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

ALL SAINTS (YEAR A) — 1 NOVEMBER 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 2 Nov *All Souls' Day*	Mass: 8am	
Tues 3 Nov *St Martin de Porres*	Mass: 5:30pm Confession/Recon: 6pm - 6:50pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm	
Wed 4 Nov *St Charles Borromeo*		Adoration: 4:30pm – 5:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm – 5:20pm Mass: 5:30pm
Thurs 5 Nov	Mass: 5:30pm Confession/Recon: 6pm - 6:50pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm	
Fri 6 Nov	***First Friday Adoration 6pm – 9pm***	Mass: 7:45am
Sat 7 Nov	Mass: 6pm	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9:30am - 10:30am
Sun 8 Nov	Mass: 8am *Mass: 10am (Polish)*	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased
Dorothy Green, Showki Zakaria

Anniversaries
Madeline Heffernan, Patricia Geyling, Josie Newman, Ron Mascord, Pat Atkins, Stephen Cabor, Leo Haywood, Ron Fowler Vincent Stubbs, Teresa Leggott

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

This weekend we celebrate the beautiful ***feast of All Saints***, remembering the Communion of Saints in heaven who constantly intercede for us, and inspire us by their own example of faith and love. We will have much to celebrate on this day in our parish communities, with the ***Catholic Women's League Craft Stall*** from 9am to 11am, together with a special morning tea with extra treats; and the ***Community Fun Day***, a joint initiative of Unanderra and West Wollongong parishes, this year taking place on the St Therese school grounds – which this year will be the biggest yet thanks to the energy of new committee members from across our two parishes.

On Monday 2nd November, ***All Souls' Day***, we will have the usual 8am Monday Mass at Unanderra, and also a 6pm Mass at St Therese. All Souls' Day marks the beginning of the month of praying for those who have died, and we especially remember those named in our Parish Book of Remembrance. These practices flow from the Catholic belief that the bonds of love we are blessed with in this life do not end in death, and that just our prayers and love can help each other to come more deeply into God's peace in this life, so too our love and prayers continue to help our loved ones after death, in a mysterious way that transcends time, through the final purification for the perfection of heaven that we call *"Purgatory"* in the language of the Church. We ourselves also find comfort as we experience their closeness more deeply in our prayers, and deepen in our own faith and hope in eternal life. In the words of Pope Benedict XVI in his Encyclical Spe Salvi ("In Hope We Were Saved"):

"The belief that love can reach into the afterlife, that reciprocal giving and receiving is possible, in which our affection for one another continues beyond the limits of death – this has been a fundamental conviction of Christianity throughout the ages and it remains a source of comfort today…our lives are involved with one another, through innumerable interactions they are linked together. No one lives alone. No one sins alone. No one is saved alone...in the interconnectedness of Being, my gratitude to others – my prayers for them – can play a small part in their purification. And for that there is no need to convert earthly time into God's time: in the communion of souls simple terrestrial time is superseded. It is never too late to touch the heart of another, nor is it ever in vain."

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

It was early morning and a magical time. I observed the pelicans approaching the waters edge and then feeding on what lay in the water. Obviously, they would not have been finding massive fish in that part of the lake but with the gentle activity of feeding in such a rich way they obviously had a good banquet.

Each day we are called to take part in the banquet of life. Sometimes we are given things we would not choose. Other times we are given the unexpected feast. Other times the table can be ordinary and mundane. In so many ways we have no control over what God wishes to share with us, but we do have control over our attitude and graciousness. Are you able to recognise the hand of God in all that comes your way? When things are tough do you have the faith to believe God is there with you?

Sr Kerry Gardiner

ROSTER — THIS 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		

ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

November	**Church Washing**	Helen Murphy	
Sat 7 Nov	**Church Cleaning**	G Lord, L Zanetti, S Adams	
Sat 7 Nov	**Lawns**	M & J Winner, M Walsh, S Corrigan, A Bennett, P Meers, T Davis.	
	Lectors	**Welcomers**	**Children's liturgy**
6pm 7 Nov	N O'Donoghue	B Farraway	
8am 8 Nov	M Matos	J Sharwood	Alison Sharwood and Luke Jansons
Counters	A Kelly, B Farraway		

PARISH NEWS

Morning tea – Sunday 1 November 2026
The CWL 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 25 October 2026

$607	First Collection	*- Diocesan Clergy Remuneration Fund*
$377	Second collection	*- Parish expenses*
$415	Tap Point donations	
$272	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.

Community Fun Day – 11am Sunday 1 Nov at St Therese
Join us at St Therese school from 11am for a baked goods stall, freshly squeezed lemonade, a sausage sizzle and coffee van. Kids games including a large Connect Four, bean bag toss, a game of soccer and face painting. All welcome.

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 1 Nov 2026

Fr Mark De Battista says the Solemnity of All Saints honours everyone in heaven, not only those formally canonized. Mother Hilda says by inviting God into our hearts each day we recognise God's presence and when bad things happen, distinguish what is not of God. Bishop Tony Percy says we become saints by allowing Christ's love to transform our hearts while remaining true to the unique people God created us to be. Deacon Josh Clayton says small groups are essential to Christian life.
Listen at www.jcr.org.au

A VOCATION VIEW

God has created us for some definite purpose, for mission, a vocation. Ultimately, we are called to be saints (1 John 3:1-3)

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

ALL SOULS DAY

Memorial service
Saturday 7 November 2026, 10:30am
Lakeside Memorial Park

Mass of Remembrance for the Faithful Departed celebrated by the Most Rev Brian Mascord, Bishop of Wollongong.
RSVP here by Monday 2 November.
Flyers are available on the table at the side door.

1 NOVEMBER – ALL SAINTS (YEAR A)

First Reading – Apocalypse 7:2-4, 9-14 ***I saw an immense crowd, beyond hope of counting, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language.***

I, John, saw another angel rising where the sun rises, carrying the seal of the living God; he called in a powerful voice to the four angels whose duty was to devastate land and sea, 'Wait before you do any damage on land or at sea or to the trees, until we have put the seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.' Then I heard how many were sealed: a hundred and forty-four thousand, out of all the tribes of Israel.

After that I saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. They shouted aloud, 'Victory to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all the angels who were standing in a circle round the throne, surrounding the elders and the four animals, prostrated themselves before the throne, and touched the ground with their foreheads, worshipping God with these words, 'Amen. Praise and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and strength to our God for ever and ever. Amen.'

One of the elders then spoke, and asked me, 'Do you know who these people are, dressed in white robes, and where they have come from?' I answered him, 'You can tell me, my lord.' Then he said, 'These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb.'

Responsorial Psalm – Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
   the world and all its peoples.
   It is he who set it on the seas;
   on the waters he made it firm. **R.**
2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
   Who shall stand in his holy place?
   The man with clean hands and pure heart,
   who desires not worthless things. **R.**
3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
   and reward from the God who saves him.
   Such are the men who seek him,
   seek the face of the God of Jacob. **R.**

Second Reading – 1 John 3:1-3 ***We shall see God as he really is.***

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us,
by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are.
Because the world refused to acknowledge him,
therefore it does not acknowledge us.
My dear people, we are already the children of God
but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed;
all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him
because we shall see him as he really is.
Surely everyone who entertains this hope
must purify himself, must try to be as pure as Christ.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Come to me , all you that labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest, says the Lord. Alleluia!

Gospel - Matthew 5:1-12a ***Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.***

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

'How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage.
Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted.
Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied.
Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them.
Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God.
Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God.
Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'