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 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

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) — 25 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 26 Oct	Mass: 8am	
Tues 27 Oct	Mass: 5:30pm Confession/Recon: 6pm - 6:50pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm	
Wed 28 Oct *Sts Simon and Jude, apostles*		Adoration: 4:30pm – 5:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm – 5:20pm Mass: 5:30pm
Thurs 29 Oct	Mass: 5:30pm Confession/Recon: 6pm - 6:50pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm	
Fri 30 Oct		Mass: 7:45am
Sat 31 Oct	Mass: 6pm	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9:30am - 10:30am
Sun 1 Nov	Mass: 8am *Mass: 10am (Polish)*	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased
Ida Angilletta, Peter Chandler, Maria Michielin

Anniversaries
Mavis Stubbs, Neville Smith, Josie Fenech, Bill Micallef, Allison Baxendale, Bonnie Grech, Louise Packham, Faye Cunningham, John Brame

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

As mentioned at Masses last weekend on ***World Mission Day***, this weekend we will be taking up our annual appeal for ***Catholic Mission.*** Catholic Mission provides both material and spiritual support to communities in need all throughout the world, and we can contribute to their work through a special collection this weekend. This year – the centenary of a celebration established by Pope Pius XI – has been given the theme *"One in Christ, united in mission",* by Pope Leo. He draws upon the prayer of Jesus to the Father at his Last Supper: *"that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me, and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me"* (Jn 17:21). May we be renewed in our own commitment to building bonds of unity among our brothers and sisters in Christ, that we may work together as one to bring the overflowing love of Jesus to all people.

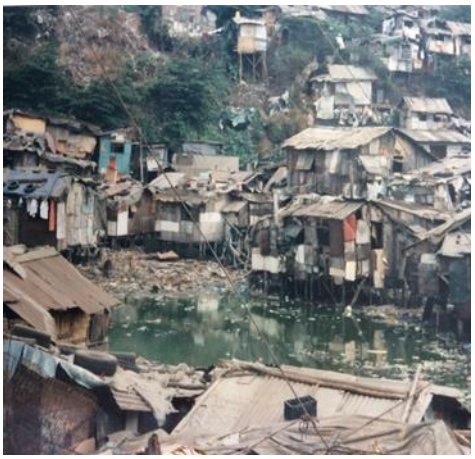
Next Sunday, 1st November, is a big day! It is ***All Saints Day***, one of the greatest Feast Days of the church's liturgical year; then, following the 8am Mass there will be the *Catholic Women's League (CWL) Craft Stall*, which will be an opportunity to contribute to the many charitable works of CWL, and enjoy some of their crafty genius (my nephew is still enjoying "Bingo" who I purchased at last year's stall); there will also be special treats prepared by the CWL to go along with our usual cuppa after the Mass; and then after this local celebration, there will be the ***Annual Community Fun Day from 11am***. This year, since Edmund Rice College was not available, it will take place at the St Therese school grounds (the only other suitable venue), but remains very much a joint initiative of our two parishes of Unanderra and West Wollongong and there are many ways to get involved in this special day!

We are very blessed in our parish with more volunteers than I can count, working behind the scenes to keep our parish community alive and growing. During this next three weeks, there are two main areas where we are hoping to recruit some willing volunteers: *church cleaning, and lawn mowing*. I thank Barbara Farraway for co-ordinating the rosters of volunteers, and if anyone feels like they have the capacity to support these two areas of need for our community, of you would like more information, please contact Barbara as noted in the main section of the bulletin. Thank you again to all of our wonderful volunteers – and to every single parishioner who is building up our community by your presence and prayers!

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

A brief period of my life was spent ministering on a garbage dump in a large city of our world. The Catholic Church was built in the middle of the dump, and it was there we prayed, joyfully celebrated the sacraments and Mass. It was also a place where I shed endless tears. In the church there was a statue of Christ the Scavenger. Christ was real to these people and found comfort in his presence.



It was in this place I encountered real people who had no option but to pick through garbage so they could live. It was here I saw the body of a deceased baby for the mother had nowhere else for a burial plot. It was here I saw children playing in maggot infested water waste as this was their only swimming pool. It was here I encountered children who were malnourished. It was here I saw water being added to the rice so that it would go a little further. It was here where rats the size of rabbits happily lived alongside of you. It was here where people encountered Christ. Here I saw Christ the scavenger among the people. …and they were loved.

This weekend in our appeal can you be Christ the Generous One so that they continue to know the love of Christ through us?

Sr Kerry Gardiner

ROSTER — THIS 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	Luke & Alan Davis	T Chicharo	
8am 25 Oct	C Lyon	A Kelly, N Dunne	Tierney, Nadine, Scarlett Dunne
Counters	A Kelly, B Farraway		

ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

October	**Church Washing**	Fiona Fernandez	
Sat 31 Oct	**Church Cleaning**	J Haywood, L Salway, M Hurley, T Vaafusuaga	
Sat 31 Oct	**Lawns**	No lawn mowing this week	
	Lectors	**Welcomers**	**Children's liturgy**
6pm 31 Oct	D Nugent	V & C Davis	
8am 1 Nov	J Haywood	G Simmonite, A Arnone	Maria Matos and Anne Vaasen
Counters	A Gunning, M Cauduro, C Garrett		

PARISH NEWS

Morning tea – Sunday 25 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. 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 18 October 2026

$742	First Collection	*- Diocesan Clergy Remuneration Fund*
$589	Second collection	*- Parish expenses*
$451	Tap Point donations	
$309	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.

Calling all hands for the Community Fun Day – 11am Sunday 1 Nov at St Therese
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.***

Your help would be appreciated
Every week many parishioners volunteer in various ministries in our parish. We are grateful for all the work they do. Would you be able to give some of your time to volunteer in one of the parish ministries to help those who are already volunteering? We urgently need more people to *clean our beautiful church* (1hr every 6 weeks) Cleaning is usually done on Friday or Sat morning. We also need more people *to mow the lawns* in the church grounds (every 6 weeks). If you would like to volunteer for any other ministry, you would be most welcome to do so. Please give some thought to helping out. For more information contact ***Barbara 0419 989608***

November Masses - book of remembrance
As we prepare for November as the month of praying for all souls, please email the Parish office with any names of the deceased that you would like to be included in the parish book of remembrance, with the subject *"November Masses"*

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

THE JOURNEY
CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME – Airs Sunday 25 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

"You turned from idols to serve the living and true God." Destroy the false gods in your life which prevent you from serving the one true God. (1 Thess. 1:10)
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!

UOW END OF YEAR RETREAT

9am to 4pm Saturday 31 October 2026
St Joseph's Catholic Church, Bulli

Looking for a day of peace and spiritual refreshment? You're invited to join us for our retreat: ***"Loving Trust, Total Surrender and the Secret of True Joy"*** with Very Rev Fr Greg Bellamy, Vice Rector of the Good Shepherd Seminary, Sydney.
Cost: $20
Contact Sam on 0481 571 245 for more info.
Please register here.

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

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

25 OCTOBER – THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

First Reading – Exodus 22:20-26 ***If you are harsh with the widow or the orphan, my anger will rage against you.***

The Lord said to Moses, 'Tell the sons of Israel this, "You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans.

"If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him.

"If you take another's cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity."'

Responsorial Psalm – I love you, Lord, my strength.

1. I love you. Lord, my strength,
   my rock, my fortress, my saviour.
   My God is the rock where I take refuge;
   my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.
   The Lord is worthy of all praise:
   when I call I am saved from my foes. **R.**
2. Long life to the Lord, my rock!
   Praised be the God who saves me.
   He has given great victories to his king
   and shown his love for his anointed. **R.**

Second Reading – 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10 ***You turned away from idols to serve God and await his Son.***

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread - and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them. Alleluia!

Gospel - Matthew 22:34-40 ***You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself.***

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: You must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'