

PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

48-50 Princes Highway (PO Box 14) Unanderra NSW 2526

www.unanderraparish.org.au

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 Email:
 Mobile:

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 (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
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THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (YEAR B) – 7 JANUARY 2024

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 8 Jan <i>The Baptism of the Lord</i>	Mass: 7am	
Tues 9 Jan	Mass: 5:30pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
Wed 10 Jan	Mass: 7am	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm - 5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm
Thurs 11 Jan	Mass: 5:30pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
Fri 12 Jan	Mass: 7am	Mass: 9:30am
Sat 13 Jan	Rosary 7am Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 5pm - 5:30pm Mass: 6pm	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am
Sun 14 Jan	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (Polish)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Anna Martignago, Rina Lizzio, Jack Van Riet,
 Vincenza Carnevale, Serafin Gonzalo

Anniversaries

Frank Posavec, Fr Kevin McGovern,
 James Salway, Cardinal George Pell,

Prayers for the sick

Peter Lathourakis, Peter Stoyles, Antoinette Sakr
 Kerrie Maidment, Roger Baxendale, Josephine Moran

Ernie Kurtz, Lesley Lloyd, Tomo Marusic
 William F Butler
 Margaret Comensoli

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

Happy new year! Our first Sunday this year is the **Feast of the Epiphany** – remembering the mysterious “wise men” who came to pay homage to the infant Jesus. These mysterious figures represent all the nations beyond Israel, including us, called to worship the God of Israel, who had prepared the way for his definitive self-revelation to all nations in the person of Jesus. Every Mass is our own opportunity to join the wise men in coming to worship Christ, offering our God-given gifts to the Lord and to each other: a perfect way to begin the new year!

This year, as a thank you to all volunteers in the parish who keep the parish going and growing in such a broad variety of ways, the Parish Pastoral Council has decided to hold a **“thank you”** to all parish volunteers. More details will follow, but for now save the date for this special afternoon tea for parish volunteers: **Sunday 4th February, 2pm, St Joseph’s Room.**

There are also special opportunities coming soon for anyone interested to get more involved in the various groups and ministries of the parish – stay tuned! In the meantime, don’t forget to **register for Alpha** as soon as you can, and consider who else you might invite along! Use the cards available on the resource table – there are more cards available if needed.

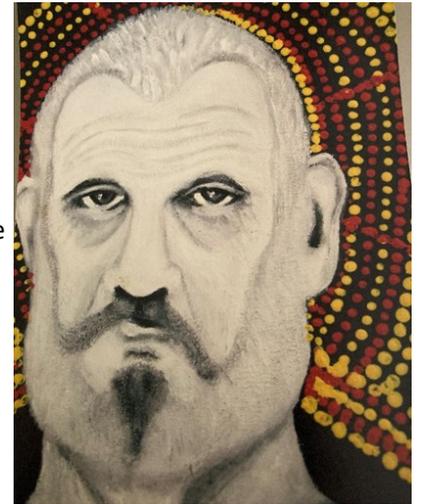
Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

His name has long been erased from my memory. Visually I see him as if I met up with him this morning. I met this man in a nursing home that I visited weekly. He told me his story. Many of his adult years were spent in prison. He had very little in the line of possessions. He opened the top drawer once and showed me some old cassette tapes. There were about three of them. I never got to hear the tapes, but it was his police record of his interviews. This man enjoyed art and showed me his painting of Jesus. I took a photo.

Recently when going through some things I stumbled upon his photo and the memories came flooding back. He died in between visits. I wasn’t informed of his death. It just happened that when I called the following week his room was emptied out. The little that he owned had gone. He was gone.

We all carry stories. What stories are sacred to you? Can you picture Jesus at the centre of your story? Does your Jesus have the eyes that look deep within you? Do those eyes reaffirm the love of Jesus for you despite how your story may read?



Sr Kerry Gardiner

ROSTER – THIS WEEKEND

January	Church Washing	Barbara Farraway	
Sat 6 Jan	Church Cleaning	G Lord, L Zanetti, S Adams	
Sat 6 Jan	Lawns	B Mannix, W Brown, F Caruana, J Lonard, J	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children’s liturgy
6pm 6 Jan	D Ferrer	C Cleary	
8am 7 Jan	C Lyon	G Simmonite	School Holidays
Counters	A Kelly, B Farraway		

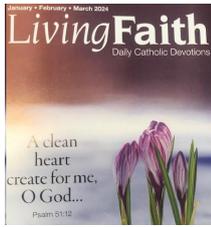
ROSTER – NEXT WEEKEND

January	Church Washing	Barbara Farraway	
Sat 13 Jan	Church Cleaning	McInerney Family, B Collins	
Sat 13 Jan	Lawns	No lawn mowing this week	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children’s liturgy
6pm 13 Jan	D Nugent	T Chicharo	
8am 14 Jan	P Gunning	J Sharwood	School Holidays
Counters	M Murphy (FH), C Stratton, M Winner		

PARISH NEWS

Living Faith books - are available now at the side door

The new Living Faith books for **January to March 2024** are available now. Living Faith provides daily reflections based on a scripture passage from the daily Mass. This booklet helps Catholics pray and meditate in spirit with the seasons of the church Year. Cost is \$5. Please leave money in the small drawer.



Extended Adoration - Friday 5th Jan, 7pm to 10pm.

Reconciliation available throughout.

"Curiously, the prayer of adoration - we have lost it. We have lost it and everyone - priests, bishops, consecrated men and women, laypeople - have to recover it. It's to be in silence, before the Lord."
- Pope Francis



Vinnies thank you!

The Conference would like to thank all the generous parishioners who again supported the Vinnies Giving Tree and the Vinnies Christmas Appeal. Forty four Christmas hampers were distributed and toys given to over 65 children, supporting those in need within the Parish area.

The Vinnies Christmas Appeal **raised \$3,427.55** from the three Christmas Masses. All money raised is used to support the poor of the Parish. The Unanderra Conference receives over fifteen requests for food, rent assistance or general help every week. Your support is much appreciated and the Society supports you in prayer. The Unanderra Parishioners are so generous!



RCIA

It is exciting to have a number of people expressing their desire to become Catholic through the RCIA program. The first step will be for Fr Duane to meet with each one during the coming weeks. If you're interested or would like more information please let Fr Duane know either after Mass or at duane.fernandez@dow.org.au

Parish Finances - week ending 31 December 2023

\$530	First Collection	- Clergy Remuneration Fund
\$546	Second collection	- Parish expenses
\$200	Tap Point - Parish donations	
\$250	Planned giving envelopes	
\$534	Direct debits (weekly average from Nov).	

Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly

Recycling bins - \$679 raised in 2023.

Your donations of 10c recyclable bottles, cans and plastics are welcome. All proceeds go to the Parish.

SUMMER BIBLE CAMP

19 TO 20 JANUARY 2024

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL, VARROVILLE

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Varroville, through the Children's Ministry Team, will conduct a Summer Bible Camp. It is an overnight event for **children ages 8 to 14**. This is an opportunity to grow in the knowledge of God, to deepen their love of Him and to serve Jesus through others, by learning the Bible in their own way.

Through fun activities, they will also learn values in life and skills they need as they grow up in the society, witnessing the Christian way of living. Come along and join with us. Parents, please encourage and support your children to join this BIBLE CAMP.

Last day of Registration will be on **31 December 2023**. Fee by donation. For more details and more enquiries, please contact Sr. Jill through email: asolmcp@parish@gmail.com

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME - AIRS SUNDAY 7 JANUARY 2024

On the Journey this week: Fr Mark De Battista says today we celebrate the manifestation of the Christ child to all the Gentile nations. Mother Hilda says there is a great spiritual message from an episode of fiction, Agatha Christie's character, Monsieur Poirot. Fr Tony Percy calls us to stop and think about that Gospel phrase; they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy upon seeing the star which then led them to the Christ child, Fr Sean Cullen says that by studying the life of Jesus, we can learn what the favour of God really means, and how it applies to each of us. Listen at jcr.org.au



PURPOSE PILGRIMAGE OF MERCY 11 - 21 JUNE 2024

Father Christopher Sarkis, Parish Priest of Rosemeadow, will be the Chaplain accompanying Harvest Journeys Eastern Europe Pilgrimage of Mercy in June 2024, visiting Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic. It includes the Shrines of Divine Mercy, the Black Madonna of Czestochowa and the Infant of Prague. It visits places of importance to St John Paul II, St. Faustina and St. Maximillian Kolbe, among others.

Optional Extension: There is also an optional 6 night/7-day extension (21 - 27 June) to Bavaria and Austria. It will include the Marian Shrine of Altotting, as well as Markt in Bavaria; Salzburg of the Sound of Music fame and the hometown of Mozart; and the historic, cultural, and artistic city of Vienna in Austria. We will also visit various other shrines and attractions along with some spectacular churches and monasteries. **Enquiries:** 4628 1385 or directly at harvestjourneys.com/tour/pilgrimageof-mercy
Bookings only through Harvest Journeys.

SUMMER SCHOOL OF EVANGELISATION (SYDNEY): 7-14 JANUARY 2024, MOUNT CARMEL RETREAT CENTRE, VARROVILLE

Summer School is a week-long, live-in, life-changing retreat featuring praise and worship, inspiring talks, engaging liturgy, time to chill & learn and more in the midst of a community of 150+ young people aged 16-35.
Bookings: summerschool.org.au

CCD ADMIN AND SUPPORT OFFICER CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG

Suitably experienced and qualified persons are encouraged to apply for this position. Appropriate skills and a passion for the work of SRE Catechists in State schools is essential. Applications close on **Wednesday, 10 January 2024**. For more information and a detailed role description, please go to: <https://dow/sh/ccdadminpv>
For enquiries contact helen.bennett@dow.org.au

DIOCESAN YOUTH MINISTRY LEADER

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG

Suitably experienced and qualified persons are encouraged to apply for the role of Youth Ministry Leader in the Diocese of Wollongong. Applications close on **Tuesday, 12 January 2024**. For more information and a detailed role description, please go to: dow.org.au/position-vacant-diocesan-youth-ministry-leader/ or for enquiries contact helen.bennett@dow.org.au

7 JANUARY - THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (YEAR B)

First Reading - Isaiah 60:1-6

The glory of the Lord shines upon you.

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come,
the glory of the Lord is rising on you,
though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples.
Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears.
The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness.
Lift up your eyes and look round: all are assembling and coming towards you,
your sons from far away and your daughters being tenderly carried.
At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full;
since the riches of the sea will flow to you, the wealth of the nations come to you;
camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah;
everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense
and singing the praise of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm - Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

1. O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. R.
2. In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds. R.
3. The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts shall pay him tribute.
The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts.
Before him all kings shall fall prostrate, all nations shall serve him. R.
4. For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. R.

Second Reading - Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6 *The revelation means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body.*

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Jesus Christ, through the gospel.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! We have seen his star in the East; and have come to adore the Lord. Alleluia!

Gospel - Matthew 2:1-12

We have come from the East to worship the king

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah,
for out of you will come a leader
who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward, and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.