

PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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

www.unanderraparish.org.au

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CHRISTMAS DAY AND THE HOLY FAMILY (YEAR C) – 25 AND 26 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.

First reading: Isaiah 9:1-7

A son is given to us. The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian.

For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace. Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Responsorial psalm: Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord

1. O sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord all the earth.
O sing to the Lord, bless his name. R.
2. Proclaim his help day by day, tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples. R.
3. Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad, let the sea and all within it thunder praise,
let the land and all it bears rejoice, all the trees of the wood shout for joy
at the presence of the Lord for he comes, he comes to rule the earth. R.
4. With justice he will rule the world, he will judge the peoples with his truth. R.

Second reading: Titus 2:11-14

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while

we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia Alleluia! Good News and great joy to all the world: today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord. Alleluia

GOSPEL : Luke 2:1-14

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census - the first - took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing: 'God to God in the highest heaven, and peace to men who enjoy his favour'.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Brian Cartwright, Sr Joan Miles sgs
Jim Gill, Maureen Browne

Anniversaries

Maurice Connell, Yvonne Treuen
Mary Potts, Lucy Dalton
Jack Miller, Molly Rowe
Phyllis Staniforth, Frank Grech

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 have only learned over this past week of a conspiracy that was going on in recent times behind my back - organizing gifts for my anniversary. Your generosity in donations, kind words and prayers has been truly overwhelming. As you may know, I find this kind of attention quite embarrassing, but on the other hand your many expressions of kindness have made me even more grateful for the gift of the Priesthood and even more motivated to serve you with all my heart in the coming year. Thank you!

On this Feast of the Holy Family, we continue in the joy of the **"Christmas Octave"** (8 days marking the Christmas Feast), followed also by the Christmas Season, and I pray that it will be a time of deepening faith and hope in Christ for you and your families, that you may find more of that peace only he can give.

Fr Duane Fernandez — Parish Priest

Message from Sr Kerry

Christmas can mean many things to many people. For me it is always a time to gather with family in simplicity, but a day shared in deep love and gratitude for the gift of each other.

Many years ago my neighbour worked in a video shop. It saddened me to learn that Christmas Day was always the busiest day of the year for them. That speaks volumes. I find it a very sad fact of life. Not everyone has the joy that is mine on this day.

Whatever your day will be please know you are being held in my heart and prayer. I thank God for the gift you are to me and to each other.

As we mark the end of the year I would like to say 'thank you' to so many of you. Thank you for being part of the community in which I worship; thank you for the love, joy and celebration we experience as a community gathered around the table of the Lord. Thank you for your uniqueness and goodness. I have been stationed in many places, both city and country. I lovingly sum you up by saying you are city people with a country heart. I don't think I could pay you a greater compliment.

Thank you for the love and goodness that has sustained me. Each little act shown to me has been deeply appreciated. May you be blessed abundantly for the gift you are. Know my love and prayers shadow you in your daily life.

May the Christ born in our hearts continue to witness to others the Christ we encounter.

With my prayer and blessings,

Sr Kerry Gardiner

ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

	Church Washing	Jackie Allen
Sun 2 Jan	Counting	A Gunning, M Caudero, C Garrett
Sat 1 Jan	Church Cleaning	G Lord, L Zanetti, S Adams
	Lectors	Lawns — Sat 1 Jan
Sat 1 Jan 6pm Mass	D Ferrer	B Mannix, W Brown, F Caruana, R Murphy, J Lonard
Sun 2 Jan 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

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 BUCKET COLLECTION

The Unanderra St Vincent de Paul Society (Vinnies) will be holding a bucket collection after each Christmas Mass. Donation envelopes will also be provided for those wishing to donate.



VOCATION NEWS



God continues to send messengers to announce good news. Listen so you can tell the story to others. (Luke 1:39-45)

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 Pellicaan)

<https://youtu.be/qA05madbl0w>

THANKS FOR YOUR USED STAMPS

“On behalf of Mary MacKillop Today, I thank you for your generous support in supplying and assisting with used stamps. We’ve had another wonderful year, raising approximately **\$34,600**. A great effort from many, many people!

From 2001 until now, **the total raised has been \$443,500**. It is through your efforts that the legacy of St Mary Mackillop Today continues in Peru today.”

Sr Helen Saunders — For Sisters of St Joseph

(Stamps from Christmas cards can be placed in the box No provided near the side door of the church, These stamps are then used to raise money for the missions in Peru)

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME – AIRS SUNDAY 26 DECEMBER 2021 –

On the Journey this week: Bishop Brian Mascord’s Christmas reflection. Mother Hilda’s story on children providing a safe environment for themselves, and more of the Spirit of Christmas from Fr Mike Delaney, Michelle Vass, Deacon Josh Clayton, and Fr Quyen Vu SJ. Listen at



jcr.org.au

Weekly Programme	Immaculate Conception UNANDERRA	St Therese WEST WOLLONGONG
Mon 27 December	Mass: 8am	
Tues 28 December	Mass: 5.30pm	Mass: 7.45am
Wed 29 December	Mass: 9.30am	Adoration: 4.30pm Reconciliation: 4.30pm-5.15pm Mass: 5.30pm
Thur 30 December	Adoration: 4.30pm Reconciliation: 4.30pm-5.15pm Mass: 5.30pm	Mass: 7.45am
Fri 31 December	Mass: 7am Mass: 11am (Polish)	Mass: 9.30am
Sat 1 January	Mass: 7.30am Mass: 11am (Polish) Mass: 6pm	Mass: 9am
Sun 2 January	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (Polish)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

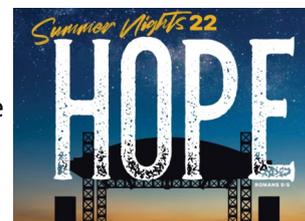
SUMMER NIGHTS

YOUTH RETREAT, 12-15 JANUARY 2022

Summer Nights is a four day non-live in retreat experience held at the Mount Carmel Retreat Centre at Varroville. In the picturesque grounds enjoy an outdoor event including friends, fellowship, prayer & worship, excellent speakers,

Mass, Adoration, Reconciliation, music & dramas, powerful encounters with God. Run by the Disciples of Jesus Community. From **12 – 15 January 2022. Ages 16-35.**

<http://www.summerschool.org.au/summernights>



PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL - FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE

Please save your recyclable bottles and cans. After Christmas, you will be able to leave your **uncrushed cans and recyclable 10c bottles in the blue bins** in the church car park.

All money raised from this initiative will go to Immaculate Conception Church.

CATHEDRAL BOOKS AND GIFTS WOLLONGONG

Please be advised the Cathedral Books and Gifts Wollongong Gift shop will be **closed from 24 December 2021 and will re-open week commencing 10 January 2022.**

Operating hours are Tues, Wed and Friday (10am - 2pm).

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

26 DECEMBER 2021 — THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH (YEAR C)

First Reading — Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 *Whoever fears the Lord honours his parents.*

The Lord honours the father in his children,
and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons.
Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins,
he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune.
Whoever respects his father will be happy; with children of his own,
he shall be heard on the day when he prays.
Long life comes to him who honours his father,
he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord.
My son, support your father in his old age,
do not grieve him during his life.
Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy,
do not despise him in your health and strength;
for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten
but will serve as reparation for your sins.

Responsorial Psalm — **Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.**

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 all the days of your life! R.

Second Reading — Colossians 3:12-21 *Concerning the Christian life in the world.*

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia Alleluia! Open our heart, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son. Alleluia!

Gospel — Luke 2: 41-52 *His parents found him in the temple, sitting among the learned men listening to them.*

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere.

Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' 'Why were you looking for me?' he replied. 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But they did not understand what he meant.

He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men.