

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/



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(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
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THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (YEAR C) – 9 JAN 2022

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 10 January	Mass: 7am	
Tues 11 January	Mass: 5.30pm	Mass: 7.45am
Wed 12 January	Mass: 9.30am	Adoration: 4.30pm Reconciliation: 4.30pm-5.15pm Mass: 5.30pm
Thur 13 January <i>St Hilary</i>	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm—5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm	Mass: 7:45am
Fri 14 January	Mass: 7am	Mass: 9:30am
Sat 15 January	Rosary: 7:10am Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 5pm—5:30pm Mass: 6pm	Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9:30am
Sun 16 January	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (<u>Polish</u>)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Sonia Bird, Geoffrey Hosking
Patricia Bartley, Aloyse Larue

Anniversaries

Ernie Kurtz, Tomo Marusic
William Butler (GGF), Margaret Comensoli

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

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

Messages from Fr Duane

I know many are uncertain and anxious about returning to Mass at this time. The present practices in our parish Masses are guided by the principle of maximising the safety and peace of mind of all, especially those most vulnerable, so that all can feel comfortable to worship with us in peace. With the present practices of sanitizing, social distancing, masks and no congregational singing, I believe we are safer during our Masses at this time than in most other public settings.

Nevertheless, I understand the decision of many not to attend physically at this time and be assured that the dispensation from the Sunday obligation continues, and you belong as much as ever to our parish community even if not physically attending Mass at this time. As we celebrate the **Feast of the Baptism of the Lord**, the conclusion of the Christmas Season, let us remember the bond we share with one another through our own baptism. This bond is manifested most perfectly when we are all able to worship God together, but it remains still for those unable to join our Masses for whatever reason, as we remain in spiritual communion with God and one another.

Finally, even as we conclude the Christmas season let's remember the Christmas message that Christ is our **"Emmanuel"**, **which means God-with-us**. Whatever our circumstances, let us remain close to him, seeking his will each day, so that we may remain in his peace, in all circumstances.

Fr Duane Fernandez — Parish Priest

Message from Sr Kerry

Time for a quiz!

- Do you know the date of your birthday?
- Do you remember to celebrate your birthday each year?
- What do you do to celebrate this day?
- What do you like most about celebrating your birthday?

I am sure you got all those answers without any assistance.

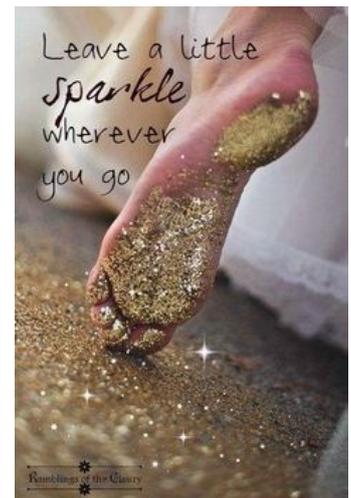
- Now.....Do you know the date of your Baptism?
- Do you know the name/s of your Godparent/s?
- Where were you Baptised?
- Who baptised you?
- Why were you given the name you received at Baptism?
- Do you celebrate this day each year?

A challenge for the year! Just as we celebrate our birthday how about celebrating your baptismal day this year? We have much to celebrate in who we are and to whom we are committed.

"Jesus doesn't want admirers but followers (Kierkegaard.)

May we have the courage to be committed followers and not a distant admirer.

Sr Kerry Gardiner



ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

January	Church Washing	Jackie Allen	
Sat 15 Jan	Church Cleaning	W and J Rodgers, J Andersson	
Sat 15 Jan	Lawns	H Fernandez, Milan Family	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
Sat 15 Jan 6pm Mass	M Rodwell	G Simmonite	School holidays
Sun 16 Jan 8am Mass	S Walsh	F Fernandez	School holidays
Counters	M Murphy (FT), S Alessi		

ALL YOUR PASTORAL NEEDS



For any pastoral needs:
please contact



Fr Duane Fernandez - 0414 626 357

duane.fernandez@dow.org.au

Sr Kerry Gardiner - 0421 463 871

Kerry.Gardiner@sosj.org.au

SYNOD OF BISHOPS

Catholics across Australia are invited to participate in a period of local consultation for the next international Synod of Bishops, which has the theme: **"For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission"**.



The People of God are invited to use a guided, prayerful reflection method to consider a series of questions and make submissions via an online portal. Those submissions will help the bishops develop a national report to support the global process leading to an international gathering in 2023. Find out more at: <http://www.catholic.org.au/synodalchurch>

WALKING GROUP

Our next walk will be on **Thursday 3 February 2022**. Location to be confirmed closer to the date.

VOCATION NEWS



Mary trusted that the Lord's words to her would be fulfilled. Step out in faith and God will be there to guide you. (Luke 1:39-45)

If you want to talk about your discernment, please contact the Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Duane Fernandez at vocations@dow.org.au

FREE ACCESS TO 2021 AUSTRALASIAN CALLED TO DISCIPLESHIP CONFERENCE

On 20 November, nearly 700 people participated in this conference for Parish Renewal across Australia and New Zealand and the key notes have now been made available at no cost to clergy and parishes. Be encouraged and inspired by following the links below:

Session 1 (DR & Leadership – Fr James Mallon)

<https://youtu.be/ZMBDFrU9xp4>

Session 2 (Panel Discussion)

<https://youtu.be/U3KN29QHRIk>

Session 3 (Evangelisation – Dr Ralph Martin)

<https://youtu.be/Lbl0HYCWiqY>

Session 5 (Holy Spirit – Dcn Peter Pellican)

<https://youtu.be/qA05madbl0w>

THANKS FOR YOUR USED STAMPS

Thank you for your donations of used stamps. Please continue to support this great initiative.

From 2001 until now, **the total raised has been \$443,500**. 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

(Stamps can be placed in the box near the side door of the church. These stamps are then used to raise money for the missions in Peru)

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME – AIRS SUNDAY 9 JANUARY 2022

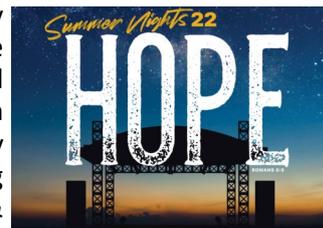
On the Journey this week: Fr Mark De Battista on why Jesus needed to be baptised. Mother Hilda is thankful that God's memory is not like ours. Michelle Vass on the spirituality of humble, precious and pure water. Plus, Sr Monica Barlow RSJ on the lesson of 2021 that carries into 2022, and Fr Dave Callaghan, Trish McCarthy, and more great music! Listen at jcr.org.au



SUMMER NIGHTS

YOUTH RETREAT, 12-15 JANUARY 2022

Summer Nights is a four day non-live in retreat experience held at the Mount Carmel Retreat Centre at Varroville. In the picturesque grounds enjoy an outdoor event including friends, fellowship, prayer & worship, excellent speakers, Mass, Adoration, Reconciliation, music & dramas, powerful encounters with God. Run by the Disciples of Jesus Community. From 12 – 15 January 2022. **Ages 16-35**. <http://www.summerschool.org.au/summernights>



THANK YOU FROM VINNIES



Thank you for your Christmas Mass donations towards the work of Vinnies in Unanderra.

We received **\$2,293.30** which will support local families in need during 2022.

PFC—FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE

Please save your recyclable bottles and cans. In the New Year, you will be able to leave your **uncrushed cans and recyclable 10c bottles in the blue bins** in the church car park. All money raised from this initiative will go to Immaculate Conception Church.

CANDLEMAS – 2 FEBRUARY 2022

Candlemas (Presentation of the Lord), also known as the Feast of Light, is a day of purification, renewal, and hope. On this day, 40 days after Christmas, we commemorate Mary's obedience to Mosaic law by visiting the Temple for the ritual of purification, as commanded in Leviticus 12:2-8.

This year Bishop Brian and Fr Bernard will be blessing candles at Candlemas on **Wednesday, 2 February at St Francis Xavier Cathedral during the 7am & 12.10pm Masses**. Please bring your own candles to be blessed on this special day.

9 JANUARY 2022—THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (YEAR C)

First Reading — Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 *The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all the people shall see it.*

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 — Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!

1. Lord God, how great you are, clothed in majesty and glory,
wrapped in light as in a robe! You stretch out the heavens like a tent. R.
2. Above the rains you build your dwelling. You make the clouds your chariot,
you walk on the wings of the wind, you make the winds your messengers
and flashing fire your servant. R.
3. How many are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you have made them all.
The earth is full of your riches. There is the sea, vast and wide,
with its moving swarms past counting, living things great and small. R.
4. All of these look to you to give them their food in due season.
You give it, they gather it up: you open your hand, they have their fill. R.
5. You hide your face, they are dismayed; you take back your spirit, they die.
You send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the earth. R.

Second Reading — Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7 *The saved us through the water of rebirth and renewal in the Holy Spirit.*

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

But when the kindness and love of God our saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia Alleluia! John said: He who is to come is mightier than I; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Alleluia!

Gospel — Luke 3:15-16, 21-22 *When Jesus had been baptised and had been praying, the heavens were opened and the Holy Spirit came upon him.*

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'