

# 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)

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**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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## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR A) – 26 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
<b>Mon 27 Feb</b> <i>St Gregory of Narek, abbot, doctor</i>	Mass: 7am	
<b>Tues 28 Feb</b>	Mass: 5:30pm Rosary 6pm Adoration: 6pm- 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
<b>Wed 1 Mar</b>	Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion: 9:30am	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm—5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm
<b>Thurs 2 Mar</b>	Mass: 11am (Polish) Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm Reconciliation 6pm - 6:50pm Mass: 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
<b>Fri 3 Mar</b>	Mass: 7am Stations of the Cross: 7pm	Mass: 9:30am Stations of the Cross: 5pm
<b>Sat 4 Mar</b>	Rosary: 7am Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 5pm - 5:30pm Mass: 6pm	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9:30am—10:30am
<b>Sun 5 Mar</b>	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (Polish)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

#### Recently Deceased

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

#### Anniversaries

David Crowe, Fr Tony Daly, Scott Dunstan,  
 Michael Willisee

#### Prayers for the sick

Francesca Quetcher



### 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*

Next Sunday, 5th March, we will include a **“Blessing of the Backpacks”** in our Mass, as we pray God’s blessing upon the school (and work) year ahead. While especially focused on our children, this will be an opportunity for anyone to bring their bags to be blessed during the Mass. The blessing of the bags that will carry our daily work this year symbolises God’s constant presence in all we do or say, and reminds us that the love of Jesus we celebrate at every Mass is something we are called to bring into our everyday work and relationships. All are most welcome to attend and bring any bags along for blessing. At this Mass we will also bless and commission our catechists, Children’s Liturgy volunteers, and teachers, who will be entrusted with teaching and guiding our children through the coming year, in support of their parents as the first teachers of the faith.

### **PROJECT COMPASSION**

Caritas does wonderful work throughout the world for those most in need. We have an opportunity during Lent to contribute to their work by our financial donations. There are Project Compassion materials available for us to make use of in our own homes, as daily practical reminders of the call to almsgiving as a Lenten practice. We will also use the large Project Compassion box on the offertory table as an opportunity for us all to give to this good cause if we wish, and this box will be brought forward to the altar with the offertory procession at Sunday Mass. As we enter this sacred season let’s simplify our lives, focusing again on what is most important, through prayer, sacrifices, and giving what we can to those most in need.

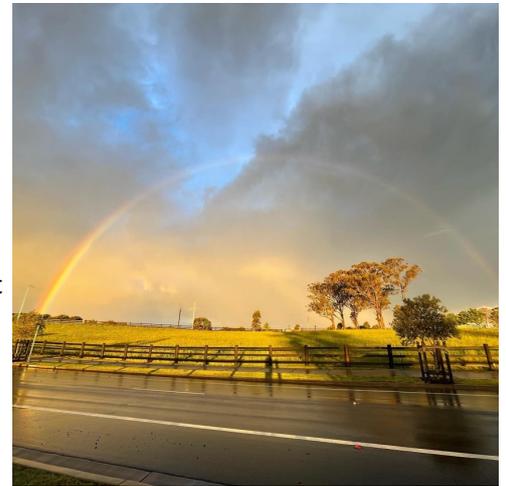
**Fr Duane Fernandez**

## *Message from Sr Kerry*

As a community we decided to have a weekend retreat at The Abbey. We prepared our food so that the chores wouldn’t be so onerous once there. Everything was down pat. We packed the car and off we set.

It was a wonderful weekend retreat for us. I can’t remember too much about it now except for a memorable trip back to our Convent. The winding road and the scenery totally captured me. I just said, ‘Isn’t this beautiful!’ The sister driving said, ‘Journey is part of the gift.’ They were powerful words that I have often quoted.

As we begin the Lenten journey I presume you have thought about where the journey ends and what you might expect. Will you have eyes to see your Lenten journey as part of the gift of Easter? Will you be open to the surprises that may greet you on the journey?



**Sr Kerry Gardiner**

### **ROSTER — THIS WEEKEND**

February	Church Washing	Fiona Fernandez	
Sat 25 Feb	Church Cleaning	G Lord, L Zanetti, S Adams	
Sat 25 Feb	Lawns	No lawn mowing this week	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children’s liturgy
6pm 25 Feb	K Calvert		
8am 26 Feb	A Kelly	F Carolan, J Sharwood	Maria Matos, Anna Gunning
Counters	A Gunning, M Caudero, C Garrett		

### **ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND**

March	Church Washing	Helen Murphy	
Sat 4 Mar	Church Cleaning	P and L Lathourakis	
Sat 4 Mar	Lawns	H Fernandez, Milan Family, Broeckmann Family	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children’s liturgy
6pm 4 Mar	N O’Donoghue		
8am 5 Mar	C Walsh	G Simmonite, H Murphy	Kylie & Molly Hertsch, Gemma Farrugia
Counters	A Kelly, B Farraway		

## PARISH NEWS

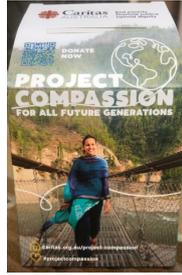
### Stations of the Cross

On the Fridays of Lent, Stations of the Cross will take place at:  
7pm at Immaculate Conception  
5pm at St Therese West  
Wollongong.



### Parish Lenten Almsgiving

Our Parish Almsgiving box will be located on the offertory table during Lent. It will be taken up at the offertory procession during the Vigil and Sunday Masses with your almsgiving. Please give as generously as you are able. All donations will be sent to Caritas.



### World Day of Prayer - Friday 3 March

The special service for World Day of Prayer will be held in the Immaculate Conception Church on Friday, 3rd March at 10am. After the service, morning tea will be served in St Joseph's Room.

We will be joined by other churches in our district as we pray for Taiwan. All parishioners are very welcome to join us in prayer on this occasion.

### Blessing of the backpacks - 8am Mass Sunday 5 March

We invite everyone, especially students, to bring your backpack or work bag along to be blessed for the new year and then join us for morning tea.

This will also be a commissioning Mass for our teachers, catechists and Children's liturgy volunteers as they teach the faith to our children this coming year.



### 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](mailto:unanderra@dow.org.au)

### Children's Liturgy Team meeting - Sunday 26 Feb

The next meeting of the Children's liturgy team is 9am Sunday 26 February in the St Joseph's meeting room.

For more details please contact Sandra on 0434 685 135

### The Christian Meditation Group

now meets weekly on Mondays, 6pm to 7pm, in the St Therese Parish Centre. **Please come and join us anytime** for a short talk and prayer in silence.

Enquiries: Please text Monica 0412 056 877

### Carmelite meeting - 4 March

The next meeting for 2023 will be in the St Joseph's room on Saturday 4 March at 10am. All are welcome.

Call Ann Baumber on 0427 235 955 for more information.

### Parish Finances - week ending 19 February

\$590	First Collection	- Clergy Remuneration Fund
\$459	Second collection	- Parish expenses
\$170	Tap Point - Parish donations	
\$302	Planned giving envelopes	
\$540	Direct debits (weekly average from Jan).	

Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly.

## THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME - AIRS SUNDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2023

On the Journey this week: In the Gospel reflection Fr Mark De Battista says we grow and mature in virtue by being put to the test. Mother Hilda says love is the antidote for all the negativity around us. We continue the Triumph Lenten series with Fr Sean Cullen and Fr Richard Green and their reflections on prayer. Fr Mike Delaney shares about a weekend where there is a time for every purpose under heaven, and more great music! Listen at [jcr.org.au](http://jcr.org.au)



## A VOCATION VIEW

Through the obedience of Christ comes acquittal from sin. Through our obedience to Christ, we can be a conduit of Grace to this world. (Romans 5:17-19)

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)

## ILLAWARRA WOMEN'S DAY OF DANCE & CULTURE SUNDAY 5TH MARCH 2023 EDMUND RICE COLLEGE 12PM - 3PM

All women are welcome to join us to celebrate International Women's Week for an afternoon of connection through conversation, dance, food, and culture.

For more information and to purchase tickets please visit <https://bit.ly/3kckBiz> or scan the QR code



## CARITAS

### - SUPPORT SYRIA AND TUCKEY NOW

Caritas Turkey are responding to a series of powerful earthquakes. Thousands of lives have been lost already and the death toll increases by the hour. Your generous support can help provide emergency relief to help families recover and rebuild from disaster.

Visit [caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/turkey-and-syriaearthquake/](http://caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/turkey-and-syriaearthquake/) or call **1800 024 413** toll free to provide much needed support to our East Emergency Appeal.

## 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](http://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](http://www.ascensionpress.com/ciy)

## 26 FEBRUARY - FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR A)

### **First Reading** - Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7 *Creation of our first parents, and sin*

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.

Now the serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death."' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

### **Responsorial Psalm - Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. In your compassion blot out my offence.  
O wash me more and more from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin. R.
2. My offences truly I know them; my sin is always before me  
Against you, you alone, have I sinned; what is evil in your sight I have done. R.
3. A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit. R.
4. Give me again the joy of your help; with a spirit of fervour sustain me,  
O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall declare your praise. R.

### **Second Reading** - Romans 5:12-19 *Where sin increased, there grace abounded all the more.*

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift. The results of the gift also outweigh the results of one man's sin: for after one single fall came judgement with a verdict of condemnation, now after many falls comes grace with its verdict of acquittal. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

### **Gospel Acclamation:**

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

### **Gospel** - Matthew 4:1-11 *Jesus fasted for forty days and nights*

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says:

Man does not live on bread alone  
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God' he said 'throw yourself down; for scripture says:

He will put you in his angels' charge,  
and they will support you on their hands  
in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says:

You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these' he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says:

You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.'

Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.