

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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School Principal: Mrs Pauline Chrostowski

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

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THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (YEAR C) – 2 JAN 2022

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 3 January <i>The Most Holy Name of Jesus</i>	Mass: 8am	
Tues 4 January	Mass: 5.30pm	Mass: 7.45am
Wed 5 January	Mass: 9.30am	Adoration: 4.30pm Reconciliation: 4.30pm-5.15pm Mass: 5.30pm
Thur 6 January	Mass: 11am (Polish) Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm—5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm	Mass: 7:45am
Fri 7 January <i>St Raymond of Penyafort, priest</i>	Mass: 7am	Mass: 9:30am
Sat 8 January	Rosary: 7:10am Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 5pm—5:30pm Mass: 6pm	Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9:30am
Sun 9 January <i>The Baptism of the Lord</i>	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (Polish)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Sonia Bird, Geoffrey Hosking
Patricia Bartley

Anniversaries

Roland Stubbs, John William Brame
Fr Kevin McGovern

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

A big thank you to the many people who gave of their time, energy and gifts so generously to make our Christmas Masses possible, in the lead up and during the Masses themselves. There are too many people to thank – probably more people than I am even aware of myself – but we can all be grateful for being part of such a generous parish community!

The Christmas “Octave” continues until the **“Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God”** on January 1st, then the Christmas Season continues with the **Feast of the Epiphany** this Sunday and finally the **Baptism of the Lord** the following Sunday. There is a sense running through this entire period of the celebration of the “revelation” of Christ to the world – the fulfillment of God’s promises to humanity. As we enter the new year, we may be disappointed or anxious about yet another wave of Covid. While we do all we can to keep ourselves and each other safe, let’s remember that we are the ones who have received the “revelation” of Christ, which means that we know the closeness and love of our all-powerful God - and the peace that comes with this knowledge.

May Mary, Mother of God, who trusted God in the midst of all the uncertainties of her own life, help us to trust Him more and more, that we may find his peace during the challenging times ahead, and reveal his peace more and more to everyone we can possibly reach during 2022!

Fr Duane Fernandez — Parish Priest

Message from Sr Kerry

Some years ago I was very blessed to be given the opportunity to experience an immersion in a third world country.

One very strong memory was staying in an internal refugee camp. While we hear of refugees, I had never heard of a country imposing their own citizens to live in refugee camps. The government had taken over their land and crops and these people were impounded and overseen by the military.

Surprisingly our group had been granted an exemption to stay at the camp overnight. We took our food in and were housed with a family who were refugees. For one meal we produced dried noodles. The mother was very excited at the noodles. I was to learn that noodles are a sign of long life. I felt like a deflated balloon. How on earth would you want a long life when all you had was being confined to a refugee camp, where we were warned by the military not to leave any spare food; nor were we to take photos!

As we begin another year I think of that family. I usually make a resolution but within weeks it has long been forgotten....and life goes on!

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we had such an excitement about life, despite the circumstances surrounding us?

‘The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision. [Helen Keller.]

May your year be richly blessed, and more so, may you have the sight to recognize the riches....and then give thanks for the God in your life.

As we begin another year do know my prayers accompany you on the journey.

Sr Kerry Gardiner

ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

	Church Washing	Jackie Allen
Sun 9 Jan	Counting	C Dean, B Faraway
Sat 8 Jan	Church Cleaning	Volunteers needed
	Lectors	Lawns — Sat 8 Jan
Sat 8 Jan 6pm Mass	V Cleary	No Lawn mowing
Sun 9 Jan 8am Mass	A Kelly	

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

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SYNOD OF BISHOPS

Catholics across Australia are invited to participate in a period of local consultation for the next international Synod of Bishops, which has the theme: **“For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission”**.

The People of God are invited to use a guided, prayerful reflection method to consider a series of questions and make submissions via an online portal. Those submissions will help the bishops develop a national report to support the global process leading to an international gathering in 2023. Find out more at: <http://www.catholic.org.au/synodalchurch>



WALKING GROUP

Our next walk will be on **Thursday 3 February 2022**. Location to be confirmed closer to the date.

VOCATION NEWS



Mary trusted that the Lord's words to her would be fulfilled. Step out in faith and God will be there to guide you. (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 Pellican)

<https://youtu.be/qA05madbl0w>

THANKS FOR YOUR USED STAMPS

Thank you for your donations of used stamps. Please continue to support this great initiative.

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 can be placed in the box near the side door of the church. These stamps are then used to raise money for the missions in Peru)

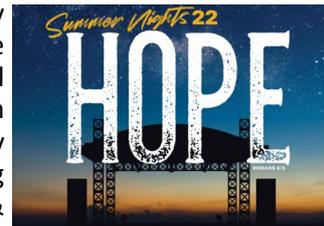
THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME – AIRS SUNDAY 2 JANUARY 2022

On the Journey this week: We continue our Spirit of Christmas with three reflections on various aspects of the Epiphany with Fr David Catterall, Monica Doumit and Fr Mark De Battista. Mother Hilda explains why a monastic rule is all about gift from God. Fr Mike Delaney finds two hills that explain teamwork on a winery tour. Plus, Darren McDowell on empowering others. Listen at jcr.org.au



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>



ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

With your generous donations, Unanderra Vinnies were able to pack and deliver **31 Christmas Hampers** to local disadvantaged families. Your support is much appreciated.



On Christmas Eve, [Ambiance Ristorante](#) provided free Christmas meals to families in need. The restaurant was full and all enjoyed a wonderful evening. Our thanks go to Ambiance Ristorante.

PFC—FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE

Please save your recyclable bottles and cans. In the New Year, 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.

THE EPIPHANY BLESSING MARKING HOMES WITH BLESSED CHALK FOR THE NEW YEAR

The ancient custom of marking the door of the home with blessed chalk is a way of incorporating the liturgical feast of the Epiphany as a domestic ritual into the prayer life of the family. Chalk is first blessed in the parish church at Masses for the Epiphany and then people are invited to take some home and to mark the lintel of their front door as follows:

20 C+M+B 22

The letters C, M and B stand for the traditional names for the Three Wise Men who came seeking Jesus: Casper, Melchoir and Balthasar. The letters also represent the words *Christus Mansionem Benedicat* (*May Christ Bless this Abode*). Blessed chalk will be available after Mass this week-end. Please return unused blessed chalk to the church for appropriate disposal.

2 JANUARY 2022—THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (YEAR C)

First Reading — Isaiah 60:1-6 *The glory of the Lord shines upon you.*

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples.
Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears.
The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness.
Lift up your eyes and look round: all are assembling and coming towards you, your sons from far away and your daughters being tenderly carried.
At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full;
since the riches of the sea will flow to you, the wealth of the nations come to you;
camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah;
everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm — Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

1. O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. R.
2. In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds. R.
3. The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts shall pay him tribute.
The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts.
Before him all kings shall fall prostrate, all nations shall serve him. R.
4. For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. R.

Second Reading — Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6 *The revelation means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body.*

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Jesus Christ, through the gospel.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia Alleluia! We have seen his star in the East; and have come to adore the Lord. Alleluia!

Gospel — Matthew 2:1-12 *We have come from the East to worship the King.*

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, You are by no means least among the leaders of Judah,
for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward, and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.