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 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 EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) — 11 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 12 Oct	Mass: 8am	
Tues 13 Oct	Mass: 5:30pm Confession/Recon: 6pm - 6:50pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm	
Wed 14 Oct *St Callistus I, pope, martyr*		Adoration: 4:30pm – 5:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm – 5:20pm Mass: 5:30pm
Thurs 15 Oct *St Teresa of Jesus, virgin, doctor*	Mass: 5:30pm Confession/Recon: 6pm - 6:50pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm	
Fri 16 Oct *St Hedwig, St Margare Mary Alacoque*		Mass: 7:45am
Sat 17 Oct *St Ignatius of Antioch*	Mass: 6pm	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9:30am - 10:30am
Sun 18 Oct	Mass: 8am *Mass: 10am (Polish)*	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased
Peter Chandler, Maria Michielin, Wendy Fahey, Dr Antonio Fuentes

Anniversaries
Janice Powell, Kevin Kearney

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 ***Alpha Celebration and "Come and See"*** evening is this Wednesday, 14th October, at 7pm at St Therese Parish Centre. This is a chance for any parishioner who might be wondering why I keep going on about Alpha, to come and see what it's all about, hearing from some of those who have completed the most recent Alpha. It's also the perfect event to invite anyone in your family or social circles who you think might be open to exploring the deeper questions of life, meaning and faith, to "come and see". Please register as soon as possible (see the main section of the bulletin for more details) as this will assist with catering and other planning and please pray for the continued fruitfulness of Alpha.

It has been lovely to see people gathering for our regular ***refreshments after our 8am Sunday Mass***, and I once again thank the volunteers who are making this possible. While we have made it a point to ensure that the volunteers are only expected to serve coffee, tea, cordial and biscuits, it has also been a lovely surprise to see some parishioners freely bringing along special treats to share on occasion. Everyone can feel free to do so at any stage – and if you wish, let the priest know before Mass so that he can advertise the special treats! I also thank Sister Kerry for organising the ***monthly morning tea at Wests,*** the next of which takes place this Monday. Let's keep looking for more opportunities to build community and to help everyone feel connected and welcome in our parish.

Thank you to those who provided feedback through our recent ***parish survey***. We look forward to collating the feedback at the next Parish Pastoral Council meeting which will take place later this month where we will prayerfully discern possible ways of responding and acting upon all of the feedback received. Thank you again to the Parish Pastoral Council for initiating this survey, as we seek to continually improve the life of our parish, guided by the Holy Spirit speaking through us all.

Let's keep all ***year 12 students*** in our prayers (especially those in our own parish) as they commence their HSC examinations this week. May they be empowered by the Holy Spirit to make the most of their God-given gifts through their preparation and examinations, while maintaining a healthy balance and perspective, and may they find peace in knowing that their true worth will not depend on their success but on the infinite love of their God, who loves equally in our failures and successes.

Starting next Saturday morning, during the time of Reconciliation (confessions) after Mass at St Therese, there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, which will conclude with a simple Reposition (without Benediction). This will provide us with an extra opportunity for Eucharistic Adoration across our two parishes, as we continue our journey towards the International Eucharistic Congress.

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

The scripture lesson for my 7 and 8 years old on this day was the Rich Young Man. The students had to imagine they were given $10,000 and asked what they would do with it. Of course, I received a variety of answers which were mostly self-focused. Jack responded by saying he would go to Dubai. I asked had he been to Dubai before and he hadn't. That fascinated me and I asked why would you go to Dubai? Being the little thinker that he is he said, 'The people there have a lot of money, and they would show me how to use it……and they would have good food.'

Jack left me with much to ponder, not in dollar terms but my own faith. We have so many signposts in living our Christian faith but are we open to seeing them and more so, following them? Are you a signpost for others?

Sr Kerry Gardiner

ROSTER — THIS 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		

ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

October	**Church Washing**	Fiona Fernandez	
Sat 17 Oct	**Church Cleaning**	D Attard, L Lathourakis	
Sat 17 Oct	**Lawns**	No lawn mowing this week	
	Lectors	**Welcomers**	**Children's liturgy**
6pm 17 Oct	M & C Carolan	T Chicharo	
8am 18 Oct	P Gunning	A Browne, J Hoxha	Gemma Farrugia, Leah Galea, Ella Alessi
Counters	M Murphy, C Stratton, M Winner		

PARISH NEWS

Morning tea – Sunday 11 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.

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.

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

Next coffee catchup will be at Wests on Monday 12 October at 10:30am. Please contact Sr Kerry if you require transport. We look forward to welcoming you. Sr Kerry

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 by ***Sunday 11 October***.

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 4 October 2026

$664	First Collection	*- Diocesan Clergy Remuneration Fund*
$504	Second collection	*- Parish expenses*
$337	Tap Point donations	
$262	Planned giving envelopes	
$545	Direct debits (weekly average from August).	

Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly

Living Faith books – Oct to Dec

The new edition of Living Faith books is available now at the side door of the church. Each day in Living Faith you are invited to receive the Word of God and then to pause, to reflect and ponder. Cost is now $7.

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 11 Oct 2026

On The Journey this Week: Fr James Arblaster says the Gospel's wedding feast asks how we respond to the king's invitation. Mother Hilda observes that despite our sinfulness, faults, waywardness, God simply recommits himself to us and takes us back. Bishop Tony Percy says through our death, we are invited to the greatest wedding of all – our marriage with Christ, the true Bridegroom. Mark Raue says World Mission Sunday next week, has the theme "One in Christ, United in Mission" with a focus on Malawi. 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!

FREE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM FOR OLDER PARISHIONERS

Dates: 22 Oct, 5 Nov, 19 Nov, 3 Dec

Cross+Gen is a FREE program where students support seniors with everyday technology in a friendly, relaxed setting. Bring along your mobile phone, tablet or laptop and join other people who also struggle with technology.

Please contact Jane Hollier from CatholicCare on ***0417 018 152*** or ***janeh@catholiccare.dow.org.au***

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

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 two more 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.

More details here: dow.sh/sfjform

11 OCTOBER – TWENTY EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

First Reading – Isaiah 25: 6-10 ***The Lord will prepare a feast and will wipe away the tears from every cheek.***

On this mountain,
the Lord of hosts will prepare for all peoples
a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines,
of food rich and juicy, of fine strained wines.
On this mountain he will remove
the mourning veil covering all peoples,
and the shroud enwrapping all nations,
he will destroy Death for ever.
The Lord will wipe away the tears from every cheek;
he will take away his people's shame
everywhere on earth, for the Lord has said so.
That day, it will be said: See, this is our God
in whom we hoped for salvation; the Lord is the one in whom we hoped.
We exult and we rejoice that he has saved us;
for the hand of the Lord rests on this mountain.

Responsorial Psalm – I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

1. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
   Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose.
   Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. **R.**
2. He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name,
   If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear.
   You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort. **R.**
3. You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes.
   My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. **R.**
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life.
   In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. **R.**

Second Reading – Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20 ***I am able to do all things in him who strengthens me.***

I know how to be poor and I know how to be rich too. I have been through my initiation and now I am ready for anything anywhere; full stomach or empty stomach, poverty or plenty. There is nothing I cannot master with the help of the One who gives me strength. All the same, it was good of you to share with me in my hardships. In return my God will fulfil all your needs, in Christ Jesus, as lavishly as only God can. Glory to God, our Father, for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called. Alleluia!

Gospel - Matthew 22:1-14 ***Whomsoever you find invite to the wedding.***

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a feast for his son's wedding. He sent his servants to call those who had been invited, but they would not come. Next he sent some more servants. "Tell those who have been invited," he said, "that I have my banquet all prepared, my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, everything is ready. Come to the wedding." But they were not interested: one went off to his farm, another to his business, and the rest seized his servants, maltreated them and killed them. The king was furious. He dispatched his troops, destroyed those murderers and burnt their town. Then he said to his servants, "The wedding is ready; but as those who were invited proved to be unworthy, go to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find to the wedding." So these servants went out on to the roads and collected together everyone they could find, bad and good alike; and the wedding hall was filled with guests. When the king came in to look at the guests he noticed one man who was not wearing a wedding garment, and said to him, "How did you get in here, my friend, without a wedding garment?" And the man was silent. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot and throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.'