

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
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Polish Chaplain: Fr Jerzy Slowinski
Email: slowinski54@gmail.com
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Parish Assistant: Sr Kerry Gardiner
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Parish Pastoral Council President: Mark Walsh
Email: Mark.Walsh@bluescopesteel.com
Mobile: 0407 604 498

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 Secretaries: Mrs Magda Pires (Mon/Thu)
Mrs Sue Briscoe (Fri)

Parish Office: Email: unanderra@dow.org.au
Website: www.unanderraparish.org.au
Phone: 4271 1068
Fax: 4271 1298

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR B) – SUNDAY 6 DECEMBER 2020

**Registrations ESSENTIAL for ALL Masses — via Unanderra Parish Office:
unanderra@dow.org.au or 4271 1068**

Weekly Programme	Immaculate Conception UNANDERRA	St Therese WEST WOLLONGONG
Monday 7 December <i>St Ambrose</i>	Mass: 7am	
Tuesday 8 December <i>Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	Mass: 11am (<i>Polish</i>) Mass: 5.30pm	Mass: 7.45am
Wednesday 9 December	Mass: 9.30am	Adoration: 4.30pm Reconciliation: 4.30pm-5.15pm Mass: 5.30pm
Thursday 10 December	Adoration: 4.30pm Reconciliation: 4.30pm-5.15pm Mass: 5.30pm	Mass: 7.45am
Friday 11 December	Mass: 7am	Mass: 9.30am
Saturday 12 December	Rosary: 7.15am Mass: 7.30am Reconciliation: 5pm-5.30pm Vigil Mass: 6pm	Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9.30am-10.30am
Sunday 13 December <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (<i>Polish</i>)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm (<i>also streamed online</i>)

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Janina NAWROTNY



Anniversaries

Fredrick BRAME

Please also pray for the sick and those unable to attend Mass

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

unanderra@dow.org.au / 4271 1068

Monday: 11am-3pm (Magda)
Tuesday: Closed
Wednesday: Closed
Thursday: 9am-3pm (Magda)
Friday: 8am-12noon (Sue)

Message from Fr Duane

As you may have heard, the Covid restrictions have been significantly eased by the NSW government (starting Monday 7 December). The decision to move from the 4 square metre rule to the 2 square metre rule means we can potentially double the capacity of our churches starting next weekend! This has many implications:

7pm Sunday Mass: The extra 7pm Sunday Mass was an extra Mass that I decided to celebrate in order to accommodate all of those wishing to come to Sunday Mass. I wish to thank once again all of the parishioners who generously agreed to come to the 7pm Mass rather than their preferred Mass time. I am also aware that the 7pm Mass may actually have become a preferred Mass time for some, and to those people I apologise, but now that capacity limits won't require this extra Mass, I will be discontinuing the 7pm Mass after this weekend. The final 7pm Sunday Mass will be this Sunday, 6 December.

Christmas Mass Registrations: We are aware that two of the Christmas Mass options hit capacity during the week. As a result of the relaxing of restrictions from the NSW Government, we are now able to double our capacity for Christmas Masses. If your preferred Mass was "sold out" when you attempted to book, you can now choose that preferred Mass. However, please make sure to send a quick email to unanderra@dow.org.au to let us know you will not attend the original one.

Pre-registration is still vital for Masses: While it is unlikely that we reach our new capacity, at least for a while, pre-registration assists monitors greatly, reducing queuing times, and also enables us to digitise attendance lists more quickly (which is still required by the government for contact tracing purposes). The registration process will therefore continue as normal for all Masses, with the added guarantee that you will be able to attend your preferred Mass for the foreseeable future at least. *NB: All of the other Covid safety practices remain in place at this time.*

Sacrament of Reconciliation: The most recent Diocesan Directives allow for a return to the normal practice of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. As such, you will no longer need to "book an appointment" for the Sacrament; you can simply attend any of the usual Reconciliation times at either Unanderra or West Wollongong. We will have disinfectant wipes in the confessionals for penitents to use to wipe down their touched areas after their confession (for Covid safety, not as a penance).

The standard times for this Sacrament are:

St Therese West Wollongong: 4.30pm-5.15pm Wednesday / 9.30am-10.30am Saturday

Immaculate Conception Unanderra: 4.30pm-5.15pm Thursday (Fr Jerzy) / 5pm-5.30pm Saturday

NB: The Sacrament is still available by appointment as well.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS

Congratulations to the 36 young people who received First Holy Communion last Sunday at Edmund Rice College Hall. They were all very prayerful and reverent in spite of the difficult conditions in the heat, and should be very proud of themselves! Let's keep them in our prayers, and the 50 children receiving First Communion this Sunday. Thanks again to Judith Hurley from Edmund Rice College for all her support, to the Sacramental Team for their wonderful work throughout this second half of the year to make the Sacraments available for our young people and their families, and thanks to many other helpers across our two parishes and primary schools. Thanks also to Fr David O'Brien for celebrating Sunday morning's parish Masses again this week.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION FEAST DAY

We celebrate the Parish Feast of Immaculate Conception on Tuesday 8 December, the feast of Our Lady being chosen and prepared to be the Mother of God from the very moment of her conception. Fr Duane will join Fr Jerzy for the 5.30pm Mass, as we celebrate this feast which is so important in itself, and take on extra importance for our Parish of Immaculate Conception, Unanderra.

Fr Duane Fernandez — Parish Priest

REGISTRATION PROCESS - BOTH UNANDERRA & WEST WOLLONGONG

Registrations are ESSENTIAL for ALL Masses at both Unanderra and West Wollongong — ALL registrations must be via the Unanderra Parish Office: unanderra@dow.org.au or 4271 1068 (please only call during office hours, shown in pink box on front page of bulletin). Please include the name of all family members who will be attending, contact phone number, email address and the day/time/church of your preferred Mass(es), both weekday and weekend. For weekend Masses, please await a confirmation email from Fr Duane approximately 24 hours prior to the Mass time, before attending the church.

ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

December	Church Washing	Helen Murphy
Sat 12 Dec	Church Cleaning	G Lord, L Zanetti, S Adams
	Lectors	Lawns — Sat 12 Dec
Sat 12 Dec 6pm Mass	V Cleary	(There are no lawnmowing duties this weekend)
Sun 13 Dec 8am Mass	C Walsh	

ALL YOUR PASTORAL NEEDS

For any pastoral needs:

please contact

Fr Duane Fernandez

0414 626 357

duane.fernandez@dow.org.au



CALLED BY BAPTISM

Make a difference in the life of a child. For some children, this is the only time they will hear of the love Jesus has for them. Become an Aide to a Scripture Teacher, especially in an Infants class - an extra pair of hands. Assist with work books, help the children to follow the lessons, complete activities, etc.



The Scripture teacher will value you like 'a pearl of great price'. Lessons take half an hour a week and fit in to the school's timetable. The requirements are a police check, working with children clearance and authorisation by the parish priest. Our state schools are Unanderra, Figtree, Mt Kembla and Farmborough Road.

Without committing yourself but to express an interest, please contact **Sr Kerry** on **0421 463 871**.

REFLECTION/RETREAT DAY

Thank you to those who have expressed an interest in coming to our reflection day on **8 December**. If you would like to avail yourself of this wonderful opportunity for quiet reflection and input, please contact Sr Kerry on 0421 463 871. The day commences at 9am and concludes at 3pm.

Due to restricted numbers we can only cater for 14 participants on this day.

If you require more information please do not hesitate to direct any questions to Sr Kerry.



A time to reflect and give thanks

THANKS FOR YOUR USED STAMPS

"On behalf of Mary MacKillop Today, I thank you for your generous support in supplying and assisting with used stamps. We've had another wonderful year, raising approximately \$31,000. A great effort from many, many people! From 2001 until now, the total raised has been \$409,000. It is through your efforts that the legacy of St Mary MacKillop Today continues in Peru today."

Sr Helen Saunders — For Sisters of St Joseph

(Please continue to place your used stamps in the box provided near the side door of the church)

MONTHLY PARISH WALKING GROUP

Our final monthly parish walk is this week — **Thursday 10 December** at **9.30am**. We will meet at Aish's Seafood Shop at Berkeley. After the walk everyone is welcome to bring a picnic lunch or buy fish and chips from Aish's and enjoy lunch together. All abilities are catered for due to flat even walking tracks.



ADVENT BOOKLET

This year's Advent booklet — 'Adore' — is now available for purchase in the church (located on the middle pew) for only \$3.



ST VINCENT DE PAUL GIVING TREE

The Christmas Giving Tree is now located in the church and has tags for children's toys and Christmas food — which are used to make approx 40 hampers for families and toys for about 60 children in need in our parish. Please place gifts under the Giving Tree by **Sunday 20 December** as hampers and toys will be distributed on Tuesday 22 December.



The generosity you provide the Unanderra St Vinnies conference is greatly appreciated and makes a huge difference to needy families at Christmas.

Christmas cards and calendars are also available for purchase — cards \$6 a pack and calendars \$10 each.

Thank you for your support!

CHURCH MINISTRIES ROSTERS - 2021

As this year has been quite unusual, many of the ministries have had to stop for the time being. Thank you to all those who have been able to continue in their ministries — your commitment is greatly appreciated. It is now time to look at our rosters for next year. **Are you able to give some of your time to assist with any of the following four ministries?**



LECTORS/READERS — If you attend either 6pm Vigil Mass on Saturday or 8am Mass on Sunday and would like to read at Mass, you would be most welcome to be on the Lector roster.

CHURCH CLEANING — At present our volunteers clean the church on Saturday morning at around 8am (however, cleaning can be done at any time suitable to volunteers). It takes approximately one hour and there are currently five groups. There is, however, an URGENT need for more volunteers as some of our amazing cleaners have moved or are no longer able to continue in this ministry. Please give serious consideration to assisting.

LAWNS — A band of volunteers gathers on a Saturday Morning to keep our grounds looking neat and tidy.

CHURCH WASHING — This requires the washing of finger towels, purifiers, etc for only one calendar month at a time.

New volunteers will be shown the ropes for all ministries. If you are able to continue in your ministry or would like to be a new volunteer for one of the four ministries listed above, could you please email Sue & Magda in the Parish Office unanderra@dow.org.au naming the ministry, your name, phone number and email.

ADVENT PROGRAMME

Come and join our group this year to prepare for Christ's coming at Christmas. We'll aim to meet in St Joseph's room **Thursday evenings at 7.15pm** on 10 and 17 Dec. St Joseph's room has a limit of 15 people, so if interested numbers exceed this we'll need to find another venue. Please contact Mark Walsh (call or text) to register on 0407 604 498 — or see me in person. **Registrations essential.**

SUNDAY 6 DECEMBER 2020 — SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR B)

First Reading — Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11 — *Prepare the way for the Lord.*

‘Console my people, console them’ says your God.

‘Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.’

A voice cries, ‘Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord.

Make a straight highway for our God across the desert.

Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low.

Let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem.

Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, ‘Here is your God.’

Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him.

The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him.

He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

Responsorial Psalm — *Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.*

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace, peace for his people.
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 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 — 2 Peter 3:8-14 — *We wait for new heavens and a new earth.*

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, ‘a day’ can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

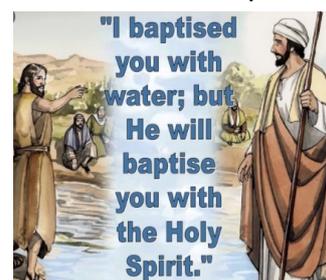
Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

Gospel — Mark 1:1-8 — *Make straight the paths of the Lord.*

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, ‘Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.’



BAPTISMS AND RECONCILIATION

The Sacraments of Baptism and Reconciliation are available again, by appointment with Fr Duane.

NB: There are no set times for either of these Sacraments at this point, and appointments for Reconciliation should be made away from Mass times, so as not to complicate the monitoring system for Masses. Please contact Fr Duane: duane.fernandez@dow.org.au or 0414 626 357.