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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Polish Chaplain: **Fr Jerzy Slowinski**
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Parish Assistant: **Sr Kerry Gardiner**
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Parish Pastoral Council Chair: **Mr Chris Lyon**
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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 FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) — 20 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 21 Sep *St Matthew, apostle, evangelist*	Mass: 8am	
Tues 22 Sep	Mass: 5:30pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:50pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm	
Wed 23 Sep *St Pius of Pietrelcina, priest*		Adoration: 4:30pm – 5:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm – 5:20pm Mass: 5:30pm
Thurs 24 Sep	Mass: 5:30pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:50pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm	
Fri 25 Sep		Mass: 7:45am
Sat 26 Sep	Mass: 5pm	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9:30am - 10:30am
Sun 27 Sep	Mass: 8am ***No Polish Mass***	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased
Tony Gelfius, Amelia Rose Chido

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.

Anniversaries
Anton Hans, Flo McNamara, Ellen Brown, Marie La'Brody, Dave Mellor, Leslie Heffernan, Ron Costello, Fr Len Helm (MSC), Helen Duxbury Zanetti Family

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

This week is the ***Bishop's Annual Appeal***, where we have the opportunity to give financial support to our retired clergy, and seminarian in formation for the priesthood. Both retired clergy and seminarians have been a great blessing to our parish, and of course to our Diocese, and the costs for supporting both will likely be increasing in the coming years. In my role as Vocations Director, I am on the Committee of ***the Seminarian Education Fund***, and am also aware of the work of the ***Clergy Care Fund***, and can attest that all of our donations will bear much fruit for both our Seminarians and priests who have served faithfully in our Diocese over many decades. There are more details in the main section of the bulletin, and I thank you in advance for your generosity and prayers for this vital need in our Diocese.

The ***Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)*** met recently. The PPC is the main leadership group for the parish, made up of volunteers from among you who have discerned gifts for leadership, and I am very grateful for their generosity, wisdom and support to me as Parish Priest. The most recent meeting included:

- Final planning for the annual "thank you to volunteers" event – this Sunday, 2pm at St Pius X School Hall (if any volunteers haven't yet registered, but would still like to come, please see me after either of the Masses this weekend and I will let the organisers know)
- Preparation for Safeguarding Sunday last weekend
- Discussion of the upcoming "Renewed and Sent" Parish Renewal Conference
- Planning relating to updating the signage for the church
- A report from the St Pius X Parish Primary School
- Finalisation of a ***Parish Survey:***

The Parish Survey can be filled out using the QR code in the main section of the bulletin and there are also hard copies at the church doors for those who prefer hard copies – simply place a completed form in the Parish Pastoral Council feedback box at the side entrance to the church. The survey is very simple, asking "what do you value most about our parish", and "in what areas can our parish improve". You can add your name and contact details if you wish, though this is optional. We would love to hear from as many of you as possible, by 5th October.

Finally, for all you high school aged young people, and anyone who knows any high schoolers, it's not too late to register for the inaugural ***"Faith and Fries" event at Grill'd Wollongong!*** Bring friends and hang out together with other youth and youth leaders, on Wednesday 23rd September – more details in the main section of the bulletin, and you can register any time until the event.

As Daylight Saving Time approaches, a friendly reminder of the vigil Mass time change commencing from 5pm to 6pm, commencing Saturday October 10th.

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

The grandfather was a regular church goer. The granddaughter was spending time with her grandfather who took her to church this particular day.

She was doing everything the congregation was doing but one thing was eating at her and in a not so quiet voice she said, *'Grandad, why is that man saying swear words?'*

This may seem funny and give us a smile, but seriously, who is Jesus for you? Is he a friend, a faithful companion, someone who walks with you in your daily life, or is he someone you have heard about and know his name only to be a swear word? How do you utter the name of Jesus?

Sr Kerry Gardiner

[Photo supplied by Harriet Adams.]

ROSTER — THIS WEEKEND

September	Church Washing	Barbara Farraway	
Sat 19 Sept	Church Cleaning	J Haywood, L Salway, M Hurley, T Vaafusuaga	
Sat 19 Sept	Lawns	*M & J Winner, M Walsh, S Corrigan, A Bennett, P Meers, T Davis*	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
5pm 19 Sept	L Davis	T Chicharo	
8am 20 Sept	A Kelly	A Browne, J Hoxha	Kelly Anderson, Miriam Byron, Molly Hertsch
Counters	A Gunning, M Cauduro, C Garrett		

ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

September	Church Washing	Barbara Farraway	
Sat 26 Sept	Church Cleaning	G Lord, L Zanetti, S Adams	
Sat 26 Sept	Lawns	*No lawn mowing this week*	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
5pm 26 Sept	N O'Donoghue	A Frino	
8am 27 Sept	C Walsh	A Kelly, N Dunne	*School Holidays*
Counters	A Kelly, B Farraway		

PARISH NEWS

Morning tea – Sunday 20 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.

Morning tea at Wests Illawarra café - 10:30am Mon 12 Oct.

What an amazing morning we shared over coffee last Monday. Thank you to those who were able to come along. Our next coffee morning at Wests will be at 10:30am 12 Oct. Know you are welcome to join us. If you require transport, please contact Sr Kerry.

Parish Survey

The Parish Pastoral Council invite your feedback about our Parish. You can participate using this QR code or by filling in the survey form at the side door of the church. The survey closes on Monday 5 Oct.

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.

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. The Polish Mass will recommence on Sunday 18 Oct 2026 at 10 am.

Parish Finances - week ending 13 Sept 2026

$830	First Collection	*- Diocesan Clergy Remuneration Fund*
$685	Second collection	*- Parish expenses*
$445	Tap Point donations	
$215	Planned giving envelopes	
$545	Direct debits (weekly average from August).	

Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly

Recycling bins

Thank you for all of your donations towards our recycling initiative. Please note that the Vinnies Recycle Centre at Unanderra do NOT accept wine bottles. Thank you for not including these bottles.

VOCARIS YOUTH (Yrs 7 to 12)

Saturday 31 October 2026, 10am to 3pm
Wilton Community Centre

Do you have a high school-aged young person who you would love to see grow in their faith, discover the beauty of the Catholic faith and make like-minded friends? Then they won't want to miss VOCARIS Youth – a free, fun and faith-filled day for students in Years 7-12. featuring a Cookie Station, Sausage Sizzle Lunch and Ice Cream Topping Bar! For information or to register go to: dow.sh/VocarisYouth

THE JOURNEY
CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME
– Airs Sunday 20 Sept 2026

On The Journey this Week: Fr John Corrigan says we can stop counting what we are owed and rejoice in what we have been given. Mother Hilda recalls a story on Cardinal Basil Hume reflecting on his approaching death. Tony Percy says the parable of the vineyard workers shows God is so generous that he dwarfs people's desires. Pete Gilmore says God's unfailing love is universe-sized love is revealed most fully in Jesus on the cross. Mark Raue says Dorothy Day taught that our love for God is measured by how we love the people we love least. Listen at www.jcr.org.au

THE BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

19/20 September 2026

The Bishop's Annual Appeal to support the retirement and health of clergy and the holistic formation of seminarians will be promoted in our Diocese during the month of September with a special collection taking place in our Parish this weekend.
Your donation to this appeal is much appreciated. + Bishop Brian Mascord
To find out more or make a tax-deductible donation please visit www.dow.org.au/giving or call (02) 4222 2400 to make a tax-deductible donation over the phone.

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.

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI JUBILEE

8, 15 and 22 October 2026 - 7:30pm to 9pm

As part of the Jubilee Year of St Francis of Assisi, the Parish of St Michael, Thirroul, is hosting three presentations exploring the life, spirituality and legacy of Saint Francis on October 8, 15 & 22, 7.30pm-9pm.
Presented by Franciscan Friars — Andrew Granc OFM, Paul Rout OFM and Ken Cafe OFM — the evenings will offer an opportunity to reflect more deeply on the Franciscan tradition and its relevance for our lives today. The presentations will be held live at St Michael's Parish Hall, Thirroul, but you can also participate via Zoom.
For full details please go to: dow.sh/sfjform

20 SEPTEMBER – TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

First Reading – Isaiah 55:6-9 ***My thoughts are not your thoughts***

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,
call to him while he is still near.
Let the wicked man abandon his way,
the evil man his thoughts.
Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him,
to our God who is rich in forgiving;
for my thoughts are not your thoughts,
my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks.
Yes, the heavens are as high above earth
as my ways are above your ways,
my thoughts above your thoughts.

Responsorial Psalm – The Lord is near to all who call him.

1. I will bless you day after day
and praise your name for ever.
The Lord is great, highly to be praised,
his greatness cannot be measured. **R.**
2. The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. **R.**
3. The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
who call on him from their hearts. **R.**

Second Reading – Philippians 1:20-24, 27 ***For me to live is Christ***

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results – I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake.

Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Open our hearts O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son. Alleluia!

Gospel - Matthew 20:1-6 ***Why are you jealous because I am generous***

Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'