

# 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/)



**Parish Priest:** Fr Duane Fernandez  
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 Mobile: 0414 626 357

**Polish Chaplain:** Fr Jerzy Slowinski  
 Email: [slowinski54@gmail.com](mailto:slowinski54@gmail.com)  
 Mobile: 0410 225 975

**Parish Assistant:** Sr Kerry Gardiner  
 Email: [Kerry.Gardiner@sosj.org.au](mailto:Kerry.Gardiner@sosj.org.au)  
 Mobile: 0421 463 871

**Parish Pastoral Council President:**  
 Email:  
 Mobile:

**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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## THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (YEAR A) – 25 DEC 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
<b>Mon 26 Dec</b> <i>St Stephen</i>	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (Polish)	
<b>Tues 27 Dec</b> <i>St John, apostle, evangelist</i>	Mass: 5:30pm Rosary 6pm Adoration: 6pm- 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
<b>Wed 28 Dec</b> <i>The Holy Innocents, martyrs</i>	Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion: 9:30am	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm—5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm
<b>Thurs 29 Dec</b> <i>St Thomas Becket, bishop, martyr</i>	Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm Reconciliation 6pm- 6:50pm Mass: 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
<b>Fri 30 Dec</b> <i>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</i>	Mass: 7am	Mass: 9:30am
<b>Sat 31 Dec</b> <i>St Sylvester 1, pope</i>	Rosary: 7am Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 5pm - 5:30pm Mass: 6pm	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9:30am—10:30am
<b>Sun 1 Jan</b>	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (Polish)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

#### Recently Deceased

Maria Ianuzzi, Therese Suters, Silvana Witheridge  
 Fr Tomasz Zaremba, (Society of Christ), Sophie Piec

#### Prayers for the sick

Craig Battley, Francesca Quetcher,  
 Jackie Allen, Lesley Lloyd, Vera Cleary

#### Anniversaries

Nicholas Bruton, Maurice Connell,  
 Yvonne Treuen, Mary Potts,  
 Lucy Dalton, Jack Miller,  
 Molly Rowe

### 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

## Message from Fr Duane

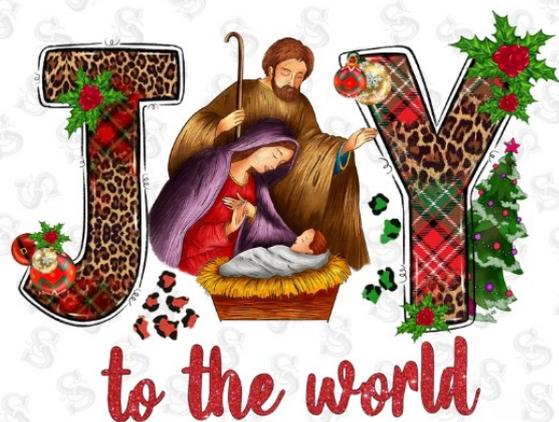
It is wonderful to have you celebrating the deepest meaning of Christmas with us! Whether you're a regular or this is your first time or somewhere in between, I hope you feel completely at home with us here at Immaculate Conception Parish.

We are entering an exciting time of renewal after the interruptions of the pandemic since 2020. One exciting event beginning on Wednesday February 8 is "Alpha" – a joint initiative of Immaculate Conception Unanderra and St Therese West Wollongong. Alpha creates a most welcoming environment for all, whatever stage of faith or life, and facilitates reflection on the deeper questions of life that we so rarely get to reflect on together. It is no commitment, no cost – and a free meal! You will find yourself welcome and belonging right from the start and forming deeper connections with other lovely people every week that you come back. It is quite difficult to describe how good it is on paper - I encourage you to sign up (for catering purposes) and come along and see for yourself!

I want to also take this opportunity to thank all of the wonderful volunteers in our parish – far too many to mention – who have so generously shared their God-given gifts in building up our parish community this year, and in past years also. Thanks to this generosity we are in such a good position to live out our parish vision more fully in 2023 and beyond, welcoming more and more people into our parish and helping each other discover our unique God-given gifts, as we work together joyfully to bring the overflowing love of Jesus to all people!

Thank you to the St Vincent De Paul Society for all the work they have put in to organizing and delivering the Christmas hampers to families in need this Christmas – and thank you to all parishioners who made this possible by bringing items throughout Advent. Thanks also for your generosity to the continued work of Vinnies through the exit collection at Christmas Masses.

**Fr Duane Fernandez**



## Message from Sr Kerry

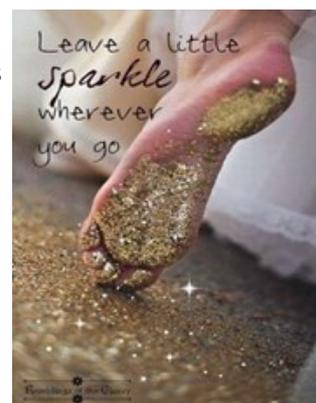
I am sure many of you remember the days when you could go to the Video shop and hire out videos. A neighbour of mine worked at such a shop. They opened on Christmas Day. I would wonder why until Amy told me that Christmas Day was the busiest day in the year. That is a loud and powerful statement.

Whatever your Christmas Day will be I need to say a very sincere 'thank you.' Thank you for the gift you have been to me throughout the year. Thank you for caring for me with maintenance of my lawns and garden, a friendly hello, sharing a committee with me, sharing a cuppa, a gift of celebration. The list is endless.

You have been a gift to me throughout the year and I value the gift you are. Thank you for being an important part of my life as one who lives among you and as one who worships with you. Know the gift of yourself is treasured.

May blessings be abundant for you this Christmas. May you experience joy in knowing what a beautiful gift you are.... A living gift!

**Sr Kerry Gardiner**



### ROSTER – NEXT WEEKEND

December	Church Washing	Helen Murphy	
Sat 31 Dec	Church Cleaning	W & J Rodgers, J Andersson	
Sat 31 Dec	Lawns	No lawn mowing his week	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
6pm 31 Dec	M Rodwell		
8am 1 Jan	M Matos	G Simmonite, H Murphy	School Holidays
Counters	M Murphy (FH), C Stratton, M Winner		

### 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**

## PARISH NEWS

### **St Vincent de Paul Conference - thank you!**

The conference would like to thank all the generous parishioners who again supported the Vinnies Giving Tree. Forty five hampers were distributed and toys given to over 70 children supporting those in need within our parish. Your support is much appreciated and the society supports you in prayer.



### **Recycling bins - \$495 raised this year!**

With your help, we have raised \$495 this year through our recycling efforts. Please save your Christmas recycling (cans, bottles and plastics) and put in our bins. All proceeds go to the Parish. Our bins are located in the church car park.



### **Curious about Faith - Try Alpha**

You're invited to **Alpha**, a place to explore the Christian faith in an easy and friendly environment.

Each session starts with dinner in small groups before watching a talk on a question of faith. Then there's plenty of time to share your thoughts - you can say anything you like, or nothing at all - question everything!!

There's no follow up, no charge and never any pressure. **Everyone's welcome.** No matter your background or beliefs, you're invited. So why not see where your curiosity takes you?



We'll be starting on **Wednesday 8th February at 7pm in the Parish Centre at St Therese Parish, 2 Powell Street West Wollongong.**

To RSVP, for catering purposes only, please contact **Melissa on 0419 465 050**. We also have expression of interest forms out in the foyer.

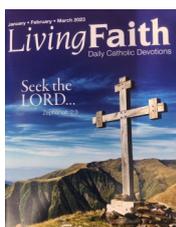
### **Parish Finances - week ending 18 Dec**

\$686	First Collection	- Clergy Remuneration Fund
\$501	Second collection	- Parish expenses
\$270	Tap Point	- Parish donations
\$449	Planned giving envelopes	
\$530	Direct debits (weekly average from Nov).	

Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly.

### **Living Faith books—Jan, Feb and March 2023**

The new Living Faith books have arrived. There is also a separate Living Faith Kids book—which includes daily reflections, prayers and activities. Cost is \$5. Please leave money in the box provided.



### **Thank you 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 \$42,500**. A great effort from many, many people.

Please place your **used stamps** in the box at the church side door.



### **Lay Carmelite meeting**

The first meeting for 2023 will be in the St Joseph's room on Saturday 7 February. All are welcome. Call Ann Baumber on 0427 235 955 for more information.

### **Lost property—Have you left something behind in the church?**

Our lost property box is located in the Confessional on the Northern side of the Church.

## THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME – AIRS SUNDAY 25 DEC 2022

On the Journey this week. Fr Rob Galea's Gospel reflection on the story of the incarnation that Jesus became one of us. Mother Hilda says follow St Joseph's way when dealing with life's pains. Plus, extra Christmas season reflections from Fr Sean Cullen and Ken Bryant, and the Bush Deacon, Josh Clayton's Christmas greeting, we are called to care for and be a Christmas gift of God's love to those who are struggling this Christmas. Listen at [jcr.org.au](http://jcr.org.au)

## A VOCATION VIEW

God's plan for the salvation of the Israelites comes to fruition with the birth of Christ. God continues to call men to the priesthood to bring about the completion of this salvation. (Isaiah 9:5-6)

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)

## RECONNECT THIS CHRISTMAS: AN INVITATION FROM BISHOP BRIAN

"Each of us has at least one person in our life that is disconnected from faith. Will you invite them to be with you, with us, this Christmas?" - Bishop Brian  
Perhaps they are a family member - a son or daughter, a sibling, or spouse - or a friend or colleague. You can pray a simple prayer for them (and for yourself!) and then simply ask them, "What are you doing for Christmas this year? Would you like to come to mass with me?"



Please prayerfully read Bishop Brian's letter and consider, "who is God calling me to reach out to?" <https://bit.ly/bishopchristmas2022>

## SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT

Reflect together on how we might be caught up in structural and cultural violence. <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

## THEOLOGY OF THE BODY

### – MADE FOR MORE - EVENTS IN SYDNEY

The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney is proud to present the **'Made for More' events**, brought to you by the Theology of the Body Institute! Join Christopher West and the team as they creatively weave together dynamic presentations with live music, media, and sacred art for an evening of beauty and reflection on the meaning of life, love, and human destiny. We hope that by attending you will come away with a faith-filled vision of hope that will instil in you sheer wonder and joy of being alive!

**Trailer:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MfzzKONmUjQ&ab\\_channel=TheologyoftheBodyInstitute](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MfzzKONmUjQ&ab_channel=TheologyoftheBodyInstitute)

The Made for More events in Sydney will be held at two locations on the following dates:

**When:** Friday, 20 January 2023

**Where:** St Mary's Cathedral Hall – St Mary's Road, Sydney

2nd Event

**When:** Saturday, 21 January 2023

**Where:** All Saints Catholic Parish Hall – 48 George Street, Liverpool

**Tickets:** General admission – \$25 Student/ Concession – \$10  
Free entry for children 10 years and under. Adult supervision required for all children under 18 years.

**Online booking:** <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/978896>

## 25 DEC - THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (YEAR A)

### **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 harvesttime, 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 all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt and consumed by fire.

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** — From St Paul to Titus 2:11-14 *God's grace has been revealed to all people*

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 *Today a saviour has been born for you.*

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:

'Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace to men who enjoy his favour.'