

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

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THE EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR C) – 27 FEB 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 28 February	Mass: 7am	
Tues 1 March	Mass: 5.30pm	Mass: 7:45am
Wed 2 March <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	Mass: 9:30am Mass: 11am (Polish) Mass: 7pm	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm—5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm
Thur 3 March	Mass: 11am (Polish) Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm—5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm	Mass: 7:45 am
Fri 4 March	Mass: 7am Stations of the Cross: 7pm	Mass: 9:30am Stations of the Cross: 5pm
Sat 5 March	Rosary: 7:10am Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 5pm—5:30pm Mass: 6pm	Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9:30am
Sun 6 March	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (Polish)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Marina Putrina
 Bernard Trudgett
 Aida Macalakat
 Alfred Bezzina

Anniversaries

Edward Scally, Scott Dunstan
 Michael Willisee, David Crowe
 Fr Tony Daly, Jason Fish

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

Message from Fr Duane

This Friday 4th March we are very excited to be hosting the **Catholic Youth Ministry Wollongong (CYMW) Team** as they launch the regional Youth Group for 13-17 year olds, at the St Therese School Hall West Wollongong – **every Friday 7pm-9pm**. It is for all parishes in the Deanery, and especially given the close connection between Unanderra and West Wollongong parishes, please encourage anyone you know in that age group to come along, as it will cater for wherever they are in their faith, and provide a positive peer group which is so vital for teenagers in our time. We also have plans for opportunities to connect and reconnect people of all ages throughout the coming year – stay tuned!

This **Wednesday 2nd March is Ash Wednesday**, the beginning of the sacred season of Lent – 40 days of repentance and penance for ourselves and for our world. In the words of Bishop Brian, *"Repentance means the rejection of sin. It implies conversion to, and reconciliation with God...Penance is the concrete expression of repentance. It takes the forms of prayer, self-denial, and works of charity. Each of these identifies us more closely with our Saviour...observance of these special times by all Catholics throughout the universal Church emphasises what we call "the social dimension of sin". The sin of the individual member always in some measure affects the whole body. Therefore during Lent and on the Fridays of the year, we do penance, not only on our own account, but also in the name of the Church and of the world."*

In the spirit of these words from our Bishop, let us take up this call of Pope Francis who invites us all to pray for peace in Ukraine: *"I invite everyone to make next March 2, Ash Wednesday, a day of fasting for peace. I encourage believers in a special way to devote themselves intensely to prayer and fasting on that day. May the Queen of Peace preserve the world from the madness of war."*

(See attachment for practical guidelines from the Bishop's Office regarding Lenten commitments)

Fr Duane Fernandez — Parish Priest

Message from Sr Kerry

When I visit my neighbour he informs me of all that is contained in the Mercury for that day. He really enjoys reporting back to me all the court cases and crimes that have taken place.

I once featured in the Mercury. It was not a pleasant experience. I was surprised at how clever one can capture the reader by the heading to the article. I wanted to go and buy up all the papers so no one could read it, but of course that didn't happen!

Having just mulched my rose garden I am reminded of how fleeting life can be. I put newspaper under the mulch but now some of the paper is exposed in a small patch. With the rain it is looking very dreary and dull. What was news a day or two ago is now rotting away and it is illegible.

We are challenged to be like bright stars. Bright stars don't disintegrate. They shine for all to see. They are a light in the darkness. They guide one's way. They are beautiful.

Am I like the headlines that capture one momentarily or am I a continuous bright burning star?

Sr Kerry Gardiner



ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

March	Church Washing	Fiona Fernandez	
Sat 5 Mar	Church Cleaning	J Allen, J Haywood, L Salway	
Sat 5 Mar	Lawns	No Lawn mowing this week	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
Sat 5 Mar 6pm Mass	L Milan	Vera Cleary and Cindy	No children's liturgy
Sun 6 Mar 8am Mass	C Walsh	Fiona Carolan	No children's liturgy
Counters	A Kelly, B Farraway		

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

2022 SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

One of the most profound ways by which Catholics believe we can encounter Jesus is through the Sacraments of the Church. Each Sacrament provides a unique, tangible encounter with Jesus, and helps draw us closer to God and to one another. ***The Sacraments are significant milestones in the faith journey of not only your children but also your whole family.***

Sacramental Program for 2022 is about to begin. If your son or daughter would like to receive sacraments this year, please refer to attached information or pick up the note at the church door.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

On the Fridays of Lent, Stations of the Cross will take place at:

7pm at Immaculate Conception Church and 5pm at St Therese West Wollongong.



MENALIVE'S – REFUEL WEEKLY SHARING AND JOURNALING SESSIONS – EVERY TUESDAY 7.30PM

reFUEL is a weekly hour-long gathering of men every Tuesday evening on Zoom providing the chance to:

- break open the Sunday reading using a Lectio Divina style exercise
- “catch up” with great men from across Australia and New Zealand.
- gain strength and inspiration by the witness of other men.
- pray as a group for individual needs and the needs of others.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87979703609>

SYNOD OF BISHOPS—EXTENSION

The local consultation period for the international Synod on Synodality has been extended. Submissions can now be received through the online portal until **Sunday, 13 March 2022.**

Don't miss out on this chance to take part in a global conversation about the Catholic Church. How are we called to walk together as Christians? How can we listen to one another in making important decisions about our faith and our mission? Find out more and share your contribution at: <https://catholic.org.au/synodalchurch>

VOCATION NEWS

Jesus leads where we need to go. Do not close your eyes, your ears, or your heart to Jesus' plan for your life. (Luke 6:39-45)

If you want to talk about your discernment, please contact the Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Duane Fernandez at vocations@dow.org.au



LENTEN GROUP

Commencing next Tuesday 1 March it is hoped to hold a Lenten Group at the **Convent commencing at 10:30 am.** If you would like to be a part of the group, would you kindly inform Sr Kerry. Thank you.

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME – AIRS SUNDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2022

On the Journey this week: Fr Chima Ofor says this gospel challenges us to be witnesses rather than teachers. We all have splinters the size of logs in our own eyes and we need to change at a deeper level to become the change we seek to preach Christ to the world. Mother Hilda on a peaceful presence in our homes. Fr Chris Sarkis introduces Ash Wednesday and a faith testimony from Debbie Gates. Listen at jcr.org.au



WALKING GROUP

Everyone is welcome to join us for our next walk on **Thursday 3rd March at 9am.** Please note we will begin our walk at 9am before the heat of the day. The walk will be from Gilba Rd, Koonawarra to Tallawarra - a very picturesque walk suitable for all ages and abilities. It is quite flat. There are no hills or steep slopes. Come along and bring your water and a snack. We hope you can join us.

Directions

Turn left off M1 at Kanahooka Rd and follow the road to Lakeside Drive. Turn right into Lakeside Drive and continue along to Gilba Road. Turn left and drive to the end of the road which will be the meeting place.

These walking excursions will continue on the **1st Thursday of each month.** We plan to go to different places for our walk. If you have any ideas for an interesting walk, we would be happy to hear your suggestions.

EPETITION TO ABOLISH THE DEATH BILL

Bishop Mascord urges you to take a stand to ABOLISH Alex Greenwich's Death Bill. It is imperative that all our supporters of life **sign this ePetition - WITHOUT DELAY** – encouraging others to do the same. To do so, please go to www.dow.org.au/abolishdeathbill/

LENTEN BOOKS—AVAILABLE NOW

Remember is a 72-page full colour book (240x170mm) containing short daily reflections **(from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday)** perfect for



individual devotional reading in addition to the longer-form Sunday Scripture readings and reflections, prayers and questions that traditionally form part of Lenten group gatherings. **Available in the church now. Cost is \$5.** Please leave money in the container.

AMORIS LAETITIA (THE JOY OF LOVE)

Pope Francis' post-synodal Apostolic Exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia* (The Joy of Love) on love in the family is an Apostolic Exhortation published after the conclusion of a two-year synod process discussing both the beauty and challenges of family life today. The 2015 Synod's theme was *“the vocation and mission of the family in the Church and the modern world.”*

Fr Bernard Gordon and James Arblaster will be presenting a **9-week course on *Amoris Laetitia* commencing Wed 27 April 2022, 7pm** at St Francis Xavier Cathedral in the Monsignor Rigney Meeting Room. To follow the talk, please purchase a copy of *Amoris Laetitia* from St Pauls Publications. To register please go to: www.lumenchristi.org.au/AmorisLaetitia

27 FEBRUARY 2022—THE EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR C)

First Reading — Ecclesiasticus 27:5-8 *Do not praise someone before they have spoken.*

In a shaken sieve the rubbish is left behind,
so too the defects of a man appear in his talk.
The kiln tests the work of the potter,
the test of a man is in his conversation.
The orchard where a tree grows is judged on the quality of its fruit,
similarly a man's words betray what he feels.
Do not praise a man before he has spoken,
since this is the test of men.

Responsorial Psalm — Lord it is good to give thanks to you.

1. It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to make music to your name, O Most High,
to proclaim your love in the morning and your truth in the watches of the night. R.
2. The just will flourish like the palm tree and grow like a Lebanon cedar. R.
3. Planted in the house of the Lord they will flourish in the courts of our God,
still bearing fruit when they are old, still full of sap, still green,
to proclaim that the Lord is just. In him, my rock, there is no wrong. R.

Second Reading — 1 Corinthians 15:54-58 *Victory has been given to us through Jesus Christ.*

When this perishable nature has put on imperishability, and when this mortal nature has put on immortality, then the words of scripture will come true: Death is swallowed up in victory. Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting? Now the sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from the Law. So let us thank God for giving us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Never give in then, my dear brothers, never admit defeat; keep on working at the Lord's work always, knowing that, in the Lord, you cannot be labouring in vain.

Alleluia Alleluia! Shine on the world like bright stars; you are offering it the word of life. Alleluia!

Gospel — Luke 6:39-45 *A person speaks from what is in his heart.*

Jesus told a parable to his disciples: 'Can one blind man guide another? Surely both will fall into a pit? The disciple is not superior to his teacher; the fully trained disciple will always be like his teacher. Why do you observe the splinter in your brother's eye and never notice the plank in your own? How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out the splinter that is in your eye," when you cannot see the plank in your own? Hypocrite! Take the plank out of your own eye first, and then you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter that is in your brother's eye.

'There is no sound tree that produces rotten fruit, nor again a rotten tree that produces sound fruit. For every tree can be told by its own fruit: people do not pick figs from thorns, nor gather grapes from brambles. A good man draws what is good from the store of goodness in his heart; a bad man draws what is bad from the store of badness. For a man's words flow out of what fills his heart.'