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**
Email: Duane.Fernandez@dow.org.au
Mobile: 0414 626 357

Assistant Priest: **Fr Joseph Vuong Nguyen**
Email: joseph.vuongnguyen@dow.org.au

Polish Chaplain: **Fr Jerzy Slowinski**
Email: slowinski54@gmail.com
Mobile: 0410 225 975

Parish Assistant: **Sr Kerry Gardiner**
Email: Kerry.Gardiner@sosj.org.au
Mobile: 0421 463 871

Parish Pastoral Council Chair: **Mr Chris Lyon**
Mobile: 0403 296 837

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 Lisa Tyson**

Parish Secretary: **Mrs Melissa Bridges**
Office Hours: Mon/Wed: 8:30am - 1:30pm
Friday: 8:30am - 3:30pm

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

TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) — 6 SEP 2026

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 7 Sep	Mass: 8am	
Tues 8 Sep *The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary*	Mass: 5:30pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:50pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm	
Wed 9 Sep *St Peter Claver, priest*		Reconciliation: 4:30pm - 5:20pm Adoration: 4:30pm - 5:30pm Mass: 5:30pm
Thurs 10 Sep	Mass: 5:30pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:50pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm	
Fri 11 Sep		Mass: 7:45am
Sat 12 Sep *The Most Holy Name of Mary*	Mass: 5pm	***No Mass***
Sun 13 Sep	Mass: 8am ***No Polish Mass***	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased
Ana Frkovic, Michael Murphy, Michael Abellar, Adriana Colella

Anniversaries
Salvatore Giorgio, Queen Elizabeth II, Dawn McHugh, Hazel McNamara, Maria Thi Phuong Le, Antonio Cignarella

Prayers for the sick
Kathleen (Katie) Thomas, Peter Stevens, Rachael Wakeley Iris Brown, Mr Leandro, Steven Brown, Kevin Murphy, Peter Lathourakis, Antoinette Sakr, Lien Tran, George Hoyn, Noel Meddows, Quoc H Tran, Trace Lee Wood, Julie Connor, Paul Murphy.

COMMITMENT TO SAFEGUARDING OUR CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE PEOPLE

For any suggestions or concerns about safeguarding our children and vulnerable people, please contact the Parish Office, or the Diocesan Office of Professional Standards and Safeguarding at ***safeguarding@dow.org.au*** or ***4222 2428.***

Message from Fr Duane

On September 1st, the Church marked the ***11th World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation***. I encourage you to read Pope Leo's full message for the day, in which he wrote *"the path before us is clear, though it is not easy. We are called to allow our hearts to be renewed, so that we might seek peace and care for creation. Scripture tells us to guard our hearts, for everything we do flows from them (cf. Prov 4:23). If we take up this task with humility and faith, we will become collaborators in God's work of renewal."* The "Season of Creation" continues until the Feast of St Francis of Assisi on October 4th. During this time, may we come to a deeper appreciation of the beauty of God's creation – especially in our own region of the Illawarra – and a deeper commitment to care for creation and one another, that may we be drawn into a deeper closeness with the Creator.

This weekend, Bishop Brian calls our attention to the urgent need of ***Foster Care***, which, sadly, is an ever-increasing need for some of the most vulnerable children in our region. There are prayer cards available on the resource table of the church, and if anyone would like more information please don't hesitate to speak with me, or contact the Parish or Diocesan offices.

Please note: next Saturday there will be no Mass or Reconciliation at St Therese, due to the Priestly Ordination of Seth Harsh at Rosemeadow Parish, which both Fr Duane and Fr Joseph will attend (and all are welcome to attend this special event for our Diocese).

Our annual ***"thank you to volunteers" celebration*** takes place on Sunday September 20th at St Pius X School Hall from 2pm. We have attempted to circulate invitations via email but if you are a volunteer and haven't received an emailed invitation, please come along – and please RSVP to the parish office to confirm your attendance. We are always so grateful to our many parish volunteers who give so much of themselves to keep our parish alive and growing!

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

While at a diocesan parish function, I happened to be sitting next to Bishop Brian. He had been given a book marking the celebrations we were attending. Flicking the book he came upon this page, turned to me, and asked who the sister in the photo was. I was in utter disbelief and said, 'That is my sister!' I wasn't answering his question but referring to little girl who had made her First Communion.

Our focus can be distracted and take a different direction to what was intended. This incident reminds me of prayer. Often in our prayer we focus on what we think is necessary, needed or even wanted. It is hard to see the full picture and stayed focused. Can you sit with your God and allow God to be? There's no need for words, noise or talk. Just sit with God and ask for the eyes to see and the heart to respond to whatever God may be asking of you.

Sr Kerry Gardiner

ROSTER — THIS WEEKEND

September	**Church Washing**	Barbara Farraway	
Sat 5 Sept	**Church Cleaning**	D Attard, L Lathourakis	
Sat 5 Sept	**Lawns**	H Fernandez, L Milan, Broeckmann Family, Q Nghi, M Boncampagni.	
	Lectors	**Welcomers**	**Children's liturgy**
5pm 5 Sept	M and C Carolan	V and C Davis	
8am 6 Sept	M Matos	G Simmonite and A Arnone	Alana Vezinias, Saige Masters
Counters	M Murphy, C Stratton, M Winner		

ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

September	**Church Washing**	Barbara Farraway	
Sat 12 Sept	**Church Cleaning**	D Attard, L Lathourakis	
Sat 12 Sept	**Lawns**	*No lawn mowing this week.*	
	Lectors	**Welcomers**	**Children's liturgy**
5pm 12 Sept	D Nugent	B Farraway	
8am 13 Sept	M Lyon	J Sharwood	Alexia Palma, Eleisha Benedetti
Counters	A Kelly, B Farraway		

PARISH NEWS

Morning tea – Sunday 6 September 2026

Our hospitality team will be serving tea & coffee in the St Joseph's room after 8am Mass. Please join us for a cuppa and chat after Mass.

Safeguarding - Children's liturgy QR code registration

Please use this QR code to register your children for Children's Liturgy.

Vinnies Winter Bucket Appeal – updated total

The Unanderra Conference of St Vincent de Paul Society would like to thank all the generous Parishioners who supported our Winter Bucket Appeal. A total of **$4,899.05** has been raised to date. Donations can still be made using the poor box in the church or by placing an envelope addressed to St Vincent De Paul Society Unanderra Conference in the Mass collection plate. All monies raised are used to support the poor of our parish. The Unanderra Conference receives on average more than ten requests for help every week for a variety of reasons, especially food and rent assistance. When you give to Vinnies you're helping our volunteers rebuild lives.

Morning tea at Wests Illawarra café - 10:30am Mon 14 Sept.

Our next coffee catch-up will be 14 Sept at 10:30am. We hope to see you there.

Revive Youth: 7pm Friday 18 Sept

Revive Youth invites all high school aged young people to come along to connect with each other and grow in faith together in a relaxed and fun environment. Come along and invite others to any or all of these evenings!
Contact ***reviveyouth25@gmail.com*** for more information.

Catholic Women's League meeting – 10am Thursday 10 Sept

The monthly meeting of the CWL will be held on Thurs 10 Sept at 10am in St Joseph's Room. Everyone is welcome to join us for a cuppa and chat before the meeting.

Catholic Chaplaincy at UoW - with our own Fr Joseph

UOW students and staff are warmly invited to become involved with the UOW Catholic Society. Join us for Mass and lunch, 12:30pm Thursdays during semester in the Building 11 Clubs Room, with Fr Joseph as Chaplain. See @uowcathsoc

STIC Young Adults

7pm, 2nd & 4th Thurs of the month, St Therese Parish Centre. Message us on FB or Inst (@sticyoungadults) to join our WhatsApp for regular updates.

No Polish Masses while Fr Jerzy is on leave.

Fr Jerzy Slowinski will be on annual leave from 11 Sept to 11 October 2026. There will be no Polish Masses during this time.

Parish Finances - week ending 30 August 2026

$766	First Collection	*- Diocesan Clergy Remuneration Fund*
$566	Second collection	*- Parish expenses*
$519	Tap Point donations	
$285	Planned giving envelopes	
$555	Direct debits (weekly average from May).	

Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly

Invitation – Volunteers afternoon tea – 2pm Sunday 20 Sept

Parish volunteers are invited to afternoon tea at St Pius X school hall on Sunday 20 Sept at 2pm. Please RSVP to the parish office by 13 September for catering purposes.

Recycle bins

Thank you for your donations towards our recycling initiative.

THE JOURNEY
CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME
– Airs Sunday 6 Sept 2026

On The Journey this Week: Fr Mike Delaney says today's Gospel explains how to respond to difficult issues that arise within the faith Community. Mother Hilda's story of a disciple who approached his master and asked where to look for enlightenment. Bishop Tony Percy says Matthew's Gospel chapter 18, presents Jesus' teaching on how Christian communities should live together. Trish McCarthy reflects on what we focus on to stimulate mind and body. Listen at www.jcr.org.au

ST CARLO ACUTIS
– Relic and display

Mon 14 Sept to Mon 21 Sept
(now including Unanderra Parish)

Our diocese is excited to be hosting the International Carlo Acutis Major Relic Pilgrimage between 14-21 September 2026. The Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition will be on display in the St Francis Xavier's Cathedral from Friday 18 – Monday 21 September. ***Even more exciting: the relic of St Carlo will be present at Immaculate Conception Parish Unanderra on Friday 18th September, from 6:30pm to 8:30pm, with a special talk from an expert on St Carlo, a time of veneration of the relic, and Eucharistic Adoration. All are welcome!***

For more information go to: www.stcarloaustralia.com

FAITH AND FRIES
GRILL'D WOLLONGONG

Wednesday 23 September, 4:30pm to 6:30pm

Calling all high school students! Faith & Fries is a relaxed afternoon bringing together teenagers from across the Diocese of Wollongong for good food, new friendships and honest conversations about faith and life.
Grab dinner at Grill'd, hear a real-life faith story and join a live Q&A panel where no question is off limits. Whether you're involved in your faith, just curious or somewhere in between, you're welcome!
Free to attend, with a special $15 burger and chips deal available to purchase. Bring your mates, youth group or others from your school. Register by 12 Sept to go into the draw for our giveaway!
Register: dow.sh/fries

RENEWED AND SENT

Parish Renewal Summit
Sunday 1-3 October 2026

Bishop Brian Mascord invites you to the Renewed & Sent Parish Renewal Summit, to be held at St Gregory's College, Campbelltown, from 1–3 October 2026.

Join clergy, religious, lay leaders, ministry volunteers and parishioners from across the Diocese of Wollongong for three days of inspiring keynote presentations, practical workshops, prayer, and opportunities to connect with others who share a passion for the future of our parishes.
Registration at: renewedandsent.com.au.

ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD OF REV SETH HARSH

10:30am Saturday 12 September 2026
Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church, Rosemeadow

The Diocese of Wollongong warmly invites you to celebrate the ordination to the priesthood of Rev Seth Harsh, to be conferred by Bishop Brian Mascord. RSVP: rsvp.dow.org.au
Light refreshments immediately to follow.
Thanksgiving Mass – 5pm Sunday 13 September 2026
At All Saints Catholic Church 19 College Ave, Shellharbour

6 SEPTEMBER – TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

First Reading – Ezekiel 33:7-9 ***If you have not warned the wicked man, then I will hold you responsible for his death***

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.'

Responsorial Psalm – O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
   hail the rock who saves us.
   Let us come before him, giving thanks,
   with songs let us hail the Lord. **R.**
2. Come in; let us bow and bend low;
   let us kneel before the God who made us:
   for he is our God and we
   the people who belong to his pasture,
   the flock that is led by his hand. **R.**
3. O that today you would listen to his voice!
   'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
   as on that day at Massah in the desert
   when your fathers put me to the test;
   when they tried me, though they saw my work. **R.**

Second Reading - Romans 13:8-10 ***Love is the fulfilment of the Law.***

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet,and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!. God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us. Alleluia!

Gospel - Matthew 18:15-20 ***If your brother or sister listens to you, you will have won that person back.***

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.

'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.

Atholic 'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'