

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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Parish School: St Pius X Primary School
 Cnr Hargreaves & Cummins Streets
 (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
 Phone: 4271 1068

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR B) – 7 APRIL 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 Apr <i>The Annunciation of the Lord</i>	Mass: 7am	
Tues 9 Apr	No Mass today	Mass: 7:45am
Wed 10 Apr	No Mass today	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm - 5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm 
Thurs 11 Apr <i>St Stanislaus, bishop, martyr</i>	No Mass today	Mass: 7:45am
Fri 12 Apr	No Mass today	Mass: 9:30am
Sat 13 Apr <i>St Martin I, pope, martyr</i>	Rosary 7am Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 5pm - 5:30pm Mass: 6pm 	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am 
Sun 14 Apr	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (Polish)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Frank Logue, Carmela Curcio, Ronald Hill

Anniversaries

Tadeusx Seweryn, Elizabeth Ray,
 Doris Murphy, Cynthia Webb, Mary Grecko,
 Minnette Villanueva, Michelle Villanueva

Prayers for the sick

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

Corazon Domingo
 Betty Barnett

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

Easter is not over yet! As with Christmas, we need more than a single day to celebrate so wonderful a mystery! We celebrate Easter Sunday as an **“Octave”** – 8 days, concluding on the Second Sunday of Easter. Then we continue in the joy of the “Easter Season” until Pentecost – the “50th day” after easter – when we celebrate the feast of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles, and through them throughout all nations of the world, through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

The Second Sunday of Easter is often designated **“Divine Mercy Sunday”**. This devotion is given to the church by two Polish saints – Saint Faustina Kowalska (b. 1905, d. 1938) and St John Paul II. The Divine Mercy Image focuses on the streams of water and blood flowing from the pierced heart of the risen Lord (cf John 19:34). The very simple prayer “Jesus I trust in You” associated with the Divine Mercy image is a reminder of the response we are called to make in response to his saving death and resurrection – to humbly receive his infinite mercy with the trust of a little child! The “Divine Mercy Chaplet” is an extended prayer based upon this same devotion and pamphlets are available this Sunday on the Resource Table.

All are welcome to the **“Come and See Cup of Tea”** after Masses this weekend – a wonderful opportunity to meet and chat with many of our volunteers and find out more about the various groups, activities and ways of service within our parish and through our parish to those most in need. Be assured that there will be no pressure to join any group or activity – just come and see!

Thank you to the Parish Pastoral Council for organizing this initiative, and thank you once again to all who so generously gave of themselves to prepare and enrich our Holy Week and Easter Celebrations!

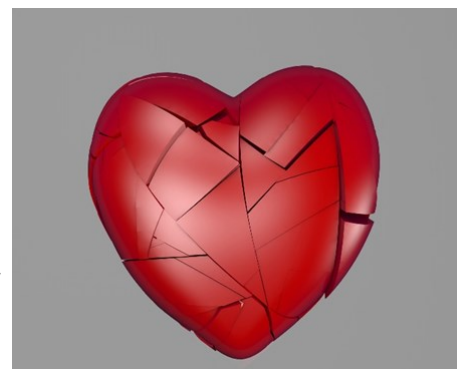
Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

We might be rubbing our hands together and saying, ‘Well that’s Easter for 2024!’ If only life and Easter were that easy. In a sense our Easter is just beginning. We may have celebrated Easter and that is behind us, but what have we celebrated? The rolling of the stone away from the tomb and Jesus appearing to be alive.

Now for us! What prevents me from living life to the full? What stones are closing the entrance to my heart? What needs rolling away so that I too can live to the fullest? Let Easter begin for each of us!

Thank you to each and every one who made our celebrations so fitting and beautiful. May we continue to be enriched by the gift and presence of each other.



Sr Kerry Gardiner

ROSTER – THIS WEEKEND

April	Church Washing	Susan Adams	
Sat 6 Apr	Church Cleaning	F Fernandez, B Rice, R Tassone	
Sat 6 Apr	Lawns	<i>No lawn mowing this week.</i>	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children’s liturgy
6pm 6 Apr	N O’Donoghue	C Cleary	
8am 7 Apr	M Matos	G Simmonite	Leah Galea, Alison Sharwood
Counters	M Murphy (FH), C Stratton, M Winner		

ROSTER – NEXT WEEKEND

April	Church Washing	Susan Adams	
Sat 13 Apr	Church Cleaning	J Haywood, L Salway, M Hurley, T Vaafusuaga	
Sat 13 Apr	Lawns	H Fernandez, Milan Family, Broeckmann	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children’s liturgy
6pm 13 Apr	D Nugent	B Farraway	
8am 14 Apr	A Kelly	J Sharwood	<i>School Holidays</i>
Counters	A Kelly, B Farraway		

PARISH NEWS

Extended Adoration - Friday 5 April, 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



Come and See Cup of Tea - Saturday and Sunday 6/7 April



For anyone who would like to get more involved in Parish life, we are holding a **Come and See Cup of Tea**, after the Vigil and 8am Sunday morning Masses.

It will be an informal opportunity to find out more about what's happening in the Parish and to meet some of the people involved in the various ministries - CWL, Vinnies, STIC young adults, Adult Faith Formation and catechists etc. We look forward to sharing a cuppa after Mass.

Carmelite Meeting - Saturday 6 April

The next meeting of the Lay Carmelites will be on Saturday 6 April 10am for 10.30am in St Joseph's room. Call Ann on 0427 235 955 for details. Everyone is welcome.

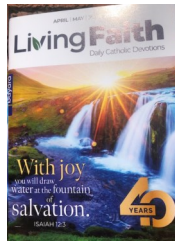
Catholic Women's league - Thurs 11 April

The monthly meeting of the CWL will be held on Thursday 11th April at 10.00am in St Joseph's Room. Everyone is invited to join us for morning tea and a chat before the meeting.

Living Faith books (April - June)

The new Living Faith books for April to June 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.



Parish Pastoral Council

View the Parish calendar on the link below <https://tinyurl.com/parishcalendar2024>. If you would like to contact the PPC, please call *Chris Lyon* on 0403 296 837.

Christian Meditation:



The Christian Meditation Group meets on Monday evenings in the St Therese Parish Centre 6pm - 7:30pm.

ENQUIRIES: Please text **Monica 0412 056 877**. All are welcome

Parish Finances - week ending 31 March 2024

\$1,052	First Collection	- Clergy Remuneration Fund
\$832	Second collection	- Parish expenses
\$160	Tap Point - Parish donations	
\$415	Planned giving envelopes	
\$556	Direct debits (weekly average from Feb).	

Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly

Holy Lands Collection: \$1,529.80

Project Compassion: \$2,726.75

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.



THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME - AIRS SUNDAY 7 APRIL 2024

On the Journey this week: Fr Mark De Battista's Gospel reflection placing ourselves in Thomas's position. Mother Hilda says to call out like Elijah when we're lost. Fr Tony Percy and two resurrection effects, Plus, Trish McCarthy and Fr Mike Delaney. Listen at jcr.org.au



A VOCATION VIEW

Despite our lack of faith, Christ still calls and gives the strength to respond. Bring your questions to Him, that He might answer your doubts with His gentle, but persistent love. (John 20:19-31)

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



EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT | WELCOMING AND INFORMATION - CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG

An exciting opportunity exists for a suitably experienced and qualified person to apply for the role of Executive Assistant | Welcoming and Information.

Please visit the website dow.org.au/JOBS/
Applications can be emailed to recruitment@dow.org.au
For all enquiries, call Robin Williams on (02) 4222 2402

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS AT ST COLUMBKILLE'S PARISH CENTRE, CORRIMAL | 6 APRIL

April is devoted to Divine Mercy with a video presentation at 3 pm. Enjoy shared afternoon tea at 4 pm, followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, International Rosary, Benediction, Anointing of the Sick at 4:30 pm. Reconciliation starts at 5:30 pm, leading to Holy Mass at 6 pm. All are welcome! Please bring a plate to share if possible

SOCIAL JUSTICE POINTS

Collaboration among all Christians is crucial in addressing the pastoral challenges of our time. In secularized societies, this enables the voice of the Gospel to have greater force. In contexts of poverty, it impels people to join forces in the service of justice, peace and the dignity of the least. In all instances, it is a resource for healing the culture of hatred, division and war that pits groups, peoples and nations against each other -- 'XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops' (Synod on Synodality) Synthesis Report.

LEGION OF MARY - ANNUAL ACIES CEREMONY

Invites all members present, past and auxiliary to the Annual ACIES Ceremony at Immaculate Conception Church, Unanderra at **2pm on Sunday 14 April 2024**. All are welcome and light refreshments will be provided afterwards in the parish room. Enquiries call 0449 807 814

CHARISMATIC HEALING MASS

FRIDAY, 12 APRIL 2024
SACRED HEART CHAPEL, STEWART ST,
WOLLONGONG
7PM PRAISE AND WORSHIP
7:30PM HOLY MASS

A warm invitation is extended to anyone who would like to join us in charismatic prayer for our Bishop's Vision for the Wollongong Diocese, followed by Holy Mass to be celebrated by Bishop Brian Mascord. There will also be an opportunity for healing prayer after Mass.

Info: Gabriella De Battista 0414 205 404 (Co-ordinator for the Wollongong Charismatic Leadership team)

7 APRIL—SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR B)

First Reading - Acts 4:32-35

The whole group was united, heart and soul

The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul; no one claimed for his own use anything that he had, as everything they owned was held in common.

The apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power, and they were all given great respect. None of their members was ever in want, as all those who owned land or houses would sell them, and bring the money from them, to present it to the apostles; it was then distributed to any members who might be in need.

Responsorial Psalm - Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

1. Let the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end.'
Let the sons of Aaron say: 'His love has no end.'
Let those who fear the Lord say: 'His love has no end.' R.
2. The Lord's right hand has triumphed; his right hand raised me up.
I shall not die, I shall live and recount his deeds.
I was punished, I was punished by the Lord, but not doomed to die. R.
3. The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes.
This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad. R.

Second Reading - John 5:1-6

Anyone begotten by God has already overcome the world

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God;
and whoever loves the Father that begot him loves the child whom he begets.
We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us;
this is what loving God is – keeping his commandments;
and his commandments are not difficult, because anyone who has been begotten by God
has already overcome the world; this is the victory over the world – our faith.
Who can overcome the world? Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God:
Jesus Christ who came by water and blood, not with water only, but with water and blood;
with the Spirit as another witness – since the Spirit is the truth.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe. Alleluia!

Gospel - John 20:19-31

After eight days, Jesus came in and stood among them.

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you', and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.

'As the Father sent me,
so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.
For those whose sins you forgive,
they are forgiven;
for those whose sins you retain,
they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me.

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.