

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/



Parish Priest: Fr Duane Fernandez
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 Mobile: 0414 626 357

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 Email: Mark.Walsh@bluescopesteel.com
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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 Pauline Chrostowski

Parish Secretaries: Mrs Magda Pires (Mon/Thu)
 Mrs Sue Briscoe (Fri)

Parish Office: Email: unanderra@dow.org.au
 Website: www.unanderraparish.org.au
 Phone: 4271 1068
 Fax: 4271 1298

20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A – SUNDAY 16 AUGUST 2020

**Registrations ESSENTIAL for ALL Masses — via Unanderra Parish Office:
unanderra@dow.org.au or 4271 1068**

Weekly Programme	Immaculate Conception UNANDERRA	St Therese WEST WOLLONGONG
Monday 17 August	Mass: 7am	
Tuesday 18 August	Mass: 5.30pm	Mass: 7.45am
Wednesday 19 August	Mass: 9.30am	*Adoration: 4.30pm Mass: 5.30pm * Only those registered for 5.30pm Mass may attend Adoration at 4.30pm.
Thursday 20 August St Bernard	* Adoration: 4.30pm Mass: 5.30pm *Only those registered for 5.30pm Mass may attend Adoration at 4.30pm.	Mass: 7.45am
Friday 21 August St Pius X	Mass: 7am	Mass: 9.30am
Saturday 22 August The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Rosary: 7.15am Mass: 7.30am Vigil Mass: 6pm	Mass: 9am
Sunday 23 August 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (<u>Polish</u>)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm (also streamed online)

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Anniversaries

Terry DEAN

Cecil CLARKE



Sr Mark RSJ

Gloria SHEPPARD

Beatrice WILLIAMS

Please also pray for the sick and those unable to attend Mass

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

unanderra@dow.org.au / 4271 1068

Monday: 11am-3pm (Magda)

Tuesday: Closed

Wednesday: Closed

Thursday: 9am-3pm (Magda)

Friday: 8am-1pm (Sue)

* Unfortunately due to ongoing health issues, Sue Briscoe will now only be working on Fridays.

Message from Fr Duane

This weekend, we celebrate the great feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Saturday 15 August). This would usually be another opportunity for us to gather together as the whole Church, as we would on Sundays, to celebrate our heavenly mother; however many are not able to come to celebrate this year, nor is anyone obliged to do so given the circumstances.

As such, I'll take this opportunity to share some words from Pope Francis, in his homily on this Feast last year, which I have found especially powerful: "Mary is assumed into heaven: small and humble, she is the first to receive the highest glory. She, who is a human being, one of us, reaches eternity in body and soul. And there she waits for us, just like a mother waits for her children to come home... Today we look to Mary and see the finish line. We see that a creature has been assumed to the glory of the risen Christ, and that creature could only be her, the mother of the Redeemer... On the threshold of heaven there is a mother who awaits us and is our mother. She loves us, smiles at us and helps us with care. Like every mother, she wants the best for her children and says to us: 'You are precious in the eyes of God; you're not made for little satisfactions of the world, but for the great joys of heaven.' Let us be attracted by true beauty, and not be drawn in by the petty things of life, but let us choose the greatness of heaven. May the Blessed Virgin Mary, gate of heaven, help us to look with confidence and joy every day towards the place where our true home is, where she is, and where she our mother awaits us." Through this Feast, and these words of our Pope, may we come to a deeper closeness with Mary our mother, and may her example of perfect faith and her motherly love and prayers help us during these difficult times.

STAYING OURSELVES AND EACH OTHER SAFE

You would probably be aware by now of the "second wave" of cases of Covid-19 in Victoria, and also to a much lesser extent in NSW – including some cases in Catholic churches and Catholic schools. This news is a reminder to us of the importance of staying vigilant about best practices around keeping ourselves and each other safe during these times. One of those practices is the recent encouragement from the NSW Government and our Bishop to wear face masks when attending church. I reiterate that this is not mandatory, for parishioners, though the desk monitors will wear masks while confirming registrations at the door, and I will wear a mask while giving Communion (as these are instances during which we come within 1.5m of each other). If any of you wishes to wear a face mask, but are finding it difficult to obtain one for any reason (including cost), please contact me, and I will work to provide you with masks free of charge. There is even a possibility of obtaining free "fabric" masks home-made by a couple of generous young women who have offered to make these for those who need them!



Sunday 5pm Mass at West Wollongong continues to be live-streamed every week:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/ICASTImmaculateConceptionStThereseParishes>

Fr Duane Fernandez — Parish Priest



CAN'T COME TO MASS BUT WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE COMMUNION OR ANOINTING OF THE SICK?

With Covid-19 still having a huge impact on so many still not being able to return to Sunday Mass, please contact the parish office or Sr Kerry if you would like to receive Communion in your home. Our present directives state that one must not be suffering from an illness for our Ministers of Communion to visit you. Any further enquiries, please contact Sr Kerry. If you do need a priest for the Anointing of the Sick, Fr Duane would be very happy for you to contact him.

Sr Kerry: Kerry.Gardiner@sosj.org.au / 0421 463 871

Fr Duane: Duane.Fernandez@dow.org.au / 0414 626 357

REGISTRATION PROCESS - BOTH UNANDERRA & WEST WOLLONGONG

Registrations are ESSENTIAL for ALL Masses at both Unanderra and West Wollongong — via the Unanderra Parish Office: unanderra@dow.org.au or 4271 1068 — please only call during office hours, include all family members, contact number, email address and day/time/church of your preferred Mass(es), both weekday and weekend. For weekend Masses, please await a confirmation email from Fr Duane approximately 24 hours prior to the Mass time, before attending the church.

ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

August	Church Washing	Helen Murphy
Sat 22 Aug	Church Cleaning	J Allen, J Haywood, L Salway
	Lectors	Lawns — Sat 15 August
Sat 22 Aug 6pm Mass	V Cleary	(There are no lawnmowing duties this weekend)
Sun 23 Aug 8am Mass	C Walsh	

ALL YOUR PASTORAL NEEDS

For any pastoral needs:

please contact

Fr Duane Fernandez

0414 626 357

duane.fernandez@dow.org.au



PARISH WALKING GROUP

Last Thursday, 8 parishioners (6 ladies and 2 men) went for a lovely walk up the Mt Kembla Track.



It was a beautiful sunny day and everyone enjoyed the exercise and a chat while social distancing.

For those unable to join us last Thursday, we are planning another walk on **Thursday 27 August**.

We will meet at 9.30am on the corner of Cordeaux Road and Booreea Boulevard.

Please bring water and a snack with you.

THANK YOU!

Many thanks to all who came along and helped with the preparation in the removal of the demountable. They say 'many hands make light work' - in this case, many hands certainly achieved great things!

Sr Kerry



A VOCATION VIEW

"The gifts and the call of God are irrevocable."

Use the gifts that God has given you to stir into flame the gift of faith. (*Romans 11:29*)



If you want to talk about your discernment, please contact the Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Duane Fernandez, at: vocations@dow.org.au

CARMELITE MEETING

A Carmelite Meeting will be held on

Saturday 15 August at 10.30am

in St Joseph's meeting room.

If you are interested in attending, you must register by contacting Vera Cleary on either

vera.cleary09@gmail.com

or

0415 926 132

as numbers are strictly limited due to government regulations.



THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME – AIRS SUNDAY 16 AUGUST 2020 –

This week we have Fr Mark De Battista giving us a Gospel reflection for this Sunday; some brilliant music; and short talks from some of Australia's best Catholic presenters, including Pat Keady talking about Courage.



The Journey is available from Friday every week for free download at www.jcr.org.au

DO YOU HAVE ANY USED STAMPS... FOR CHARITY?



All used stamps that we collect here in our parish are sent to Sydney to raise money for the work of the Sisters of St Joseph in Peru.

Thank you to the parishioners who have placed their used stamps in the box at the side of the church in the past — your support is greatly appreciated!

Please continue to place all of your used stamps in the box provided near the church side door.

Please remember to leave a 1cm/½" border around the stamp!



RAISING YOUR CHILD IN A DIGITAL WORLD

Edmund Rice College invites local families to discuss raising children in the digital world through an open webinar **6pm-7pm on Thursday 27 August 2020** with Dr Tania McMahon, a clinical psychologist and leading expert, hosted by the College Pastoral Care Team. In this free webinar Dr McMahon will present information to help support parents on:

- The biological basis of behavioural addictions
- Benefits of games
- How technology is addictive by design
- The latest research on screen time
- Warning signs of addictions
- The impact of technology on mental health
- How to have conversations about technology
- Strategies for managing screen time at home
- Encouraging positive and shared screen time

You'll find the webinar 'Zoom' link at:

<https://zoom.us/j/96509520276>

"Children spend approximately 50% of their waking hours online, with 20% of this time being at school."

SUNDAY 16 AUGUST 2020 — 20th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

First Reading — Isaiah 56:1,6-7 — *I will lead the foreigners to my holy mountain.*

Thus says the Lord:

Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest.

Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain.

I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

Responsorial Psalm — *O God, let all the nations praise you!*

1. O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help. *R.*
2. Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth. *R.*
3. Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him. *R.*



Second Reading — Romans 11:13-15,29-32 — *The gifts and call of God are irrevocable.*

Let me tell you pagans this:

I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. Alleluia!

Gospel — Matthew 15:21-28 — *Woman, you have great faith.*

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

BAPTISMS AND RECONCILIATION

The Sacraments of Baptism and Reconciliation are available again, by appointment with Fr Duane.

NB: There are no set times for either of these Sacraments at this point, and appointments for Reconciliation should be made away from Mass times, so as not to complicate the monitoring system for Masses. Please contact Fr Duane: duane.fernandez@dow.org.au or 0414 626 357.