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 NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) — 18 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 19 Oct	Mass: 8am	
Tues 20 Oct	Mass: 5:30pm Confession/Recon: 6pm - 6:50pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm	
Wed 21 Oct		Adoration: 4:30pm – 5:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm – 5:20pm Mass: 5:30pm
Thurs 22 Oct	Mass: 5:30pm Confession/Recon: 6pm - 6:50pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm	
Fri 23 Oct *St John of Capistrano, priest*		Mass: 7:45am
Sat 24 Oct *St Anthony Claret, bishop*	Mass: 6pm	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9:30am - 10:30am
Sun 25 Oct	Mass: 8am *Mass: 10am (Polish)*	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Ida Angilletta, Peter Chandler, Maria Michielin

Anniversaries

Maisie Dredge, Fr John Horgan, Barry Clune Helen Anne Milway, Shirley Steele, Clara Dredge Tommy McNally, Bill Hayden, Judith Salway

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

I'm excited to announce that this term the high school youth group across the parishes of Unanderra and West Wollongong, called ***"Revive Youth",*** will move from fortnightly to weekly. I am very grateful to the youth leaders for their generosity in giving so freely of their time and energy to make this possible – something that they convinced me that they wanted to take place, in order to better support our young people in deepening their relationships with God and each other. Each weekly session will remain a "self-contained" session, so all high school aged youth are welcome to come and see what it's like, and to invite others along as well. Contact ***reviveyouth25@gmail.com*** for more information, or simply come to the St Therese School Hall at 7pm on Fridays during school term, from this Friday 23rd October (with a parent/carer accompanying the child to the doors of the hall for registration purposes).

It's a big month for our high schoolers – as we are also fast approaching the first ever ***VOCARIS Youth Day*** - a free, fun and faith-filled day for students in Years 7-12 on Saturday, 31 October, 10:00am-3:00pm at Wilton Community Centre, featuring excellent inputs tailored for our youth, fun ways to connect with other youth from across our Diocese, and of course lots of lovely food! More details and registration in the main section of the bulletin. Let's also continue to pray for all of our year 12s who are completing their HSC during the coming weeks.

It's only two weeks until the ***Annual Community Fun Day*** – which will be bigger and better than ever this year! All ages, all faiths, all stages of life, are most welcome – consider who you might invite along who might benefit from some company and connection, and let's all seek to build community together. There are more details in the main section of the bulletin of how you might like to get involved – most importantly, simply by coming along!

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

This incident goes back several decades. An unpleasant event happened to me. I was so angry towards the wrongdoer that caused me such distress. I was burdened by it and could not let it go.

I went to Reconciliation and spoke of my reaction to this person. The priest just said, 'Don't give him rent free accommodation in your mind.' They were profound words.

Do you need to hear those same words? Are you giving rent free accommodation to something that does not deserve it? What do you need to let go of? Evicting something is not easy but it can be necessary. Let us pray this week for those who may be struggling and need the freedom to forgive.

Sr Kerry Gardiner

ROSTER — THIS 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		

ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

October	**Church Washing**	Fiona Fernandez	
Sat 24 Oct	**Church Cleaning**	F Fernandez, B Rice	
Sat 24 Oct	**Lawns**	H Fernandez, L Milan, Broeckmann Family, Q Nghi, M Boncampagni	
	Lectors	**Welcomers**	**Children's liturgy**
6pm 24 Oct	D Nugent	A Frino	
8am 25 Oct	C Lyon	A Kelly, N Dunne	Tierney, Nadine, Scarlett Dunne
Counters	A Kelly, B Farraway		

PARISH NEWS

Morning tea – Sunday 18 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. There is also a raffle with a variety of prizes and options for payment include cash or eftpos. All proceeds from the stall go towards helping those most in need in our community.

Morning tea at Wests Illawarra café - 10:30am Mon 9 Nov

Next coffee catchup will be at Wests on Monday 9 November at 10:30am. Please contact Sr Kerry if you require transport. We look forward to welcoming you. Sr Kerry

Safeguarding - Children's liturgy QR code registration

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

Parish Finances - week ending 11 October 2026

$648	First Collection	*- Diocesan Clergy Remuneration Fund*
$504	Second collection	*- Parish expenses*
$451	Tap Point donations	
$395	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.***

Vinnies News

This Saturday 17 October is *"International Day for the Eradication of Poverty"*. It invites us to consider that the poverty of one person is the poverty of all. It is not confined to Third World countries, it affects us in our own country too. Poverty wears the face of the people we meet through Vinnies here in the homes and streets of Unanderra.
Awareness and acts of care, kindness, generosity can bring change. Let's share in solidarity with our brothers and sisters.

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 18 Oct 2026

The Journey is the weekly podcast for parishioners in the Diocese of Wollongong. Each week it brings you great music, formation in faith, with an array of fantastic presenters from our Diocese and around Australia.
Listen at www.jcr.org.au

A VOCATION VIEW

"Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God." Our lives ultimately belong to God; let His love shine through all that you do. (Matthew 22:21)

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
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 one more presentation 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

18 OCTOBER – TWENTY NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

First Reading – Isaiah 45: 1, 4-6 ***If you are harsh with the widow or the orphan, my anger will rage against you.***

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whom he has taken by his right hand
to subdue nations before him
and strip the loins of kings,
to force gateways before him
that their gates be closed no more:
'It is for the sake of my servant Jacob,
of Israel my chosen one,
that I have called you by your name,
conferring a title though you do not know me.
I am the Lord, unrivalled;
there is no other God besides me.
Though you do not know me, I arm you
that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun
that, apart from me, all is nothing.'

Responsorial Psalm – Give the Lord glory and honour.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
Tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples. **R.**
2. The Lord is great and worthy of praise,
to be feared above all gods;
the gods of the heathens are naught.
It was the Lord who made the heavens. **R.**
3. Give the Lord, you families of peoples,
give the Lord glory and power;
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Bring an offering and enter his courts. **R.**
4. Worship the Lord in his temple.
O earth, tremble before him.
Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.'
He will judge the peoples in fairness. **R.**

Second Reading – 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5 ***We are mindful of your faith, hope and love***

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ.
We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Shine on the world like bright stars; you are offering it the word of life. Alleluia!

Gospel - Matthew 22:15-21 ***Give to Caesar the things that belong to Caesar and to God the things that are God's.***

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius, and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.'