

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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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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR B) – 21 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 22 Apr	Mass: 7am	
Tues 23 Apr <i>St George, martyr, St Adalbert, bishop, martyr</i>	Mass: 5:30pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:45pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm 	Mass: 7:45am
Wed 24 Apr	Mass: 7am	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm - 5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm 
Thurs 25 Apr <i>Anzac Day</i>	Mass: 5:30pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:45pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm 	<i>Note: no 7:45am Mass today</i> Mass: 9am
Fri 26 Apr <i>St Mark, evangelist</i>	Mass: 7am	Mass: 9:30am
Sat 27 Apr	Rosary 7am Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 5pm - 5:30pm Mass: 6pm 	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am 
Sun 28 Apr	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (Polish)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Roger Baxendale, Frank Logue, Carmela Curcio, Ronald Hill, Helen Pham, Theresa McKinnon

Anniversaries

Gail Bucknall, Bp William Murray, Kenneth Varley, Gail Brodbeck, Allan Parrish,

Prayers for the sick

Michael Murphy (Figtree), Peter Lathourakis, Peter Stoyles, Antoinette Sakr, Kerrie Maidment, Josephine Moran, Pat Nolan, Minnette Villanueva, Michelle Villanueva, Corazon Domingo, Iris Parrish, Betty Barnett, Beverley Holding

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

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is **Good Shepherd Sunday**, and the **World Day of Prayer for Vocations**. I share more about this in the main section of the Bulletin in my capacity as Vocations Director for the Diocese, but people in my own parishes should feel especially free to come to me for a chat about how to better hear and respond to the voice of Jesus, our Good Shepherd – especially young adults but also people of all ages.

Do you know any High School aged young people who might be interested in Youth Alpha? It will involve food, engaging and fun film clips and discussions with other youth in our parishes. At this stage we are collating expressions of interest, so please contact Fr Duane at duane.fernandez@dow.org.au with the names and ages of anyone interested and you will receive more information as it comes to hand. Over the coming weeks the Parish Pastoral Council will be in touch with all involved in the Come and See Cup of Tea, as well as providing further opportunities for parishioners to share feedback or expressions of interest in involvement in any parish groups. Don't forget to save the date for the **Community Fun Day on 5th May** and feel free to invite others!

The Parish Pastoral Council is currently discerning the possibility of changing the Saturday Vigil Mass time from 6pm to 5pm, as daylight saving has ended and it can be difficult for some to travel in the dark – plus it will soon become quite cold by the end of 6pm Mass. We will provide simple survey forms for all 6pm Mass attendees to complete over the next two weekends (27th April and 4th May) including related feedback or comments. If anyone occasionally attends the 6pm Mass but will be away for those two weekends please contact me or the parish office and we will make sure to receive your response as well.

Finally, in the aftermath of the tragic violence at Bondi, and then at Wakeley Church, as well as elsewhere in our world, it is all the more important for us to hold firmly to our faith that the light of the risen Christ will always conquer the darkness! There were many signs of this even among the tragic events, including heroic acts in the midst of the violence, the generous bravery of first responders, and the outpouring of love, support and prayers since the events. Bishop Mar Mari Emmanuel himself has been a light in the darkness. In a powerful statement while still recovering from his injuries at Wakeley Church, he forgave his young attacker and assured him that he will always pray for him as his “beloved son”. He went on to say “*I have nothing in my heart but love for everyone. Whether that person is a Christian or not, that is totally beside the point, the Lord Jesus always taught us to love one another, love God and love your neighbour as yourself. Whoever that neighbour is, we need to love them and respect them, as we love and respect ourselves.*” May we continue to be a light in the darkness, as individuals and as a parish community.

Counselling services: *If anyone would like to connect with counselling as a result of recent events or for any other reason, you can contact CatholicCare on 4254 9395, or the Mental Health Line on 1800011511, or Lifeline on 131114 (or SMS 0477131114).*

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

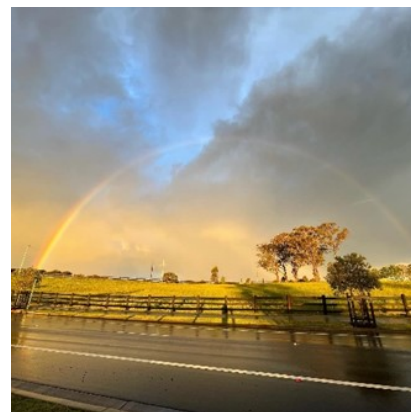
In my first year of teaching, I was in a country town where cotton growing was a large industry for the farmers. It was a hot and dry town but storms, when they came, could be quite frightening.

In the class I had a boy whose brother had died. Ossie fell asleep in the cotton bin and was suffocated when the harvested cotton was added to the cart. I did not know Ossie, but I knew a great deal about Ossie.

One day a storm hit and with it thunder detonated like an atomic bomb. Most of the class were afraid, but not Jonothan. He proudly came up to me and said, ‘Do you know what that is?’ I waited. ‘That is Ossie playing football with God.’ What was frightening for most, was a delightful memory for another.

When and where does God speak to you?

Sr Kerry Gardiner



ROSTER — THIS WEEKEND

April	Church Washing	Susan Adams	
Sat 20 Apr	Church Cleaning	G Lord, L Zanetti, S Adams	
Sat 20 Apr	Lawns	<i>No lawn mowing this week</i>	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
6pm 20 Apr	M Rodwell	S Marsala	
8am 21 Apr	C Walsh	A Arnone	School Holidays
Counters	A Gunning, M Caudero, C Garrett		

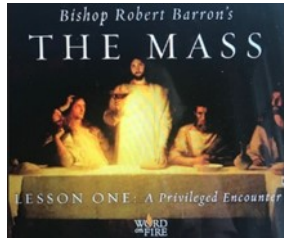
ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

April	Church Washing	Susan Adams	
Sat 27 Apr	Church Cleaning	D Attard, L Lathourakis	
Sat 27 Apr	Lawns	M & J Winner, M Walsh, S Carrigan, A Bennett	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
6pm 27 Apr	N O'Donoghue	B Collins	
8am 28 Apr	T Vaafusuaga	A Kelly	School Holidays
Counters	A Kelly, B Farraway		

PARISH NEWS

Adult Faith Enrichment Evenings - from Wed 17 April

A 6-week video series on *'The Mass'* presented by Bishop Robert Barron will be held in St Joseph's room, commencing Wednesday evening 17 April at 7:00pm with a cuppa & cake available; video will start at 7:30pm. Come and join us as we learn more about the Mass from Bishop Barron in his dynamic & informative presentation; there is always more to learn & appreciate about the Mass.



Community Fun Day - 11:30am Sunday 5 May at Edmund Rice

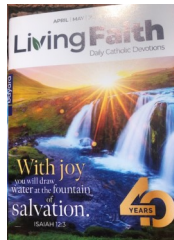


College. Each year we have 150-200 people of all ages and backgrounds come along to this day to enjoy a bbq or picnic, fun, games and fellowship. Come along and bring your friends!

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 14 April 2024

\$547	First Collection	- Clergy Remuneration Fund
\$451	Second collection	- Parish expenses
\$160	Tap Point - Parish donations	
\$260	Planned giving envelopes	
\$420	Direct debits (weekly average from March).	

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.



Carmelite meeting - Saturday 4 May 2024

The next meeting of the Lay Carmelites will be Saturday 4 May 10am for 10:30am in St Joseph's room. Call Ann on **0427 235 955** for details. Everyone is welcome.

A NEW VISION FOR PARISHES

Bishop Mascord has supplied multiple copies of Come and See Go and Make - A vision for Parishes in the Diocese of Wollongong for distribution amongst the faithful. Further to this, a short introductory video message from Bishop Mascord may be viewed / downloaded at <http://dow.sh/CSGMvision>
Come & See, Go & Make: A Vision for Parishes resources may be found at <http://dow.sh/CSGMresources>

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME - AIRS SUNDAY 21 APRIL 2024

On the Journey this week: Fr Joshua Whitehead says we're invited to reflect on our approach to faith, is it something that you do, or do you allow yourself to be led by God, the Good Shepherd? Mother Hilda says that words from God will fill up that space between your heartbeats. Plus Fr Tony Percy, Pete Gilmore and Fr Dave Callaghan. Listen at jcr.org.au



A VOCATION VIEW

This Sunday is the Annual **"World Day of Prayer for Vocations"**. "Vocation" means "calling", beginning with our baptismal calling to a life of loving service, lived out in single life or through public commitments of Marriage, Consecrated Life or Ordained Ministry (Priests and Deacons). On this day we especially pray for more young people to be open to the vocations of Ordained Ministry and Consecrated Life. In the words of Pope Francis in his Message for this day: *"More than anyone else, Jesus respects our freedom. He does not impose, but proposes. Make room for him and you will find the way to happiness by following him"* (read full message at dow.sh/gss24.)

For young Catholics discerning their vocation there are many opportunities available, including connecting with young adult groups and events, gathering with Seminarians or Religious, or personal chats with the Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Duane Fernandez.

To find out more go to vocations.dow.org.au or email vocations@dow.org.au.

Let us pray for all who are discerning their vocation, and especially for our Diocesan Seminarians, Sinh, Joseph, Darren, Seth, Anthony and Quy.



CATHOLICARE'S AGEING WITH CONFIDENCE WED 5 JUNE 2024

This forum is returning across the Diocese, with sessions in Campbelltown, Wollongong and Nowra. The half-day information session will provide seniors with practical information on the aged care system and healthy ageing. Expert presentations from CatholicCare staff will be joined by presenters from the Seniors Rights Services NSW and the NSW Fire & Rescue Service to discuss topics such as:

- accessing support services,
- keeping your mind and body fit, and
- advocating and supporting older people.

When: Wollongong Wednesday 5 June at 9.30am-1pm.

Where: The Fraternity Club, 11 Bourke St, Fairy Meadow. Places are limited. To register, call **02 4227 1122** or visit www.catholiccare.dow.org.au/events.

For any other information, contact Jane Hollier on **0417 018 152** or janeh@catholiccare.dow.org.au.

SOCIAL JUSTICE POINTS

If the mission is a grace involving all the Church, the lay faithful contribute in a vital way to advancing that mission in all areas and in the ordinary situations of every day. Above all, it is they who make the Church present and who proclaim the Gospel, for example, in digital culture, which has such a strong impact throughout the world; in youth culture; in the world of work and business, politics, and the arts and culture; in scientific research, education, and training; in the care of our common home; and especially through participation in public life. Wherever they are present, they are called to witness to Jesus Christ in daily life and to explicitly share the faith with others. In a special way, young people, with their gifts and fragilities, growing in friendship with Jesus, become apostles of the Gospel to their peers -- 'XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops' (Synod on Synodality) Synthesis Report.

21 APRIL - FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR B)

First Reading - Acts 4:8-12

This is the only name by which we can be saved.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter said: 'Rulers of the people, and elders! If you are questioning us today about an act of kindness to a cripple, and asking us how he was healed, then I am glad to tell you all, and would indeed be glad to tell the whole people of Israel, that it was by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the one you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by this name and by no other that this man is able to stand up perfectly healthy, here in your presence today. This is the stone rejected by you the builders, but which has proved to be the keystone. For of all the names in the world given to men, this is the only one by which we can be saved.'

Responsorial Psalm - The stone rejected by the builders has become the corner stone.

1. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.
It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in men:
it is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes. R.
2. I will thank you for you have given answer and you are my saviour.
The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. R.
3. Blessed in the name of the Lord is he who comes.
We bless you from the house of the Lord;
I will thank you for you have given answer and you are my saviour.
Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; for his love has no end. R.

Second Reading - John 3:1-2

We shall see God as he is.

We shall see God as he is.
Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us,
by letting us be called God's children;
and that is what we are.
Because the world refused to acknowledge him,
therefore it does not acknowledge us.
My dear people, we are already the children of God
but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed;
all we know is, that when it is revealed
we shall be like him
because we shall see him as he really is.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the Good Shepherd says the Lord; I know my sheep and mine know me. Alleluia!

Gospel - John 10: 11-18

The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep.

Jesus said:

'I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep.
The hired man, since he is not the shepherd and the sheep do not belong to him,
abandons the sheep and runs away as soon as he sees a wolf coming,
and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep;
this is because he is only a hired man and has no concern for the sheep.
I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me,
just as the Father knows me and I know the Father;
and I lay down my life for my sheep.
And there are other sheep I have that are not of this fold, and these I have to lead as well.
They too will listen to my voice, and there will be only one flock and one shepherd.
The Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again.
No one takes it from me; I lay it down of my own free will,
and as it is in my power to lay it down, so it is in my power to take it up again;
and this is the command I have been given by my Father.'