

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 Priest: Fr Duane Fernandez
Email: Duane.Fernandez@dow.org.au
Mobile: 0414 626 357

Polish Chaplain: Fr Jerzy Slowinski
Email: slowinski54@gmail.com
Mobile: 0410 225 975

Parish Assistant: Sr Kerry Gardiner
Email: 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
Website: www.unanderraparish.org.au
Phone: 4271 1068
Fax: 4271 1298

TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) – 10 SEPT 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 11 Sept	Mass: 7am	
Tues 12 Sept	Mass: 5:30pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm – 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
Wed 13 Sept <i>St John Chrysostom, bishop, doctor</i>	Mass: 7am	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm - 5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm
Thurs 14 Sept <i>The Exaltation of the Holy Cross</i>	Mass: 5:30pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
Fri 15 Sept <i>Our Lady of Sorrows</i>	Mass: 7am Adoration: 7:30am - 8am	Mass: 9:30am
Sat 16 Sep <i>Sts Cornelius and Cyprian</i>	Rosary: 7am Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 5pm - 5:30pm Mass: 6pm	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am
Sun 17 Sep	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (Polish)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Roger Doyle, Elaine Campbell, Ursula Maitz,
Margaret Casey, Erna Lyon

Prayers for the sick

Peter Lathourakis,
John Sweeney, Kerrie Maidment

Anniversaries

Hazel McNamara, Bp Thomas McCabe,
Jose Diaz, Clare Nissen,
Antonio Carlotto



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

As we conclude **National Child Protection Week**, the Church in Australia marks Safeguarding Sunday – a day when we renew our commitment to constantly seeking to make our church and broader community as safe as possible for children and vulnerable adults. It has been encouraging for me to see the progress that our Diocese has made in recent years, including a consolidated Diocesan database ensuring appropriate checks for all involved in any form of ministry; a mandatory Professional Development plan for all involved in leadership in the Church (eg Clergy, CatholicCare, Catholic Education Office, Office of the Bishop staff); the recent investment in broadening the Safeguarding Team for the Diocese, from two to four staff members. Nevertheless there is always more to do.

On a parish level, in consultation with the Parish Pastoral Councils of West Wollongong and Unanderra we have recently established a **Safeguarding Team** across the two parishes. This team was selected from among people whom I knew had expertise and interest in this area. If you would like to know more about this team or get involved in this vital ministry for our parish, please let me know. We will be regularly updating the broader community as to our progress.

As you will see in the Child-Safe Standards listed below from the Royal Commission, the task of keeping our children and vulnerable adults safe is a task that we all share. We have made a lot of progress, but as stated in standard 9 let us commit ourselves to “continuous review and improvement” in this area. This should come naturally to us as Catholics, since we know that a central tenet of our spiritual growth is regularly examining our consciences, acknowledging our failings, and committing to do better: may we apply these same principles together as a church to the vital task of safeguarding those who are most vulnerable in our communities.

10 Child Safe Standards:

1. Child Safety is embedded in institutional leadership, governance and culture
2. Children participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously
3. Families and communities are informed and involved
4. Equity is upheld and diverse needs are taken into account
5. People working with children are suitable and supported
6. Processes to respond to complaints of abuse are child-focused
7. Staff are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children safe through continual education and training
8. Physical and online environments minimise the opportunity for abuse to occur
9. Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is continuously reviewed and improved
10. Policies and procedures document how the institution is child safe.

See also this excellent guide to the Child Safe Standards: https://ocg.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-12/g_CSS_GuidetotheStandards.pdf

It was wonderful to be able to celebrate Mass at long last in our newly renovated Immaculate Conception Church! There was overwhelmingly positive feedback from many parishioners about the work that has been done. How fitting that it was made ready the weekend before our Blessed Mother Mary's birthday, which we celebrated on Friday 8th September, almost like a birthday gift to her – or perhaps her gift to us! In this Church dedicated to her we continue to celebrate her birthday this weekend (9 months after her Immaculate Conception) with thanksgiving and joy! We look forward to next Sunday's 8am Mass and special morning tea, together with Monsignor Graham Schmitzer, to formally celebrate the reopening of our newly renovated Immaculate Conception Church. Spread the word!

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

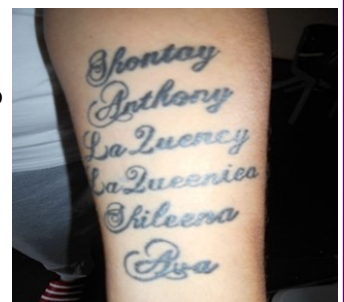
I am not a tattoo kind of person. I often wonder if people regret the tattoos they have. Times change and life moves on.

The picture I have attached is the arm of my friend. I fully understand her tattoos and I know that life has changed for her, hence the tattoos. Marion has eight children. Shontay was the eldest. At the age of 18 she died suddenly while she was minding her siblings at the local swimming pool. The six names listed are of her children who have died. Can you imagine burying six of your children. No parent should ever have to bury one, let alone six, who have all died at different ages of their childhood.

If this week presents a difficulty for you and you want to feel sorry for yourself, just remember there are others who are walking a tougher journey than you are.

Let's hold each other in prayer this week for none of us know what others are carrying.

Sr Kerry Gardiner



ROSTER — THIS WEEKEND

September	Church Washing	Helen Murphy	
Sat 9 Sep	Church Cleaning	F Fernandez, B Rice, R Tassone	
Sat 9 Sep	Lawns	H Fernandez, Milan Family, Broeckman Family	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
6pm 9 Sep	D Nugent	B Faraway	
8am 10 Sep	P Gunning	J Sharwood	Leah Galea, Alison Sharwood
Counters	M Murphy(FH), C Stratton, M Winner		

ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

September	Church Washing	Helen Murphy	
Sat 16 Sep	Church Cleaning	J Haywood, L Salway, M Hurley, T	
Sat 16 Sep	Lawns	No Lawn mowing this week	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
6pm 16 Sep	M Rodwell	S Marsala	
8am 17 Sep	M Matos	F Carolan A Amone	Sarah Walsh, Alicia Sanchez-Levine
Counters	A Kelly, B Faraway		

PARISH NEWS

Special Morning Tea

To celebrate the return to our freshly painted and beautifully cleaned Church there will be a SPECIAL MORNING TEA after 8am mass next Sunday, 17th September. Everyone is invited to come along and join with fellow parishioners to celebrate this special event.

Catholic Women's League

The monthly meeting of the CWL will be held on Thursday, 14th September at 10.00am in St Joseph's Room. Everyone is welcome to join us for a cuppa and chat before the meeting.



September Parish Novena

Please join in our parish novena with all your family, in thanksgiving for our newly painted church and all those who participated in any way to make this happen. The novena can be said at home at any convenient time **during the day that suits your family situation, on the 9 consecutive days** nominated below, using the standard daily mysteries for those days as outlined:

1. Thurs, 7 Sep Luminous mysteries
2. Friday, 8 Sep Sorrowful mysteries *Feast of the Nativity of the BVM*
3. Sat, 9 Sep Joyful mysteries
4. Sun, 10 Sep Glorious mysteries
5. Mon 11 Sep Joyful mysteries
6. Tues 12 Sep Sorrowful mysteries
Optional Memorial of the Holy Name of Mary
7. Wed 13 Sep Glorious mysteries
8. Thurs 14 Sep Luminous mysteries
9. Friday 15 Sep Sorrowful mysteries *Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows*

Thank you in advance for your participation in this novena; give generously in thanksgiving prayer for the beauty of our repainted church.

Parish Finances - week ending 3 September 2023

\$896	First Collection	- Clergy Remuneration Fund
\$448	Second collection	- Parish expenses
\$120	Tap Point - Parish donations	
\$534	Planned giving envelopes	
\$711	Direct debits (weekly average from July).	

Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly.

CATHOLIC CARE FOSTERING FUTURES

The Fostering Futures team are urgently looking for a forever home for Ollie* who is 8 years old. Ollie is a very engaging, outgoing, polite and active boy. Ollie enjoys swimming, going to the park, playing Nintendo, watching movies, colouring in, and trying new foods. Ollie would love to learn to ride a bike and play soccer or Oz Tag. Ollie is looking for a forever home with carers who are kind, caring, calm, and patient who can give him a sense of security and belonging.

You can find out more by calling **0418 783 956**, email fosteringfutures@catholiccare.dow.org.au or go to www.catholiccare.dow.org.au for more information.

Fostering Futures will support you every step of the way.

*name has been



THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME - AIRS SUNDAY 10 SEPT 2023

On the Journey this week: Fr Mike Delaney says this Gospel challenges how we respond to issues within our faith communities. Mother Hilda says the sunrise is a metaphor for God in our life. Plus, Fr Tony Percy, Robert Falzon, and Byron and Francine Pirola. Listen at jcr.org.au



A VOCATION VIEW

"Where two or three are gathered, there I am in the midst of them." Make Christ the centre of your conversations and interactions with others. (Matthew 18:20)

For help discerning your specific vocational path, contact Fr Duane Fernandez at vocations@dow.org.au



THE BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

Will be promoted in our parish on the **weekend of 16/17 September.**

"Our faith calls us to help one another through prayer and action. Offering dignified support and care for our retired clergy, who have always cared for us; and a sound and holistic formation of our young seminarians, our future priests, are my responsibilities as your Bishop. I seek your prayers and practical support to help me ensure that I can do this. Your donation to this appeal is very much appreciated." + Bishop Brian Mascord

A WOMAN'S OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE A CURSILLO 3 DAY WEEKEND

Do you feel there is more to your life? Is your Spiritual life a little sluggish at the moment? Join fellow Catholic women as we explore our faith and discuss where this faith is taking us. Father Chris Roberts is our Spiritual Director and will offer Mass daily.

Our next weekend is being run at Carmel House, Varroville, from the evening of **Thursday 5th October until Sunday afternoon, 8th October.**

Please phone Geraldine on 0421 329 365 or click [here](#) for more information on what Cursillo is.

MALTESE FESTA-TAL VITORJA

**SUNDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 2PM
ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI WARRAWONG**

Join the annual Maltese Festa- 'Tal Vitorja' is on Sunday 10 September at St Francis of Assisi Catholic Church 93 Flagstaff Rd Warrawong. The Wollongong Brass band will start playing at 2pm, marching, carrying the statue of Our Lady, the Holy Rosary and Mass by Bishop Brian Mascord. Then join us for some Pastizzi and refreshments at the George Cross Maltese club, 25 Lake Ave Cringila.

JAMBEROO ABBEY ARTS AND CRAFTS EXHIBITION 'BY THE WORK OF OUR HANDS'

Come and join us for the Jamberoo Abbey Arts & Crafts Exhibition being held at the Old Fire Station Kiama.

Date: 22 - 27 September 2023

Time: 10am- 3:30pm

Bring your friends and family along and enjoy beautiful Kiama and discover the beauty 'By the Work of our Hands'.



10 SEPTEMBER - TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

First Reading - Ezekiel 33:7-9

If you have not warned the wicked man, then I will hold you responsible for his death

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows, 'Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.'

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.
4. For you have been my help; in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast. R.

Second Reading - Romans 13:8-10

Love is the fulfilment of the Law.

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us. Alleluia!

Gospel - Matthew 18:15-20

If your brother or sister listens to you, you will have won that person back.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.

'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.

'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'