

# PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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

[www.unanderraparish.org.au](http://www.unanderraparish.org.au)

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**Parish School:** St Pius X Primary School  
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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)

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## THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B) – 21 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
<b>Mon 22 Jan</b> <i>St Vincent, deacon, martyr</i>	Mass: 7am	
<b>Tues 23 Jan</b>	Mass: 5:30pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
<b>Wed 24 Jan</b> <i>St Francis de Sales, bishop, doctor</i>	Mass: 7am	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm - 5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm
<b>Thurs 25 Jan</b> <i>The Conversion of St Paul</i>	Mass: 5:30pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
<b>Fri 26 Jan</b> <i>Australia Day</i>	Mass: 8am	Mass: 9:30am
<b>Sat 27 Jan</b> <i>St Angela Merici, Sts Timothy and Titus</i>	Rosary: 7am Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 5pm - 5:30pm Mass: 6pm	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am
<b>Sun 28 Jan</b>	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (Polish)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

#### Recently Deceased

Hiam (Emma) Sassine, Corazon Domingo,  
 Leigh Lemmon, Anna Martignago, Rina Lizzio.

#### Prayers for the sick

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

#### Anniversaries

Jackie Allen, Vera Cleary,  
 John Griffiths, Joyce Monaghan

Fr Barry Swift



### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

[unanderra@dow.org.au](mailto: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*

I know some of you might be a bit tired of hearing me speak about Alpha, but it has been just so exciting to see the wonderful things God has been doing in so many people's lives, of all ages and stages of faith, and I owe it to you all to share the good news! As such, I share below testimonies from some who experienced Alpha in our parishes last year. If you're interested to "come and see" what it's all about, feel free to register for the first evening using the QR codes on the Alpha cards, or to invite others using those same cards. Alternatively you can receive a registration link by emailing us at [alphawwu@gmail.com](mailto:alphawwu@gmail.com).

Alpha begins **Wednesday February 7th, 7pm at St Therese Parish Centre** - please register by 31st January to assist with logistics and catering.

### ALPHA TESTIMONIES FROM THE ALPHAS OF 2023

*"I went to Alpha, not quite sure what it would entail. I was raised Catholic and wasn't sure how I might find it, or if it would be things I'd heard before. The content was really engaging and breaking open the talks in small groups after was definitely a highlight of mine."* (Anthony, 21 years old)

*"I loved going to Alpha every week to watch the videos, have a good chat with my group and the amazing dinner. By the end of Alpha it was like a family within the church community and I loved how inclusive everyone was no matter the age or religion."* (Annalise, 21 years old)

*"Alpha for me was really special, in more ways than one. It opened my eyes to religion & helped me relate to different circumstances in different videos. It helped the Parish community bond & share stories and memories over an amazing dinner."* (Toby, 23 years old)

*"For me Alpha was a great introduction to the Catholic faith, as unlike others I haven't come from a religious upbringing and didn't attend catholic schools growing up. I originally went to Father Duane as I was considering becoming baptised and I was wanting to get married in a Catholic Church. Since this conversation with Fr Duane about wanting to become Catholic my reasons have changed from what they were before Alpha compared to now after Alpha. Now even if my partner and daughter decided they were not a practicing part of this faith I would still want to be as I found this course very moving and I could really see more about the impact of God in my life. It has allowed me to see other areas where I can improve and ask God for help and turn things over to him when I don't have control over things or they become unmanageable in my life. For me the Alpha retreat day was just such an incredible experience like nothing I had ever felt before and it really helped me to work through some of my fears and anxieties that I didn't even know I had until that day. It has given me a really good insight into the principles of living as a Catholic in the modern world and how a lot of the Catholic faith aligns with how I see myself and want to continue to see myself in the future as I continue to grow in this space."* (Gemma, 32 years old)

*"Alpha provided the opportunity for me to meet other people who wanted to deepen their connection and relationship with God in a safe and non-judgmental space, regularly. The weekly meetings gave me courage to find my voice; learn from other people; and gently guide me to resources that could assist with building upon my spiritual connection with God and those around me."* (Cindy, 45 years old)

*"Alpha has been an amazing gift to my spiritual self. Despite being a regular church goer, I never knew I was missing out on really "knowing" God's love. Doing the Alpha course I discovered there is so much more to life. I feel happier, I "see" and appreciate God's little miracles every day and made new friends. What surprised me the most is I have a new fondness for growing my relationship with God through the Bible and prayer. Alpha became the highlight of my week. It felt like hanging out with good friends, catching up and connecting over delicious meals, being inspired and awakened to new possibilities through the short films as well as discovering God's love through great conversations. Everyone should gift this experience to themselves because it changes your life for the better."* (Natalie, 46 years old)

*"Alpha has been a rewarding three month journey that I have travelled in a difficult time of my life that I have endured for the last three years. Having survived two major heart procedures and other organ failures I pondered what was going to happen next. Finally I was able to attend Sunday mass after many months of non-attendances and I heard about Alpha. Having plenty of time and in a recovery phase I decided to enrol. Attending the first session in a pleasant environment and with an interesting topic to view had me wanting more. Afterward the group discussion concluded the evening into a special moment. The highlight of the Alpha attendances was the retreat day for me. During the day I came to accept and finally put to rest an issue that has bothered me for eighteen years. I was in shock with my behaviour because I have been a control freak for most of my adult life. My career path as a Project Manager aided in me becoming this type of person. I feel that everyone has their story to tell and with the aid of Alpha it may provide answers to some questions. Thank you to everyone that was associated with the Alpha Spring class of 2023."* (Janko, 57 years old)

*"I very tentatively joined Alpha thinking I could always drop out. I never missed one session. It helped me deepen my relationship with God & gave more meaning to my prayers. Also, I forged good relations with other members of my group & hope to keep in touch. All up, it has been a wonderful experience, thanks to the organisers."* (Lucia, 82 years old)

### Fr Duane Fernandez

#### ROSTER — THIS WEEKEND

January	Church Washing	Barbara Faraway	
Sat 20 Jan	Church Cleaning	W & J Rodgers, J Andersson	
Sat 20 Jan	Lawns	H Fernandez, Milan Family, Broeckmann	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
6pm 20 Jan	M Rodwell	S Marsala	
8am 21 Jan	C Walsh	A Amone	School Holidays
Counters	A Kelly, B Faraway		

#### ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

January	Church Washing	Barbara Faraway	
Sat 27 Jan	Church Cleaning	F Fernandez, B Rice, R Tassone	
Sat 27 Jan	Lawns	No lawn mowing this week	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
6pm 27 Jan	N O'Donoghue	B Collins	
8am 28 Jan	A Browne	A Kelly	School Holidays
Counters	A Gunning, M Caudero, C Garrett		

## PARISH NEWS

### Australia Day celebrations - Friday 26 January



Come and join us for our Australia Day celebrations - starting with Mass at 8am with Fr Duane.

Parishioners are then invited to a **free breakfast which will be served in the Church grounds**. All are welcome.

### High Tea celebration for Parish volunteers - 4 Feb

All Parish volunteers are invited to High Tea at 2pm Sunday 4 February 2024 in the St Joseph's room.

RSVP to [unanderra@dow.org.au](mailto:unanderra@dow.org.au)



### Alpha - 7pm Wednesday 7 February in the St Therese Parish Centre

Did you read the Alpha testimonies and feel inspired to see what it's all about? You can register [here](#)



### Carmelite meeting

The next meeting of the Lay Carmelites will be on **Saturday 3rd February** 10am for 10.30am in St Joseph's room. Call Ann on 0427 235 955 for details. Everyone is welcome.

### 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.

### 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](mailto:duane.fernandez@dow.org.au)

### Parish Finances - week ending 14 January 2024

\$580	First Collection	- Clergy Remuneration Fund
\$494	Second collection	- Parish expenses
\$200	Tap Point - Parish donations	
\$255	Planned giving envelopes	
\$444	Direct debits (weekly average from Dec).	

Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly

### Recycling bins

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



## COMMUNITY SUPPORT WORKERS CATHOLIC CARE

Becoming a CatholicCare Community Support Worker will give you a career that you love, whilst providing a valuable connection to people living with a disability or the aged in our Diocese.

If you want to find out more about becoming a Community Support Worker go to [catholiccare.dow.org.au/get-involved/careers/](http://catholiccare.dow.org.au/get-involved/careers/) or call 4227 1122.

## THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME - AIRS SUNDAY 21 JANUARY 2024

On the Journey this week: Fr Mark De Battista says that today's readings pose a great challenge to us, on the difference between listening, hearing, and obeying. Mother Hilda says God wants to carry the heavy weights of our life. Fr Tony Percy says that in our fearful, woke-world, we could all do with a good dose of satire: We are taking ourselves too seriously. Then again - and more importantly - we could all do with a good dose of Jesus. Fr Dave Callaghan observes that Technology seeks to erase every part of humanity that is deemed to be bad, but at the expense of developing true relationship with God. Listen at [jcr.org.au](http://jcr.org.au)



## A VOCATION VIEW



"The reign of God is now. Are you willing to drop what you are doing to follow Jesus' call? Believe that God will give you what you need". (Mark 1:14-20).

If you want to talk about your vocation, please contact the diocesan vocations director, Fr Duane Fernandez at [vocations@dow.org.au](mailto:vocations@dow.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.

**Enquiries:** 4628 1385 or directly at [harvestjourneys.com/tour/pilgrimageof-mercy](http://harvestjourneys.com/tour/pilgrimageof-mercy)

Bookings only through Harvest Journeys.

## THE CHOSEN SEASON 4 PREMIERE! - YOUNG ADULTS EVENT (18+)

We are excited to announce the first of many Young Adult events of 2024! On **Saturday 3 February**, we will have an outdoor "premiere" screening of The Chosen's first episode of season 4!

The Chosen is the first ever multiseason TV show about the life of Jesus, receiving worldwide accolades. If you haven't yet experienced it, come along and enjoy your first taste of it with other young adults from throughout the Diocese.

The event begins at **6.30pm and will be held at St Mary's Towers Douglas Park, 415 Douglas Park Drive, Douglas Park.**

The event is for our over 18 young adults, feel free to bring friends along! Please BYO picnic dinner, drink, and if you have one bring a picnic blanket or beach chair.

Please register for the free event using the QR code provided



## EXCITING NEWS!

The newest 'It's Who We Are' video has been launched. Narrated by our beloved Bishop Brian, this uplifting sub-three-minute clip illuminates the remarkable people and everyday works within our diocese. It celebrates all that is "Good News" in our diocese and features many of our Clergy, Seminarians, Parishes, Schools, CatholicCare programs and more! To view, please visit the diocesan website [here](http://www.dow.org.au) and/or its FB page <https://fb.watch/oOktv0G8-6/>

## 21 JANUARY - THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B)

### First Reading - Jonah 3:1-5, 10

### *The Ninevites renounced their evil ways*

The word of the Lord was addressed to Jonah: 'Up!' he said 'Go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach to them as I told you to.' Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was a city great beyond compare: it took three days to cross it. Jonah went on into the city, making a day's journey. He preached in these words, 'Only forty days more and Nineveh is going to be destroyed.' And the people of Nineveh believed in God; they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least.

God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behaviour, and God relented: he did not inflict on them the disaster which he had threatened.

### Responsorial Psalm - Teach me your ways, O Lord.

1. Lord, make me know your ways.  
Lord, teach me your paths.  
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:  
for you are God my saviour. R.
2. Remember your mercy, Lord,  
and the love you have shown from of old.  
In your love remember me,  
because of your goodness, O Lord. R.
3. The Lord is good and upright.  
He shows the path to those who stray,  
He guides the humble in the right path,  
He teaches his way to the poor. R.

### Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

### *The world as we know it is passing away.*

Brothers: our time is growing short. Those who have wives should live as though they had none, and those who mourn should live as though they had nothing to mourn for; those who are enjoying life should live as though there were nothing to laugh about; those whose life is buying things should live as though they had nothing of their own; and those who have to deal with the world should not become engrossed in it. I say this because the world as we know it is passing away.

### Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! The kingdom of God is near: believe the Good News. Alleluia!

### Gospel - Mark 1:14-20

### *Repent, and believe the Good News.*

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

As he was walking along by the Sea of Galilee he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net in the lake – for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you into fishers of men.' And at once they left their nets and followed him.

Going on a little further, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they too were in their boat, mending their nets. He called them at once and, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the men he employed, they went after him.

