

# PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

48-50 Princes Highway (PO Box 14) Unanderra NSW 2526

[www.unanderraparish.org.au](http://www.unanderraparish.org.au)

[www.facebook.com/Immaculate-Conception-Unanderra-Parish-102440924742769/](https://www.facebook.com/Immaculate-Conception-Unanderra-Parish-102440924742769/)



**Parish Priest:** Fr Duane Fernandez  
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**Polish Chaplain:** Fr Jerzy Slowinski  
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**Parish Assistant:** Sr Kerry Gardiner  
 Email: [Kerry.Gardiner@sosj.org.au](mailto:Kerry.Gardiner@sosj.org.au)  
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**Parish Pastoral Council President:**  
 Email:  
 Mobile:

**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](mailto:unanderra@dow.org.au)  
 Website: [www.unanderraparish.org.au](http://www.unanderraparish.org.au)  
 Phone: 4271 1068  
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## MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD (YEAR A) – 1 JANUARY 2023

**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
<b>Mon 2 Jan</b> <i>Sts Basil the great and Gregory Nazianzen, bishops, doctors</i>	Mass: 8am	
<b>Tues 3 Jan</b>	Mass: 5:30pm Rosary 6pm Adoration: 6pm- 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
<b>Wed 4 Jan</b>	Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion: 9:30am	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm—5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm
<b>Thurs 5 Jan</b>	Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm Reconciliation 6pm- 6:50pm Mass: 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
<b>Fri 6 Jan</b>	Mass: 7am	Mass: 9:30am
<b>Sat 7 Jan</b> <i>St Raymond of Penyafort, priest</i>	Rosary: 7am Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 5pm - 5:30pm Mass: 6pm	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9:30am—10:30am
<b>Sun 8 Jan</b>	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am ( <i>Polish</i> )	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

#### Recently Deceased

Maria Ianuzzi, Therese Suters, Silvana Witheridge  
 Sophie Trzcinski

#### Anniversaries

Phyllis Staniforth, Frank Grech,  
 Myra Adams, Roland Stubbs.

#### Prayers for the sick

Craig Battley, Francesca Quetcher,  
 Jackie Allen, Lesley Lloyd, Vera Cleary



### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

[unanderra@dow.org.au](mailto: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*

I want to firstly thank everyone who contributed to our Christmas Masses last weekend. It was another example of so many good and generous parishioners joyfully working together to help everyone who came to experience more of the joy and peace of Christ. It was great to see such large crowds at Christmas Masses again. At the same time, we must also remain mindful of those who might have no connection with Christianity, who might not even have considered coming to Mass at Christmas – a growing group in our time – but Christ came for them too! As we heard in the Gospel, Christ’s coming was “good news of great joy – a joy to be shared by the *whole people*”. Which brings me to “Alpha”.

Alpha is a joint initiative of Unanderra and West Wollongong parishes, supported by the Diocesan Office of Renewal and Evangelisation. It is open to all, at whatever stage of faith, but is also the most accessible connection point I have seen for those who have had no faith connection in their lives. At our Christmas Masses we launched Alpha for 2023, which ***begins Wednesday February 8 at the brand new St Therese Parish Centre***. During these coming weeks, let us all prayerfully consider who we might invite to come along to Alpha. Remember to let them know that there is no cost, no commitment, and they can just “come and see” the first week (or second week – or, at the latest, the third week). Feel free to take our invitation cards (with the words “Stay Curious”) to give to as many people as you wish. Finally – for Alpha to work we will also need generous volunteers amongst our parishioners to help with catering. If you have gifts in this area and are willing to help even for just one Alpha night, please contact the parish office – many hands will make light work! Let’s all keep Alpha in our prayers.

***Fr Duane Fernandez***

## *Message from Sr Kerry*

Is your mind in overdrive with New Year resolutions? I am a great one for dreaming big things and then doing nothing! Over all my years I can only remember one resolution that I tried hard to keep. It was the simple word ***‘REMEMBER.’***

What was it I wanted to remember? It boiled down to the little things: the need to send a card for someone doing it tough; the need to acknowledge someone or something; that a friend was grieving and so the remembering went it. I learnt that year I needed to make time for remembering.

With our new year beginning with the Feast of Mary the Mother of God what is a quality from Mary that we may like to remember as we journey this year? Are you pregnant with possibilities?

***Sr Kerry Gardiner***



### ROSTER – NEXT WEEKEND

January	Church Washing	Barbara Faraway	
Sat 7 Jan	Church Cleaning	F Fernandez, B Rice, R Tassone	
Sat 7 Jan	Lawns	B Mannix, W Brown, F Caruana, J Lonard	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children’s liturgy
6pm 7 Jan	Volunteer needed	B Faraway	
8am 8 Jan	T Vaafusuaga	Zali & Aidan Calvert	School Holidays
Counters	A Kelly, B Faraway		

### 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**

## PARISH NEWS

### Recycling bins

With your help, we have raised \$495 in 2022 through our recycling efforts. Please save your New Year's Eve party recycling - marked with the 10c symbol above and put in our bins.

All proceeds go to the Parish.

Our bins are located in the church car park.

REFUND AT COLLECTION  
**10c** DEPOTS/POINTS IN PARTICIPATING  
STATE/TERRITORY OF PURCHASE



### Curious about Faith - Try Alpha

You're invited to **Alpha**, a place to explore the Christian faith in an easy and friendly environment.

Each session starts with dinner in small groups before watching a talk on a question of faith. Then there's plenty of time to share your thoughts - you can say anything you like, or nothing at all - question everything!!

There's no follow up, no charge and never any pressure. **Everyone's welcome.** No matter your background or beliefs, you're invited. So why not see where your curiosity takes you?

We'll be starting on **Wednesday 8th February at 7pm in the Parish Centre at St Therese Parish, 2 Powell Street West Wollongong.**

To RSVP, for catering purposes only, please contact **Melissa on 0419 465 050**. We also have expression of interest forms out in the foyer.



### Used stamps collection:

Please put your used stamps in our collection box, located at the side door of the church.

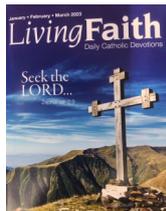


### Parish Finances - week ending 25 Dec

\$1,255 First Collection - Clergy Remuneration Fund  
\$1,127 Second collection - Parish expenses  
\$170 Tap Point - Parish donations  
\$630 Planned giving envelopes  
\$530 Direct debits (weekly average from Nov).  
Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly.

### Living Faith books—Jan, Feb and March 2023

The new Living Faith books have arrived. There is also a separate Living Faith Kids book—which includes daily reflections, prayers and activities. Cost is \$5. Please leave money in the box provided.



### Lay Carmelite meeting

The first meeting for 2023 will be in the St Joseph's room on Saturday 7 February. All are welcome. Call Ann Baumber on 0427 235 955 for more information.

### Thank you!

The Worship Coordination Team wish to express a very sincere 'thank you' to each and everyone of you who made our Christmas Masses so alive and joyfilled. Each person present contributed and what wonderful celebrations we had. To those who were actively engaged in welcoming, proclaimers of the Word, acolytes, musicians and choir, servers, Vincent de Paul members, etc, etc a very special 'thank you.'



### Lost property—Have you left something behind in the church?

Our lost property box is located in the Confessional on the Northern side of the Church.

## THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME — AIRS SUNDAY 1 JANUARY 2023

On the Journey this week. The Gospel reflection by Larry Broding. Mother Hilda's story of the old man and his empty armchair. Plus, an extra Christmas season reflection from Darren McDowell, and Fr Mike Delaney's office sign — "Expectations Not Assumptions" — to remind himself that assuming things will happen because they did in the past or in a previous experience does not guarantee they will happen this time, and more great music! Listen at [jcr.org.au](http://jcr.org.au)

## A VOCATION VIEW

God's plan for the salvation of the Israelites comes to fruition with the birth of Christ. God continues to call men to the priesthood to bring about the completion of this salvation. (Isaiah 9:5-6)

If you want to talk about your discernment, please contact the diocesan vocations director, Fr Duane Fernandez at [vocations@dow.org.au](mailto:vocations@dow.org.au)

## PART TIME EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY — PARISH SECRETARY ST MICHAEL'S NOWRA

Nowra parish is seeking the services of a part time secretary for 10 hrs per week — days to be decided.

The position requires skills in administration, bookkeeping and maintaining a database. The parish secretary needs to be a committed and practising Catholic, embracing the teachings and ethos of the Catholic Church in their daily life.

If interested, please make contact via email to request an application pack for this position to [frances.vanleerdam@dow.org.au](mailto:frances.vanleerdam@dow.org.au)  
Applications close 5pm Friday 6 January 2023.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT

Reflect together on how we might be caught up in structural and cultural violence. <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

## THEOLOGY OF THE BODY — MADE FOR MORE - EVENTS IN SYDNEY

The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney is proud to present the 'Made for More' events, brought to you by the Theology of the Body Institute! Join Christopher West and the team as they creatively weave together dynamic presentations with live music, media, and sacred art for an evening of beauty and reflection on the meaning of life, love, and human destiny. We hope that by attending you will come away with a faith-filled vision of hope that will instil in you sheer wonder and joy of being alive!

**Trailer:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MfzzKONmUjQ&ab\\_channel=TheologyoftheBodyInstitute](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MfzzKONmUjQ&ab_channel=TheologyoftheBodyInstitute)

The Made for More events in Sydney will be held at two locations on the following dates:

**When:** Friday, 20 January 2023

**Where:** St Mary's Cathedral Hall — St Mary's Road, Sydney

2nd Event

**When:** Saturday, 21 January 2023

**Where:** All Saints Catholic Parish Hall — 48 George Street, Liverpool

**Tickets:** General admission — \$25 Student/ Concession — \$10  
Free entry for children 10 years and under. Adult supervision required for all children under 18 years.

**Online booking:** <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/978896>

# 1 JAN - MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD (YEAR A)

**First Reading** - Numbers 6:22-27 *They will call down my name on the children of Israel and I will bless them.*

The Lord spoke to Moses and said, 'Say this to Aaron and his sons: "This is how you are to bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them:

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord let his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord uncover his face to you and bring you peace."

This is how they are to call down my name on the sons of Israel, and I will bless them.'

**Responsorial Psalm - May God bless us in his mercy.**

1. Sing O God, be gracious and bless us and let your face shed its light upon us.  
So will your ways be known upon earth and all nations learn your saving help. R.
2. Let the nations be glad and exult for you rule the world with justice.  
With fairness you rule the peoples, you guide the nations on earth. R.
3. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.  
May God still give us his blessing till the ends of the earth revere him. R.

**Second Reading** — Galatians 4:4-7 *When the appointed time came, God sent his son, born of a woman.*

When the appointed time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born a subject of the Law, to redeem the subjects of the Law and to enable us to be adopted as sons. The proof that you are sons is that God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts: the Spirit that cries, 'Abba, Father', and it is this that makes you a son, you are not a slave any more; and if God has made you son, then he has made you heir.

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, Alleluia! In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; now he speaks to us through his Son.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel** — Luke 2:16-21 *The shepherds found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the crib... When the eighth day came, they gave him the name Jesus.*

The shepherds hurried away to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told.

When the eighth day came and the child was to be circumcised, they gave him the name Jesus, the name the angel had given him before his conception.

