

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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FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) – 5 FEBRUARY 2023

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 6 Feb <i>St Paul Miki and companions, martyrs</i>	Mass: 7am	
Tues 7 Feb	Mass: 5:30pm Rosary 6pm  Adoration: 6pm- 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
Wed 8 Feb <i>St Jerome Emilani St Josephine Bakhita</i>	Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion: 9:30am	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm—5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm 
Thurs 9 Feb	Rosary: 6pm  Adoration: 6pm - 7pm Reconciliation 6pm - 6:50pm  Mass: 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
Fri 10 Feb <i>St Scholastica, virgin</i>	Mass: 7am	Mass: 9:30am
Sat 11 Feb <i>Our Lady of Lourdes</i>	Rosary: 7am  Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 5pm - 5:30pm Mass: 6pm	Rosary: 8:30am  Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9:30am—10:30am
Sun 12 Feb	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (<i>Polish</i>)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Vera Cleary, Jackie Allen, Lesley Lloyd,
 Andrea Frino, Assunta Terrone

Prayers for the sick

Francesca Quetcher

Anniversaries

Brian Brooks, Pat Rogan



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

During the past week we laid to rest our beloved parishioners Jackie Allen and Vera Cleary. For me personally, as for many of us, the journey of grief is not thereby over. It will take some time to process the sad truth that we will not be seeing their smiling faces among our community, enjoying their words of friendship and support, or benefitting from the generous service and example of faith they have given in so many ways over the years. Nevertheless, as we continue to hold them in our prayers, may we feel their presence with us – especially at Mass where heaven and earth are united through Christ’s own death and resurrection. Let us continue to hold their beloved families in our prayers also, as they continue their own journey of grief – far more difficult than our own as a parish family. And let us continue to pray for each other, and be inspired by the wonderful legacy of faith and service that God has blessed us with in Jackie and Vera. Their work on earth is done; may they now rest in eternal peace.

This past week, as part of my role as Vocations Director, I concelebrated the **Opening Mass at the Seminary of the Good Shepherd in Homebush**. Darren McDowell looked to have settled in nicely into his new community, helped by Sinh Le and Joseph Nguyen, our current Wollongong Seminarians there. They are also joined by Anthony Rewak and Peter Tran as new Seminarians for our Diocese in 2023. Let us continue to keep them all in our prayers, and persist in praying for more Vocations to the Priesthood in our Diocese.

This Sunday we celebrate **our first morning tea after Mass, as always on the first Sunday of the month**. I thank again the Catholic Women’s League and other volunteers who generously prepare such wonderful refreshments and hospitality for us every month. This Sunday, we can celebrate Sister Kerry Gardiner’s Anniversary of Profession, which she celebrated a few weeks ago, as well as Fr Jerzy’s birthday which took place this past week.

Finally, **Alpha begins this week!** I am aware of how frequently I mention this, and pray for it – please bear with me! From my perspective, having seen the fruits of Alpha in other parishes, and the beginnings of the fruits of our first Alpha which was interrupted by Covid in 2020, I see clearly the remarkable potential that this program provides in bringing about deeper relationships with Jesus and one another. Please continue to pray for all who attend, and we pray with gratitude for all of our wonderful volunteers who are facilitating this program.

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

During lockdown I had planted some, what the packet named, Johnny Jump Ups. I love Johnny Jump Ups as they remind me of my mum’s garden. The disappointment I felt when the garden was glowing with marigolds, still sits in my heart. More recently a friend gave me a few of her Johnny Jump Up plants. They were planted but I was not hopeful...I do not know why the hope was gone.

The Johnny Jump Ups now are creating a little bright spot and giving warm memories to my heart. What is extra beautiful is that the Johnny Jump Ups are even growing up in the cracks of the pavers.

While the Johnny Jump Ups delight the heart and the memories, they also bring another memory. I remember writing in my general emails during lockdown that I was so disappointed with the marigolds. With all that was going on in our world I could only complain about the incorrect labelling on my packet of seeds and the disappointment the marigolds gave me!

Now as I ponder and delight in the Johnny Jump Ups in the cracks of the pavers, I do quietly say a little prayer for all the parishioners.

Sr Kerry Gardiner



ROSTER – NEXT WEEKEND

February	Church Washing	Fiona Fernandez	
Sat 11 Feb	Church Cleaning	F Fernandez, B Rice, R Tassone	
Sat 11 Feb	Lawns		
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children’s liturgy
6pm 11 Feb	D Ferrer	B Faraway	
8am 12 Feb	M Matos	Zali & Aidan Calvert	Sarah Walsh, Sandra Michielin
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

2023 Sacramental Program

Registration and parent information nights for this year's Sacramental Program will be held during Term 1.

Confirmation registration will be either:

- 7pm Tuesday 7 March at the St Therese Parish Centre.
- 7pm Thursday 9 March at the St Therese Parish Centre

Reconciliation and First Holy Communion registration either:

- 7pm Tuesday 14 March at the St Therese Parish Centre.
- 7pm Thursday 16 March at the St Therese Parish Centre.

For more information please email the Parish office at:

unanderra@dow.org.au

Lay Carmelite meeting - 4 February

The first meeting for 2023 will be in the St Joseph's room on Saturday 4 February. All are welcome.

Call Ann Baumber on 0427 235 955 for more information.

Morning tea - Sunday 5 February

Morning tea will be served after 8am Mass. All are welcome to join us for a cuppa and a chat.



WHAT IS "ALPHA"?

Alpha explores life's biggest questions in a welcoming and relaxed space. Sessions begin with a meal followed by some great video input that leads into small-group conversation. You can say anything you like or nothing at all.



Our next Alpha series begins on **Wednesday 8 February 2023 at the St Therese Parish Centre**, starting at 7:00pm sharp with dinner. There is no cost and no commitment, just come and see, or invite others along - regardless of what they believe, they will be welcomed and feel a sense of belonging right from the start!

Catholic Women's league meeting - 9 Feb

First meeting for 2023 will be held in the St Joseph's room on Thursday 9 February at 10am. Everyone is welcome to join us for a cuppa at 10am followed by a meeting at 10:30am.

Triumph - Lenten Program 2023 (available next week)

Triumph is an 88-page full colour book 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.



Lenten Groups - modified timetable

Lent is just around the corner. This year we are aiming to run 3 Lenten programs in the parish:

- **9am Tuesday** with Sr Kerry Gardiner (Ph 0421 463871)
- **7pm Wednesday** with George Attard (0435 790019),
- **11am Thursday** with Colleen Walsh (0421 443368).

We hope you might be able to join one of these Lenten groups. To register your interest, please call the group host.

Parish Finances - week ending 29 January

\$532	First Collection	- Clergy Remuneration Fund
\$515	Second collection	- Parish expenses
\$150	Tap Point - Parish donations	
\$244	Planned giving envelopes	
\$549	Direct debits (weekly average from Dec).	

Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly.

Recycling bins

During January, **together we raised \$133.90** from our recycling efforts.



THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME - AIRS SUNDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2023

On the Journey this week: In the Gospel reflection Fr Chris de Sousa says we are salt and the light to those immediately around us. Mother Hilda shares a story on trust and how God also places trust in us. Plus, Stuart Brady from MenAlive tells of his biggest faith struggle and why the Men Alive movement is a fantastic support to men, Trish McCarthy on the interconnectedness of our mind, body and spirit, and Fr Dave Callaghan on seeing stars in the darkness of the world, and more great music! Listen at jcr.org.au



A VOCATION VIEW

'I resolved to know nothing except Jesus Christ, and him crucified.' In the Cross is our salvation, proclaim that salvation in all you do! (1 Cor 2:2) If you want to talk about your discernment, please contact the diocesan vocations

director, Fr Duane Fernandez at vocations@dow.org.au



LEVEL 1 TRAINING COURSE FOR SRE CATECHISTS IN FEBRUARY

The CCD Team will shortly commence this training course for all of the new volunteers teaching Special Religious Education in State Schools. Week 1 at each location will cover Child Protection and Classroom Management training, and this half-day part of the course should be completed by Catechists every three years.

The Course starts at Micah House Campbelltown on 6 February and the **Xavier Centre Wollongong on 10 February from 9.30-1.30 pm** over five consecutive weeks with morning tea provided.

Come and join this great ministry. To register please email support@ccdwoollongong.com

THE CHOSEN - A TV SERIES ABOUT JESUS

The Chosen is a new 'free to view', series, now in its third season, that beautifully and creatively presents the life of Christ and his followers. The shows are of the highest quality and is receiving acclaim around the world across denominations.

Go to watch.angelstudios.com/thechosen to watch or get the free app for use on your phone / laptop via *The Chosen app* ([download](#)) or for your Smart TV. Watch it on your own, or better still with family and friends.

GO DEEPER IN YOUR FAITH WITH POPULAR & FREE CATHOLIC PODCASTS

Bible in a Year

Last year, Ascension Press ran the Catholic Bible in a Year Podcast featuring Fr Mike Schmitz and Jeff Cavins. It was the world's number 1 Religious Podcast with over 250 million downloads. It will run again throughout 2023 - and while a new podcast is released daily, you can do it at your own pace signing up at www.ascensionpress.com/biy and it's not too late to catch up or simply work through at your own pace.

Catechism in a Year

This year, Ascension Press have commenced the Catechism in a Year podcast which will slowly and prayerfully read through and break open the Catechism over 365 days. It's not too late to catch up, and the daily podcasts can be listened to at your own pace. It is available at www.ascensionpress.com/ciy

5 FEB—FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

First Reading - Isaiah 58:7-10

Your light will shine like the dawn

Thus says the Lord:

Share your bread with the hungry,
and shelter the homeless poor,
clothe the man you see to be naked
and do not turn from your own kin.
Then will your light shine like the dawn
and your wound be quickly healed over.
Your integrity will go before you
and the glory of the Lord behind you.
Cry, and the Lord will answer;
call, and he will say, 'I am here.'
If you do away with the yoke,
the clenched fist, the wicked word,
if you give your bread to the hungry,
and relief to the oppressed,
your light will rise in the darkness,
and your shadows become like noon.

Responsorial Psalm - A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

1. He is a light in the darkness for the upright: he is generous, merciful and just.
The good man takes pity and lends, he conducts his affairs with honour. R.
2. The just man will never waver: he will be remembered for ever.
He has no fear of evil news; with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord. R.
3. With a steadfast heart he will not fear; open-handed, he gives to the poor;
his justice stands firm for ever. His head will be raised in glory. R.

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

I came to you to proclaim Christ crucified

When I came to you, brothers, it was not with any show of oratory or philosophy, but simply to tell you what God had guaranteed. During my stay with you, the only knowledge I claimed to have was about Jesus, and only about him as the crucified Christ. Far from relying on any power of my own, I came among you in great 'fear and trembling' and in my speeches and the sermons that I gave, there were none of the arguments that belong to philosophy; only a demonstration of the power of the Spirit. And I did this so that your faith should not depend on human philosophy but on the power of God.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia! I am the light of the world says the Lord; the man who follows me will have the light of life. Alleluia!

Gospel - Matthew 5:13-16

You are the light of the world

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.'

