# 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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***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 SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) — 27 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 28 Sep**<br>*St Wenceslaus, St Lawrence Ruiz & co.* | Mass: 8am | |
| **Tues 29 Sep**<br>*Sts Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, archangels* | Mass: 5:30pm<br>Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:50pm<br>Rosary: 6pm<br>Adoration: 6pm - 7pm | |
| **Wed 30 Sep**<br>*St Jerome, priest* | | Adoration: 4:30pm – 5:30pm<br>Reconciliation: 4:30pm – 5:20pm<br>Mass: 5:30pm |
| **Thurs 1 Oct**<br>*St Therese of the Child Jesus* | **No Mass today** | |
| **Fri 2 Oct**<br>*The Holy Angels* | | Mass: 7:45am |
| **Sat 3 Oct** | Mass: 5pm | Rosary: 8:30am<br>Mass: 9am<br>Reconciliation: 9:30am - 10:30am |
| **Sun 4 Oct** | Mass: 8am<br>***No Polish Mass*** | Mass: 10am<br>Mass: 5pm |

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

**Recently Deceased**
*Wendy Fahey, Dr Antonio Fuentes*
*Tony Gelfius, Amelia Rose Chiodo*

**Anniversaries**
*William Blattman, John Harris, Mark Bogoni*
*May Garrety, Fr Benedict Groeshel CFR,*
*Graeme Mayo, Marta Boncompagni*

**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

It is exciting to see a number of adults inquiring about ***becoming Catholic*** and receiving the Sacraments. I will be holding an information session for all who are interested on Sunday 11th October at 12:30pm – 1:30pm at St Therese Parish Centre. If anyone you know comes to mind as someone to invite to come along to that session, feel free to invite them, and let them know that there is no commitment necessary that day, but a chance to get more basic information about the Catholic faith and the possible next steps, should they wish to know more. If anyone is interested who I have not already confirmed with, please contact the parish office to confirm attendance for planning purposes.

Thank you to the Parish Pastoral Council for preparing the ***thank you to volunteers event*** last Sunday. We estimate over 100 volunteers working often behind the scenes to keep our parish alive and growing, while reaching out to those in need beyond our parish as well. It was wonderful to see about 50 volunteers come together, and be assured that those who weren't present were kept in our thoughts and prayers. We also remembered the countless volunteers who have generously built up our parish throughout decades past. We are always open to more volunteers who wish to share their gifts in any way in our parish – simply contact the parish office if you would like to express your interest or find out more. We are also deeply grateful to every single person who simply comes along to offer their presence and prayers at every Mass – the "source and summit" of our faith and of our life as a parish.

I am also grateful for the opportunity given to our parish to welcome and venerate ***the relic of St Carlo Acutis*** last week, and learn more about this great, young, saint of our times. It was lovely to hear a heartfelt speech from Kate Hobbs, the president of the Friends of St Carlo Acutis, Australia, and to have the opportunity to express our affection for this young saint, and ask his prayers, in a physical, concrete way. *"Relics in the Church have always received particular veneration and attention because the body of the Blesseds and of the Saints, destined for the resurrection, has been on earth the living temple of the Holy Spirit and the instrument of their holiness, recognized by the Apostolic See through beatification and canonization"* (from the Vatican Instruction on Relics in the Church, 2017).

*Don't forget to fill out the parish survey, using the QR code in the bulletin or the hard copies near the side doors of the church (and place them in the Parish Pastoral Council box on the same table.) We would love to hear from as many of you as possible!*

***Fr Duane Fernandez***

# Message from Sr Kerry

With confidence I walked into the classroom to share the story of the Good Samaritan. After sharing the story with my seven- and eight-year-olds, I asked who was the good samaritan in this story. As expected, many gave the answer of the man who helped him and took him to the inn keeper. One answer knocked me for six! Josh said, *'I think there are two good samaritans in that story.'* Being a little puzzled I asked who the two samaritans were. Josh continued *'Firstly, the man who stopped to helped him but then the inn keeper as well. He could have told lies to get more money from the man who was paying for him to stay there.'* I walked out of the classroom that morning grateful for having Josh in my class. He taught me a great deal that morning.

***Sr Kerry Gardiner***

## ROSTER — THIS 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 | | |

## ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **October** | **Church Washing** | Fiona Fernandez | |
| **Sat 3 Oct** | **Church Cleaning** | G Lord, L Zanetti, S Adams | |
| **Sat 3 Oct** | **Lawns** | W Brown, F Caruana, J Lonard, J Sharwood, J Borg. | |
| | **Lectors** | **Welcomers** | **Children's liturgy** |
| **5pm 3 Oct** | P Meers | V and C Davis | |
| **8am 4 Oct** | D Ferrer | G Simmonite, A Arnone | *School Holidays* |
| **Counters** | S Alessi, A Davis, M Lyon | | |

# PARISH NEWS

***Morning tea – Sunday 27 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.

***Annual thank you to volunteers afternoon tea***

Our Parish volunteers enjoyed afternoon tea at St Pius X School hall last Sunday, served by the Parish Pastoral Council. Thank you for your faithful service to our Parish community.

***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.

***Alpha Come and See celebration – Wed 14 October***

During the past 8 seasons of Alpha over 300 people of all stages of life and faith have come to a new or deeper encounter with Jesus and his church. On Wed 14 Oct at St Therese Parish Centre we will have a one-off "come and see" evening, commencing at 7pm, for any of you who might like to get a glimpse of what Alpha is all about, hearing from some of those who have most recently done Alpha. Please also consider who you might invite along to this. Register via the QR code or call the Parish office.

***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 20 Sept 2026***

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| $464 | First Collection | *- Diocesan Clergy Remuneration Fund* |
| $746 | Second collection | *- Parish expenses* |
| $406 | Tap Point donations | |
| $315 | Planned giving envelopes | |
| $545 | Direct debits (weekly average from August). | |

*Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly*

***Joint Community Fun Day – Sunday 1 Nov at St Therese***

Save the date for our annual "Community Fun Day". This event will be held at St Therese Primary School, West Wollongong due to the unavailability of Edmund Rice College. There will be a free sausage sizzle, but feel free to also bring a picnic. Games and entertainment for kids and a relaxing few hours for the adults. There will also be a baked goods stall and lemonade stand. If there is anyone who likes to bake and could bring something along for the stall that would be greatly appreciated.

***Vigil Mass time change***

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

# 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 27 Sept 2026

On The Journey this Week: Fr Mark De Battista says the Gospel reminds us that we all make mistakes and that we need God's help and mercy. Mother Hilda says we often look in the wrong places for the answers we need. Bishop Tony Percy reflects on change, and the moral conversion Jesus calls for in today's Gospel. Christy Honeysett says doubt in prayer often arises when our expectations of God are not fulfilled. Peter Abela explains that Arrow prayer is an ancient Christian practice involving short, heartfelt prayers directed towards God. Listen at www.jcr.org.au

# THE BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone in our parish who generously supported the Bishop's Annual Appeal last weekend. Through the special collection, together with donations made online, our parish community has helped support the retirement and health of clergy and the sound and holistic formation of seminarians.
To date, our parish has contributed ***$725.05*** to the Appeal. Tax-deductible donations are still being gratefully received at: dow.org.au/giving or call (02) 4222 2400

# PRAY WITH POPE LEO XIV

**One Million Children Praying the Rosary**

From 1-7 October, *Aid to the Church in Need* invites you to join with Pope Leo XIV and Catholics worldwide for the One Million Children Praying the Rosary prayer campaign, for peace and unity in the world.
Families, parishioners, prayer groups, and schools are all encouraged to register to take part! For free Rosary resources and to register, please visit:
www.acninternational.org/millionchildrenpraying
*"When one million children pray the Rosary, the world will change." - Saint Padre Pio*

# 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

**St Michael's Thirroul**
**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

# 27 SEPTEMBER – TWENTY SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

**First Reading – Ezekiel 18:25-28** ***The sinner who decides to turn against sinfulness deserves to live.***

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'

**Responsorial Psalm – Remember your mercies, O Lord.**

1. Lord, make me know your ways.
   Lord, teach me your paths.
   Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
   for you are God my saviour. **R.**
2. Remember your mercy, Lord,
   and the love you have shown from of old.
   Do not remember the sins of my youth.
   In your love remember me,
   because of your goodness, O Lord. **R.**
3. The Lord is good and upright.
   He shows the path to those who stray,
   He guides the humble in the right path,
   He teaches his way to the poor. **R.**

**Second Reading – Philippians 2:1-11** ***In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus***

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus:

His state was divine, yet he did not cling
to his equality with God but emptied himself
to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are;
and being as all men are, he was humbler yet,
even to accepting death, death on a cross.
But God raised him high and gave him the name
which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens,
on earth and in the underworld,
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus
and that every tongue should acclaim
Jesus Christ as Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

**Gospel Acclamation:**

**Alleluia, alleluia! My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me. Alleluia!**

**Gospel - Matthew 21:28-32** ***He went out moved by regret. The tax collectors and prostitutes precede you into the kingdom of God.***

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go," but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir," but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'