

# 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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**Polish Chaplain:** Fr Jerzy Slowinski  
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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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## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C) – 5 DEC 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.**

Weekly Programme	Immaculate Conception UNANDERRA	St Therese WEST WOLLONGONG
<b>Mon 6 December</b> <i>St Nicholas, bishop</i>	Mass: 7am Adoration: 4:30pm Mass: 5:30pm	
<b>Tues 7 December</b> <i>St Ambrose, bishop</i>	Adoration: 4:30pm Mass: 5.30pm	Mass: 7.45am
<b>Wed 8 December</b> <i>Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	Mass: 9.30am Mass: 11am (Polish) Mass: 7pm	Adoration: 4.30pm Reconciliation: 4.30pm-5.15pm Mass: 5.30pm
<b>Thur 9 December</b>	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm—5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm	Mass: 7:45am
<b>Fri 10 December</b> <i>Our Lady of Loreto</i>	Mass: 7am	Mass: 9:30am
<b>Sat 11 December</b> <i>St Damasus I, pope</i>	Rosary: 7.10am Mass: 7.30am Reconciliation: 5pm-5.30pm Vigil Mass: 6pm	Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9.30am-10.30am
<b>Sun 12 December</b> <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (Polish)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

#### Recently Deceased

Andrew Alvares, Bishop Bill Wright  
 Brian Cartwright, Sr Joan Miles sgs  
 Jim Gill

#### Anniversaries

Nelson Mandella  
 Fredrick Brame

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

### 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

## *Messages from Fr Duane*

Thanks to the Immaculate Conception and St Therese (ICAST) Parish Pastoral Councils, we have established a Mass timetable for Christmas. At this stage there will be no capacity limits, and as such no need for advance booking. However we know how rapidly things can change so please make sure to stay tuned in to parish communications leading up to Christmas. The best way to remain connected with ongoing communications is to join our emailing list – simply email [unanderra@dow.org.au](mailto:unanderra@dow.org.au) or [westwollongong@dow.org.au](mailto:westwollongong@dow.org.au) to be placed on the respective parish emailing list.

### CHRISTMAS MASSES

#### Friday 24th December

- 6pm TIGS Hall, West Wollongong (Fr Duane)
- 6pm Immaculate Conception Church Unanderra (Fr Paul Gurr)
- 8pm Immaculate Conception Church Unanderra (Fr Paul Gurr)
- 9pm St Therese Church West Wollongong (Fr Duane)
- 10pm Immaculate Conception Church Unanderra (*Polish Mass with Fr Jerzy Slowinski*)

#### Saturday 25th December

- 8am Immaculate Conception Church Unanderra (Fr Duane)
- 10am St Therese Church West Wollongong (Fr Duane)
- 10am Immaculate Conception Church Unanderra (*Polish Mass with Fr Jerzy Slowinski*)
- 6pm Immaculate Conception Church Unanderra (Fr Duane)

#### SUNDAY 26th DECEMBER (THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY)

- 8am Immaculate Conception Church Unanderra (Fr Duane)
  - 10am St Therese Church West Wollongong (Fr Duane)
  - 10am Immaculate Conception Church Unanderra (*Polish Mass with Fr Jerzy Slowinski*)
- (Note: No Sunday 5pm Mass on Boxing Day as Fr Duane will go home to visit family)

We have begun preparations for **Confirmations for 2021**, with thanks to the Sacramental Team across our two parishes, who have shown great wisdom and flexibility throughout these past two Covid-affected years. Given capacity limits, the ceremonies will be special ceremonies for Confirmation candidates and their guests only, and will take places with a Liturgy of the Word on **Monday 13th December (at Unanderra)** and **Tuesday 14th December (at West Wollongong)**. I thank the families of these young people for their flexibility and co-operation with our Covid-modified plans. Let's all keep these candidates and their families in our prayers as they take this significant step in their faith journey, sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.

Let us also keep in our prayers **Benjamin Gandy** who is about to be ordained as Deacon. Benjamin's family are regular faithful parishioners, and Benjamin still occasionally attends our Mass with them, and as also shared his musical gifts by playing the organ for our Masses at times. He has studied in the Seminary of the Good Shepherd this past 6 years and will be ordained in Sydney this Saturday 4th December. We keep Benjamin in our prayers during this sacred time of his life and also offer grateful prayers for his parents Peter and Leisa and all the family.

Thank you to all who have attended the **Novena in preparation for our Parish Feast Day**. It continues with the 4:30pm Holy Hours and 5:30pm Masses (except on the weekend with Holy Hour only and usual Mass times instead) as listed in the timetable. I look forward to celebrating our **Parish Feast Day with a special Mass concelebrated by Fr Jerzy on Wednesday 8th December at 7pm** (in addition to the usual 9:30am Wednesday Mass with Fr Jerzy). Please join me in giving thanks to God (as Mary always did) for our wonderful Parish community and to ask God's continued blessings upon us through the intercession of Mary, the Immaculate Conception.

**Fr Duane Fernandez — Parish Priest**

### ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

	<b>Church Washing</b>	Helen Murphy
Sun 12 Dec	<b>Counting</b>	A Kelly, B Farraway
Sat 11 Dec	<b>Church Cleaning</b>	W & J Rodgers, J Andersson
	<b>Lectors</b>	<b>Lawns — Sat 11 Dec</b>
Sat 11 Dec 6pm Mass	V Cleary	No lawn mowing this week
Sun 12 Dec 8am Mass	P Gunning	

### ALL YOUR PASTORAL NEEDS



For any pastoral needs:  
please contact



**Fr Duane Fernandez - 0414 626 357**  
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**Sr Kerry Gardiner - 0421 463 871**  
[Kerry.Gardiner@sosj.org.au](mailto:Kerry.Gardiner@sosj.org.au)

## PLENARY COUNCIL FIRST ASSEMBLY - MEMBER Q&A SESSION

Interested in hearing about the First Assembly of the Plenary Council, held 3-10 October?

Some of the Diocese of Wollongong Plenary Council Members will be sharing their experiences and answering questions via a Zoom livestream on the new date of **6 December 2021, 7:00p.m. – 8:30p.m.** The event will also be recorded and provided to Parishes.

Please register [dow.org.au/events](http://dow.org.au/events) where you can also include any questions or topics you would like to hear about. There will also be a small amount of time given to questions submitted during the event through the Zoom Q&A function.

## ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

The Vinnies Christmas Giving Tree is up in the church. **Donations of food and toys** for our Christmas hampers is most appreciated. Please take a tag, purchase the item and place under our Giving Tree. Your generosity will make a difference to many local disadvantaged families.



## VOCATION NEWS



John the Baptist cried out and made ready for the Lord. Promote the Gospel in our community (Luke 3:1-6)

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)

## FREE ACCESS TO 2021 AUSTRALASIAN CALLED TO DISCIPLESHIP CONFERENCE

On 20 November, nearly 700 people participated in this conference for Parish Renewal across Australia and New Zealand and the key notes have now been made available at no cost to clergy and parishes. Be encouraged and inspired by following the links below:

**Session 1 (DR & Leadership – Fr James Mallon)**

<https://youtu.be/ZMBDFrU9xp4>

**Session 2 (Panel Discussion)**

<https://youtu.be/U3KN29QHRik>

**Session 3 (Evangelisation – Dr Ralph Martin)**

<https://youtu.be/Lbi0HYCWiqY>

**Session 5 (Holy Spirit – Dcn Peter Pellicaan)**

<https://youtu.be/qA05madbl0w>

## YEAR OF ST JOSEPH

Next Wednesday, **8th Dec concludes the Year of St Joseph.** Let's quietly pray this blessing for each other.

*May the blessings of Joseph be among us  
attuning us to God's will each day  
attuning us with humility to those around us and  
attuning us to God's transformative dream for each  
of us.*

*May the blessings of Joseph be among us  
in our living and hospitality.*

*May the blessings of Joseph be among us  
Still opening us to the future and for the dreams that  
God still has for us.*

## THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME

– AIRS SUNDAY 5 DECEMBER 2021 –

On the Journey this week: Fr Bernard Gordon says this week's readings call us to be clothed in God's joy. Mother Hilda says God's name is our name. Fr Mike Delaney remembers childhood sayings that have new meanings as an adult. Darren McDowell discusses the difference between leadership and management. Listen at [jcr.org.au](http://jcr.org.au)



## BLESSED ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS REFLECTIONS

**Blessed** is a 92-page pocket-size book containing short spiritually rich daily reflections from the beginning of Advent (28 November 2021) through to the Baptism of the Lord (9 January 2022).

**Blessed** is available from the seat near the side door of the church and **costs \$3.00.** Please leave your money in the box at the end of the seat.



## MESSAGE FROM SR KERRY

There is a sense of anticipation and joy in the air, while at the same time there is a cloud of disappointment. Next Saturday our Bishop, Bishop Brian Mascord, will be here with us as we gather to celebrate **Fr Duane's 10th Anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood.**

The disappointment comes in not being able to gather after the Mass for cake and coffee. Sadly, that is the state of our nation now due to Covid.

However, I think that disappointment is far outweighed by the joy of this occasion. Celebrating with Fr Duane for ten years of wonderful service to God, to the Church and to us.

Once a lady asked me to pray for her daughter that she would become a nun. The mother anxiously desired this for her daughter as she 'didn't want her to have the confinements she had.' I can assure you the road of celibacy, priesthood or religious life is not always easy. What marriage is perfect? What occupation is the smooth sailing? Everyone has ups and downs, worries and concerns, bad days and good days.

Let's celebrate Fr Duane for living his life in faithfulness despite the harsh days and the ups and downs. He has lived and continuing to live his mission and dedication to the God who called him and loves him. May our evening be one of acknowledge for all Fr Duane is to us. We have much to celebrate! In the words of St Paul today **'let us pray with joy.'**

## WALKING GROUP

Seven enthusiastic walkers enjoyed their walk on 11th November and the cuppa and chat at the cafe after the walk. Therefore we have decided to do the same walk again.....**on 9th December.**

We will gather at the **shops on Derribong Drive Cordeaux Heights at 9.30am.** There is plenty of parking. We will walk up Cordeaux Road to Mount Kembla. After the walk, everyone is invited to enjoy morning tea together at the Cordeaux Cafe. If you are unable to join us for the walk, you may like to join us for morning tea around 11.00am. Everyone is welcome.

## 5 DECEMBER 2021 — SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C)

**First Reading** — Baruch 5:1-9      *Jerusalem—God will show you splendour*

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress,  
put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever,  
wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you,  
put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head:  
since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven,  
since the name God gives you for ever will be,  
'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness.'  
Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights  
and turn your eyes to the east:  
see your sons reassembled from west and east  
at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them.  
Though they left you on foot,  
with enemies for an escort,  
now God brings them back to you  
like royal princes carried back in glory.  
For God has decreed the flattening  
of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills,  
the filling of the valleys to make the ground level  
so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God.  
And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade  
for Israel at the command of God;  
for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory  
with his mercy and integrity for escort.

**Responsorial Psalm — The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy**

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream.  
Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs.      R.
2. The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!'  
What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.      R.
3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land.  
Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap.      R.
4. They go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed for the sowing:  
they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves.      R.

**Second Reading** — Philippians 1:3-6,8-11      *Show yourselves sinless and without blame in the day of Christ*

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes; and God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia Alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

**Gospel** — Luke 3: 1-6      *All people shall see the salvation of God*

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah: A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth. And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.