

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/



Parish Priest: Fr Duane Fernandez
 Email: Duane.Fernandez@dow.org.au
 Mobile: 0414 626 357

Polish Chaplain: Fr Jerzy Slowinski
 Email: slowinski54@gmail.com
 Mobile: 0410 225 975

Parish Assistant: Sr Kerry Gardiner
 Email: Kerry.Gardiner@sosj.org.au
 Mobile: 0421 463 871

Parish Pastoral Council President: Mr Chris Lyon
 Mobile: 0403 296 837

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

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD (YEAR B) – 12 MAY 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 13 May <i>Our Lady of Fatima</i> | Mass: 7am | |
| Tues 14 May <i>St Matthias, apostle</i> | Mass: 5:30pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:45pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm | Mass: 7:45am |
| Wed 15 May | Mass: 7am | Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm - 5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm |
| Thurs 16 May | Mass: 5:30pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:45pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm | Mass: 7:45am |
| Fri 17 May | Mass: 7am | Mass: 9:30am |
| Sat 18 May <i>St John 1, pope, martyr</i> | Reconciliation: 11am - 12noon Rosary 7am Mass: 7:30am Mass: 5pm | Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am |
| Sun 19 May | Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (Polish) | Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm |

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Kathy Faulks, Bishop Peter Ingham,
Bernard L Gordon (Snr), Pat Nolan

Prayers for the sick

Michael Murphy (Figtree), Peter Lathourakis, Peter Stoyles,
Antoinette Sakr, Kerrie Maidment, Josephine Moran, Julie Murphy

Anniversaries

Connie and Victor Tabone, Ilma Saunders,
Mary and Charlie Micallef, Bob Hawke,

Luka Jukic, Victor Brown, Jake Gre,
Tony De Martin



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

SATURDAY VIGIL MASS TIME CHANGE – 5PM WITHOUT DAYLIGHT SAVING

Thank you to all parishioners for your co-operation and patience with the surveys about the Saturday Vigil Mass during this past two weeks. With only two Sunday Masses possible in the parish (given my responsibilities across two parishes) I felt it extra important to discern the most suitable Saturday evening Mass time for all. The second (preferential) survey did indeed confirm what I had thought probable after calculating the first simple survey – that the timetable that best suits the whole community is 5pm without Daylight Saving, and 6pm with Daylight Saving. I appreciated all of the feedback given, and while there were good reasons for all possibilities, taking all information into account it is now decided: **Commencing Saturday 18th May, Saturday Vigil Mass will be at 5pm;** and once Daylight Saving recommences, Saturday Vigil Mass will be at 6pm (which will commence on Saturday October 12th). Feel free to ask me for more details of the counts and calculations if you wish to know the details.

SATURDAY RECONCILIATION TIME CHANGE – 11am-12noon all year round

Even before the suggestion of a Mass time change, I had been discerning this change to the Reconciliation time for Saturdays, as I often found myself too rushed to prepare myself properly for Mass when Reconciliation took place just before Mass. As such, **commencing Saturday 18th May, the time for the Sacrament of Reconciliation at Unanderra will be 11am-12pm throughout the whole year** (replacing 5pm Saturday evening).

MOTHERS DAY

This weekend we give thanks to God for the gift of our mothers. Motherhood is a beautiful, unique revelation of God's love in our world – yet so easily taken for granted. Let's embrace this opportunity to give thanks to God for our own mothers, and also for the powerful gift of motherly love in building up our church and our world. Let us also remember those for whom Mother's Day brings any sadness, including those grieving the loss of a mother, those who have a difficult relationship with their mother and those who long to become a mother but are unable to for any reason. Let us also turn in a special way to Mary the Immaculate Conception on this day and all throughout the month of May specially dedicated to her, who Jesus gave to us as our own mother, and whose constant prayers and example always lead us closer to her Son.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of the St Therese West Wollongong Parish secretary, Kathy Faulks, who died this past week. Eternal rest grant to her O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

My mum in her later years appreciated 'Mass For You At Home.' She would tell me when her favourite priest was the celebrant. One Sunday I came home, and mum had scribbled down what the priest had said during the homily. They were simple words, 'God's love is stronger than our sins. God's love is more than our mistakes.' I typed the words for mum and made the quote into a bookmark. Mum kept this bookmark beside her bed and every night she would read the quote. While my mum was elderly her death was unexpected. The night prior to her death mum wasn't feeling well. She prepared for bed, and I took the bookmark and read the words to her. Little did I know that within 8 hours my mum would be greeted by her God. May you too believe that God's love is stronger than our sins. God's love is more than our mistakes.'

A very blessed Mother's Day to all mothers and mother like figures. May your day be all you wish it to be. Celebrate the gift you are.

Sr Kerry Gardiner



ROSTER – THIS WEEKEND

| May | Church Washing | Barbara Faraway | |
|------------|--------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| Sat 11 May | Church Cleaning | F Fernandez, B Rice, R Tassone | |
| Sat 11 May | Lawns | Mannix, Brown, Caruana, Lonard, J Sharwood | |
| | Lectors | Welcomers | Children's liturgy |
| 6pm 11 May | D Nugent | B Faraway | |
| 8am 12 May | C Walsh | J Sharwood | Kylie & Molly Hertsch, Gemma Farrugia |
| Counters | A Kelly, B Faraway | | |

ROSTER – NEXT WEEKEND

| May | Church Washing | Barbara Faraway | |
|------------|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| Sat 18 May | Church Cleaning | J Haywood, L Salway, M Hurley, T Vaafusuaga | |
| Sat 18 May | Lawns | No lawn mowing this week | |
| | Lectors | Welcomers | Children's liturgy |
| 6pm 18 May | M Rodwell | S Marsala | |
| 8am 19 May | P Gunning | A Arnone | Leah Galea, Alison Sharwood |
| Counters | M Murphy (FH), C Stratton, M Winner | | |

PARISH NEWS



2024 Our Lady of Fatima Rosary Novena - 13 May to 21 May

| No. | Day | Date | Mass Time | Before/After | Start | Rosary mystery |
|-----|------|------|-----------|--------------|---------|----------------|
| 1 | Mon | 13 | 7:00am | After | ~7:30am | Joyful |
| 2 | Tues | 14 | 5:30pm | After | ~6:00pm | Sorrowful |
| 3 | Wed | 15 | 7:00am | After | ~7:30am | Glorious |
| 4 | Thur | 16 | 5:30pm | After | ~6:00pm | Luminous |
| 5 | Fri | 17 | 7:00am | After | ~7:30am | Sorrowful |
| 6 | Sat | 18 | 7:30am | Before | 7:00am | Joyful |
| 7 | Sun | 19 | 8:00am | Before | 7:30am | Glorious |
| 8 | Mon | 20 | 7:00am | After | ~7:30am | Joyful |
| 9 | Tues | 21 | 5:30pm | After | ~6:00pm | Sorrowful |

2024 Sacramental Program - Reconciliation and First Holy Communion

Registration nights for this year's Reconciliation and First Holy Communion program will be:

- Tuesday 18th June 7pm at St Therese Parish Centre
 - Thursday 20th June 7pm at St Therese Parish Centre
- Please contact the Parish office if you have any questions.

ALPHA – "Come and See" Celebration – Wednesday 29 May



About 200 people have experienced Alpha in our parishes of Unanderra and West Wollongong since the beginning of 2023. Many have found it to be a life changing experience, making new friendships, and deepening their faith, reconnecting with God or connecting with God for the first time.

The best way to experience what it is all about is to come along to the "come and see" night, where you will be able to hear from people who have experienced the most recent Alpha and see snippets of the film series. To register for the one-off come and see evening, either email us at alphawwu@gmail.com or fill out this Google Form: <https://tinyurl.com/alphacomeandsee2024>

Adult Faith Enrichment Evenings

A 6-week video series on 'The Mass' presented by Bishop Robert Barron will be held in St Joseph's room, Wednesdays from 7:00pm with a cuppa & cake available; video will start at 7:30pm.

Parish Calendar

View the Parish calendar on the link below
<https://tinyurl.com/parishcalendar2024>.

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 5 May 2024

| | | |
|-------|--|----------------------------|
| \$647 | First Collection | - Clergy Remuneration Fund |
| \$465 | Second collection | - Parish expenses |
| \$250 | Tap Point donations | |
| \$475 | Planned giving envelopes | |
| \$546 | Direct debits (weekly average from April). | |

Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly

FEAST OF CORPUS CHRISTI - 2 JUNE **CORPUS CHRISTI - YOUNG ADULTS**

Our Lady Help of Christians Parish, Rosemeadow will be offering young adults a Retreat Morning. It will involve catechesis on the history and Church teaching about the Holy Eucharist and the Real Presence of Jesus. There will also be a social aspect of bringing together young adult Catholics to celebrate their faith and belief. Morning tea and lunch will be provided.

Commencing at 10.00am the day will conclude with the Corpus Christi Procession at 2.30pm. For catering purposes please register at: <https://www.trybooking.com/CRSFQ>

Enquiries, phone **Elise on 0449 991 716**

THE JOURNEY **CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME** **- AIRS SUNDAY 12 MAY 2024**

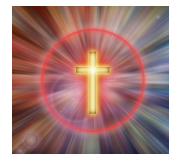
On the Journey this week: Fr Mark De Battista's Ascension Sunday reflection, Mother Hilda and harnessing the energy of love. Fr Tony Percy and Satan no longer acting with impunity. Francine Pirola celebrating gloriously different and complementary males and females. Fr Dave Callaghan says that like a candle, we need to be set alight to be what we're meant to be. Listen at jcr.org.au



A VOCATION VIEW

We are called to live in accord with the calling we have received, whether as priest, religious, married or single; encouraging one another by the example of our lives. (Eph. 4:1)

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



CATHOLIC BUSINESS CONNECTIONS **LUNCHEON**

Guest Speakers - Danny and Leila Abdallah

In 2020 the Abdallah's tragically lost 3 of their children when they were tragically killed by a speeding driver. The story of their decision to forgive has become an inspiring example worldwide, and a witness to their faith. Come and hear their story and the power of forgiveness.

WHEN: Friday 31 May at City Beach, Function Centre, Wollongong (11.45am-2pm).

For more information and to book please visit <https://dow.sh/CBCMay2024>

SOCIAL JUSTICE POINTS

Every baptised person is called to take care of their own formation as a response to the gifts of the Lord, making use of the talents they have received in order that they bear fruit and put them at the service of all.

-- 'XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops' (Synod on Synodality) Synthesis Report.

MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS **WALK FOR LIFE**

Friday 24 May & Saturday 25 May 2024

We walk to raise **PRAYERS** for Australia for all life issues - the elimination of abortion, euthanasia, suicide, family breakdown, and to pray for Australia's Government. We unite our prayer with sacrifice and entrust everything to the Blessed Virgin Mary. You are warmly welcome to join us on any or both days.

B.Y.O Lunch, snacks, water and hat. Support vehicle provided all the way, shuttle cars return pilgrims to point of departure on both days.

BENEFITS: Mass. Prayer. Hymns. Exercise. Spectacular scenery. Joyful fellowship. Blessings in abundance.

Day 1: Kiama Coastal Walk to Gerringong (13km)
Start 9:30am Kiama Catholic Church (Holy Mass)
Finish 3:30pm Gerringong Catholic Church (Benediction, confession available).

Day 2: - Gerringong to Shoalhaven Heads (16km)
Start 8:00am Gerringong Catholic Church (Holy Mass)
Finish 3pm Shoalhaven Heads (final blessing)

For information contact **Sue Hill, 0435 336 195**, Gabriella De Battista, **0414 205 404**

12 MAY - THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD (YEAR B)

First Reading - Acts 1:1-11 *Why are you standing there looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.*

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

Responsorial Psalm - God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

1. All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth. R.
2. God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise. R.
3. God is king of all the earth,
sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne. R.

Second Reading - Ephesians 1:17-23 *He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven*

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world. Alleluia!

Gospel - Mark 16:15-20 *The Lord Jesus was taken into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God.*

Jesus showed himself to the Eleven and said to them:

'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation. He who believes and is baptised will be saved; he who does not believe will be condemned. These are the signs that will be associated with believers: in my name they will cast out devils; they will have the gift of tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover.'

And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it.