

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

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) – 2 JULY 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 3 July <i>St Thomas, apostle</i>	Church closed for painting	
Tues 4 July <i>St Elizabeth of Portugal</i>	Church closed for painting	Mass: 7:45am
Wed 5 July <i>St Anthony Zaccaria, priest</i>	Church closed for painting	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm - 5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm 
Thurs 6 July <i>St Maria Goretti</i>	Church closed for painting	Mass: 7:45am
Fri 7 July <i>Bl Peter to Rot, martyr</i>	Church closed for painting	Mass: 9:30am
Sat 8 July	Church closed for painting	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9:30am Mass: 6pm 
Sun 9 July	Church closed for painting	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Marie Dunn, Paul Breeze,
Roy Gersbach, Benaida Bliss, Kevin Burton

Prayers for the sick

Peter Lathourakis,
Roger Doyle



Anniversaries

Pilar Villanueva, Michelle Villanueva,
Lacerna and Elizabeth Jamiro,
Jack Grant, Jason Mou, Nelson Meez,
Jacob Marie Smith, Hans Lambert,
Eunice Mannix.

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

Thank you to the 20 or so people who helped clear the church for repainting last Sunday. It was wonderful to see so many generous hands making light work and building community amongst each other as well. The painting project has now begun, thanks to countless hours of work put in by so many parishioners. Let us pray that the project goes smoothly and look forward to celebrating our return to worship in that beautiful church. For now, thanks once again to St Therese Parish for hosting the Immaculate Conception parish community in their building during this time – another example of these two parishes working together fruitfully.

ATSI SUNDAY

This Sunday, as always on the first Sunday of July, the Church in Australia marks “**ATSI Sunday**”. (**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday**), which coincides with the celebrations of NAIDOC week throughout Australia. ATSI Sunday is sponsored by NATSICC (the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council), which was established by the Church in Australia in 1992 to find new ways to build bridges between the Catholic Church and First Nations people in ways that are mutually respectful and enriching. In my previous parish at Nowra, I saw first-hand many beautiful examples of Aboriginal people embracing the Catholic faith and at the same time maintaining and sharing their cultural gifts.

Catholic thinking has always recognized the presence of God at work in people and cultures even before they receive the message of Christ. The Second Vatican Council document *Nostra Aetate* (literally, “In Our Time”), promulgated by Pope Saint Paul VI in 1968, is the official teaching on the relationship between the Church and non-Christian religions. It stated that “From ancient times down to the present, there is found among various peoples a certain perception of that hidden power which hovers over the course of things and over the events of human history...” and went on to state that our mission of proclaiming Christ to all people calls us first to “recognize, preserve and promote the good things, spiritual and moral, as well as the socio-cultural values found among these people.”

Pope Saint Paul VI himself brought this same teaching in an explicit way to the First Nations People of Australia in 1970 when he said to them: “We know that you have a life style proper to your own ethnic genius or culture – a culture which the Church respects and which she does not in any way ask you to renounce... Society itself is enriched by the presence of different cultural and ethnic elements. For us, you and the values you represent are precious. We deeply respect your dignity and reiterate our deep affection for you.”

Pope St John Paul II reiterated these words of Paul VI in his Address to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in Alice Springs in 1986, and elaborated further himself: “Your culture, which shows the lasting genius and dignity of your race, must not be allowed to disappear. Do not think that your gifts are worth so little that you should no longer bother to maintain them. Share them with each other and teach them to your children. Your songs, your stories, your paintings, your dances, your languages, must never be lost...And the Church herself in Australia will not be fully the Church that Jesus wants her to be until you have made your contribution to her life and until that contribution has been joyfully received by others.”

This year, these celebrations happen to coincide with the national debate regarding “the Voice to Parliament”. Together with the Australian Bishops I encourage you to read the [“Uluru Statement from the Heart”](#), a statement that brought together many voices of First Nations people in an unprecedented way. It is then for each of us to reflect on that statement and the various voices in the debate and prayerfully discern the voice of the Spirit speaking to our consciences as we make our decision. Throughout this journey ahead let’s strive as Catholics to ensure that any discussions we participate in are marked by charity and respect for all people (including those who disagree with our own views). Above all, whatever our political position regarding the Referendum, may we all be united in celebrating all that is good, true and beautiful in the unique culture of our First Nations people – the oldest continuing culture in the world.

This day and always we gratefully acknowledge the Dharawal people and their Elders who have cared for this part of God’s creation on which our parish is built for thousands of years. Inspired by Popes and Saints of our time, we commit ourselves to deepening relationships of mutual love and respect between our parish and the Aboriginal people of our area.

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

This week on several occasions my eyes have watered up. It would have been very easy for my eyes to overflow with tears of absolute gratitude. I have been utterly overwhelmed by your goodness, care, calls, texts, emails, concern and such thoughtful and practical assistance. You have been amazing. I have felt so loved.

‘Thank you’ may sound very simple but know the words are weighted with deep appreciation that only the heart knows. It is with this heart I carry you in my prayers. Thank you for the gift you are to me. It is treasured and valued.

Sr Kerry Gardiner

ROSTER – THIS WEEKEND

July	Church Washing	Barbara Faraway	
Sat 1 July	Church Cleaning	<i>No cleaning due to painting of church</i>	
Sat 1 July	Lawns	<i>No lawn mowing this week.</i>	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children’s liturgy
6pm 2 July	N O’Donoghue	C Cleary	
8am 2 July	A Kelly	G Simmonite	<i>School holidays</i>
Counters	A Gunning, M Caudero, C Garrett		

ROSTER – NEXT WEEKEND

July	Church Washing	Barbara Faraway	
Sat 8 July	Church Cleaning	<i>No cleaning due to painting of church</i>	
Sat 8 July	Lawns	M & J Winner, M Walsh, S Carrigan, A Bennett	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children’s liturgy
6pm 8 July	D Ferrer	B Faraway	
8am 9 July	C Walsh	J Sharwood	<i>School holidays</i>
Counters	A Kelly, B Faraway		

PARISH NEWS

Silver Circle results

Week 1 - 19th June 1st place L Battley
2nd place D Brown

Week 2 - 26th June 1st place F Fernandez
2nd place A Sharwood

Carmelite meeting - 1 July

The next meeting of the Lay Carmelites will be in the St Joseph's room on Saturday 1 July at 10am. All are welcome. Call Ann Baumber on 0427 235 955 for more information.

Christian Meditation group

Due to health issues, the Christian Meditation group meeting on Mondays at 6pm at St Therese Parish Centre will be **in recess till Monday 17th July**. Enquiries: Text Monica 0412 056 877.



Alternative Weekday Masses in the area:

- **St Francis Xavier's Cathedral**
7am Monday to Friday, and Wednesday and Friday 12:10pm
- **St Francis of Assisi Warrarong**
9am Tuesday to Friday
- **St John's Dapto**
Wednesday to Friday 9:30am;
- **St John Vianney Fairy Meadow**
Tuesday 9:30am;
- **St Brigid's Gwynneville**
Thursday 9:30am.

Parish Finances - week ending 25 June 2023

\$576 First Collection - Clergy Remuneration Fund
\$355 Second collection - Parish expenses
\$200 Tap Point - Parish donations
\$360 Planned giving envelopes
\$498 Direct debits (weekly average from May).
Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly.

BENEDICTINE ABBEY | HELP NEEDED WORKING BEE

We currently have a great deal of pruning and clearing to be done and so are getting two working bees together.

When: Saturday **29 July** and Saturday **5 August**

Time: Between 9 am and 4pm (come as you are able)

What to bring: Your own tools, chain saws, we could use a Ute, anything you have. If you do not have any of these just come anyway.

Contact: Please ring **VINCE 0488 360 110** for details and to register your name and date and time of availability
Tea, coffee, scones etc. will all be provided.

FIRE WEEKEND FOR YOUNG ADULTS

We have an upcoming weekend retreat for those 18-35s looking for an opportunity to be renewed in faith and continue journeying with the Lord.

WHEN: 5:30pm Friday 28th July – 1pm Sunday 30th July 2023

WHERE: Mt Carmel Retreat Centre (247 St Andrews Rd, Varroville NSW 2566).

WHO: Young adults and married couples, aged 18-35 years.

COST: \$200 (inclusive of accommodation, activities and meals)

For more info and to register, you can find the form at:

<https://form.jotform.com/231340929360857>

Questions? Contact Stefanie via stefaniekusters@outlook.com
See you there!!

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME – AIRS SUNDAY 2 JULY 2023

On the Journey this week: Fr Joshua Whitehead says we need to let go of that we value the most to live life to the full. Mother Hilda wants us to walk in the footsteps of Jesus so that life will be easier. Plus, Mark Raue from Catholic Mission in conversation with Journey Editor, Max Norden, Fr Mike Delaney tells of his experience of greeting strangers on the street during his daily walks. Listen at jcr.org.au



A VOCATION VIEW

Be an example of faith to your brothers and sisters; let your faith inspire others to come to know Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God. (Matthew 16:13-19)

If you want to talk about your discernment, please contact the diocesan vocations director, Fr Duane Fernandez at

vocations@dow.org.au



SOCIAL JUSTICE POINTS

As a man of faith, I believe that peace is God's dream for humanity. Yet sadly I note that because of war, this wonderful dream is becoming changed into a nightmare. To be sure, from the economic point of view, war is often more enticing than peace, inasmuch as it promotes profit, but always for a few and at the expense of the wellbeing of entire populations. The money earned from arms sales is thus money soiled with innocent blood. It takes more courage to renounce easy profits for the sake of keeping peace than to sell ever more sophisticated and powerful weapons. It takes more courage to seek peace than to wage war. It takes more courage to promote encounter than confrontation, to sit at the negotiating table than to continue hostilities.

- ADDRESS OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS, Wednesday, 14 June 2023

SYDNEY I STAND WEEKEND - AGAINST THE TIDE

Friday 30 June 5.30pm – Sunday 2 July 1pm

Youth Mission Team Sydney is running their second iSTAND Camp of the year for **all high school students aged 14-18**.

The camp involves many fun games, talks and activities and is a great opportunity to make friends and grow in the faith.

Where: Mount Carmel House, 365 St Andrews Rd. Varroville

Cost: \$150 registration (inclusive of all food and activities)

Contact: Antoinette Collins Ph: 0428 771744

Registration: ymt.com.au/istandevents



AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED TRANSPORT FOR PASTORAL CARE

One of the major works of Aid to the Church in Need is providing transport to priests, sisters, and catechists to reach the faithful, who are often at great distances and must go through difficult terrain. In 2022, ACN provided 1,253 pastoral vehicles. This included **564 cars, 406 bicycles, 252 motorcycles, 16 boats, 11 buses, and 4 trucks** for the pastoral work – particularly in Latin America and Africa. Can you help us supply transport to priests and religious again in 2023? Visit www.aidtochurch.org/transport

2 JULY 2023 – THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

First Reading - 2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16

That is the holy man of God, let him remain there.

One day as Elisha was on his way to Shunem, a woman of rank who lived there pressed him to stay and eat there. After this he always broke his journey for a meal when he passed that way. She said to her husband, 'Look, I am sure the man who is constantly passing our way must be a holy man of God. Let us build him a small room on the roof, and put him a bed in it, and a table and chair and lamp; whenever he comes to us he can rest there.' One day when he came, he retired to the upper room and lay down. He said to his servant Gehazi, 'Call our Shunammitess. Tell her this: "Look, you have gone to all this trouble for us, what can we do for you? Is there anything you would like said for you to the king or to the commander of the army?"' But she replied, 'I live with my own people about me.' 'What can be done for her then?' he asked. Gehazi answered, 'Well, she has no son and her husband is old.' Elisha said, 'Call her.' The servant called her and she stood at the door. This time next year,' he said 'you will hold a son in your arms.'

Responsorial Psalm - For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. R.
2. Happy the people who acclaim such a king,
who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face,
who find their joy every day in your name,
who make your justice the source of their bliss. R.
3. For it is you, O Lord, who are the glory of their strength;
by your favour it is that our might is exalted;
for our ruler is in the keeping of the Lord;
our king in the keeping of the Holy One of Israel. R.

Second Reading - Romans 6:3-4, 8-11

Having been buried with him through baptism, we shall walk in a new life.

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life.

But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more. When he died, he died, once for all, to sin, so his life now is life with God; and in that way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy people. Praise God who called you out of darkness and into his marvellous light. Alleluia!

Gospel -Matthew 10:37-42 *Anyone who does not accept his cross is not worthy of me. Anyone who welcomes you, welcomes me.*

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Anyone who prefers father or mother to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who prefers son or daughter to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me.

Anyone who finds his life will lose it; anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it.

'Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me; and those who welcome me welcome the one who sent me.

'Anyone who welcomes a prophet will have a prophet's reward; and anyone who welcomes a holy man will have a holy man's reward.

'If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.'