

PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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TWENTY SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) – 8 OCT 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 9 Oct <i>St Denis</i> <i>St John Leonardi</i>	Mass: 7am	
Tues 10 Oct	Mass: 5:30pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
Wed 11 Oct <i>St John XXIII, pope</i>	Mass: 7am	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm - 5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm
Thurs 12 Oct	Mass: 5:30pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
Fri 13 Oct	Mass: 7am Adoration: 7:30am	Mass: 9:30am
Sat 14 Oct <i>St Callistus I, pope, martyr</i>	Rosary: 7am Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 5pm - 5:30pm Mass: 6pm	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am
Sun 15 Oct	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (Polish)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

William Blattman, Florence McNamara,
 Michael Blewitt, Margaret Gray, PM Baby

Prayers for the sick

Jan Luke, Peter Lathourakis,
 John Sweeney, Kerrie Maidment

Anniversaries

Pat Heffernan, Jan Powell,
 Kevin Kearney, Maisie Dredge.
 Noele Piper



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

Friday, 6th October, is the beginning of our new initiative of extended Eucharistic Adoration, at this point taking place on the First Friday of every month from 7pm to 10pm. "First Fridays" traditionally bring a special focus on the Sacred Heart of Jesus – a devotion which emphasises in a beautiful way the Divine Mercy in the heart of Jesus, made available to us especially in the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist. Thank you to those who have organized this initiative (mainly young adults in our community) and for all who committed to attending (parishioners of all ages in our parish and beyond). All are welcome for any part of First Friday Adoration, and Reconciliation is also available during that time.

There is much for us to read and reflect on this week:

- the Pope's letter, "**Laudate Deum**", published on the feast of St Francis of Assisi (4th October), focusing on the ecological crisis of our time, following on from his Encyclical "Laudato Si" in 2015;
- a statement from the Australian Catholic Bishops called "**Towards the Referendum**" reminding us that "the issues surrounding the Voice are not just political; they are moral and ethical";
- a selection of quotes from St Therese that I compiled for last week's Feast of St Therese;
- a selection of quotes from St John Paul II on the Rosary which I compiled for October as the "month of the Rosary" (marked by the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary on October 7).

We have shared the above via links and attachments in the emailed bulletin this week. If you have not already joined the email list, I encourage you to do so by emailing the parish office and requesting the bulletin via email. Some of these materials should be available in the church - if you have difficulty obtaining any of these documents please simply let me know, or contact the parish office.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL WINTER APPEAL

This weekend we have the opportunity to contribute financially to the vital work of the St Vincent De Paul Society for those most in need in our community. Our local St Vincent De Paul Conference averages over 10 welfare calls per week, often for food, and also other necessities. Families and singles alike facing disadvantage often pay their rent and bills first (which as we know are always increasing) and sometimes have less than \$40 left over for food per week. Thank you to our local "Vinnies" members for your tireless efforts for those most in need, and thank you to all parishioners in advance for your generosity in contributing to this essential work of the church.

SYNOD ON SYNODALITY

This week, the "Synod on Synodality" began in Rome, with Bishops, Priests, and lay men and women from all around the world gathering with Pope Francis in Rome until 29th October. A good starting point to understand the meaning of "synod" is to go back to the origin of the word – in Greek, "sun" meaning "together", and "hodos", meaning "way", or "journey". It is, in essence, an "assembly" – but not simply a human gathering, but a gathering inspired and united by the Spirit of Christ, as the "pilgrim church" discerning the voice of the Spirit through humble listening and dialogue. This Synod will uniquely focus on the very meaning and practice of "synodality" in the universal church of our time. Let us pray for all those attending to be truly open to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

NOVEMBER MASSES

As we prepare for November as the month of praying for all souls, please email the parish office with any names of the deceased that you would like to be included in the parish book of remembrance, with the subject "November Masses".

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

Last weekend I surprised myself! For a few days prior the sibling emails had been going back and forth. Two of my brothers were fully into discussing the upcoming AFL grand final. Both brothers were giving their opinion of why their team should win.

While I know nothing about AFL, I found myself sitting down and watching the grand final, all the while thinking of my brothers who had more interest in the teams than I did.

Knowing nothing of the rules I was dependent on the score to inform me of what was really happening.

With interest I look forward to the presentation by Sr Yvonne.....Spirituality of Aging. I know nothing of the rules for this, as I am sure there are no rules. However just as the scores helped me understand the AFL, I look forward to any guidelines that will assist me as I walk into the unknown.

If you wish to be enlightened, I feel confident this is not to be missed. Even if you are not yet retired or feel you are not yet a 'senior', if there is an inkling in your heart for this topic, listen to your heart and with a little courage accept the invitation to add your name to the list of attendees.

Sr Kerry Gardiner



ROSTER – THIS WEEKEND

October	Church Washing	Barbara Faraway	
Sat 7 Oct	Church Cleaning	W & J Rodgers, J Andersson	
Sat 7 Oct	Lawns	No lawn mowing this week	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
6pm 7 Oct	D Nugent	B Faraway	
8am 8 Oct	T Vaafusuaga	J Sharwood	School Holidays
Counters	M Murphy(FT), S Alessi		

ROSTER – NEXT WEEKEND

October	Church Washing	Barbara Faraway	
Sat 14 Oct	Church Cleaning	F Fernandez, B Rice, R Tassone	
Sat 14 Oct	Lawns	B Mannix, W Brown, F Caruana, J Lonard, J	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
6pm 14 Oct	M Rodwell	S Marsala	
8am 15 Oct	A Kelly	F Carolan/ A Amone	Sandra Michielin, Luke Jansons
Counters	A Kelly, B Faraway.		

PARISH NEWS

Our Lady of the Rosary Novena

Come and join us during October as we say a Rosary novena in honour of Our Lady of the Rosary. The Rosary mystery of the day will be said either before or after the daily Mass as detailed below. If you are not able to say the Rosary with us in the church, perhaps you can say the Rosary at home, either individually or with your family:

Day	Date	Mass	RosaryTime	Note
Sat	7th	7:30am	7am	Our Lady of the Rosary
Sun	8th	8am	11:30am	After 10am Polish Mass
Mon	9th	7am	7:30am	After Mass
Tue	10th	5:30pm	6pm	After Mass
Wed	11th	7am	7:30am	After Mass
Thu	12th	5:30pm	6pm	After Mass during Adoration
Fri	13th	7am	7:30am	After Mass during Adoration
Sat	14th	7:30am	7am	Before Mass
Sun	15th	8am	11:30am	After 10am Polish Mass

Vinnies Winter Appeal - 7 and 8 October

Vinnies Unanderra Conference will hold its annual Winter Appeal bucket collection after each Mass this weekend (7/8 October). Envelopes will be available for those requiring a receipt and/or credit card payment. An eftpos machine will be available at the church side door.

All money raised is used by Unanderra Conference to support local families in need. The Unanderra Conference receives on average more than ten request for help every week for a variety of reasons especially for food and rent assistance. When you give to Vinnies you're helping our volunteers rebuild lives.



Spirituality of Aging - Thurs 19 October

Good Samaritan Sister, Yvonne Parker, will present a morning input on the Spirituality of Aging for women and men around retirement age and later, at St Joseph's Meeting Room Unanderra, **Thursday 19 October, 9.30am-1pm**.

This session will be repeated at the St Therese Parish Centre, West Wollongong, the following Wed 25 October, 9.30am-1pm.

Topics include the Journey of Letting Go, Prayer in later life, and Living in deeper trust and hope as we move towards the later part of our life's journey. These inputs can also be helpful for those who are caring for elderly people.

Please write your name on the list at the church side door or phone Sr Yvonne 0409 125 622.

Eucharistic Adoration

Starting the First Friday of October, there will be an opportunity for extended Eucharistic Adoration at **Immaculate Conception Church, 7pm until 10pm**.



Parish Finances - week ending 1 October 2023

\$505 First Collection - Clergy Remuneration Fund
\$536 Second collection - Parish expenses
\$170 Tap Point - Parish donations
\$210 Planned giving envelopes
\$490 Direct debits (weekly average from Sept).
Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly.

Carmelite meeting

The Lay Carmelite Meeting for October has been cancelled. The meeting for November will be on Saturday 4th November at 10am for 10.30am in St Joseph's room. Call Ann on 0427 235 955 for details. Everyone is welcome.

Recycling bins - \$95 raised during Sept

Together, we have raised \$95 through our combined recycling efforts. Your donations of 10c recyclable bottles, cans and plastics are welcome.



THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME - AIRS SUNDAY 8 OCT 2023

On the Journey this week: Bishop Brian Mascord says Jesus is challenging us, the tenants of the new vineyard of the church, to produce the fruits of justice, love, and peace. Mother Hilda on grasping Jesus' essential message that a life of loving, not being loved is when lives change and take on the colour and texture of the life of Jesus. Plus, Robert Falzon from the MenAlive movement on growing good men. Listen at jcr.org.au



PRAYER FOR THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS

The Faithful are encouraged to pray for the Synodal Process underway from **4 - 29 October in Rome**, specifically that the Holy Spirit to be at work in us so that we may be a community and a people of grace.

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name. With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts; Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it. We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder. Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions. Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right. All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen

SOCIAL JUSTICE POINTS

In order for the community to become truly a place where the vulnerable and voiceless can feel welcomed and heard, perhaps what is needed from everyone is that exercise we could call "making room". Everyone pulls his or her "ego" back a little bit, and this allows the other person to live. Yet for this to happen, the foundation of community needs to be the ethic of the gift and not the ethic of an exchange. - *Address of His Holiness Pope Francis to the Members of the "Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice" Foundation, Clementine Hall, Monday, 5 June 2023*

MOROCCO EARTHQUAKE

Caritas Australia has launched an appeal for the victims of the earthquake in Morocco. Over 2,000 people have been confirmed dead. Thousands of people have been injured, over 1,000 critically. Search and rescue efforts are ongoing, with many people still trapped under rubble.

The time to act is now. Caritas agencies are on the ground as they assess the scale of the damage and critical needs. Your donation today can help communities affected by the earthquake. Please give generously at www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergencyappeals/morocco-earthquake/

CALLED BY NAME: MACARTHUR YOUNG ADULTS GATHERING

Campbelltown Catholic Club, Saturday 28 Oct 6:45pm - 9pm

We extend to you this personal invitation to engage with fellow young adults from 17-35 years old, guided by a panel who will openly share the stories and learnings from their own journeys, with an opportunity for Q&A throughout the discussion.

This event is the beginning of a regional initiative connecting young adults in the Macarthur, though young adults from all throughout the Diocese are most welcome.

Register now: dow.sh/cbn23

8 OCTOBER - TWENTY SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

First Reading - Isaiah 5:1-7

The vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the House of Israel

Let me sing to my friend the song of his love for his vineyard.

My friend had a vineyard on a fertile hillside.

He dug the soil, cleared it of stones and planted choice vines in it.

In the middle he built a tower, he dug a press there too.

He expected it to yield grapes, but sour grapes were all that it gave.

And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah,

I ask you to judge between my vineyard and me.

What could I have done for my vineyard that I have not done?

I expected it to yield grapes. Why did it yield sour grapes instead?

Very well, I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard:

I will take away its hedge for it to be grazed on, and knock down its wall for it to be trampled on.

I will lay it waste, unpruned, undug; overgrown by the briar and the thorn.

I will command the clouds to rain no rain on it.

Yes, the vineyard of the Lord of Hosts is the House of Israel,

and the men of Judah that chosen plant.

He expected justice, but found bloodshed, integrity, but only a cry of distress.

Responsorial Psalm - The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.

1. You brought a vine out of Egypt; to plant it you drove out the nations.
It stretched out its branches to the sea, to the Great River it stretched out its shoots. R.
2. Then why have you broken down its walls? It is plucked by all who pass by.
It is ravaged by the boar of the forest, devoured by the beasts of the field. R.
3. God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. R.
4. And we shall never forsake you again; give us life that we may call upon your name.
God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved. R.

Second Reading - Philippians 4: 6-9

Do these things and the God of peace will be with you.

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise. Keep doing all the things that you learnt from me and have been taught by me and have heard or seen that I do. Then the God of peace will be with you.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. Alleluia!

Gospel - Matthew 21: 33-43

He leased his vineyard to other farmers.

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'Listen to another parable. There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard; he fenced it round, dug a winepress in it and built a tower; then he leased it to tenants and went abroad. When vintage time drew near he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one, killed another and stoned a third. Next he sent some more servants, this time a larger number, and they dealt with them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them. "They will respect my son" he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance." So they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They answered, 'He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him when the season arrives.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures:

It was the stone rejected by the builders

that became the keystone.

This was the Lord's doing

and it is wonderful to see?

'I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.'