

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 School: St Pius X Primary School
 Cnr Hargreaves & Cummins Streets
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 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
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SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) – 23 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 24 July <i>St Sharbel Makhluf, priest</i>	Church closed for painting	
Tues 25 July <i>St James, apostle</i>	Church closed for painting	Mass: 7:45am
Wed 26 July <i>Sts Joachim and Anne, parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	Church closed for painting	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm - 5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm 
Thurs 27 July	Church closed for painting	Mass: 7:45am
Fri 28 July	Church closed for painting	Mass: 9:30am
Sat 29 July <i>Sts Martha, Mary and Lazarus</i>	Church closed for painting	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9:30am Mass: 6pm 
Sun 30 July	Church closed for painting	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Marie Dunn, Paul Breeze,
Roy Gersbach

Prayers for the sick

Peter Lathourakis, Roger Doyle
Christine Wood

Anniversaries

Rudy Geyling, John Walsh,
Ernie Smooth, Marguerite Hillman



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

This weekend the Church throughout the world celebrates the **World Day for Grandparents** – inaugurated in 2021 by Pope Francis for the Sunday closest to the Feast of Saints Anne and Joachim – parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and grandparents of Jesus. Pope Francis in his message this year writes:

“God’s loving plan spans past, present and future; it embraces and connects the generations. It is greater than we are, yet includes each of us and calls us at every moment to keep pressing forward. For the young, this means being ready to break free from the fleeting present in which virtual reality can entrap us, preventing us from doing something productive. For the elderly, it means not dwelling on the loss of physical strength and thinking with regret about missed opportunities. Let us all look ahead! And allow ourselves to be shaped by God’s grace, which from generation to generation frees us from inertia and from dwelling on the past!”

I have spoken often about the wonderful gift of unity amidst diversity in our Catholic Church – manifested beautifully in our own parish communities in many ways. At this time I thank God for the diversity of ages that unite as one in worship of Jesus together each Sunday – from infants to the elderly, we have all been baptised into one Body, one Spirit in Christ! There are so few spaces left in our world in which the young and old unite in this way – let us give thanks for this precious gift that our Church offers us!

Personally, though I did not know my grandfathers, I give thanks to God for my own grandmothers, who have been wonderful witness of heroic love and persevering faith by their words and example. I thank God also for all of the elderly parishioners who continue to inspire me by their faith which has persevered through countless challenges and so many radical changes throughout this past century. May we grow in our reverent love for the elderly, with hearts ready to receive the unique gifts that they offer and to care for them in their unique needs with the patience and love that they richly deserve. Saints Anne and Joachim: pray for us!

See more resources including the Pope’s full message for this day here: <https://www.dow.org.au/media-resources/world-day-for-grandparents-and-the-elderly/>

Thank you to all the helpers who have been doing so much (more than I know) behind the scenes at working bees in the Unanderra church to continue the renewal of that physical space. It has been wonderful to see so many hands making light work together – as well as new connections being made in building up the community through that shared task. On all reports, everything is on track thanks to the help of so many of you. Thanks also to everyone who has made the effort to come to St Therese Church to continue to keep the parish community together, especially those continuing in their ministries in the new space.

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

Last week I was sending a text to a friend who was celebrating a significant birthday, but certainly not putting her within the range of elderly or grandparent. After typing my text I re read what I thought I had written. The text, to my surprise read, ‘Savour the day along with the wisdom the tears have given you.’ I corrected the text and now it read, ‘Savour the day along with the wisdom the years have given you.’

If the truth be known my friend, like all of us, have probably shed many tears over the years. Tears of sadness, grief, delight, love, beauty, disappointment, hurt etc. That is all part of life. This weekend the church celebrates grandparents and the elderly. To all who place themselves into this category: Congratulations! May your day be blessed in the wisdom you live, in the love you share and the goodness of your lives. To you I say, savour the years and the tears, for they have made you the person you are today and the person you are becoming. Go and celebrate the gift you are!



Sr Kerry Gardiner

ROSTER – THIS WEEKEND

July	Church Washing	Barbara Farraway	
Sat 22 July	Church Cleaning	<i>No cleaning due to painting of church</i>	
Sat 22 July	Lawns	<i>No lawn mowing this week</i>	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children’s liturgy
6pm 22 July	M Rodwell		
8am 23 July	M Matos	A Kelly / M Graham	Kirra Calvert, Maria Matos
Counters	A Kelly, B Farraway		

ROSTER – NEXT WEEKEND

July	Church Washing	Barbara Farraway	
Sat 29 July	Church Cleaning	<i>No cleaning due to painting of church</i>	
Sat 29 July	Lawns	<i>No lawn mowing this week</i>	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children’s liturgy
6pm 29 July	N O’Donoghue		
8am 30 July	S Walsh	M Matos	Kylie and Molly Hertsch, Gemma Farrugia
Counters	M Murphy(FH), C Stratton, M Winner		

PARISH NEWS

Invitation to "ALPHA"

Alpha explores life's biggest questions in a welcoming and relaxed space. Sessions begin with a meal followed by some great video input that leads into small-group conversation. You can say anything you like or nothing at all.

Our next Alpha series begins on **Wednesday 30 August 2023 at the St Therese Parish Centre, starting at 7pm with dinner.**

There is no cost and no commitment, just come and see, or invite others along - regardless of what they believe, they will be welcomed and feel a sense of belonging right from the start!

Community Fun Day - Sunday 6 August

You're invited to our Community Fun Day. Bring a picnic lunch or enjoy a free sausage sizzle. All welcome.

Location: Edmund Rice College

Time: 11:30am onwards

Catholic Weeklies - \$2

The Catholic Weekly is available in the foyer at St Therese Church. Please leave your \$2 payment in the marked box.

Silver Circle results - week 5 - 17th July

1st G Simmonite - number 39

2nd S Michielin - number 27

Parish Pastoral Council meeting

The next meeting of the PPC is Thursday 27 June. You are invited to send any ideas for the parish to the PPC at:

unanderra@dow.org.au

The Christian Meditation Group

Meets weekly at **6pm Monday at 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

Each must learn just to be.....open to the silent presence of the Spirit.. John Main OSB



Living Faith Books - July, Aug, Sep

New Living Faith books for children and adults (Jul, Aug, Sep) are now available from the resource table in St Therese church. Cost is \$5 each.

Please leave money in the container.

Parish Finances - week ending 16 July 2023

\$375 First Collection - Clergy Remuneration Fund

\$392 Second collection - Parish expenses

\$130 Tap Point - Parish donations

\$390 Planned giving envelopes

\$476 Direct debits (weekly average from June).

Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly.

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

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME – AIRS SUNDAY 23 JULY 2023

On the Journey this week: We celebrate 10 years of the weekly radio show broadcasts on 30 Christian radio stations across Australia as well as podcast to an extensive and growing audience. In the Gospel reflection Fr Mark De Battista focuses on is the parable about the weeds being sown in the wheat crop and says that it's a real question for us in our lives to wonder, why does God permit good and evil side by side? Listen at jcr.org.au



A VOCATION VIEW

The Lord is a God of mercy and graciousness, abounding in kindness and fidelity. Our response is one of gratitude for calling us to be his disciples. (Psalm 86:15)

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



CRA NATIONAL JUSTICE SEMINAR

– LIFT YOUR VOICE | 26 JULY SYDNEY

Be inspired, challenged, and uplifted as we approach the referendum on the Indigenous Voice to Parliament.

Registration: Register online **by 20 July 2023**

<https://events.humanitix.com/cra-national-justice-seminar-lift-your-voice>

Registration Fee: (includes Morning Tea and Lunch)

CRA Member: \$160 per person

Non-member: \$180 per person

Enquiries: P: 02 9557 2695



ST PADRE PIO RETREAT DAY

ST COLUMBKILLE'S PARISH CENTRE AND CHURCH
3PM TO 7PM SATURDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2023

Fr Patrick Vaughan is hosting a retreat afternoon where people can come together for prayer and fellowship. Everyone is welcome to join.

BENEDICTINE ABBEY

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.

POSITION VACANT

PARISH SECRETARY - ST MICHAEL'S THIRROUL

Thirroul parish is seeking the services of a part-time secretary for **17 hrs per week – currently Tues, Wed and Fridays**, but negotiable. The position requires skills in administration, bookkeeping, maintaining a database, and high skills in MS Word, Excel and PowerPoint. The parish secretary needs to be a person who is supportive of the Catholic ethos of the Parish, who bears witness to Christ and Christian values in their own lives and in their work. If interested, please email frances.vanleerdam@dow.org.au to request an application pack. Applications close 5pm Monday, 31 July 2023.

23 JULY 2023 – SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

First Reading - Wisdom 12:13, 16-19

In the place of sin, you give repentance.

There is no god, other than you, who cares for every thing,
to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly.
Your justice has its source in strength,
your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all.
You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned
and you expose the insolence of those who know it;
but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement,
you govern us with great lenience,
for you have only to will, and your power is there.
By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people
how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men,
and you have given your sons the good hope
that after sin you will grant repentance.

Responsorial Psalm - Lord, you are good and forgiving.

1. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of love to all who call.
Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer and attend to the sound of my voice. R.
2. All the nations shall come to adore you and glorify your name, O Lord:
for you are great and do marvellous deeds, you who alone are God. R.
3. But you, God of mercy and compassion, slow to anger, O Lord,
abounding in love and truth, turn and take pity on me. R.

Second Reading - Romans 8: 26-27

The Spirit himself pleads for us in a way that could never be put into words.

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.
Alleluia!

Gospel -Matthew 13: 24-43

Let them grow together until the harvest.

Jesus put another parable before the crowds: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this" he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn.'"

He put another parable before them: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches.'

He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through.'

In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed, he would never speak to them except in parables. This was to fulfil the prophecy:

I will speak to you in parables
and expound things hidden since the foundation of the world.

Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his disciples came to him and said, 'Explain the parable about the darnel in the field to us.' He said in reply, 'The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the darnel, the subjects of the evil one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers are the angels. Well then, just as the darnel is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!'