

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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 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)

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 Website: www.unanderraparish.org.au
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THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B) – 25 FEBRUARY 2024

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 26 Feb	Mass: 7am	
Tues 27 Feb <i>St Gregory of Narek, abbot, doctor</i>	Mass: 5:30pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:45pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
Wed 28 Feb	Mass: 7am	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm - 5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm
Thurs 29 Feb	Polish Mass: 11am Mass: 5:30pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:45pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
Fri 1 Mar	Mass: 7am Stations of the Cross: 7pm Extended Adoration: 7:35pm - 10pm	Mass: 9:30am Stations of the Cross: 5:30pm
Sat 2 Mar	Rosary 7am Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 5pm - 5:30pm Mass: 6pm	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am
Sun 3 Mar	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (Polish)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased



Prayers for the sick

Peter Lathourakis, Peter Stoyles, Antoinette Sakr
 Kerrie Maidment, Roger Baxendale, Josephine Moran

Anniversaries

Edward Scally, Michele Abbatantuono,
 Jason Fish, Micky Walsh, Joseph Dredge,
 David Crowe, Fr Tony Daly, Scott Dunstan
 Michael Willisee, Dot Gelfius

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

Bishop Brian led a beautiful “Rite of Election” last Sunday for all the adults preparing to become Catholic throughout our Diocese – most of whom will be receiving the Sacraments this Easter. Bishop Brian noted that it was the largest number of catechumens (adults being baptised) that he has seen during his time as Bishop. It is also the largest number of adults becoming Catholic in any of my own parishes since I have been ordained. Let us thank God for working in the hearts of these adults, and for their openness to responding to his call in their lives. Let’s pray for them as they continue their journey of preparation, and though at this stage they come to different Masses across the two parishes, we look forward to opportunities to welcome them as a group in our worshipping communities both before and after their celebration of the Sacraments. Let’s keep them all in our prayers!

Next Sunday 3rd March, all are welcome to join with the adults who are preparing to become Catholic at a “teaching Mass” – not an actual Mass, but a “dry-run” through the Mass where I will explain the main ritual words and actions throughout the Mass and their meaning, with the opportunity for Q and A throughout. This is open to all parishioners of Unanderra and West Wollongong and will take place at **St Therese Church (with the assistance of the projector screen for teaching) beginning at 6:15pm after the parishioners have departed from the regular (actual) Mass at 5pm, and concluding by 7:30pm at the latest** Feel free to invite anyone who you think might be interested.

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

At our Lenten group gathering the following thought was shared. It is well worth passing it on. It reads:-

‘Eat whatever you want for Lent. The sacrifice is not in the stomach, but in the heart. Some people refrain from eating meat, but do not talk to their siblings or relatives; do not visit their parents or bother to attend to them. They do not share food with the needy, forbid children to see their father or mother, forbid grandparents to see their grandchildren, criticize other people’s lives, beat their partner etc. A good BBQ or beef stew will not make you a bad person, just like a fish fillet will not turn you into a saint. Better to seek to have a deeper relationship with God through better treatment of others. Let us be less arrogant and humbler at heart. [Pope Francis.]



Sr Kerry Gardiner

HOLY WEEK at IMMACULATE CONCEPTION 2024

Holy Thursday 28 March

7pm Mass of the Lord’s Supper (Fr. David O’Brien)

Good Friday 29 March

10am Stations of the Cross (Acolyte)

3pm Commemoration of the Passion (Fr. Duane)

Easter Saturday 30 March

7pm Easter Vigil (Fr. Peter Gardiner)

Easter Sunday 31 March

8am Mass (Fr. Duane)

HOLY WEEK at ST THERESE 2024

Holy Thursday 28 March

7pm Mass of the Lord’s Supper (Fr. Duane)

Good Friday 29 March

10am Stations of the Cross (Acolyte)

3pm Commemoration of the Passion (Fr. David O’Brien)

Easter Saturday 30 March

7pm Easter Vigil (Fr. Duane)

Easter Sunday 31 March

8am Mass (Fr. David O’Brien)

10am Mass (Fr. Duane)

No 5pm Mass on Easter Sunday

ROSTER — THIS WEEKEND

February	Church Washing	Fiona Fernandez	
Sat 24 Feb	Church Cleaning	W & J Rodgers, J Andersson	
Sat 24 Feb	Lawns	No lawn mowing this week	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children’s liturgy
6pm 24 Feb	N O’Donoghue	B Collins	
8am 25 Feb	T Vaafusuaga	A Kelly	Alicia Sanchez-Levine, Luke Jansons
Counters	M Murphy (FH), C Stratton, M Winner		

ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

March	Church Washing	Helen Murphy	
Sat 2 Mar	Church Cleaning	F Fernandez, B Rice, R Tassone	
Sat 2 Mar	Lawns	H Fernandez, Milan Family, Broeckmann	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children’s liturgy
6pm 2 Mar	D Ferrer	C Cleary	
8am 3 Mar	C Lyon	G Simmonite	Sandra Michielin, Ella Alessi, Lisa Michelin
Counters	A Kelly, B Farraway		

PARISH NEWS



Extended Adoration - Friday 1 March, 7:35pm - 10pm (after Stations of the Cross)

Reconciliation available throughout.

"Curiously, the prayer of adoration - we have lost it. We have lost it and everyone - priests, bishops, consecrated men and women, laypeople - have to recover it. It's to be in silence, before the Lord."

- Pope Francis

Pieta Lenten Program

Pieta Lenten books have all been sold. An online option is available for purchase at <https://www.dow.org.au/shop/> and please contact the parish office if you would like assistance obtaining these materials.

STIC Young Adults 2024

Want to go deeper into your faith and also connect with other young Catholics in the region? STIC Young Adults (18-35yrs) are meeting on Thursday nights at St Therese Parish Centre.

WHEN: 7pm Thursday nights, starting 15 February.

WHERE? St Therese Parish Centre, West Wollongong.

Follow us on Facebook or Instagram @sticyoungadults.

Contact Ed Parke at edselparke1995@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Stations of the Cross - Fridays of Lent



On the Fridays of Lent, Stations of the Cross will take place at: 7pm at Immaculate Conception 5:30pm at St Therese West Wollongong

Christian Meditation:

The Christian Meditation Group invites parishioners, friends and those of all faiths who are seeking to know more re the practice of Christian Meditation to attend 3 weekly introductory sessions

WHEN: 3 Mondays...19 and 26 Feb and 4 Mar 6pm - 7.30pm

WHERE: St Therese' Parish Centre.

ENQUIRIES: Please text **Monica 0412 056 877**. All are welcome

2024 Sacramental Program - registration evenings

This year the sacraments of Confirmation, Reconciliation and First Holy Communion will be offered through the Immaculate Conception Parish. Please note that **ALL** registration sessions will be held at the St Therese Parish Centre, West Wollongong. Registration evenings for these sacraments will take place on:

Term 1 - Confirmation

Tuesday 12th March 7pm at St Therese Parish Centre

Thursday 14th March 7pm at St Therese Parish Centre

Term 2 - Reconciliation and First Holy Communion

Tuesday 18th June 7pm at St Therese Parish Centre

Thursday 20th June 7pm at St Therese Parish Centre

Project Compassion

After the birth of her children, 22-year-old Ronita was at risk of having to leave school permanently. But, with the support of Caritas Australia's partners in the Philippines, she resumed her studies and secured a job at a call centre to support her family.

Please donate to Project Compassion

caritas.org.au/project-compassion



Parish Finances - week ending 18 February 2024

\$679 First Collection - Clergy Remuneration Fund

\$436 Second collection - Parish expenses

\$170 Tap Point - Parish donations

\$204 Planned giving envelopes

\$444 Direct debits (weekly average from Dec).

Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME - AIRS SUNDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2024

On the Journey this week: Sr Katherine Stone MGL says all the readings this weekend helps us with our struggle to know God as our loving Father and ourselves as beloved sons and daughters. Mother Hilda says God put little things into our life so that we might just see God saying I love you. Fr Tony Percy says that Jesus is transfigured immediately, not so us, however as we offer ourselves to God, we are slowly, but surely transfigured. Listen at jcr.org.au



A VOCATION VIEW



God calls Abraham to be willing to sacrifice all that is dear to him, even his own son, Isaac. In order to respond to a priestly or religious vocation, the same call to sacrifice is heard. Are you willing? (Gen. 22:1-2). If you want to talk about your vocation, please contact the diocesan vocations director, Fr Duane Fernandez at vocations@dow.org.au

CHARISMATIC HEALING MASS

When: Friday 8 March 2024

Where: Sacred Heart Chapel, Stewart Street, Wollongong

Time: 7pm Praise and Worship 7:30pm Holy Mass

A warm invitation is extended to all prayer groups including the Disciples of Jesus Community, Couples for Christ, Cursillo, Alpha graduates and all other prayer groups, to join us in charismatic prayer for our Bishop's Vision for the Wollongong Diocese. There will also be an opportunity for healing prayer after Mass. For more info, contact

Gabriella De Battista 0414 205 404

VINNIES YOUTH

Looking for a way to live your faith and support your local community in 2024? Vinnies Youth could be for you!

If you're aged 18-35 and would like to find out more come along to our "Come and See" night on **Thursday 29 February from 5:30pm** at St Therese Parish!

We'll be creating food packs for the Food Van and talking a bit more about what we do.

Please RSVP to: Rebecca.hall@vinnies.org.au for catering purposes.



LIGHT TO THE NATIONS

- 2024 EASTER YOUTH PILGRIMAGE

You're invited to an Easter experience like no other.

Held from 28-31 March, LTTN will be held on the grounds of Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville NSW.

It is a transformative experience designed to bring families, especially youth and young adults, to an encounter with the person of Jesus in the context of the Easter Triduum through prayer, worship, drama, music, and personal sharing.

Register at dow.sh/LTTN24



CATHOLIC BIBLE STUDY -

THURSDAYS, 7:30-9PM*

XAVIER CENTRE, CONFERENCE ROOMS
(BEHIND THE CATHEDRAL IN WOLLONGONG)

Come and explore the Bible with the mind and heart of the Church in an open and friendly environment. All are welcome.

A missionary work of the Disciples of Jesus.

Contact **Tom Kadmon 0413 927 086**

* Thursdays during school term

25 FEBRUARY - THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B)

First Reading - Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18

The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith.

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt-offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of their enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

Responsorial Psalm - I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

1. I trusted, even when I said:
'I am sorely afflicted,'
O precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful. R.
2. Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;
you have loosened my bonds.
A thanksgiving sacrifice I make;
I will call on the Lord's name. R.
3. My vows to the Lord I will fulfil
before all his people,
in the courts of the house of the Lord,
in your midst, O Jerusalem. R.

Second Reading - Romans 8:31-34

God did not spare his own Son.

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

Gospel Acclamation:

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ!

From the shining cloud, The Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel - Mark 9:2-10

This is my Son, the beloved: listen to him.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus: 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.