Point	- Parish donations
\$280	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.

Fr Jerzy's annual leave

Fr Jerzy will travel to Poland for his annual leave this year. There will be no Polish Masses during June and July. Polish Masses will resume on Sunday 6 August 2023.

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME – AIRS SUNDAY 21 MAY 2023

On the Journey this week: : Fr Mark De Battista and the Great Commission: go and make disciples. This is not an optional extra for us as Christians. Mother Hilda on doing a little exercise called: I wish God knew. Plus, Fr Mike Delaney, Trish McCarthy, and Fr Dave Callaghan. Listen at jcr.org.au



A VOCATION VIEW

"Go and make disciples of all nations!" Our lives must proclaim the Truth that comes to us from Christ; embrace the call to be a witness of Christ to the ends of the world! (Matthew 28:19)

If you want to talk about your discernment, please contact the diocesan vocations director, Fr Duane Fernandez at vocations@dow.org.au



SORRY DAY WEBINAR

Caritas Australia is pleased to invite your parish community to our Sorry Day Webinar with survivors from Kinchela Boys Home, one of the most notorious institutions associated with the Stolen Generations.

In this special event, you will hear from Uncle Widdy (#36) and Uncle Bobby (#24), two survivors of Kinchela Boys Home. Caritas Australia's First Australians Programs team will also speak about what truth-telling and intergenerational healing means to our partners.

Date: 25 May 2023

Time: 11-12 pm AEST

Location: Zoom Webinar

Please register at www.caritas.org.au/sorry-day-webinar

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**

THE CHOSEN – A TV SERIES ABOUT JESUS

The Chosen is a new 'free to view', series, now in its third season, that beautifully and creatively presents the life of Christ and his followers. The shows are of the highest quality and are receiving acclaim around the world across denominations.

Go to watch.angelstudios.com/thechosen to watch or get the free app for use on your phone / laptop via The Chosen app ([download](#)) or for your Smart TV. Watch it on your own, or better still with family and friends.

21 MAY – THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD (YEAR A)

First Reading - Acts 1:1-11 *Why are you standing there looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.*

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

Responsorial Psalm - God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

1. All peoples, clap your hands, cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear, great king over all the earth. R.
2. God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise, sing praise to our king, sing praise. R.
3. God is king of all the earth, sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations; God reigns on his holy throne. R.

Second Reading - Ephesians 1:17-23 *He made Jesus to sit at the right hand in heaven.*

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named not only in this age but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world. Alleluia!

Gospel - Matthew 28:16-20

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'