

PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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Parish Secretaries: Mrs Magda Pires (Mon/Thu)
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SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR A – SUNDAY 17 MAY 2020

Message from Fr Duane

Many of you would have heard that the government now allows gatherings of “up to 10 people” in churches. As you would understand, implementing this on the ground in a way that is safe, fair, and respectful to all is a very difficult task. Given that it has only been a few days since the government made these changes (and only a day or so since details of the health requirements were released), our Bishop Brian Mascord has decided that our Diocese needs more time to work out the logistics of implementing these changes, as he explains in the attached directives. Importantly, the Bishop states that these directives will be reviewed in two weeks, and I can assure you that planning and preparation will continue in earnest until then.

Personally, I am missing you all. It has been 8 weeks since our last public Mass. I can't imagine how much many of you are missing the opportunity of receiving the Eucharist, and gathering with other faithful. I am glad that through technology many of us are still able to unite spiritually at the altar for Mass on Sundays at 5pm, but I still very much look forward to gathering with you physically some day soon in our churches at Unanderra and West Wollongong.

The Diocese is also offering more online formation opportunities, which will continue even as restrictions ease as one of the many positive developments to come out of the present crisis. I draw your attention especially to the online series “The Eucharist – Exploring our Catholic Faith”. I will be joining those sessions on Fridays at 4pm, based on material by Bishop Robert Barron. It is free to register, so why not come along if you're free - it would be lovely to “see” many of you there (via Zoom!).

Finally, it was wonderful to hear that parishioners made Sister Kerry feel very special on her special birthday on Friday 15 May – in spite of the restrictions in place! It has been truly wonderful to work with Sister Kerry, and to see her become such a wonderful and beloved presence in this community so quickly. We thank God for you, Sister Kerry, and pray God's abundant blessings upon you on your special day, and always!



SOCIAL MEDIA MINISTRY: One of the blessings to have come out of the Coronavirus crisis has been a vastly expanded online presence for our parishes, through websites, Facebook, and YouTube. We now have a dedicated “social media team” which will seek to continually improve our online presence now and into the future. If you are interested in joining this team please contact us at either westwollongong@dow.org.au or unanderra@dow.org.au with the subject “Social Media Team”.

Fr Duane Fernandez - Parish Priest

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Richard John McCOY



Anniversaries

Ilmer SAUNDERS

Fr Joe GILLIS

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Office staff are currently working limited days/hours — please call 4271 1068 or email unanderra@dow.org.au only (please do not visit). Magda is working on Mondays and Thursdays, and Sue is working from home on Fridays only.

— KEEPING THE LORD’S DAY HOLY —
OUR SUNDAY MASS WILL BE LIVE STREAMED EVERY WEEK!
ONLINE MASS — EVERY SUNDAY AT 5PM

Join Fr Duane and Seminarian Sinh Le for Sunday Mass live streamed from St Therese Church every Sunday at 5pm at: <https://www.facebook.com/Immaculate-Conception-Unanderra-Parish-102440924742769/>

For those without Facebook, you can still view it through this link: <https://www.sttherese.com.au>

And this week we will also stream it through our new YouTube channel at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCG6HKCV4D_a1JMWx0gS7rTw

There are many prayers of spiritual communion, but this seems the most popular:

Prayer of “Spiritual Communion”, given to us by St Alphonsus Liguori (1696-1787):

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, SISTER KERRY!!!!



On Friday 15 May, Sr Kerry Gardiner celebrated a very special birthday; a birthday “in isolation” during the CoVid-19 pandemic will certainly be one she will remember for years to come!

Sr Kerry celebrated this milestone with appropriately-dressed visitors (see pic below), dozens of messages, gifts, cards, phone calls, a cake, and dinner with Bishop Brian.



*Happy Birthday,
Sr Kerry, we all love
you and can't wait
to give you a proper
birthday hug!!!*



PASTORAL NEEDS



For any pastoral needs:
please contact

Fr Duane

on

0414 626 357

or

duane.fernandez@dow.org.au

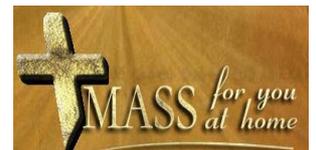
SPIRITUAL RESOURCES

For daily Masses, parishioners throughout the Diocese are encouraged to access other home worship resources at:

<https://www.dow.org.au/covid-19/daily-online-masses-and-spiritual-resources/>

For those without internet:

Mass For You At Home is available across the Ten (WIN) Network on Sundays at 6am.



PLANNED GIVING DURING THE PANDEMIC

Some have asked how they can continue to donate to the Parish, in the absence of collections at Mass. Wollongong Diocese has provided the following link to facilitate any contributions that people still wish to make, in the absence of collections at Mass, and explains where the money goes.

If you wish to contribute, please go to: www.dow.org.au/plannedgiving/ or call the office 4271 1068.

(If you use the above link to sign up for planned giving, please also inform our Parish office for accounting purposes by contacting Magda/Sue at unanderra@dow.org.au / 4271 1068).



ONLINE ADULT FAITH FORMATION & TRAINING

Coming up in June are three outstanding opportunities for online training:

1. **The Eucharist – Exploring our Catholic Faith** – Mondays 1-22 June or Fridays 5-26 June – all at 4pm – via Zoom Video Conferencing.
2. **An Introduction to the Psalms: A Songbook for Today** – Fr Mark De Battista - Thursdays 4-25 June at 4pm-5pm (repeated at 8pm-9pm) – via Zoom Video Conferencing.
3. **Alpha – Refreshing our Vision and Practice** – For parish teams already trained in Alpha as a renewal and outreach strategy – Monday 1 June at 7.30pm – via Zoom Video Conferencing.

To register go to:

<https://www.dow.org.au/news-and-events/>

For further information, please email:
darren.mcdowell@dow.org.au

STAYING CONNECTED WITH GOD & EACH OTHER

Please encourage others to join our emailing list by contacting Magda/Sue at unanderra@dow.org.au and ask to be added to the list. Please join our new Facebook pages:

“Immaculate Conception Unanderra Parish” and “St Therese Parish West Wollongong”.

Be sure to tell others too!



WEEKLY ADORATION



Adoration will be live-streamed Wednesday nights. The NET Team will be hosting a **Holy Hour every Wednesday at 6.30pm**. This will be a time set aside for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

This will be broadcast via:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cymdow/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/wollongongnetteam/>

CATHOLIC CARE

Always Connected...

While the CatholicCare office is closed due to current restrictions, our dedicated Client Services Officer Marion is still here to take your calls and emails. Marion and the CatholicCare team are working on practical and innovative new ways to support our clients through COVID-19.

Please email or call us if you have any questions – we're here to help.



Email: enquiries@catholiccare.dow.org.au

or phone: **4227 1122**

ST VINNIES HELP DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Due to the latest restrictions imposed by the Government, the Unanderra Conference have now ceased all service calls.

*The Coniston Welfare Centre will be available for phone calls **10am to 2pm Monday to Friday** – **4228 9355** –*

The welfare centre will ask that if the person only requires food support, that they can go to the centre for a hot meal, frozen takeaway meal or a small quantity of non-perishable food for overnight. Clothing and material assistance will be limited to emergency items only and through the welfare centre.

Unfortunately, assistance for electricity and phone accounts is not available at this time due to the necessity for face-to-face interviews.



PRAY WITH POPE FRANCIS DURING MAY

FOR AN END TO THE PANDEMIC

Pope Francis has asked Catholics to make a special effort in May (the month especially dedicated to Mary) to pray the Rosary, knowing that by doing so they would be united with believers around the world asking for Mary's intercession in stopping the coronavirus pandemic. Pope Francis has written the prayer below that can be recited at the end of the rosary, which he said he would be reciting "in spiritual union with all of you." If you like you can aim for 7pm to know you are praying at the same time as other parishioners.

Find out more about the Rosary at:

<https://www.marian.org/mary/rosary/>

Prayer to recite at the end of the Rosary this May:

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who, at the foot of the cross, were united with Jesus' suffering, and persevered in your faith. You know our needs, and we know that you will provide, so that, as at Cana in Galilee, joy and celebration may return after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the will of the Father and to do what Jesus tells us. For he took upon himself our suffering, and burdened himself with our sorrows to bring us, through the cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

Note: The Feast Day of Our Lady Help of Christians, Patroness of Australia, will be on 24 May.

Our Lady Help of Christians, Pray for us.



SUNDAY 17 MAY 2020 — SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A)

First Reading — Acts 8:5-8, 14-17 — *They laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.*

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Responsorial Psalm — *Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.*

1. Cry out with joy to God all the earth,
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise.
Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds!' *R.*
2. 'Before you all the earth shall bow;
shall sing to you, sing to your name!'
Come and see the works of God,
tremendous his deeds among men. *R.*
3. He turned the sea into dry land,
They passed through the river dry-shod.
Let our joy then be in him;
he rules for ever by his might. *R.*
4. Come and hear, all who fear God.
I will tell what he did for my soul:
Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer
nor withhold his love for me. *R.*



Second Reading — 1 Peter 3:15-18 — *In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.*

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong. Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

Gospel Acclamation — John 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia! All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them. Alleluia!

Gospel — John 14:15-21 — *I shall ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate.*

'If you love me you will keep my commandments.

I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever, that Spirit of truth whom the world can never receive since it neither sees nor knows him; but you know him, because he is with you, he is in you.

I will not leave you orphans; I will come back to you.

In a short time the world will no longer see me; but you will see me, because I live and you will live.

On that day you will understand that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you.

Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them will be one who loves me; and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him.'