

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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 Mobile: 0410 225 975

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 Cnr Hargreaves & Cummins Streets
 (PO Box 358) Unanderra NSW 2526
 Phone: 4271 3550 | Fax: 4272 2954

School Principal: Mrs Pauline Chrostowski
Parish Secretaries: Mrs Magda Pires (Mon)
 Mrs Sue Briscoe (Wed/Thu/Fri)

Parish Office:
 Mon: 8.30am–3pm (Magda)
 Wed/Thu: 8.30am–1.30pm (Sue)
 Fri: 9.30am–2.30pm (Sue)
 Phone: 4271 1068 | Fax: 4271 1298
 Email: unanderra@dow.org.au
 Website: www.unanderraparish.org.au

SUNDAY 26 JANUARY 2020 – AUSTRALIA DAY

Weekly Programme	Immaculate Conception UNANDERRA	St Therese WEST WOLLONGONG
Monday 27 January	Mass: 7am	
Tuesday 28 January <i>St Thomas Aquinas</i>	Adoration: 4.30pm-5.20pm Mass: 5.30pm	Mass: 7.45am
Wednesday 29 January	Mass: 9.30am	Adoration/Reconciliation: 4.30pm-5.20pm Mass: 5.30pm
Thursday 30 January	Adoration/Reconciliation: 4.30pm-5.20pm Mass: 5.30pm	Mass: 7.45am
Friday 31 January <i>St John Bosco</i>	Mass: 7am	Mass: 9.30am
Saturday 1 February	Mass: 7.30am Reconciliation: 5pm-5.30pm Vigil Mass: 6pm	Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9.30am-10.30am
Sunday 2 February <i>Presentation of The Lord</i>	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (<i>Polish</i>)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Anniversaries

Joyce MONAGHAN

Bishop Cosma Shi ENXIANG

Sandrino BONCOMPAGNI



AUSTRALIA DAY MASS & BREAKFAST

ALL ARE WELCOME to attend the Australia Day breakfast which will be held directly after **8am Mass on Sunday 26 January 2020**, at the Immaculate Conception Church.



Message from Fr Duane

Thank you to Fr John Stork for celebrating the Saturday evening Mass, as I have to celebrate the wedding of friends of mine in Macarthur. Thank you also to the hospitality team for organising the Australia Day breakfast after the 8am Mass to help us celebrate Australia Day as a Parish Community. As Australian Catholics we give thanks to God this weekend for all the many blessings he has poured out upon our nation. We give thanks for those who brought the Catholic faith to our shores; we give thanks for the many cultures that have enriched our nation; and we give thanks for the First Peoples of our land, and pray God's continued blessings upon them, remembering the words of St John Paul II at Alice Springs to them: "Your culture, which shows the lasting genius and dignity of your race, must not be allowed to disappear...And the Church herself in Australia will not be fully the Church that Jesus wants her to be until you have made your contribution to her life and until that contribution has been joyfully received by others."

We unite as Catholics throughout the nation this Australia Day not only to give thanks to God but also to put Christ's love into action for those most in need in our nation, through the work of the St Vincent De Paul Society bushfire appeal. We thank our local Vinnies Conferences for all of their ongoing work, including extra efforts to organise this weekend's appeal as well as all the extra work during December organising gifts for those most in need at Christmas.

This week we begin "Alpha" for the first time - a joint initiative of Immaculate Conception and St Therese (ICAST) Parishes. A big thank you to the organising team, to all who have been inviting people to join, and to all who have signed up - we have already reached capacity for the number of guests that can attend this Alpha, which is wonderful! Be assured of future opportunities to participate in Alpha, as we hope and pray it continues to grow as an ongoing ministry in our parishes. For now, we could always use more help for catering, to spread the load as much as possible among the volunteers. We will contact all who have signed up for catering, and all who have signed up for the prayer team, before Alpha begins. Let's continue to pray for all the Alpha volunteers and guests during this next 10 weeks.

Fr Duane Fernandez
Parish Priest

ROSTER – NEXT WEEKEND

February	Church Washing	Barbara Faraway	
Sat 1 Feb	Church Cleaning	G Lord, L Zanetti, S Adams	
Sat 1 Feb	Lawns	J Lonard, S Carrigan, H Fernandez	
	Acolytes	Lectors	Welcomers
Sat 1 Feb 6pm Mass	A Carlotto	D Ferrer	S Marsala
Sun 2 Feb 8am Mass	N Dwyer, C Carolan	M Walsh	F Fernandez
Counters	M Murphy (FT), A Kelly, S Alessi		
Children's Liturgy	K Hertsch, C Hailstone		

PARISH ACTIVITIES



- Catholic Women's League:** 2nd Thursday of the month - 10.30am in St Joseph's room
New members always welcome!
Please contact: Barbara - 4271 1584
- St Vincent de Paul Conference:** Every Tue 7.30pm in St Joseph's room
- Parish Pastoral Council:** Mark Walsh (PPC President)
Mark.Walsh@bluescopesteel.com
0407 604 498
- Nursing Home Masses:**
- Hillside Nursing Home:** 1st Tuesday of the month - 2pm
 - Figtree Nursing Home:** 2nd Tuesday of the month - 10.45am
 - Villa Maria Nursing Home:** 3rd Tuesday of the month - 9.30am
 - Uniting Nursing Home FarmHts:** 3rd Friday of the month - 9.30am

Refreshments after the 8am Mass on the first Sunday of each month in St Joseph's Meeting Room (Unanderra)

PARISH MORNING TEA

Our next parish morning tea will be held **after the 8am Mass on Sunday 2 February 2020** in St Joseph's room.

We will be gathering to celebrate Sr Kerry's recent Golden Jubilee.

Hope to see you there — **all are welcome!**



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH BUSHFIRE APPEAL

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has asked for a special collection at all Masses on the Australia Day weekend, with all proceeds to be forwarded to the Vinnies Bushfire Appeal. Immaculate Conception and St Therese Parishes will be holding a "Leaving Collection" at this weekend's Masses for this appeal.

NB: Every cent donated goes directly to those most in need as a result of losses caused by the bushfires (none of the funds will go to administration costs).

If you wish to make an online donation (or to receive a tax invoice) go to donate.vinnies.org.au and click on "Vinnies Bushfire Appeal – NSW".



PRAYER FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY BUSHFIRE & DROUGHT

Eternal God, in wisdom and love you created our earth to sustain us and give us life. We turn to you now in faith, hope and love, asking you to look with favour on our fire-ravaged and drought-stricken land, on our starving and displaced animals, on our failing crops and burning farms, towns and forests. Strengthen, sustain and give new heart to our farmers and to all who are affected by drought; be with those who support them.

Strengthen and comfort the victims of the fires, those who have lost family, friends, property and stock. Protect our volunteer firefighters and all members of essential services.

In your loving providence, send abundant rain to quench the fires and to restore our parched earth.

Father of all compassion, hear our prayer through Jesus Christ your Son, in whom the promise of new life has dawned, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, the Lord the giver of life: renew your faithful people; renew the face of the earth.

Our Lady of the Southern Cross, Mary, help of Christians – Pray for us.
St Mary of the Cross MacKillop – Pray for us.

PLENARY COUNCIL 2020

Many parishioners have been involved in the process of listening, prayer, dialogue and discernment in preparation for the Plenary Council to be held in Adelaide during October this year.

Bishop Brian has requested Expressions of Interest from anyone interested in being a Diocesan Delegate to accompany him to the Council. Our Diocese has been allocated two Delegates and two reserve Delegates.

For more information please contact your parish priest, school principal or agency leader.

Check our Diocesan website www.dow.org.au for more information. This will include Expression of Interest Forms and Role Description for Delegates.

Applications need to be sent to john.tubridy@dow.org.au by **Tuesday 4 February 2020**

ST MARY'S TOWERS RETREATS

Come, relax and enjoy God in tranquillity at St Mary's Towers Retreat Centre, Douglas Park Retreats:

Gift of Ageing ... Awakening ... to God's Surprising Gifts!

6 Day Retreat: 6-12 March 2020 — \$750; OR

For the weekend 6-8 March — \$250

Sr Kerin Caldwell sgs has a background in education and this interest strengthened her commitment to adult growth and development. Themes include: Less doing and more being; Surprising spiritual growth and new life; Retirement Today — is there such a thing; How am I coping with change; Living now.

Mindfulness and the Presence of God

Retreat Weekend 13-15 March — \$250

Presenters: Michelle Vass & Mr Lou Nulley

Topics include: Being Mindful in the Christian Tradition; Mindfulness practices; The effect of mindfulness on the brain; Mindfulness meditation; Using the body to help us to be mindful.

RSVP: 4630 0233

Email: contact@towersretreat.org.au

Website: www.towersretreat.org.au



PASTORAL CARE GATHERING - IMMACULATE CONCEPTION AND ST THERESE

All who take Communion to the sick, the housebound and nursing homes, in both West Wollongong and Unanderra Parishes, are invited to a joint gathering at **St Joseph's Meeting Room, Unanderra** (just behind the church, entry off Grace Street), next **Sunday 2 February at 2pm**. It will be an opportunity to meet each other, to get to know how many we have in this ministry, to hear where there is need for more helpers, to share ideas and concerns with each other, and to better support one another in this vital ministry of our Church.



ASCEND CATHOLIC YOUTH

At **7pm** (after 6pm Mass) at Immaculate Conception Parish Unanderra on **Saturday 8 February 2020**.

This is the first ASCEND night for 2020!

New members (years 6-9) are always welcome!

Gold coin donation to cover dinner appreciated.

For more info: ascendcatholicyouth@gmail.com



THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME

The Journey Catholic Radio is currently in the Summer Series until early February.

Tune in to **LIFE 101.9** or **98.5** or go to www.jcr.org.au or www.itunes.jcr.org.au to ensure you never miss a show, with it sent to you each week as a podcast via email — for free!

Go to www.jcr.org.au or www.itunes.jcr.org.au where you can listen any time and subscribe to weekly shows via email

CATECHIST TRAINING

Level 1 Training Course for Catechists (including Child Protection and Classroom Management and Mission and Ministry of the Catechist).

Illawarra – Shoalhaven:

Venue: Xavier Centre, 38 Harbour Street, Wollongong

Start date: Friday 7 February 2020

(6-week course on consecutive Fridays)

Time: 9.30am — 1.30pm

Updates available for Child Protection and Classroom Management on Friday 10 February.

For bookings or questions please contact **Mrs Cindy Oliver by 29 February on 4640 8550 or cindy.oliver@dow.org.au**

Macarthur – Highlands:

Venue: CCD Resource Centre, Micah House, 35a Cordeaux Street, Campbelltown

Start date: Monday 3 February 2020

(6-week course on consecutive Mondays)

Time: 9.30am — 1.30pm

Updates available for Child Protection and Classroom Management on Monday 3 February.

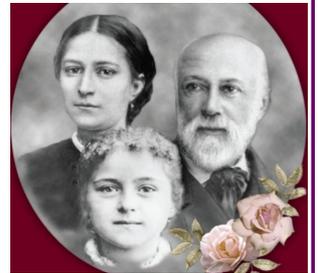
For bookings or questions please contact **Mrs Cindy Oliver by 27 January on 4640 8550 or cindy.oliver@dow.org.au**

There is no cost involved with these courses.

Morning tea is provided. Please bring your own lunch.

THE RELICS OF ST THERESE OF LISIEUX

The Relics of much-loved Carmelite Saint, St Therese of Lisieux — plus her parents, Sts Louis and Zelie Martin — are coming to Australia for a national tour this year. They are coming to Unanderra and West Wollongong for the weekend of **21–22 March**. *More details closer to the date.*



CALLING ALL CHILDREN'S LITURGY TEACHERS!

Please join us **after 8am Mass on Sunday 9 February 2020** in St Joseph's Room to discuss the Year A Liturgical Children's Programme.

Morning Tea will be provided.

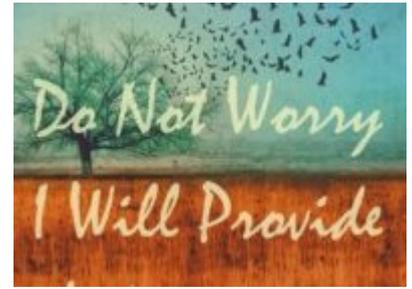
If you are unable to attend please contact

Vera Cleary on 0415 926 132

SUNDAY 26 JANUARY 2020 — AUSTRALIA DAY

First Reading — *A reading from the prophet Isaiah*

Once more there will be poured on us the spirit from above;
then shall the wilderness be fertile land and fertile land become forest.
In the wilderness justice will come to live and integrity in the fertile land;
integrity will bring peace, justice give lasting security.
My people will live in a peaceful home, in safe houses, in quiet dwellings.
The Word of the Lord.



Responsorial Psalm — *The Lord speaks of peace to his people*

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace.
His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land. R.
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth and justice look down from heaven. R.
3. The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps. R.

Second Reading — *A reading from the letter from St Paul to the Romans*

Do not let your love be a pretence, but sincerely prefer good to evil. Love each other as much as brothers should, and have a profound respect for each other. Work for the Lord with untiring effort and with great earnestness of spirit. If you have hope, this will make you cheerful. Do not give up if trials come; and keep on praying. If any of the saints are in need you must share with them; and you should make hospitality your special care.
The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.
Alleluia!

Gospel — *A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Luke*

Jesus said to his disciples, 'That is why I am telling you not to worry about your life and what you are to eat, nor about your body and how you are to clothe it. For life means more than food, and the body more than clothing. Think of the ravens. They do not sow or reap; they have no storehouses and no barns; yet God feeds them. And how much more are you worth than the birds! Can any of you, for all his worrying, add a single cubit to his span of life? If the smallest things, therefore, are outside your control, why worry about the rest? Think of the flowers; they never have to spin or weave; yet, I assure you, not even Solomon in all his regalia was robed like one of these. Now if that is how God clothes the grass in the field which is there today and thrown into the furnace tomorrow, how much more will he look after you, you men of little faith! But you, you must not set your hearts on things to eat and things to drink; nor must you worry. It is the pagans of this world who set their hearts on these things. Your Father well knows you need them. No; set your hearts on his kingdom, and these other things will be given you as well.

'There is no need to be afraid, little flock, for it has pleased your Father to give you the kingdom.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

BAPTISMS

Sundays at 12 noon (second and fourth Sunday of each month only)

Second Sunday of the Month — **West Wollongong**

Fourth Sunday of the Month — **Unanderra**

(Please approach Fr Duane after Mass for a form — Minimum of one month's notice is required)

MARRIAGES / FUNERALS / ANOINTING OF THE SICK

By appointment only — please contact Fr Duane

(Minimum of six months' notice is required for weddings — no Sunday weddings)

PARISH SICK LIST

If you would like to include your loved ones' names on our Sick List —
please email the Parish office at unanderra@dow.org.au or telephone **4271 1068**