

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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 Email:
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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
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THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR A) – 12 MARCH 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 13 Mar	Mass: 7am	
Tues 14 Mar	Mass: 5:30pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm- 7pm 	Mass: 7:45am
Wed 15 Mar	Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion: 9:30am	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm—5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm 
Thurs 16 Mar	Mass: 11am (Polish) Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm  Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:50pm Mass: 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
Fri 17 Mar <i>St Patrick, bishop</i>	Mass: 7am Adoration: 7:30am - 8am  Stations of the Cross: 7pm	Mass: 9:30am Stations of the Cross: 5pm
Sat 18 Mar <i>Collect of St Cyril of Jerusalem, bishop, doctor</i>	Rosary: 7am  Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 5pm - 5:30pm Mass: 6pm	Rosary: 8:30am  Mass: 9am Reconciliation: 9:30am—10:30am
Sun 19 Mar	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (Polish)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Dot Gelfius, Dusan Markocic, Andrea Frino, Assunta Terrone, Dariusz Lipski

Prayers for the sick

Francesca Quetcher



Anniversaries

Clare Shanley, Stephen Hawkins, Nancy Plenderleith, Ernestina Santos, Ryan Teasdale, Mary Varley.

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

A big thank you to all who helped make possible our first “Blessing of Backpacks” last Sunday, together with the commissioning and blessing for our teachers, catechists and Children’s Liturgy volunteers. Thank you to the Parish Pastoral Council, Community Co-ordination Team and Worship Co-ordination Team for their wise preparation beforehand and practical help on the day. Thank you also to the St Pius school staff for promoting it so well within the school and attending in such good number as well. Thank you as always to the Catholic Women’s League and others who helped with hospitality after Mass.

This week we have welcomed Bishop Brian Mascord for his parish visitation, including celebration of Masses, meeting with the Pastoral and Finance Councils, visiting the parish primary schools and some of our sick and elderly at home or in aged care. This visitation culminates with Bishop Brian celebrating all of the weekend Masses at Unanderra and West Wollongong this weekend. We thank Bishop Brian for his presence and encouragement among us, and assure him of our continued prayers and support as he continues in the vital task entrusted to him of shepherding the Diocese of Wollongong.

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

Bishop Brian has graced us with his presence this week and we have been blessed. Bishop Brian came to Hillside with me for a Communion Service and chat with the residents there. He asked if anyone had any questions. The questions flowed. Then a moment of dread shot through me as Emma said, ‘This isn’t a question but a complaint.’ Emma went on to say to the bishop, ‘When you came to West Wollongong to install Fr Duane as our parish priest you asked us to ensure he doesn’t overwork himself. Fr Duane is like a sponge. He just takes on everything and does work too hard.’ The bishop agreed with her!

Are you able to take a moment this week and spend in gratitude? Yes, many of us have been hurt by some individuals in the church. This is where I thought Emma was taking us with her ‘complaint.’ Like Emma, are we able to focus our vision on the good of others who journey with us and support us? Are you able to acknowledge that in prayer or some other little way. We are blessed in Bishop Brian and Fr Duane....let us give thanks!



Sr Kerry Gardiner

ROSTER — THIS WEEKEND

February	Church Washing	Helen Murphy	
Sat 11 Mar	Church Cleaning	W & J Rodgers, J Andersson	
Sat 11 Mar	Lawns	No Lawn mowing this week	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children’s liturgy
6pm 11 Mar	D Ferrier	B Faraway	
8am 12 Mar	P Gunning	Zali & Aidan Calvert	Leah Galea, Alison Sharwood
Counters	M Murphy (FT), S Alessi		

ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

March	Church Washing	Helen Murphy	
Sat 18 Mar	Church Cleaning	F Fernandez, B Rice, R Tassone	
Sat 18 Mar	Lawns	M & J Winner, M Walsh, S Carrigan, A Bennett	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children’s liturgy
6pm 18 Mar	N O’Donoghue	S Marsala	
8am 19 Mar	M Matos	F Carolan, J Sharwood	Sarah Walsh, Sandra Michielin
Counters	A Kelly, B Faraway		

PARISH NEWS

Parish Lenten Almsgiving

Our Parish Almsgiving box is 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.



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



Holy Week/ Easter ceremonies

Holy Week is fast approaching and we need volunteers to assist with the Holy Week and Easter liturgies.

Holy Thursday - Lector, welcomers, washing of the feet volunteers - 6 needed

Good Friday Stations - Lector

Good Friday - 2 Lectors

Easter Vigil, Holy Saturday - Welcomers, Lectors (4)

If you would like to participate by volunteering for any of these roles, please contact Barbara (bfarraway@bigpond.com) to be placed on the roster. Thank you.

Legion of Mary Diocese of Wollongong ACIES CEREMONY

Immaculate Conception Church Princes Hwy, Unanderra Sunday 26 March 2023 at 2pm Legion of Mary Prayers and Rosary. Refreshments afterward in St Joseph's room.

Celebrant: Fr Stork

Enquiries to President Tom on 0414 573 305

Everyone welcome!

Reconciliation and First Holy Communion 2023

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

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

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

Parish Finances - week ending 5 March 2023

\$645 First Collection - Clergy Remuneration Fund

\$526 Second collection - Parish expenses

\$160 Tap Point - Parish donations

\$380 Planned giving envelopes

\$540 Direct debits (weekly average from Jan).

Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly.

Recycling bins - \$202

Together, we have raised \$202 in the last 2 months with our recycling efforts.

Your donations of 10c recyclable bottles, cans and plastics are welcome.

All proceeds go to the Parish. Our bins are located in the church car park.



THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME - AIRS SUNDAY 12 MARCH 2023

On the Journey this week: Fr Mark De Battista says we can learn much from the Samaritan woman's faith journey in this week's Gospel. Mother Hilda says called or uncalled, God is always present in our lives. The Triumph Lenten series continues with Ken Bryant and Darren McDowell. Plus, the bush deacon, Josh Clayton, and more great music! Listen at jcr.org.au



A VOCATION VIEW

Jesus gives Living Water to those who come to Him in their need. Bring your weakness to Him, that His strength may help with your continued conversion of life. (John 4:14) If you want to talk about your discernment, please contact the diocesan vocations director, Fr Duane Fernandez at vocations@dow.org.au

EXPERIENCE TAIZE

FRIDAY 10 MARCH 2023

ST PAUL'S PARISH, ALBION PARK 7.30PM - 8.30PM

A Service of Prayer, Song and Contemplation. All welcome.

SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT

In Lent we prepare by exploring the 'logic of God's love' in our lives. This is done firstly by giving priority to reading and reflecting upon the word of God.

As Pope Francis writes in this year's Lenten Message: "The word of God is alive and powerful, capable of converting hearts and leading them back to God." Further, that "the Lord wants to make use of us as living, free and creative beings who let his word enter their own hearts before then passing it on to others." (Evangelii Gaudium n. 151).

<https://justiceandpeace.org.au/lent-easter-social-justice>

POSITION VACANT

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE
CHIEF OPERATIONS MANAGER

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG

An exciting opportunity exists for a suitably experienced and qualified person to apply for the role of Executive Assistant to the Chief Operations Manager.

Please visit the website <https://www.dow.org.au/news-and-events/> Applications can be emailed to

recruitment@dow.org.au

For all enquiries, call Robin Williams on (02) 4222 2402

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

12 MARCH - THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR A)

First Reading - Exodus 17: 3-7 *Give us water to drink*

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

Responsorial Psalm - *If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.*

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord R.
2. Come in; let us bow and bend low; let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture, the flock that is led by his hand. R.
3. O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work. R.

Second Reading - Romans 5:1-2, 5-8 *The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us.*

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man - though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die - but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

Gospel Acclamation:

Glory to you Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world; give me living water, that I may never thirst again. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel - John 4:5-42 *The water that I shall give will turn into a spring of eternal life.*

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' - Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied: '

If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you:

Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.'

'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied:

'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.'

'Sir,' said the woman 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water.' 'Go and call your husband' said Jesus to her 'and come back here.' The woman answered, 'I have no husband.' He said to her. 'You are right to say, "I have no husband"; for although you have had five, the one you have now is not your husband. You spoke the truth there.' 'I see you are a prophet, sir' said the woman. 'Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said:

'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know; for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come - in fact it is here already—when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.'

The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah - that is, Christ - is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.'

At this point his disciples returned, and were surprised to find him speaking to a woman, though none of them asked, 'What do you want from her?' or, 'Why are you talking to her?' The woman put down her water jar and hurried back to the town to tell the people, 'Come and see a man who has told me everything I ever did; I wonder if he is the Christ?' This brought people out of the town and they started walking towards him.

Meanwhile, the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, do have something to eat'; but he said, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples asked one another, 'Has someone been bringing him food?' But Jesus said:

'My food is to do the will of the one who sent me, and to complete his work. Have you not got a saying: Four months and then the harvest? Well, I tell you: Look around you, look at the fields; already they are white, ready for harvest! Already the reaper is being paid his wages, already he is bringing in the grain for eternal life, and thus sower and reaper rejoice together. For here the proverb holds good: one sows, another reaps; I sent you to reap a harvest you had not worked for. Others worked for it; and you have come into the rewards of their trouble.'

Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony when she said, 'He told me all I have ever done', so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'