

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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THIRTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) – 5 NOV 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 6 Nov	Mass: 7am	
Tues 7 Nov	Mass: 5:30pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
Wed 8 Nov	Mass: 7am	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm - 5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm
Thurs 9 Nov <i>The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica</i>	Mass: 5:30pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
Fri 10 Nov <i>St Leo the Great, Pope, doctor</i>	Mass: 7am	Mass: 9:30am
Sat 11 Nov <i>St Martin of Tours, bishop</i>	Rosary: 7am Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 5pm - 5:30pm Mass: 6pm	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am
Sun 12 Nov	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (Polish)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Cecilia Donohue, William Blattman
 Giuseppe Masi

Prayers for the sick

Jan Luke, Peter Lathourakis, Peter Stoyles
 John Sweeney, Kerrie Maidment, Roger Baxendale

Anniversaries

Teresa Leggott, Bertha Varley,
 Aileen Brown, William Henry Varley
 Peter Hanrahan



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

We will soon be beginning our “**RCIA program**” (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults). This is the usual way by which adults are prepared for baptism – or if baptised as non-Catholics, are prepared to receive the other Sacraments to become Catholic. If you or anyone you know is interested in beginning this journey, or knowing more about the process, please don’t hesitate to contact me at duane.fernandez@dow.org.au

Let us pray for the children receiving **First Holy Communion** at two special Masses for them, their families and their guests next Saturday at Immaculate Conception (and this Saturday at St Therese). Thank you to their parents and families for supporting them in their faith journey, and to the Sacramental Team – Kirra Calvert, Lauren Hall, Louise Sartor and Sister Kerry Gardiner – for preparing the children and families so well. Let us pray that the children will be deeply nourished by receiving this precious Sacrament for the first time and come to know the love and closeness of Jesus more and more deeply throughout their lives through frequent reception of Holy Communion.

Finally, don’t forget to book your spot at our upcoming **parish dinner** – a great opportunity to build community, make new friends and get to know your fellow parishioners here and from West Wollongong in a fun, relaxed environment at Figtree Sports Club (also affectionately known as “Figgy Bowlo”).

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

It happens to all of us. No one escapes. It was one of those days for me. Nothing was heading in the right direction. I boarded a bus for Wollongong, something I would do about four times a year. Once on the bus and I heard ‘Hello Sr Kerry.’ There sat two parishioners who more recently have been carrying their own cross: a pretty heavy one at that. We alighted the bus at the same stop. I was invited to share coffee with them. It was a wonderful release for me. We laughed and chatted. Any passerby would have thought they did not have a care in the world.

That evening as I reflected on my day, I could not help but think how that cup of coffee was worth much more than the few dollars they had paid for it. I do not think the parishioners knew how much they had touched me that day.

There is an African proverb that goes:- ‘*The reason that two antelopes walk together is so that one can blow the dust from the other’s eyes.*’

This week you will touch lives in a way you will never know.

Sr Kerry Gardiner



ROSTER – THIS WEEKEND

November	Church Washing	Fiona Fernandez	
Sat 4 Nov	Church Cleaning	McInerney Family	
Sat 4 Nov	Lawns	No lawn mowing this week	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children’s liturgy
6pm 4 Nov	D Nugent	C Cleary	
8am 5 Nov	M Matos	G Simmonite	Leah Galea, Alison Sharwood
Counters	A Gunning, M Caudero, C Garrett		

ROSTER – NEXT WEEKEND

November	Church Washing	Fiona Fernandez	
Sat 11 Nov	Church Cleaning	W & J Rodgers, J Andersson	
Sat 11 Nov	Lawns	M & J Winner, M Walsh, S Carrigan, A Bennett	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children’s liturgy
6pm 11 Nov	M Rodwell	B Farraway	
8am 12 Nov	T Vaafusuaga	J Sharwood	Sarah Walsh, Alicia Sanchez- Levine
Counters	A Kelly, B Farraway		

PARISH NEWS

Morning Tea

Will be served in the St Joseph's room after 8am Mass on Sunday. Everyone is invited to come and have a cuppa and a chat.



New Defibrillator in the church



Our new defib machine is located at the rear of the church, in the northern confessional. Twelve parishioners attended training in the use of our defib machine on Wednesday.

Following on from this, we will arrange for a **First Aid Training Day** (including the use of the defib machine) to be held in the St

Joseph's meeting room. The course is 5 hours held over 2 days, with a certificate issued upon completion. The cost of the course is \$95. Please contact the Parish office if you are interested in attending this First Aid Training.

CWL meeting—Thursday 9 Nov

The monthly meeting of CWL will be held on Thursday 9 November at 10am in the St Joseph's meeting room. Everyone is invited to join us for a cuppa and a chat before the meeting.

An invitation

Would you like an opportunity to meet other Parishioners? We need volunteers to assist in the many ministries that help our Parish to run smoothly. You can offer your help in any of the following ways: *Readers, Welcomers, Children's liturgy, Church cleaners, Mowing team.*

Please consider joining one of the teams. Your assistance is valued. If you would like more information, please contact Barbara on **0419 989 608**.

Christmas lunch at the St Therese Parish Centre.

We will be offering Christmas lunch at the St Therese Parish Centre. If you would like to join us, please contact Melissa at the Parish Office unanderra@dow.org.au

Eucharistic Adoration (first Friday of each month)

Eucharistic Adoration is **Friday 3 Nov, 7pm until 10pm.**



Parish Finances - week ending 29 October 2023

\$553	First Collection	- Clergy Remuneration Fund
\$482	Second collection	- Parish expenses
\$200	Tap Point - Parish donations	
\$400	Planned giving envelopes	
\$490	Direct debits (weekly average from Sept).	

Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly.

Carmelite meeting

The next meeting of the Lay Carmelites 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.

EL ROI: THE GOD WHO SEES ME

(WOMEN'S RETREAT), 17-19 NOVEMBER 2023

Prepare for Advent through this women's retreat with the MGL Sisters, as we spend time together listening to God's unique heart of love for each one of us.

Venue: Carmel House, 345 St Andrews Rd, Varroville NSW

Bookings: <http://www.trybooking.com/CFBRE> (by 3 Nov)

Contact: Berna - mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com

Summer School of Evangelisation (Sydney): 7-14th Jan 2024,

Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville NSW

Young people aged 16-35. Registrations open 31st Oct.

Register by 30th November to receive early bird rates

(concession \$525/adult \$625).

More info: contact@summerschool.org.au.

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME – AIRS SUNDAY 5 NOV 2023

On the Journey this week: Fr Mike Delaney's Gospel reflection on the way we present ourselves to God and others, Mother Hilda's story about an ant hiding in a sugar bowl just like we try to hide from God. Plus, Fr Tony Percy on how to descend into the fertile valley of humility, Mark Raue explains the common good as a Christian principle and Trish McCarthy using food to renew energy levels. Listen at jcr.org.au



YOUNG ADULTS AND VOCATIONS - WHAT'S NEXT?

On Saturday 28 October, more than 60 young adults from Macarthur and other parts of the Diocese gathered at Campbelltown Catholic Club for the "Called By Name" event, where they heard inspiring testimonies from a panel about finding their calling in life, followed by Q and A.

The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and we are grateful to those who promoted the event, those who supported the event on the night, and especially to every young person who came along! If you weren't able to attend the event, we would love to hear from you what you are looking for in potential young adults initiatives by filling out this Google Form: tinyurl.com/dowyoungadults.

Also check out our new Vocations page on the Diocesan website at dow.org.au/media-resources/vocations/ with upcoming events and resources. If you would like help discerning your vocation Fr Duane would love to hear from you at vocations@dow.org.au

SOCIAL JUSTICE POINTS

"Although the post-industrial period may well be remembered as one of the most irresponsible in history, nonetheless there is reason to hope that humanity at the dawn of the twenty-first century will be remembered for having generously shouldered its grave responsibilities".

- Address of His Holiness Pope Francis to the Members of the "Centessimus Annus Pro Pontifice" Foundation, Monday, 5 June 2023

CARITAS AUSTRALIA'S GAZA CRISIS APPEAL

An estimated 1 million people have been displaced in Gaza with immediate food, shelter, health, and psychosocial needs.

'This is a period of incredible turmoil and sadness. The escalation of violence has only exacerbated needs for the people in Gaza and West Bank, who already live in dire conditions. We are working with our partners on the ground to provide comprehensive and critical support to over 17,000 families affected by this devastating conflict.' Sally Thomas, Humanitarian Lead, Caritas Australia

With your support, we will be able to help our partners on the ground to assist people displaced and affected by the current conflict. Please donate to Caritas Australia's Gaza Crisis Appeal. You can donate online www.caritas.org.au/gaza or phone **1800 024 413**

AUSTRALIAN YOUNG CATHOLIC WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP 2024/2025

This initiative of the Bishops Commission for Evangelisation, Laity and Ministry (BCELM) has been offered since 2006 to young women aged 25- 35 years. Fellowship inclusions and schedule can be found at www.nce.catholic.org.au/womensfellowship

Applications close Thursday 16 November

5 NOVEMBER - THIRTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

First Reading- Malachi 1:14-2:2, 8-10 *You have strayed from the way, you have caused many to stumble by your teaching.*

I am a great king, says the Lord of Hosts, and my name is feared throughout the nations. And now, priests, this warning is for you. If you do not listen, if you do not find it in your heart to glorify my name, says the Lord of Hosts, I will send the curse on you and curse your very blessing. But you, you have strayed from the way; you have caused many to stumble by your teaching. You have destroyed the covenant of Levi, says the Lord of Hosts. And so I in my turn have made you contemptible and vile in the eyes of the whole people in repayment for the way you have not kept to my paths but have shown partiality in your administration.

Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us? Why, then, do we break faith with one another, profaning the covenant of our ancestors?

Responsorial Psalm - In you, O Lord, I have found my peace.

1. O Lord, my heart is not proud nor haughty my eyes.
I have not gone after things too great nor marvels beyond me R.
2. Truly I have set my soul in silence and peace.
A weaned child on its mother's breast, even so is my soul. R.
3. O Israel, hope in the Lord both now and forever. R.

Second Reading - 1 Thessalonians 2:7-9, 13 *We were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our lives as well.*

Like a mother feeding and looking after her own children, we felt so devoted and protective towards you, and had come to love you so much, that we were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our whole lives as well. Let me remind you, brothers, how hard we used to work, slaving night and day so as not to be a burden on any one of you while we were proclaiming God's Good News to you.

Another reason why we constantly thank God for you is that as soon as you heard the message that we brought you as God's message, you accepted it for what it really is, God's message and not some human thinking; and it is still a living power among you who believe it.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! You have one Father, your Father in heaven; you have one teacher: the Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

Gospel - Matthew 23: 1-12

You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself.

Addressing the people and his disciples Jesus said, 'The scribes and the Pharisees occupy the chair of Moses. You must therefore do what they tell you and listen to what they say; but do not be guided by what they do: since they do not practise what they preach. They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men's shoulders, but will they lift a finger to move them? Not they! Everything they do is done to attract attention, like wearing broader phylacteries and longer tassels, like wanting to take the place of honour at banquets and the front seats in the synagogues, being greeted obsequiously in the market squares and having people call them Rabbi.

'You, however, must not allow yourselves to be called Rabbi, since you have only one master, and you are all brothers. You must call no one on earth your father, since you have only one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor must you allow yourselves to be called teachers, for you have only one Teacher, the Christ. The greatest among you must be your servant. Anyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself will be exalted.'