

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 ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B) – 16 JUNE 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 17 June	Mass: 7am	
Tues 18 Jun	Mass: 5:30pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:30pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 6:30pm	Mass: 7:45am
Wed 19 Jun	Mass: 7am	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm - 5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm
Thurs 20 Jun	Mass: 5:30pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:30pm Adoration: 6pm - 6:30pm	Mass: 7:45am
Fri 21 Jun <i>St Aloysius Gonzaga</i>	Mass: 7am	Mass: 9:30am
Sat 22 Jun <i>Sts John Fisher, and Thomas More</i>	Reconciliation: 11am - 12noon Rosary 7am Mass: 7:30am Mass: 5pm	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9:30am - 10:30am
Sun 23 Jun	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (Polish)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

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

Anniversaries

Michael Edwards, Tamara Barron, Danny Bransgrove,
 Marie Bishop, Milan Zearo, Elizabeth Jamiro
 Pilar Villanueva, Michelle Villanueva
 Sr Anne Derwin



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

Last weekend I provided handouts with information on the **“Examen” prayer**, and a step-by-step guide on how to pray it, from the “Hallow” website. This was a prayer introduced to me during my Seminary years, and can be a very practical way of becoming more aware of God’s presence and love in our daily lives. There are copies available at our churches this weekend and a copy will also be attached with the emailed bulletin. I encourage you to give it a go – as you become familiar with it you could begin to pray it in your own way, at whatever regularity works for you.

We can often find it difficult to share our faith with others – especially in our very secular society. **Alpha** provides an excellent opportunity to do so – you can simply invite a friend or relative of whatever faith background or age (over 18 years old) to come along with you to try the first evening, and see if they like it. It has proven to be an excellent first step in faith, as well as renewing and deepening the faith of many “seasoned Catholics”, and providing lasting friendships. The next season of Alpha begins on July 24th, and there are now cards available in both churches with the information and registration details. Feel free to take cards to either register or invite others. Thank you to all of our volunteers who make Alpha possible!

This Friday is our **Parish Social Dinner** where everyone is invited to come along for a relaxed evening and grab dinner together at the Figtree Sports Club. RSVP details in the bulletin – a good number are already booked in, a great way to get to know each other better and also to invite others along in a purely social environment to connect with us. I hope to see you there!

Congratulations to all of our young people who received the **Sacrament of Confirmation** during this past week at our two parishes, and thank you to their parents and sponsors for supporting them in this Sacrament of Initiation. Thank you also to the Sacramental Team, teachers, servers, musicians and other volunteers who have worked tirelessly over many weeks to prepare the young people and the ceremony. With our prayers and support may our newly Confirmed young people, sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit, be always open to the promptings of the Spirit and become ever more like Christ!

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

Walking along the main street of a country town I sighted this message on the window of the local dentist. The welcome is warm. Everyone is welcome!

Read the words more closely and you will see that should you require dentures, the dentures are not recycled. That did turn my stomach a little as I, and I am sure you, wouldn’t welcome recycled dentures.

Thinking about this it caused me to think that often I recycle my not so good behaviour and yet I think nothing or very little of that.

An adult has thirty two teeth but as we get older we sometimes loose a tooth or two. Wouldn’t it be wonderful if we could ‘lose’ a little of our not so good behaviour. Our world would smile a little brighter and better if each of us just tried that little bit harder.

Sr Kerry Gardiner



ROSTER – THIS WEEKEND

June	Church Washing	Fiona Fernandez	
Sat 15 Jun	Church Cleaning	F Fernandez, B Rice, R Tassone	
Sat 15 Jun	Lawns	<i>No lawn mowing this week</i>	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children’s liturgy
5pm 15 Jun	M Rodwell		
8am 16 Jun	C Walsh	A Arnone	Kylie & Molly Hertsch, Gemma Farrugia
Counters	M Murphy (FT), S Alessi, H Murphy		

ROSTER – NEXT WEEKEND

June	Church Washing	Fiona Fernandez	
Sat 22 Jun	Church Cleaning	J Haywood, L Salway, M Hurley, T Vaafusuaga	
Sat 22 Jun	Lawns	Mannix, Brown, Caruana, Lonard, J Sharwood	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children’s liturgy
5pm 22 Jun	N O’Donoghue	T Chicharo	
8am 23 Jun	T Vaafusuaga	A Kelly	Leah Galea, Alison Sharwood
Counters	A Kelly, B Farraway		

PARISH NEWS

Alpha - 7pm Wed 24 July

You are most welcome to come and experience Alpha for yourself, whatever your age (18+) or stage of faith. Use this QR code to register or go to <http://dow.sh/alphaww>.



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

2024 Sacramental Program - Reconciliation and First Holy Communion

Registration nights for this year's 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.

Silver Circle News

1st. J Browne No.17
2nd CWL No. 38

Church rosters

Thank you to all who have continued to volunteer for the various ministries. The rosters for July to Dec 2024 were emailed last week. Please check and ensure you received the email.

Parish Social - 6:30pm Friday 21 June



Save the date and join us for our upcoming Parish Social night, with St Therese West Wollongong at Figtree Sports Club. Please make your booking by contacting Mary O'Rourke 4227 3663 or email maryo42@optusnet.com.au

Christian Meditation:



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

Enquiries: Please text **Monica 0412 056 877**.

Parish Finances - week ending 9 June 2024

\$437	First Collection	- Clergy Remuneration Fund
\$566	Second collection	- Parish expenses
\$330	Tap Point donations	
\$280	Planned giving envelopes	
\$551	Direct debits (weekly average from May).	

Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly

Recycling bins - \$280 raised this year

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



DIOCESAN YOUTH COUNCIL

Bishop Brian Mascord invites suitably qualified and eager persons to apply for the Diocesan Youth Council, an advisory and implementation body, tasked with initiating missional outcomes for youth and young adult (Y&YA) ministry. The council will meet quarterly. Applicants should be aged between 16-40, have a range of experiences, and be passionate about outreach, formation and building community amongst Y&YA. Does this sound like you?

Applications are now open for those interested in serving on the council. To apply, head to: <https://tinyurl.com/5668bfm>

For more information, please contact the our youth ministry leader; Arnie Hurdoyal Arnie.hurdoyal@dow.org.au / MOB: 0431 611 128

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME - AIRS SUNDAY 16 JUNE 2024

On the Journey this week: Fr Richard Healey says our challenge is to discern how to be the best seed - Sower for God's kingdom. Mother Hilda on the Father's concern for us when we are in danger of harm. Fr Tony Percy says parables give us truth as well as freedom to explore the levels of meaning in the Gospel stories. Listen at jcr.org.au



A VOCATION VIEW

"Lord, it is good to give thanks to You." Our life is one of gratitude for the many gifts that God has given. What are the gifts God has given to you, uniquely; and how is He asking you to share those gifts with the Church and the world? (Psalm 92) If you want to talk about your vocation, please contact the diocesan vocations director, Fr Duane Fernandez at vocations@dow.org.au

PRAYING WITH THE ARAMAIC JESUS

Friday 28 June to Sunday 30 June

A weekend retreat with Sr Magdalen Mather OSB

In the framework of Centering Prayer and Lectio Divina, this weekend retreat will meet the Jesus who was Jewish, spoke Aramaic and was formed in a Middle Eastern culture. Through this lens we will meditate together and contemplate some well-known words and teachings of Jesus, providing a wealth of rich meaning to nourish our prayer and spiritual life. Pensioner discount or other reductions according to need are available.

CONTACT: Book and pay for this retreat by ringing 4236 0011 Extension 114 or email cottageretreats@jamberooabbey.org.au

PART TIME EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

PARISH SECRETARY - ST THERESE, WEST WOLLONGONG

West Wollongong parish is seeking the services of a part-time secretary for 10 hrs per week – including Tuesdays, a second day yet to be determined. The position requires skills in administration, bookkeeping, maintaining a database, and high skills in MS Word, Excel and PowerPoint.

The parish secretary needs to be a person who is supportive of the Catholic ethos of the Parish, who bears witness to Christ and Christian values in their own lives and in their work.

If interested, please make contact via email to request an application pack for this position to frances.vanleerdam@dow.org.au Appl/n close 17 June 2024.

SOCIAL JUSTICE POINTS

Listening requires unconditional acceptance. It does not mean compromising proclamation of the Gospel or endorsing any opinion or position proposed. Jesus opened up new horizons and pathways for the people to whom he listened unconditionally, and in order to share the Good News of salvation with those we encounter we are called to do likewise 'XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops' (Synod on Synodality) Synthesis Report.

2024 SIGNIFICANT MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARIES MASS

If you are celebrating 25, 30, 40, 50, 60 or over 60 years of marriage this year, we invite you to the celebration of Significant Marriage Anniversaries, to be celebrated with Bishop Brian Mascord on **Sunday 25 August 2024 at 2pm** at the St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Wollongong. Mass will be followed by light refreshments in the Xavier Centre Conference Room. Please register online at <https://dow.sh/MA2024> or contact Helen Bennett at the Office of the Bishop at 4222 2403, or via email helen.bennett@dow.org.au by Monday, 29 July 2024.

16 JUNE - THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B)

First Reading - Ezekiel 17:22-24

The Lord says this:

'From the top of the cedar,
from the highest branch I will take a shoot
and plant it myself on a very high mountain.
I will plant it on the high mountain of Israel.
It will sprout branches and bear fruit,
and become a noble cedar.
Every kind of bird will live beneath it,
every winged creature rest in the shade of its branches.
And every tree of the field will learn that I, the Lord, am the one
who stunts tall trees and makes the low ones grow,
who withers green trees and makes the withered green.
I, the Lord, have spoken, and I will do it.'

Responsorial Psalm - Lord it is good to give thanks to you.

1. It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to make music to your name, O Most High,
to proclaim your love in the morning
and your truth in the watches of the night. R.
2. The just will flourish like the palm tree
and grow like a Lebanon cedar. R.
3. Planted in the house of the Lord
they will flourish in the courts of our God,
still bearing fruit when they are old,
still full of sap, still green,
to proclaim that the Lord is just.
In him, my rock, there is no wrong. R.

Second Reading - 2 Corinthians 5:6-10

We are always full of confidence when we remember that to live in the body means to be exiled from the Lord, going as we do by faith and not by sight – we are full of confidence, I say, and actually want to be exiled from the body and make our home with the Lord. Whether we are living in the body or exiled from it, we are intent on pleasing him. For all the truth about us will be brought out in the law court of Christ, and each of us will get what he deserves for the things he did in the body, good or bad.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; all who come to him will live for ever. Alleluia!

Gospel - Mark 4:26-34

Jesus said to the crowds: 'This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man throws seed on the land. Night and day, while he sleeps, when he is awake, the seed is sprouting and growing; how, he does not know. Of its own accord the land produces first the shoot, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the crop is ready, he loses no time: he starts to reap because the harvest has come.'

He also said, 'What can we say the kingdom of God is like? What parable can we find for it? It is like a mustard seed which at the time of its sowing in the soil is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet once it is sown it grows into the biggest shrub of them all and puts out big branches so that the birds of the air can shelter in its shade.'

Using many parables like these, he spoke the word to them, so far as they were capable of understanding it. He would not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything to his disciples when they were alone.