

# 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)

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**Parish School:** St Pius X Primary School  
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Phone: 4271 3550 | Fax: 4272 2954

**School Principal:** Mrs Pauline Chrostowski

**Parish Secretary:** Mrs Melissa Bridges (Mon/Wed/Fri)

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## TWENTY SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B) – 3 OCT 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*

You may be aware of recent government announcements regarding a “road map” towards easing of restrictions – including for places of worship. Our Diocesan response to these announcements is still being finalized by Bishop Brian and his advisors. Our Parish Pastoral Councils and our generous monitors will then need to be consulted before applying Diocesan policy for our parish. The most important thing for you to note at this time is simply to stay up to date with our own parish announcements, as actual timelines “on the ground” will likely differ from those proposed by the Government. In other words - watch this space!

In the week commencing 11 October, a euthanasia-related bill is likely to be presented to NSW Parliament. Bishop Brian encourages us to contact our local MPs to express opposition to this bill. A separate attachment with this message contains more details, listing some reasons for the Church’s opposition to the bill, and how best to engage with our MPs. I encourage you to read that attachment, act upon it, and pray for our civil leaders at this time. I also understand that this can be a sensitive topic, and if anyone wishes to discuss it further please do not hesitate to contact me at [duane.fernandez@dow.org.au](mailto:duane.fernandez@dow.org.au) and I will get back to you at my earliest opportunity.

The month of October, marked by the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, is traditionally the “Month of the Rosary”. This custom began with Pope Leo XIII in the late 1800s and has been encouraged by Popes ever since, down to our own Pope Francis who has a deep love for the Rosary. I encourage you this month to read (or read again) the Apostolic Letter of Pope St John Paul the 2nd which gave me a deeper appreciation for the Rosary: [https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/apost\\_letters/2002/documents/hf\\_jp-ii\\_apl\\_20021016\\_rosarium-virginis-mariae.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/apost_letters/2002/documents/hf_jp-ii_apl_20021016_rosarium-virginis-mariae.html) and through the intercession of our Blessed Mother may you find peace during these challenging times.

**Fr Duane Fernandez—Parish Priest**

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

#### Recently Deceased

Vita Barbagallo, Margaret Harris  
Noel Smith, Evelyn Ryan

#### Anniversaries

Marta Boncompagni,  
Walter Vd Linden, Giuseppe Rostirola,  
Tracey Marchesi  
Pay Heffernan

### 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,

Last Saturday I 'attended,' by livestream, the funeral of Viola. Viola is the mother of my friend, Anna. Viola hadn't been well. The ambulance was called for. While waiting for the ambulance Anna's husband said to Anna, 'You don't look well.' With that Anna collapsed.

The ambulance arrived and took Anna and her mum to hospital. Both were suffering from Covid. They were admitted and Viola was not improving. Viola died.

In speaking with Anna, she could only talk of the miracle she had experienced. Anna spoke of the miracle of being able to be with her mum in her dying and her death. Had Anna not had Covid she wouldn't have been allowed to visit her mum and Viola would have died alone.

In all the distress, sadness, illness and grief Anna still had the eyes and heart to recognise a miracle; a miracle she will always be grateful for.

In the reading today we have the words: 'May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives.' Like all of us, you too have experienced distressing times, worries that seem endless, uncertainty etc. Have you ever looked back on such experiences and recognised the hand of God in those times?



Each night this week are you able to ponder your day and recognise your own miracle, big or small, where God has blessed your you?

*'There where you are you will find God.'* Mary MacKillop

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: <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



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## PRAYER SEMINARS EXPERIENCE VARIOUS PRAYER STYLES —ALL WELCOME

A series of Prayer Seminars, run weekly, **7pm-8:30pm** via Zoom. These are open to anyone in the Diocese to attend any or all of the 12 evenings.

Each week a different presenter will lead us in a style of prayer that is meaningful to them. The seminars will include information, but also the opportunity to be led by an expert in the prayer experience. You are welcome to come to any or all of the seminars.

Registering does not require you to attend every seminar. Please follow the link to register for Prayer Seminars: <https://www.dow.org.au/events>

**Tuesday 5th October, Frances Tilly** will lead us in The Examen prayer, and Tuesday 12th October Sr Sue Barker SGS on Introduction to Lectio Divina.

Come and discover the beautiful practice of interior silence using a sacred word and simply rest in the presence of God.

## VOCATION NEWS



Children come to believe those they love. We pray for married couples that they may be rooted in Jesus and share their love with their families. The call to married life is a special vocation. 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)

## PHONE BUDDY

A couple of weeks back it was suggested we may like to take up the opportunity to ring another parishioner or to receive a call from a parishioner. Thank you to the two people who responded. Since there was a low uptake on this suggestion, we won't be taking this idea any further. I do realise many of you are keeping very regular contact with others and there is a wonderful team who have been busy ensuring our parishioners are kept connected. Thank you to each of you for all you do in your own way. God bless, Sr Kerry

## SEASON OF CREATION

The Season of Creation begins September 1, on the designated **World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation**. It concludes on **October 4, the Feast of St. Francis**.

The Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace have created five prayer cards which focus on the themes of the statement. This week's prayer focuses on [Wonder And Awe](#)



## 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 3 OCTOBER 2021 —

On the Journey this week: Fr Chris Sarkis in his gospel reflection says the Church is not lacking in true compassion and understanding to the individual human situation in marriages. The countdown to Plenary Council continues with two delegates in conversation with Jude Hennessy. Plus, Mother Hilda on the life of Dame Margo Fontaine. Michelle Vass compares Psalm 34 to Chapter 15 of John's Gospel, and Torrien Lau discovers that the Holy Spirit often puts people in our lives for a purpose. Listen at [jcr.org.au](http://jcr.org.au)



## BLESSING OF ANIMALS: MONDAY, 4 OCT 9:30AM—11AM PARISH OF ST MICHAEL, THIRROUL 325 LAWRENCE HARGRAVE DRIVE.

The annual Blessing of Animals will be held on the long weekend in October, from **9:30am to 11:00am on Monday, 4 October**. All animals are welcome. This year, because of social distancing regulations, all animals must keep two paws or two wings apart. You may "walk by" with your pets anytime between 9:30am and 11:00am so as to maintain social distancing (two paws or two wings apart).

On 4 October, people all over the world will be celebrating the feast day of the Patron Saint of Animals, Saint Francis of Assisi. It is customary that in remembrance of St Francis of Assisi's love for all creatures, animals are led to churches for a special ceremony called the "Blessing of the Animals."

## SERVICE NSW—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](#), or by calling 13 77 88.

## MEN'S KICKSTART PROGRAM: MONDAY NIGHT—4 Oct 7:30PM—8PM

Men can attend any of the remaining sessions that engage with some great talks from the National Catholic Men's Gathering (NCMG) presentations. Kickstart is being facilitated by menALIVE for the Diocese of Wollongong, online by Peter Gabauer and Colin Bennett and the menALIVE leaders from the Diocese of Wollongong.

To register go to <https://www.dow.org.au/events/ancmgkickstart>

Sessions are short and sharp and a great way for men in lockdown to come together to engage with the theme **'Brothers What must we Do?'**

Missioning and Sending: Archbishop Julian Porteous

## 3 OCTOBER 2021 — TWENTY SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B)

### First Reading — Genesis 2:18-24 *They were two in one flesh*

The Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone. I will make him a helpmate.' So from the soil the Lord God fashioned all the wild beasts and all the birds of heaven. These he brought to the man to see what he would call them; each one was to bear the name the man would give it. The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of heaven and all the wild beasts. But no helpmate suitable for man was found for him. So the Lord God made the man fall into a deep sleep. And while he slept, he took one of his ribs and enclosed it in flesh. The Lord God built the rib he had taken from the man into a woman, and brought her to the man. The man exclaimed:

'This at last is bone from my bones,  
and flesh from my flesh!  
This is to be called woman,  
for this was taken from man.'

This is why a man leaves his father and mother and joins himself to his wife, and they become one body.

### Responsorial Psalm — May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives.

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!  
By the labour of your hands you shall eat. You will be happy and prosper. R.
2. Your wife like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house;  
your children like shoots of the olive, around your table. R.
3. Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord.  
May the Lord bless you from Zion in a happy Jerusalem all the days of your life!  
May you see your children's children. On Israel, peace! R.

### Second Reading — Hebrews 2:9-11 *He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified have the same origin*

We see in Jesus one who was for a short while made lower than the angels and is now crowned with glory and splendour because he submitted to death; by God's grace he had to experience death for all mankind.

As it was his purpose to bring a great many of his sons into glory, it was appropriate that God, for whom everything exists and through whom everything exists, should make perfect, through suffering, the leader who would take them to their salvation. For the one who sanctifies, and the ones who are sanctified, are of the same stock; that is why he openly calls them brothers.

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia Alleluia! If we love one another, God will live in us in perfect love. Alleluia!

### Gospel — Mark 10:2-16 *What God has joined, no man must divide*

Some Pharisees approached Jesus and asked, 'Is it against the law for a man to divorce his wife?' They were testing him. He answered them, 'What did Moses command you?' 'Moses allowed us' they said 'to draw up a writ of dismissal and so to divorce.' Then Jesus said to them, 'It was because you were so unteachable that he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation God made them male and female. This is why a man must leave father and mother, and the two become one body. They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide.' Back in the house the disciples questioned him again about this, and he said to them, 'The man who divorces his wife and marries another is guilty of adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another she is guilty of adultery too.'

People were bringing little children to him, for him to touch them. The disciples turned them away, but when Jesus saw this he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. I tell you solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' Then he put his arms round them, laid his hands on them and gave them his blessing.