

# PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

48-50 Princes Highway (PO Box 14) Unanderra NSW 2526

[www.unanderraparish.org.au](http://www.unanderraparish.org.au)

[www.facebook.com/Immaculate-Conception-Unanderra-Parish-102440924742769/](https://www.facebook.com/Immaculate-Conception-Unanderra-Parish-102440924742769/)



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**Parish Assistant:** Sr Kerry Gardiner  
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**Parish Pastoral Council President:** Mark Walsh  
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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 Secretary:** Mrs Melissa Bridges (Mon/Wed/Fri)

**Parish Office:** Email: [unanderra@dow.org.au](mailto:unanderra@dow.org.au)  
Website: [www.unanderraparish.org.au](http://www.unanderraparish.org.au)  
Phone: 4271 1068  
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## TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B) – 5 SEPT 2021

**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.**

### *Message from Fr Duane*

This Sunday I thank God for the love of my own father, and of fathers throughout the nation, as we celebrate Fathers Day. Let us also pray for those for whom Fathers Day may bring some sadness, through grief, loss, or complicated relationships. May God bless all fathers and father figures among us, that they may model ever more perfectly the love of God, especially through the intercession of St Joseph, earthly father of Jesus.

This week also begins National Child Protection Week, an initiative of NAPCAN (the National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect - more information to be found here <https://www.napcan.org.au/get-involved-2021/>) The Church in general and we as a parish community always support this cause, including learning humbly from past mistakes as a Church, and as a Church in Australia we will mark "Safeguarding Sunday" next Sunday 12th September.

Though not directly related, this week I noticed some sound advice from NSW Chief Psychiatrist Dr Murray Wright regarding caring for children and young people during the present pandemic, and it is fitting to reflect and act upon this for our children this week: "Some kids will act out and get irritable and angry, defiant. Some kids will withdraw. Some kids, particularly younger kids, might become clingy and really insecure. Parents should assume their kids are struggling with the pandemic, because we all are, and make it a topic of conversation. Rather than judging our kids when they're behaving inappropriately or causing difficulties in the household, spend some time and say, 'How's it going with you at the moment? How are you coping with this? You must be missing school, you must be missing your friends.' Try and give the opportunity to talk about it. It's really important to balance that tendency for people to be despairing and overwhelmed with a sense of hope. This is something we will get through but it's very challenging" (accessed from Sydney Morning Herald online at, August 30 2021).

I encourage all of you to act on this wise advice with the children in your life. Moreover, let's remember that the greatest reason for hope for our children and for us is our faith in a loving God. If it is not already a regular practice I encourage you to start praying with your children and teaching them how to pray regularly, that their hearts will be ready to receive the gifts of hope and peace that God wants to give them (and us) even in these difficult times.

**Fr Duane Fernandez—Parish Priest**

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

#### Recently Deceased

Dorothy Philpott, Barry Bolt  
Goitom Woldermariam  
Filomena Maruca, Jane Barrett  
Jereld Dwyer, Brian Barlow,  
James Mehl, Alexina Bezzina

#### Anniversaries

Richard Roche, Bruce Walsh  
Michael Vd Linden, Dawn McHugh

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

[unanderra@dow.org.au](mailto:unanderra@dow.org.au) / 4271 1068

Monday: 8:30am-3:30pm

Tuesday: Closed

Wednesday: 8:30am-3:30pm

Thursday: Closed

Friday: 8:30am-3pm

# Message from Sr Kerry

Dear Parishioners and Friends of Immaculate Conception Parish Unanderra,

It was a horrible day. Words could never express how heart wrenching the day was.

My mum, who had lost all mobility, was taken into the specialist on a stretcher. Eventually we were called into the specialist room. I stood next to my mum. The doctor covered my mum's left eye and then held up a spanned hand displaying five fingers. My mum was asked what she could see. Nothing had prepared me for my mum's response. Mum said. 'I see nothing!' My mum had lost all sight in one eye. Blind! I felt devastated. The doctor moved away, and my mum said with dignified serenity, 'Kerry, I have to be grateful that I have had sight for 92 years.'

When my mum first moved to the nursing home, I felt so sad for her. This was my mum and she deserved better. Mum was in a two bed room and the other lady could sit by the window and look out onto a garden. As for my mum, all she could see from her bed was the long, hospital like corridor, and the comings and goings of the staff. I envied the woman who had the window.

My envy was soon turned to gratitude, for my mum with her left eye could still see up the corridor. She could see her family walking towards her as they came for their very regular visits. The joy of their steps could be felt in the eye that still had sight. My disease of envy had certainly been cured. Like my mum I had much to be thankful for.

Today's reading speaks so much of healing. Healing comes in so many forms. In relation to ourselves, if we are honest with ourselves, physical healing needed is probably down the list. What needs healing within me today? Whether my dad is living or deceased, am I at peace? Am I at peace with my children? What blinds me from seeing the goodness of others? Is there one person this week that, in some way, I can extend healing?

As we walk this week I pray that each of us has courage.....courage that prevents us from stumbling over the things behind us.

Always with my blessings and prayers,

**Sr Kerry Gardiner**

## LIVE STREAMED MASSES



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

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



**MASS  
FOR YOU**  
*at home*

Mass for you at home: <https://massforyou.com.au/>

## ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

	Church Washing	
Sun	Counting	
Sat	Church Cleaning	
	Lectors	Lawns —
Sat 6pm Mass		No Lawn mowing this week
Sun 8am Mass		

## ALL YOUR PASTORAL NEEDS



For any pastoral needs:  
please contact



**Fr Duane Fernandez - 0414 626 357**

**duane.fernandez@dow.org.au**

**Sr Kerry Gardiner - 0421 463 871**

**Kerry.Gardiner@sosj.org.au**

## PARISH GIVING

We have received requests from parishioners asking how they can financially support the parish of Immaculate Conception during COVID lockdown while unable to attend Sunday mass.

In a previous message from the Parish Finance Council it was strongly recommended that regular contributions be made by electronic funds transfer. These can be a one off donation or a regular weekly or monthly contribution.

One off donations can be made directly into the parish bank account: Immaculate Conception Church

**BSB: 066-711 Account No: 001789**

Regular contributions can be organised by completing the Catholic Development Fund Planned Giving Direct Debit Form on [www.dow.org.au/plannedgiving](http://www.dow.org.au/plannedgiving).

Monthly contributions are deducted on the 10th of each month.

If you do choose to organise a regular contribution or make a one off donation, please advise the parish office either by email [unanderra@dow.org.au](mailto:unanderra@dow.org.au) or by contacting the parish office on **4271 1068** so the parish records can be updated. Thank you.

## VOCATION NEWS



Ask God to open your ears to hear his call. May he also free your tongue to proclaim the good news. Consider serving God as a priest, brother or sister. (Mark 7:31-37).

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

## BISHOP'S SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM PARENTAL SURVEY

A discussion paper to assist in the development of a Sacraments of Initiation policy for the Diocese is being developed and Bishop Mascord is seeking feedback from parents and, via parishes, is reaching out especially to parents with children in state schools who have presented their sons daughters for the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. If that is you, we would love to hear from you!

You can access the Survey by simply clicking here: <https://dow.sh/SacramentsSurvey> and we would be most grateful for your feedback.

## ONLINE ALPHA

Catholic Youth Ministry Wollongong is holding an online youth alpha series for all young people **aged 13 to 18 years old**.

Youth Alpha is a video series that tackles questions on faith, life, and God. The weekly online youth group will run from **7pm to 8pm each Friday** starting soon. For more information and to register your interest, please visit <https://forms.gle/oXmRjx6QkNeydihs8>

## THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME

– AIRS SUNDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2021 –

On the Journey this week: Fr Joseph Murphy says this gospel foreshadows the liturgical action during baptism. Mother Hilda on the constant stream of little things that show love and appreciation, Michelle Vass ponders the mystery of God's will for us, and Torrien Lau on falling, getting back up and repeating instead of allowing ego to fool ourselves. Listen at [jcr.org.au](http://jcr.org.au)



## CARITAS AUSTRALIA –YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED



Your support can provide aid and relief to humanitarian crisis, like the one currently unfolding in Afghanistan,

Lebanon and Haiti, where hundreds of thousands of people are now facing displacement, drought, COVID-19 and poverty.

To provide support, you can donate to Caritas Australia's Emergency Response Appeal at <https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/> or by calling 1800 024 413 toll free.

## EVENING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION

**Livestreamed from St Francis Xavier's Cathedral,  
Wollongong Saturday 6pm**

Each Saturday during the lockdown please join our Clergy and Seminarians for Saturday Evening Prayer and Benediction at 6pm.

Go to: [livestream.lumenchristi.org.au](http://livestream.lumenchristi.org.au) to watch LIVE

## SERVICE NSW—COVID 19 CHECK IN CARD

There is now a quicker and easier way, with Service NSW launching personalised check-in cards to replace scanning in with QR codes for those without smartphones.

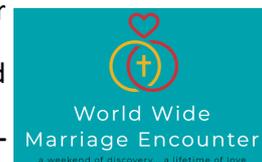
The cards contain a unique QR code that holds a person's registered contact details. When they attend a venue, a staff member can scan the card to register their attendance and details, rather than having them fill out a form. The cards are available from [Service NSW online](http://Service NSW online), or by calling 13 77 88.

## MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT

We are offering an opportunity for you to learn to become the best version of yourselves together and live your best life in love!

Come and join us on **September 10 - 12, 2021** for a Virtual Marriage Encounter Weekend via Zoom. Open to married couples, priests & religious.

Book online at [www.wwme.org.au](http://www.wwme.org.au) or contact Christine & Terry Mahony on 0490 774 419 or [nswbookings@wwme.org.au](mailto:nswbookings@wwme.org.au)



## 5 SEPTEMBER 2021 — TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B)

**First Reading** — Isaiah 35:4-7 *Then the ears of the deaf shall be opened and the tongues of the dumb shall speak*

Say to all faint hearts,  
'Courage! Do not be afraid.  
Look, your God is coming,  
vengeance is coming,  
the retribution of God;  
he is coming to save you.'  
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
the ears of the deaf unsealed,  
then the lame shall leap like a deer  
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy;  
for water gushes in the desert,  
streams in the wasteland,  
the scorched earth becomes a lake,  
the parched land springs of water.

**Responsorial Psalm — Praise the Lord, my soul!**

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed.  
It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. R.
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down.  
It is the Lord who loves the just, the Lord, who protects the stranger. R.
3. The Lord upholds the widow and orphan but thwarts the path of the wicked.  
The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. R.

**Second Reading** — James 2:1-5 *Has not God chosen the poor of the world to inherit the kingdom?*

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats'; then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that?

Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

**Gospel Acclamation**

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

**Gospel** — Mark 7:31-37 *He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.*

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'