

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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 Cnr Hargreaves & Cummins Streets
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Parish Secretary: Mrs Melissa Bridges (Mon/Wed/Fri)

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FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) – 29 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
Mon 30 Jan	Mass: 7am	
Tues 31 Jan <i>St John Bosco, priest</i>	Mass: 5:30pm Rosary 6pm Adoration: 6pm- 7pm 	Mass: 7:45am
Wed 1 Feb	Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion: 9:30am	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm—5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm 
Thurs 2 Feb <i>The Presentation of the Lord</i>	Mass: 11am (Polish) Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm Reconciliation 6pm - 6:50pm Mass: 7pm 	Mass: 7:45am
Fri 3 Feb <i>St Blaise, bishop, St Ansgar, bishop</i>	Mass: 7am	Mass: 9:30am
Sat 4 Feb	Rosary: 7am Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 5pm - 5:30pm Mass: 6pm 	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9:30am—10:30am 
Sun 5 Feb	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (Polish)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Vera Cleary, Jackie Allen, Lesley Lloyd, Assunta Terrone, Cardinal George Pell

Prayers for the sick

Francesca Quetcher

Anniversaries

Jessica Ellen Gallacher, Bp Cosmas Shi Enxing, Sandrino Boncompagni



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

Message from Fr Duane

This past week has been one marked by sadness for our parish community, with Jackie Allen passing away on Monday, and Vera Cleary on Wednesday. Both Jackie and Vera were faithful, generous parishioners throughout many years, each in their own unique and irreplaceable ways. Both gave so much of themselves not only to our parish, but also to their families and the broader community. Both also received so much in return, surrounded by the love and care of their families and the prayerful support of our parish right to the end of their earthly pilgrimage. In the midst of our shared grief let us give thanks to God for the gift of these wonderful women – for all their good works that have so enriched our community and our lives, and for their inspiring example of faith. They inspired me by their faith, right to the end, reminding me of these words of St Paul towards the end of his own earthly journey, whose feast we celebrated on Wednesday: *“As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing”* (Second letter of St Paul to Timothy, 4:6-8).

I know that both Jackie and Vera, along with their families, were grateful for the heartfelt prayers and love that our parish community offered them. Let us continue to hold them in prayer, and each other also. Eternal rest grant to them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

As I write this message I can confirm that the Requiem Mass for Jackie Allen will take place on Monday 30th January, at 11am at Immaculate Conception Church – preceded by Rosary at 10:30am. I am not yet aware of details regarding Vera’s funeral but we will endeavour to communicate this as soon as possible.

ALPHA UPDATE

We will need to finalize numbers for Alpha ideally by the end of this coming week. If you would like to attend, or to invite others to attend, please organize to RSVP as soon as possible by contacting Melissa on 0419 465050. We will also be gathering the catering volunteers for a meeting during this coming week, so if you are willing to join this team please also let Melissa know as soon as possible.

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

I enjoy reading the list of those who have received awards for Australia Day and the Queen’s birthday honours list. Deep sadness comes over me when I read someone has received recognition posthumously. I feel sad for why wait until someone has died before we recognise the good they have done and how they have extended themselves to embrace the good of the community?

Having enjoyed the **Australia Day Mass and BBQ breakfast** in the parish on Thursday, I need to acknowledge so many who have contributed to make our celebration such a wonderful gathering. The spirit amongst us was so vibrant. The music lifted us to recognise and embrace all we held in prayer. Those who arrived early to ensure the food was prepared and cooked for all to enjoy; to those who served; Fr Jerzy for the background music and for each who came along and shared the spirit. It was alive and vibrant. We are a community welcoming and embracing each other. Thank you for you and for everyone who is part of this community. You deserve to be acknowledged. You are the everyday heroes, and we are glad we all belong.



Sr Kerry Gardiner

ROSTER – NEXT WEEKEND

February	Church Washing	Fiona Fernandez	
Sat 4 Feb	Church Cleaning	W & J Rodgers, J Andersson	
Sat 4 Feb	Lawns	M & J Wiinner, M Walsh, S Carrigan, A Bennett	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children’s liturgy
6pm 4 Feb	N O’Donoghue		
8am 5 Feb	S Walsh	G Simmonite, H Murphy	Leah Galea, Alison Sharwood
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

PARISH NEWS

Australia Day Celebrations

Australia Day began with a mass celebrated by Frs Duane and Jerzy praying for our great country and all Australians. After mass parishioners gathered for breakfast. It was a great community celebration. Thank you to all those who helped - the cooks, the ladies who served and all who helped to clean up after the event. It was a wonderful team work.

Lay Carmelite meeting - 4 February

The first meeting for 2023 will be in the St Joseph's room on Saturday 4 February. All are welcome. Call Ann Baumber on 0427 235 955 for more information.

Morning tea - Sunday 5 February

Morning tea will be served after 8am Mass on 5 Feb. All are welcome to join us for a cuppa and a chat.



WHAT IS "ALPHA"?

Alpha explores life's biggest questions in a welcoming and relaxed space. Sessions begin with a meal followed by some great video input that leads into small-group conversation. You can say anything you like or nothing at all.

Our next Alpha series begins on **Wednesday 8 February 2023 at the St Therese Parish Centre**, starting at 7:00pm sharp with dinner. There is no cost and no commitment, just come and see, or invite others along - regardless of what they believe, they will be welcomed and feel a sense of belonging right from the start!



Catholic Women's league meeting - 9 Feb

First meeting for 2023 will be held in the St Joseph's room on Thursday 9 February at 10am. Everyone is welcome to join us for a cuppa at 10am followed by a meeting at 10:30am.

Triumph - Lenten Program 2023 (available February)

Triumph is an 88-page full colour book containing short daily reflections (from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday) perfect for individual devotional reading in addition to the longer-form Sunday Scripture readings and reflections, prayers and questions that traditionally form part of Lenten group gatherings.



Lenten Groups

Lent is just around the corner. This year we are aiming to run 3 Lenten programs in the parish:

- **7pm Tuesday** with George Attard (0435 790019),
- **10am weekday** with Sr Kerry Gardiner (Ph 0421 463871)
- **11am Thursday** with Colleen Walsh (0421 443368).

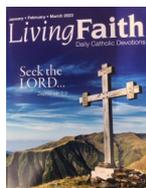
We hope you might be able to join one of these Lenten groups. To register your interest, please call the group host. Further details will be provided closer to Lent.

Parish Finances - week ending 22 January

\$521 First Collection - Clergy Remuneration Fund
\$359 Second collection - Parish expenses
\$130 Tap Point - Parish donations
\$310 Planned giving envelopes
\$549 Direct debits (weekly average from Dec).
Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly.

Living Faith books—Jan, Feb, Mar 2023

The Living Faith Kids book - includes daily reflections, prayers and activities. Cost is \$5.



THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME — AIRS SUNDAY 29 JANUARY 2023

On the Journey this week: In the Gospel reflection Fr Mark De Battista tells why the poor in spirit are blessed. Mother Hilda shares her experience of being told to have a nice day. Plus, Deacon Josh Clayton challenges the idea that Christianity is only for oldies, Trish McCarthy says we can learn a lot about mealtimes from Jesus, Fr Mike Delaney having a chance encounter in a shopping centre creates an opportunity for parish community growth, and more great music! Listen at jcr.org.au



A VOCATION VIEW

Jesus shares with us the great commands of the Beatitudes as He seeks to bless us in our faith.

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



LEVEL 1 TRAINING COURSE FOR SRE CATECHISTS IN FEBRUARY

The CCD Team will shortly commence this training course for all of the new volunteers teaching Special Religious Education in State Schools. Week 1 at each location will cover Child Protection and Classroom Management training, and this half-day part of the course should be completed by Catechists every three years.

The Course starts at Micah House Campbelltown on 6 February and the **Xavier Centre Wollongong on 10 February from 9.30-1.30 pm** over five consecutive weeks with morning tea provided.

Come and join this great ministry. To register please email support@ccdwoollongong.com

SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT

Connect with programs, ensuring our responses are evidence-based and trauma-informed. <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

HELP SUPPORT SISTERS IN KENYA!

Aid to the Church in Need is asking for support to aid sisters in Kenya in building a new mother house and formation centre for their local community.

Hunger, illiteracy, and lack of medical provision, combined with desperately poor roads and a lack of clean drinking water make life incredibly difficult for many people in Kenya. The diocesan congregation of the "*Visitation Daughters of the Immaculate Heart*" were established in order to help this needy population - but to continue their work they need your help!

The sisters' work includes caring for expectant mothers, acting as midwives, providing counselling, caring for the sick and looking after the elderly and orphans who are frequently abandoned by society.

Your support will help these sisters to continue their mission by providing them with a permanent convent. To make an offering and learn more visit <https://aidtochurch.org/monthlyproject>

29 JAN - FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

First Reading - Zephaniah 2:3,3:12-13

In your midst I will leave a humble and lowly people.

Seek the Lord,
all you, the humble of the earth,
who obey his commands.
Seek integrity, seek humility:
you may perhaps find shelter
on the day of the anger of the Lord.
In your midst I will leave
a humble and lowly people,
and those who are left in Israel will seek refuge in the name of the Lord.
They will do no wrong, will tell no lies;
and the perjured tongue will no longer
be found in their mouths.
But they will be able to graze and rest with no one to disturb them.

Responsorial Psalm - Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. R.
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan. R.
3. It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. R.

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

God has chosen what is weak by human reckoning

Take yourselves for instance, brothers, at the time when you were called: how many of you were wise in the ordinary sense of the word, how many were influential people, or came from noble families? No, it was to shame the wise that God chose what is foolish by human reckoning, and to shame what is strong that he chose what is weak by human reckoning; those whom the world thinks common and contemptible are the ones that God has chosen – those who are nothing at all to show up those who are everything. The human race has nothing to boast about to God, but you, God has made members of Christ Jesus and by God's doing he has become our wisdom, and our virtue, and our holiness, and our freedom. As scripture says: if anyone wants to boast, let him boast about the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia! Rejoice and be glad: your reward will be great in heaven. Alleluia!

Gospel - Matthew 5:1-12a

Happy are the poor in spirit.

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

'How happy are the poor in spirit;
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Happy the gentle:
they shall have the earth for their heritage.
Happy those who mourn:
they shall be comforted.
Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:
they shall be satisfied.
Happy the merciful:
they shall have mercy shown them.
Happy the pure in heart:
they shall see God.
Happy the peacemakers:
they shall be called sons of God.
Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'