

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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Phone: 4271 3550 | Fax: 4272 2954

School Principal: Mrs Pauline Chrostowski

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

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THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B) – 28 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 29 Jan	Mass: 7am	
Tues 30 Jan	Mass: 5:30pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
Wed 31 Jan <i>St John Bosco, priest</i>	Mass: 7am	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm - 5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm
Thurs 1 Feb	Mass: 5:30pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
Fri 2 Feb <i>The Presentation of the Lord</i>	Mass: 7am Adoration: 7pm - 10pm	Mass: 9:30am
Sat 3 Feb <i>St Blaise, bishop, St Ansgar, bishop</i>	Rosary 7am Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 5pm - 5:30pm Mass: 6pm	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am
Sun 4 Feb	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (Polish)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Hiam (Emma) Sassine, Corazon Domingo, Leigh Lemmon.

Prayers for the sick

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

Anniversaries

Jackie Allen, Vera Cleary, Darius Lipski,
Joyce Monaghan, Sandrino Boncompagni
Bp Cosmas Shi Enxiang



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

In my role as Vocations Director for the Diocese, I am seeking to facilitate and support events that connect young adults with each other throughout the Diocese. These events help young adults to form friendships with like minded young people and deepen their faith together, amidst a generation where there is often much negativity towards Catholic faith and values. If you or anyone you know might benefit from joining this growing young adult community (generally 18 to 30s), the next such event in our Diocese is next **Saturday evening, February 3rd, at St Mary's Towers Douglas Park** – a picnic and “outdoor cinema” viewing of **“The Chosen”**. Details in the main section of the bulletin, register now or feel free to contact Elise or myself if you have any questions. Also, if anyone can't make it to this event but is interested in joining future events please let me know!

Next Sunday, **4th February at 2pm**, we invite all of our many parish volunteers to a **“High Tea”** at St Joseph's Room. Thank you to the Parish Pastoral Council for initiating this, and members of the Catholic Women's League who once again are preparing these refreshments (and who hopefully will also be able to relax and enjoy being thanked for their generosity!) We have tried to share personal invitations with various contacts but we know that we may have missed a number of people – especially those who have helped in the various tasks of renovating our church last year. You know who you are even if we don't, and if you have volunteered your time in any capacity for our parish we would love for you to join this thanksgiving celebration of volunteers. Please register your attendance as soon as possible by contacting unanderra@dow.org.au or **4271 1068**.

Note: this Friday evening, **2nd February, is our First Friday extended Adoration, 7pm to 10pm** with Reconciliation available throughout. All welcome to attend any part of this evening of prayer.

Have a safe and blessed long weekend – and as we celebrate and pray for our nation, we make our own the opening prayer of the Mass for Australia Day:

“Grant, we pray, O Lord our God,
that as the Cross shines in our southern skies,
so may Christ bring light to our nation, to its peoples old and new,
and by saving grace, transform our lives.”

We wish Fr Jerzy a happy birthday for this coming Thursday – thank you Fr Jerzy for all you do for our parish, and God bless you on your birthday and always!

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

The silent dead and dark of the night was broken by the seventeen-month-old waking up and crying. I heard my niece get up to her, and mum and bub went into the loungeroom. There I could hear the toddler crying and at the same time her mum singing to her. It did not take long for the crying to stop, and I could only imagine the little one snuggled close to mum and being at peace, secure and filled with contentment.

The image of my God came to mind. In my moments of fear, anxiety, uncertainty I too cry, not like a toddler, but my heart is unsettled and restless. May I take comfort in the image of this night. Imagining my God nestling me close to his heart and comforting me.

Is this your image when you are restless, uncertain, afraid?

Sr Kerry Gardiner



ROSTER — THIS 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		

ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

February	Church Washing	Fiona Fernandez	
Sat 3 Feb	Church Cleaning	J Haywood, L Salway, M Hurley, T Vaafusuaga	
Sat 3 Feb	Lawns	M & J Winner, M Walsh, S Carrigan, A Bennett	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
6pm 3 Feb	D Ferrer	C Cleary	
8am 4 Feb	C Walsh	G Simmonite	Kirra Calvert, Maria Matos
Counters	A Kelly, B Faraway		

PARISH NEWS

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



Alpha - 7pm Wed 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](#)

"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)

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.

Extended Adoration - Friday 2 Feb, 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



Living Faith books

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

Parish Finances - week ending 21 January 2024

\$802	First Collection	- Clergy Remuneration Fund
\$513	Second collection	- Parish expenses
\$210	Tap Point	- Parish donations
\$419	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. Our bins are located in the church car park.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR CONSECRATED LIFE FEBRUARY 2, 2024

World Day for Consecrated Life will be celebrated on Friday, February 2, 2024, Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. Please pray for all those who have made commitments in the consecrated life and be sure to thank them on their special day. May they continue to be inspired by Jesus Christ and respond generously to God's gift of their vocation. The Diocese of Wollongong will celebrate with a special mass in the Cathedral on Tues 6th February. All are invited to celebrate this mass with those women and men, who serve the Lord through their vowed consecrated life.

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME - AIRS SUNDAY 28 JANUARY 2024

On the Journey this week: Fr Simon Apablaza says that the reason Jesus taught with authority is that his words are not only the expression of thoughts, but the expression of his own life. Mother Hilda has a tip on how to surrender to God's will. Plus, Fr Tony Percy, a menAlive testimony from Stu Brady, and Fr Mike Delaney. Listen at jcr.org.au



A VOCATION VIEW



That all those discerning or pursuing a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life will find encouragement through our prayers and sacrifices on their behalf, we pray to the Lord.

If you want to talk about your vocation, please contact the diocesan vocations director, Fr Duane Fernandez at 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

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 or email Elise at Elise.Duval@dow.catholic.edu.au



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/>

28 JANUARY - THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B)

First Reading - Deuteronomy 18:15-20

I will put my words into the prophets mouth, and he will tell them all I command.

Moses said to the people: 'The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, from your own brothers; to him you must listen. This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly. "Do not let me hear again" you said "the voice of the Lord my God, nor look any longer on this great fire, or I shall die"; and the Lord said to me, "All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him. The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I have not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die."'

Responsorial Psalm - If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. R.
2. Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us:
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand R.
3. O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' R.

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 7:32-35

The unmarried woman dedicates herself to the things of the Lord, that she might be holy.

I would like to see you free from all worry. An unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord's affairs, all he need worry about is pleasing the Lord; but a married man has to bother about the world's affairs and devote himself to pleasing his wife: he is torn two ways. In the same way an unmarried woman, like a young girl, can devote herself to the Lord's affairs; all she need worry about is being holy in body and spirit. The married woman, on the other hand, has to worry about the world's affairs and devote herself to pleasing her husband. I say this only to help you, not to put a halter round your necks, but simply to make sure that everything is as it should be, and that you give your undivided attention to the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! A people in darkness have seen a great light: a radiant dawn shines on those lost in death. Alleluia!

Gospel - Mark 1:21-28

This is a new kind of teaching that speaks with authority.

Jesus and his disciples went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the sabbath came he went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit and it shouted, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.' But Jesus said sharply, 'Be quiet! Come out of him!' And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. 'Here is a teaching that is new' they said 'and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.' And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

