

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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School Principal: Mrs Pauline Chrostowski

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

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TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) – 20 AUGUST 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 21 Aug <i>St Pius X, pope</i>	Church closed for painting	
Tues 22 Aug <i>The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	Church closed for painting	Mass: 7:45am
Wed 23 Aug <i>St Rose of Lima</i>	Church closed for painting	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm - 5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm 
Thurs 24 Aug <i>St Bartholomew, apostle</i>	Church closed for painting	Mass: 7:45am
Fri 25 Aug <i>St Louis, St Joseph Calasanz</i>	Church closed for painting	Mass: 9:30am
Sat 26 Aug	Church closed for painting	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9:30am Mass: 6pm 
Sun 27 Aug	Church closed for painting	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Margaret Casey, Erna Lyon

Prayers for the sick

Peter Lathourakis, Roger Doyle
 John Sweeney

Anniversaries

Marge and Charlie Dean, Terry Dean,
 Tim Fisher MP, Fr Rom Josko, Nancy Bugeja
 Joseph Davis, Thomas 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

Alpha is fast approaching! If you haven't registered, and are interested to experience it for yourself, please be sure to sign up before this Wednesday 23rd August. It's not too late to invite others to try it as well – noting to them that there is no cost, no commitment, and they can just come and see the first evening (Wednesday August 30th) to see if it is something they would like to be part of. We can always use more hands to help with serving and washing up also – thanks to all who have volunteered so far, we will be in touch with you soon as to next steps. Please pray that this Alpha will help people to connect with God and each other, just as our first Alpha has done.

The repainting and associated repairs and renovations at Unanderra church are continuing according to schedule and should be completed by the end of August – though there is always some unpredictability with such projects. We will keep you posted in the coming weeks as to progress, and possible further requests for volunteers. Thank you again to all of the parishioners who have contributed so far in various ways to this project – including through prayer.

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

As I was meandering along the aisles in Woolies, I spotted something that was rather inviting. I ummed and arred and then placed the article in my trolley. The packaging didn't really reflect the price. It seemed overpriced but this was a treat.

Once home I sat down with a cuppa and opened the packet of Avocado chips. The first thing I noticed is that they looked nothing like I had expected. There wasn't a sign of any green colouring one would expect from avocado. Had I done a blind tasting test I would have failed miserably. I checked out the ingredients. Avocado featured at 30%. I expected much more than this. The content had been filled with other things like rice etc. I do know I won't be purchasing them again. They certainly weren't value for money and far less than what I had expected.

I pondered...are we like this? Give the image of being one thing and then not matching up to that expectation. As Christians I guess we often don't portray who we profess to be. I hope we live more than 30% of who we profess to be so that others won't cast us aside, never to be considered again.



Sr Kerry Gardiner

ROSTER – THIS WEEKEND

July	Church Washing	<i>No washing due to church closure</i>	
Sat 19 Aug	Church Cleaning	<i>No cleaning due to painting of church</i>	
Sat 19 Aug	Lawns	<i>No lawn mowing this week</i>	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
6pm 19 Aug	M Rodwell	S Marsala	
8am 20 Aug	C Lyon	F Carolan A Amone	Sandra Michielin, Luke Jansons
Counters	A Kelly, B Faraway		

ROSTER – NEXT WEEKEND

August	Church Washing	<i>No washing due to church closure</i>	
Sat 26 Aug	Church Cleaning	<i>No cleaning due to painting of church</i>	
Sat 26 Aug	Lawns	<i>No lawn mowing this week</i>	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
6pm 26 Aug	N O'Donoghue		
8am 27 Aug	A Kelly	M Graham	Kirra Calvert, Maria Matos
Counters	M Murphy(FT), S Alessi		

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! Scan the QR code and register online or email alphawwu@gmail.com



Silver Circle results - week 9 - 14 August

1st K Fitzgerald Number 7
2nd V Parnis - number 36

Church working bee - Sunday 27 August

On Sunday 27 August, from **1pm-3pm** we are having a working bee to clean and polish the church pews. Please come along and join us for an hour or two. We hope to see you there.



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: text Monica 0412 056 877



Parish Finances - week ending 13 August 2023

\$387	First Collection	- Clergy Remuneration Fund
\$416	Second collection	- Parish expenses
\$150	Tap Point - Parish donations	
\$355	Planned giving envelopes	
\$711	Direct debits (weekly average from July).	

Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly.

ORDINATION TO THE DIACONATE INVITATION

Bishop Brian Mascord DD will be ordaining to the diaconate, Lawrence Burns and Rodney Mackrill on **Saturday 2 September 2023 at 10.30am** at St Francis Xavier Cathedral. Light refreshments will be available at the conclusion of the ceremony in the Xavier Conference Room. RSVP by 25 August 2023 via this link [RSVP](#)

POSITION VACANT

PARISH SECRETARY - ALL SAINTS PARISH, SHELLHARBOUR CITY

Shellharbour parish is seeking the services of a part-time secretary for 18 hrs per week – currently Tues, Wed, Thurs and Friday, 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 make contact via email to request an application pack for this position to

frances.vanleerdam@dow.org.au

Applications close 5pm Monday, 28th August 2023.

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME – AIRS SUNDAY 20 AUGUST 2023

On the Journey this week: Fr Dominic Murphy OP tells how you can change God's mind. Mother Hilda says as truly as water is necessary for fish, just as truly the life of God is necessary for you and I. Plus, Fr Tony Percy on the intense spiritual crisis, Pete Gilmore is listening to silence, Mark Raue on solidarity, identifying with the experience of another and standing with them.

Listen at jcr.org.au



A VOCATION VIEW

"The gifts and the call of God are irrevocable." Use the gifts that God has given you to stir into flame the gift of faith. (Romans 11:29)

For help discerning your specific vocational path, contact Fr Duane Fernandez at vocations@dow.org.au



MARY IN SCRIPTURE SAVE THE DATE

You are invited to discover the unique role of Our Lady, as the Ark of the Covenant, New Eve, and Queen Mother in this eye opening in-service presented with Mr Daniel Saliba (CCD Wollongong) revealing the deep theological connections between Mary and her ancient biblical types. Whether you are a catechist, or someone seeking to deepen their understanding of Mary's role in salvation history, this short in-service will provide invaluable insights into the profound symbolism and theological depth of Catholic teaching on Mary.

There are two options for attending the seminar:

Campbelltown - Monday 18th Sept 9:30am - 12:00pm
Level 1, Micah House 35a Cordeaux Street, Campbelltown
OR **Wollongong - Friday 22nd Sept** 9:30am - 12:00pm
Conference Room, Xavier Centre 38 Harbour Street, Wollongong.

RAISING FATHERS: FATHERING FROM THE FRONT LINE

SPEAKER: ROBERT FALZON

WHEN: 7PM– 8PM MONDAY 28 AUGUST 2023

COST: FREE

Join other dads and father figures for this special evening event as Robert Falzon unpacks practical advice and shares stories that are powerfully important, impacting, informative and instructional for fathering in today's world. RSVP 27 Aug. Enquiries: jude.hennessy@dow.org.au Register: [here](#)

SOCIAL JUSTICE POINTS

To believe that the other is our brother or sister and to greet him or her as such is not meaningless. The most concrete thing each of us can do. Indeed, it means freeing myself from the poverty of believing that I am the only child in the world. It means, at the same time, choosing to overcome the mind-set of partners or associates, who stay together only for the sake of personal advantage. It also means knowing how to go beyond the limits of blood or ethnic ties, which only recognise similarities and reject differences. Here, I think of the parable of the Samaritan (cf. Lk 10:25-37), who stops with compassion before the Jewish man in need of help. Their cultures were at odds, their histories different, their regions hostile to each other; but for that man, the person in the street and his needs came first.

- WORLD MEETING ON HUMAN FRATERNITY "NOT ALONE" - ADDRESS OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS", Saint Peter's Square, 10 June 2023

20 AUGUST - TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

First Reading - Isaiah 56:1,6-7

I will lead the foreigners to my holy mountain

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest. Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

Responsorial Psalm - O Lord, let all the nations praise you!

1. O God, be gracious and bless us and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth and all nations learn your saving help. R.
2. Let the nations be glad and exult for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples, you guide the nations on earth. R.
3. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing till the ends of the earth revere him. R.

Second Reading - Romans 11:13-15, 29-32

The gifts and call of God are irrevocable.

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. Alleluia!

Gospel - Matthew 15:21-28

Woman, you have great faith.

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

