

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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 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
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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C) – 12 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
Mon 13 December <i>St Lucy</i>	Mass: 7am	
Tues 14 December <i>St John of the Cross</i>	Mass: 5.30pm	Mass: 7.45am
Wed 15 December	Mass: 9.30am	Adoration: 4.30pm Reconciliation: 4.30pm-5.15pm Mass: 5.30pm
Thur 16 December	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm—5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm	Mass: 7:45am
Fri 17 December	Mass: 7am	Mass: 9:30am
Sat 18 December	Rosary: 7.10am Mass: 7.30am Reconciliation: 5pm-5.30pm Vigil Mass: 6pm	Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9.30am-10.30am
Sun 19 December <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i>	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (<i>Polish</i>)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

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

Anniversaries

William Patrick Weldon
 Norm Brangrove Snr, Ian Ritchie
 Fr Andrew Apostoli

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

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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

I take this opportunity to thank all who came together to prayerfully celebrate our Parish Feast Day on the Feast of Immaculate Conception and the Novena of Holy Hours and Masses in preparation. I thank Fr Jerzy for making that Novena possible in my absence for the most part of it due to other bookings. I am sure that the faithful prayers of so many parishioners will be a source of many continued blessings for our parish and beyond, through the loving intercession of Mary, our Mother, the Immaculate Conception.

On the same day, the 8th of December, the “Year of St Joseph” inaugurated by Pope Francis last year officially came to an end. I thank Sister Kerry for providing us with fortnightly bulletin reflections on St Joseph throughout this past year. Remembering the motive for which Pope Francis inaugurated the Year of St Joseph – in his words, “to increase our love for this great saint, to encourage us to implore his intercession and to imitate his virtues and his zeal” – let us strive to continue now and into the future to deepen our devotion to this great saint. Let us hold on to this prayer to St Joseph from Pope Francis, as we move deeper into this Advent season and beyond:

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.*

*Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.*

More resources can be found here: <https://www.catholic.org.au/yearofstjoseph>

I wish to also thank Sister Kerry for initiating the celebration of my 10th Anniversary of Ordination, together with the other helpers and Bishop Brian for making the time in his busy schedule to come and celebrate the Vigil Mass this weekend. It is a good opportunity to celebrate the gift of Priesthood together, and good for me to celebrate this milestone (albeit a relatively small one) with you, my parishioners, who are the reason why God called me to become a priest in the first place. Please pray for me that I will continue to grow to become a better priest every day, and be assured of my constant, grateful prayers for you all.

Fr Duane Fernandez — Parish Priest

Message from Sr Kerry

This Sunday is a day of celebration for the whole church as we celebrate Gaudete Sunday. We as a parish also have our own celebration of Fr Duane’s Priestly Ordination Anniversary. We are encouraged by the readings to cry out with joy.

What is joy? It certainly isn’t artificial. It comes from deep within the heart and soul.

There’s a saying.....”we can’t have rainbows without the rain.” (Anon)

Rain is part of all of our lives. It can be worse when our rain comes in the thunderstorms of life. We have to bear the storms.

Another saying I like is....”some people walk in the rain, others just get wet.” (Roger Miller.)

Are you able this day to reflect on what gives you joy at this time? Are you able to follow that up with a prayer of gratitude to God and perhaps to another if they are the cause of this joy.

May the God of delight journey with you this week.

Sr Kerry Gardiner



ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

	Church Washing	Helen Murphy
Sun 19 Dec	Counting	M Murphy (FH), C Stratton, M Winner
Sat 18 Dec	Church Cleaning	F Fernandez, B Rice, R Tassone
	Lectors	Lawns — Sat 18 Dec
Sat 18 Dec 6pm Mass	L Milan	M and J Winner, M Walsh, S Carrigan
Sun 19 Dec 8am Mass	A Browne	

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

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Friday 24 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)

Saturday 25 December

8am	Immaculate Conception Church Unanderra	(Fr Duane)
10am	St Therese Church West Wollongong	(Fr Duane)
10am	Immaculate Conception Church Unanderra	(Polish Mass)
6pm	Immaculate Conception Church Unanderra	(Fr Duane)

Sunday 26 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)

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



"What ought we to do?" Let joy and gladness show forth in you. You are called to be the presence of Jesus. (Luke 3:10-18)

If you want to talk about your discernment, please contact the Diocesan Vocations

Director, Fr Duane Fernandez at 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/Lbl0HYCWiQY>

Session 5 (Holy Spirit – Dcn Peter Pellican)

<https://youtu.be/qA05madbl0w>

POSITION VACANT

Shellharbour parish is seeking the services of a part time secretary for 3.5 days – **19.5 hours per week Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.**

The position requires skills in administration, bookkeeping and maintaining a database.

The parish secretary needs to be a committed and practising Catholic, embracing the teachings and ethos of the Catholic Church in their daily life.

If interested, please make contact via email to request an application pack for this position frances.vanleerdam@dow.org.au

Applications close 5pm Tuesday 14th December 2021.

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME – AIRS SUNDAY 12 DECEMBER 2021 –

On the Journey this week: Fr Patrick Vaughan's Gospel reflection. Mother Hilda on curing an arthritic heart, Sharon Brewer on her journey into the spirit of Advent and Christmas discovers the clues to answer the question put to John the Baptist; what must we do? Michelle Vass takes us into the spiritual world of brother fire. Listen at 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.



LAY CARMELITES

The Lay Carmelites will have a Prayer Meeting on Saturday **18 December between 10:30am and 12noon** in St Joseph's Room. You are reminded to register beforehand, wear a mask during the gathering and are invited to join them for lunch afterwards. For more information please call **0415 926 132**.

ADVENT RESOURCE

Families are invited to use this wonderful advent resource in preparing primary aged children for Christmas. It is full of games, activities, stories, and music. To use this free Catholic resource please click on

https://issuu.com/ccressnsw/docs/2021_adventchristmas_sre_family_resource_wollongon



SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT

Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles calls us to sobriety in our use of resources and energy, living with just enough, so we can ensure a good life for all.

<https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

CATHEDRAL BOOKS AND GIFTS WOLLONGONG

Please be advised the Cathedral Books and Gifts Wollongong has now re-opened.

Operating hours: **Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 10am – 2pm**

Entry via 38 Harbour Street, Wollongong
For any enquiries, please contact Wendy Douglas
0438 244 860

12 DECEMBER 2021 — THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C)

First Reading — Zephaniah 3:14-18 *With gladness the Lord will rejoice over you*

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion,
Israel, shout aloud!
Rejoice, exult with all your heart,
daughter of Jerusalem!
The Lord has repealed your sentence;
he has driven your enemies away.
The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst;
you have no more evil to fear.
When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem:
Zion, have no fear,
do not let your hands fall limp.
The Lord your God is in your midst,
a victorious warrior.
He will exult with joy over you,
he will renew you by his love;
he will dance with shouts of joy for you
as on a day of festival.

Responsorial Psalm — **Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel**

1. Truly, God is my salvation, I trust, I shall not fear.
For the Lord is my strength, my song, he became my saviour.
With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. R.
2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!
Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!
Declare the greatness of his name. R.
3. Sing a psalm to the Lord for he has done glorious deeds;
make them known to all the earth! People of Zion, sing and shout for joy,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. R.

Second Reading — Philippians 4:4-7 *The Lord is near*

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia Alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

Gospel — Luke 3: 10-18 *What, then, must we do*

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.