PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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

www.unanderraparish.org.au

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Parish Priest:	**Fr Duane Fernandez** *Email: Duane.Fernandez@dow.org.au* *Mobile: 0414 626 357*	***Parish School:***	**St Pius X Primary School** *Cnr Hargreaves & Cummins Streets* *(PO Box 358) Unanderra NSW 2526* *Phone:4271 3550 | Fax:4272 2954*
Assistant Priest:	**Fr Joseph Vuong Nguyen** *Email: joseph.vuongnguyen@dow.org.au*	***School Principal:***	**Mrs Lisa Tyson**
Polish Chaplain:	**Fr Jerzy Slowinski** *Email: slowinski54@gmail.com* *Mobile: 0410 225 975*	***Parish Secretary:*** ***Office Hours:***	**Mrs Melissa Bridges** Mon/Wed: 8:30am - 1:30pm Friday: 8:30am - 3:30pm
Parish Assistant:	**Sr Kerry Gardiner** *Email: Kerry.Gardiner@sosj.org.au* *Mobile: 0421 463 871*	***Parish Office:***	*Email: unanderra@dow.org.au* *Website: www.unanderraparish.org.au* *Phone: 4271 1068*
Parish Pastoral Council Chair:	**Mr Chris Lyon** *Mobile: 0403 296 837*		

TWENTY SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) — 4 OCT 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 5 Oct *St Faustina Kowalska*	Mass: 8am ***Rosary: 8:30am***	
Tues 6 Oct *St Bruno*	***Rosary: 8am*** Mass: 5:30pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:50pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm	
Wed 7 Oct *Our Lady of the Rosary*	***Rosary: 8am***	Adoration: 4:30pm – 5:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm – 5:20pm Mass: 5:30pm
Thurs 8 Oct	Mass: 5:30pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:50pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm	
Fri 9 Oct *St Denis and companions* *St John Leonardi, priest*		Mass: 7:45am
Sat 10 Oct	Mass: 6pm	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9:30am - 10:30am
Sun 11 Oct	Mass: 8am ***No Polish Mass***	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Maria Michielin, Wendy Fahey, Dr Antonio Fuentes Tony Gelfius, Amelia Rose Chiodo

Anniversaries

Walter Vd Linden, Giuseppe Rostirola, Tracey Marchesi, Pat Heffernan

Prayers for the sick

Kathleen (Katie) Thomas, Peter Stevens, Rachael Wakeley Iris Brown, Mr Leandro, Steven Brown, Kevin Murphy, Sally Archer, 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

The month of ***October is the month of the Rosary***, and an opportunity to deepen in our own personal appreciation of this ancient and beautiful devotion, by which we draw nearer to the Blessed Virgin Mary, our mother, in meditation upon the mysteries of our salvation in Christ. In our parish, dedicated to Our Lady, the Immaculate Conception, and the Diocesan Shrine to Our Lady, we are having the Rosary at 8am each morning in the church from 1st October to 7th October (the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary), joining with an initiative in which Pope Leo joins thousands of children throughout the world to pray the Rosary for peace and unity in the world (an initiative called ***"a million children praying the Rosary"),*** sponsored by *Aid to the Church in Need*. As I do each year, I share some extracts from the Apostolic Letter of Pope Saint John Paul II on the Rosary, which can help us in practical ways to pray the Rosary more fruitfully; these will be emailed with the bulletin with hard copies available on the resource table in the church.

The ***Season of Creation*** comes to a close this weekend, on 4th October, the Feast of St Francis of Assisi. This year, with his feast day falling on a Sunday, we do not celebrate his feast liturgically, however let us be inspired by him and his love for creation and for every human being especially the poorest and most vulnerable; loves which he put into action, and which stemmed from his love for the Creator, and in turn deepened this love. May he pray for us that we may take up the call of Pope Francis and Pope Leo to care for creation and for one another, created in the image of God.

I will be holding an information session for all who are interested in ***potentially becoming Catholic***, next Sunday 11th October at 12:30pm – 1:30pm at St Therese Parish Centre. Feel free to invite people, and to join them if you think that might help 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.

Please note that commencing next Saturday 10th October, the Saturday evening Mass will move to 6pm, due to Daylight Saving. All other Mass times across the two parishes remain unchanged.

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

After spending time with my sister, it was time to head home. In the packing up my sister gathered some ingredients together that she would no longer use; one such item being flour. She placed the flour in a plastic bag and closed it tightly with a plastic laundry peg.

When I no longer needed the peg for clasping the bag I placed it among my pegs. This peg was a little different to those I already had. When I hang out the washing, I don't take too much notice of the pegs but once I pick up the peg that my sister had used, I feel the difference and I quietly say a prayer for her.

It's amazing what unimportant things remind us of others. When I take my watch off at night, I say a prayer for two incredibly special people who have helped me in life; when I open the blinds I pray for the person who worked hard to ensure my blinds were working. I like my little rituals and if you don't already have such a joy in your day may I suggest you too develop these little rituals. It gives me joy and gratitude in the memories I hold.

Sr Kerry Gardiner

ROSTER — THIS WEEKEND

October	**Church Washing**	Fiona Fernandez	
Sat 3 Oct	**Church Cleaning**	A Williams, A Luccitti	
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 & C Davis	
8am 4 Oct	D Ferrer	G Simmonite, A Arnone	*School Holidays*
Counters	S Alessi, A Davis, M Lyon		

ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

October	**Church Washing**	Fiona Fernandez	
Sat 10 Oct	**Church Cleaning**	St Pius X school staff	
Sat 10 Oct	**Lawns**	*No lawn mowing this week*	
	Lectors	**Welcomers**	**Children's liturgy**
6pm 10 Oct	T Chicharo	B Farraway	
8am 11 Oct	T Vaafusuaga	J Sharwood	*School Holidays*
Counters	A Kelly, B Farraway		

PARISH NEWS

Morning tea – Sunday 4 October 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.

Parish Survey – closes Mon 5 Oct 2026

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.

CWL meeting – Thurs 8 Oct 2026

The monthly meeting of the CWL will be held on Thursday, 8 October 2026 at 10 am in St Joseph's Room. Everyone is welcome to join us for a cuppa and chat before the meeting.

Craft stall – Sunday 1 Nov 2026 9am to 11am

"Crafty Angels" will hold their annual craft stall on Sunday 1 Nov from 9am- 11am in the grounds near the St Joseph's room. An assortment of craft items and baked goods will be for sale. All proceeds from the stall go towards helping those most in need in our community.

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 Oct 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 27 Sept 2026

$788	First Collection	*- Diocesan Clergy Remuneration Fund*
$703	Second collection	*- Parish expenses*
$381	Tap Point donations	
$259	Planned giving envelopes	
$545	Direct debits (weekly average from August).	

Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly

Joint Community Fun Day – 11am Sunday 1 Nov at St Therese

Our annual "Community Fun Day"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.

Are you a confident muso who would like to entertain on the day? Are you a people person who would be happy to welcome guests? Do you want to help with the kids activities? Fancy cooking a BBQ? Are you a whiz in the kitchen and happy to whip up some scones, tarts or biscuits? Please send an email to ***andrew@belgoz.com*** or call ***0405 537834.***

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 4 Oct 2026

On The Journey this Week: Bishop Brian Mascord says Jesus' words at the end of today's gospel are quite confronting. Mother Hilda reflects on Hildegard of Bingen, who spoke of being "encircled by the arms of the mystery of God." Bishop Tony Percy says St Paul, in Philippians 4, challenges us not to be consumed by worries. Trish McCarthy says spiritual cultivation ensures a bountiful harvest.

Listen at www.jcr.org.au

A VOCATION VIEW

"Your ways, O Lord, make known to me; teach me your paths." The paths of the Lord lead to eternal life if we but have the courage to walk where He leads. (Psalm 25:4)

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

EUCHARIST28 UPDATE – Walking with Christ

The International Eucharistic Congress in Sydney in 2028 ('Eucharist28') will be a global gathering of the Church centred on the Eucharist, the source and summit of our Christian lives. It will be a celebration of faith, rich with worship, prayer, testimonies, art, music, culminating in a Papal Mass with Pope Leo XIV. It will be an important moment of Eucharistic renewal for the Church in Australia and beyond. The journey to Eucharist28 has begun!

Use the link here to access Walking With Christ: A Companion for Eucharistic Renewal, a resource designed to accompany you in your spiritual preparation for the continuing journey with Christ!

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*

BEACHHOUSE

A Post-School Getaway for Year 12 Graduates

16-18 February 2027

Finishing Year 12 can bring big changes. BEACHHOUSE is a relaxed three-day beach house experience helping school leavers build faith, friendship and community as they begin life beyond school.

- Jesuit Villa House, Gerroa
- $275 (includes accommodation & meals)
- Only 20 places available

A chance to slow down, connect with other young Catholics and start the next chapter well. More details & registration: dow.sh/beachhouse

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.

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. More details here: dow.sh/sfjform

4 OCTOBER – TWENTY SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

First Reading – Isaiah 5:1-7 ***The vineyard of the Lord God of hosts is the House of Israel***

Let me sing to my friend the song of his love for his vineyard.
My friend had a vineyard on a fertile hillside.
He dug the soil, cleared it of stones and planted choice vines in it.
In the middle he built a tower, he dug a press there too.
He expected it to yield grapes, but sour grapes were all that it gave.
And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, I ask you to judge between my vineyard and me.
What could I have done for my vineyard that I have not done?
I expected it to yield grapes. Why did it yield sour grapes instead?
Very well, I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard:
I will take away its hedge for it to be grazed on and knock down its wall for it to be trampled on.
I will lay it waste, unpruned, undug; overgrown by the briar and the thorn.
I will command the clouds to rain no rain on it.
Yes, the vineyard of the Lord of Hosts is the House of Israel,
and the men of Judah that chosen plant.
He expected justice, but found bloodshed, integrity, but only a cry of distress.

Responsorial Psalm – The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel

1. You brought a vine out of Egypt; to plant it you drove out the nations
   It stretched out its branches to the sea, to the Great River it stretched out its shoots. **R.**
2. Then why have you broken down its walls? It is plucked by all who pass by.
   It is ravaged by the boar of the forest, devoured by the beasts of the field. **R.**
3. God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see.
   Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. **R.**
4. And we shall never forsake you again; give us life that we may call upon your name.
   God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved. **R.**

Second Reading – Philippians 4:6-9 ***Do these things and the god of peace will be with you.***

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise. Keep doing all the things that you learnt from me and have been taught by me and have heard or seen that I do. Then the God of peace will be with you.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I learnt from my Father. Alleluia!

Gospel - Matthew 21:33-43 ***He leased his vineyard to other farmers.***

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'Listen to another parable. There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard; he fenced it round, dug a winepress in it and built a tower; then he leased it to tenants and went abroad. When vintage time drew near he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one, killed another and stoned a third. Next he sent some more servants, this time a larger number, and they dealt with them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them. "They will respect my son" he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance." So they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They answered, 'He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him when the season arrives.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures:

It was the stone rejected by the builders
that became the keystone.
This was the Lord's doing
and it is wonderful to see?

'I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.'