

# 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:** Mr Chris Lyon  
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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 Lisa Tyson

**Parish Secretary:** Mrs Melissa Bridges  
**Office Hours:** Mon/Wed: 8:30am - 1:30pm  
Friday: 8:30am - 3:30pm

**Parish Office:** Email: [unanderra@dow.org.au](mailto:unanderra@dow.org.au)  
Website: [www.unanderraparish.org.au](http://www.unanderraparish.org.au)  
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## TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR C) – 7 SEPTEMBER 2025

**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 8 Sep</b><br><i>The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> | Mass: 8am   |   |
| <b>Tues 9 Sep</b><br><i>St Peter Claver, priest</i>                | Mass: 5:30pm<br>Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:50pm<br>Rosary: 6pm<br>Adoration: 6pm - 7pm |   |
| <b>Wed 10 Sep</b>  |   | Reconciliation: 4:30pm - 5:30pm<br>Adoration: 4:30pm - 5:30pm<br>Mass: 5:30pm |
| <b>Thurs 11 Sep</b>  | Mass: 5:30pm<br>Rosary: 6pm<br>Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:50pm<br>Adoration: 6pm - 7pm |   |
| <b>Fri 12 Sep</b><br><i>The Most Holy Name of Mary</i>             |   | Mass: 7:45am  |
| <b>Sat 13 Sep</b><br><i>St John Chrysostom, bishop, doctor</i>     | Mass: 5pm   | Rosary: 8:30am<br>Mass: 9am   |
| <b>Sun 14 Sep</b>  | Mass: 8am<br>Polish Mass: 10am  | Mass: 10am<br>Mass: 5pm   |

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

### Recently Deceased

Joan Buntin, Marie Aubrey (nee Buntin),  
John Packham, Margaret Walsh

### Prayers for the sick

Arthur infante Boer, Peter Stevens, Orlando Ferrer,  
Iris Brown, Michael Murphy, Mr Leandro, Don Harper,  
Peter Lathourakis, Felix Johnson, Antoinette Sakr, Josephine Moran

### Anniversaries

Queen Elizabeth II, Dawn McHugh,  
Hazel McNamara, Bp Thomas McCabe,

Jose Diaz, Michael Blewitt  
Edoardo Milan



## COMMITMENT TO SAFEGUARDING OUR CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE PEOPLE

For any suggestions or concerns about safeguarding our children and vulnerable people, please contact the Parish Office, or the Diocesan Office of Professional Standards and Safeguarding at [safeguarding@dow.org.au](mailto:safeguarding@dow.org.au) or 4222 2428.

## *Message from Fr Duane*

During this past week we celebrated the **10th World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation** (1st September). We know that care for creation was one of the key teachings from Pope Francis, but it is worth noting that Pope St John Paul 2, Pope Benedict XVI, and now Pope Leo XIV, have all taught this same message. Pope Leo XIV called us to mark this day and the ecumenical **"Season of Creation"** (1st September to 4th October) with a renewed awareness of the beauty of God's creation and of our responsibility as God's people to care for the works of his hands. Pope Leo's "Message for the 10th World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation" can be found online, or contact the parish office if you would like a hard copy.

Our annual **"Community Fun Day"** is coming up on Sunday November 2nd – save the date! We are also keen to make this day even more fun and family friendly this year, so if any of you have any ideas or if you would like to join an organising committee (just temporarily for this event – you won't be committed for life), please contact the parish office.

**Happy Fathers Day** to all the fathers and father figures of our community! I share words of our late Holy Father, Pope Francis, in one of his messages for Fathers Day, reminding us of St Joseph as the model for all men, and especially of earthly fatherhood:

*"St Joseph is the model of the educator and the dad, the father. I, therefore, entrust to his protection those who are fathers. Best wishes to you on your day! I ask for you the grace to be ever closer to your children, allow them to grow, but be close, close! They need you, your presence, your closeness, your love. May you be for them as St Joseph was: guardians of their growth in age, wisdom and grace. May you guard them on their journey: be educators and walk with them. Thank you for all you do for your children: thank you. May St Joseph bless you and accompany you."*

This weekend, Pope Leo XIV will celebrate the **canonisation of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati and Blessed Carlo Acutis**. These two young saints will be a great inspiration for the youth of our time. I encourage you all to learn more about them, and share their stories especially with any young people you are in contact with, and perhaps to tune in to watch the canonisation Mass this Sunday 6pm AEST.

**Fr Duane Fernandez**

## *Message from Sr Kerry*

My dad literally dropped dead. Nothing had prepared us for that day. In the days following naturally we spoke much about dad and things that came to mind were shared without thought or expectation. I was taken by surprise when my mum said, 'Last Saturday week I stood at the front door as your dad drove out and went to the church for confession. I stood there and thought, What on earth would that man have to confess?' That was a profound statement from a woman who had shared her life and love with this man for 53 years.

As we celebrate Father's Day, and in some ways we should all celebrate the gift we are, as we live qualities given to us by our God.

There's an insightful painting by Rembrandt 'The Return of the Prodigal Son.' If you look closely at the father's hands on the son's shoulders you will notice one hand is male and the other hand is female. We all have qualities that reflect the whole person.

Today let us pray for those who reflect the goodness, hope, and love of a caring father in our lives. Let's utter a prayer of thanks for those people.

A happy Father's Day as we celebrate this blessed day.



**Sr Kerry Gardiner**

### ROSTER — THIS WEEKEND

| September | Church Washing                  | Barbara Faraway          |                              |
|-----------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Sat 6 Sep | Church Cleaning                 | D Attard, L Lathourakis  |                              |
| Sat 6 Sep | Lawns                           | No lawn mowing this week |                              |
|           | Lectors                         | Welcomers                | Children's liturgy           |
| 5pm 6 Sep | T Chicharo                      | S Adams                  |                              |
| 8am 7 Sep | D Ferrer                        | G Simmonite              | Maria Matos,<br>Anne Vaassen |
| Counters  | A Gunning, M Cauduro, C Garrett |                          |                              |

### ROSTER — NEXT WEEKEND

| September  | Church Washing     | Barbara Faraway                                 |  |
|------------|--------------------|---|--|
| Sat 13 Sep | Church Cleaning    | F Fernandez, B Rice, R Tassone, N Dunne         |  |
| Sat 13 Sep | Lawns              | Mannix, Brown, Caruana, Lonard, Sharwood, Smith |  |
|            | Lectors            | Welcomers                                       | Children's liturgy                       |
| 5pm 13 Sep | D Nugent           | B Faraway                                       |  |
| 8am 14 Sep | T Vaafusuaga       | J Sharwood                                      | Kylie & Molly Hertsch,<br>Gemma Farrugia |
| Counters   | A Kelly, B Faraway |   |  |

## PARISH NEWS

### No morning tea this Sunday

There will not be a morning tea this Sunday due to families having their own celebrations for Fathers Day.



### Safeguarding - Children's liturgy QR code registration



The Parish Safeguarding Team continues to work on making improvements to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults in our parish family. Please use this QR code to register your children for Children's Liturgy.

### CWL meeting - 11 September

The monthly meeting of the CWL will be held on Thursday 11 Sept 2025 at 10 am in St Joseph's Room. Everyone is welcome to join us for a cuppa and chat before the meeting.

### Bereavement Ministry - Expressions of Interest

Losing a loved one is one of the deepest sorrows in this life, and the beginning of a journey of grief. As the Church we can help to lighten this burden, with the help of volunteers who might provide support for the bereaved in various ways - for example, helping in preparation for a funeral, following up after a funeral with a cup of tea, providing a meal during a time of grief, or other ways - the specific details will be finalised after we know how many are interested in the ministry, and ongoing support and formation will be provided to all involved as needed before we commence the ministry. If you would like to know more about this ministry or if you have any suggestions, please contact the parish office and we will be in touch with you soon to let you know the next steps.

### Vinnies Winter Appeal - thank you



The Unanderra Conference of St Vincent de Paul Society would like to thank all the generous parishioners who supported the Winter Bucket Appeal. A total of **\$3,133.35** has been raised to date. Donations can still be made using the poor box in the church or by placing an envelope addressed to St Vincent de Paul Society Unanderra Conference in the Mass collection plate. The Unanderra Conference receives more than 10 requests for help every week. Your support is much appreciated and the society supports you in prayer.

### High School Youth Group: "Revive Youth"

Meet fortnightly 7pm - 9pm at St Therese Parish Centre.

#### **Date: 19 September**

Come along and enjoy fun games, snacks and meet awesome people. It is a great way to learn about our faith. We'd love to see you there! Contact [reviveyouth25@gmail.com](mailto:reviveyouth25@gmail.com) for more information

### STIC Young Adults - 7pm Thursdays



**11 Sept:** Formation and fellowship

**18 Sept:** Guest Speaker- Elise Duval "Discover the Jubilee: Making the most of the Jubilee year and beyond". Message us on FB or Insta

(@sticyoungadults) to join our WhatsApp for regular updates.

### Parish Finances - week ending 31 August 2025

|       |   |                                     |
|-------|---|-------------------------------------|
| \$726 | First Collection                            | - Diocesan Clergy Remuneration Fund |
| \$423 | Second collection                           | - Parish expenses                   |
| \$456 | Tap Point donations                         |                                     |
| \$344 | Planned giving envelopes                    |                                     |
| \$584 | Direct debits (weekly average from August). |                                     |

Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly

### Carmelite Spirituality Group for Lay seekers -10am Sat 20 Sept

For those thirsting for God, a Carmelite Spirituality Group can offer an opportunity to explore one of the Church's richest spiritual traditions. Join us in the St Joseph's room on Saturday, 20 Sept at 10am for a cuppa, followed by prayer and a time for answering your questions about this ancient pathway. **Contact:** Gabrielle Fogarty, [gfgarty@exemail.com.au](mailto:gfgarty@exemail.com.au) or 0409 327 563

## THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME - AIRS SUNDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2025

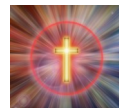
On The Journey this Week: Fr Josh Whitehead says the gospel passage is not about rejecting relationships but about prioritising Jesus above all else in our lives. Mother Hilda says when we pray or speak to God, God hears the "full orchestra" of our entire life experience. Bishop Tony Percy says Jesus gives two images to help process his words in this Gospel. Trish McCarthy says we are selling ourselves short by not going to the source of accurate information - God's Word. Listen at [jcr.org.au](http://jcr.org.au)



## VOCATION VIEW

You have one precious life to give. How do you choose to offer it to God? Be willing to accept the challenges of discipleship. (Luke 14:25-33)

If you want to talk about your vocation, please contact the diocesan vocations director, Fr Duane Fernandez at [vocations@dow.org.au](mailto:vocations@dow.org.au)



## AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL

30 NOV - 2 DEC 2025

MELBOURNE EXHIBITION CENTRE

ACYF is a national celebration of faith, drawing together thousands of young people (Year 9 to 25 years old) from across Australia for a powerful experience of encounter, formation, prayer, and community. Each day includes dynamic speakers, workshops, music, Mass, and an interactive expo. Travel and accommodation are being organised through Harvest Journeys, with a full package including your ACYF ticket, return flights, transfers, 4 nights' hotel accommodation, daily breakfast, and dinner on arrival (the night before the Festival). **Spots are limited and must be finalised by mid-Sept.** To register or find out more, visit [dow.org.au/cymw](http://dow.org.au/cymw) or contact Arnie Hurdoyal at [arnie.hurdoyal@dow.org.au](mailto:arnie.hurdoyal@dow.org.au)

## MENALIVE GROWING GOOD MEN WEEKEND 2025

FRIDAY 5 - SUNDAY 7 DEC 2025

THE TOPS CONFERENCE CENTRE

A powerful weekend for fathers and their teenage sons (ages 12-17). Strengthen your bond, explore the journey into manhood, and share in engaging activities, reflection, prayer, and a memorable Rite of Passage.

Places are limited - register early to secure your spot! \$500 per father & son pair (includes accommodation, meals, activities & resources) For more information and registration, visit [www.dow.org.au/events](http://www.dow.org.au/events)

## THE BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

WEEKEND OF 20/21 SEPTEMBER 2025

The Bishop's Annual Appeal to support the retirement and health of clergy and the sound and holistic formation of seminarians is being promoted in our parish during Sept.

To find out more or make a tax deductible donation please visit [www.dow.org.au/giving](http://www.dow.org.au/giving), scan the QR code or call (02) 4222 2400 to make a donation over the phone.



## NAPPY DRIVE

SUPPORTING PREGNANT MOTHERS

We are collecting nappies and baby products, such as lotions, barrier cream, baby powder etc, to support pregnant women. All donations will be given to Diamond Women, an organisation which provides compassionate care, professional support and counselling to assist women and their families facing an unplanned pregnancy. **Donations can be left in marked baskets**



## 7 SEPT 2025 - THE TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR C)

### First Reading - Wisdom 9:13-18

*Who can comprehend the will of the Lord.*

What man indeed can know the intentions of God?  
Who can divine the will of the Lord?  
The reasonings of mortals are unsure  
and our intentions unstable;  
for a perishable body presses down the soul,  
and this tent of clay weighs down the teeming mind.  
It is hard enough for us to work out what is on earth,  
laborious to know what lies within our reach;  
who, then, can discover what is in the heavens?  
As for your intention, who could have learnt it, had you not granted Wisdom  
and sent your holy spirit from above?  
Thus have the paths of those on earth been straightened  
and men been taught what pleases you,  
and saved, by Wisdom.

### Responsorial Psalm - In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

1. You turn men back to dust  
and say: 'Go back, sons of men.'  
To your eyes a thousand years  
are like yesterday, come and gone,  
no more than a watch in the night. R.
2. You sweep men away like a dream,  
like the grass which springs up in the morning.  
In the morning it springs up and flowers:  
by evening it withers and fades. R.
3. Make us know the shortness of our life  
that we may gain wisdom of heart.  
Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever?  
Show pity to your servants. R.
4. In the morning, fill us with your love;  
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.  
Let the favour of the Lord be upon us:  
give success to the work of our hands. R.

### Second Reading - Philemon 9-10,12-17

*Receive him, not as a slave anymore, but as a very dear brother.*

This is Paul writing, an old man now and, what is more, still a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for a child of mine, whose father I became while wearing these chains: I mean Onesimus. I am sending him back to you, and with him – I could say – a part of my own self. I should have liked to keep him with me; he could have been a substitute for you, to help me while I am in the chains that the Good News has brought me. However, I did not want to do anything without your consent; it would have been forcing your act of kindness, which should be spontaneous. I know you have been deprived of Onesimus for a time, but it was only so that you could have him back for ever, not as a slave any more, but something much better than a slave, a dear brother; especially dear to me, but how much more to you, as a blood-brother as well as a brother in the Lord. So if all that we have in common means anything to you, welcome him as you would me.

### Gospel Acclamation:

**Alleluia, alleluia! Let my face shine on your servant and teach me your laws. Alleluia!**

### Gospel - Luke 14:25-33

*All who do not renounce their possessions cannot be my disciples.*

Great crowds accompanied Jesus on his way and he turned and spoke to them. 'If any man comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple. Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.  
'And indeed, which of you here, intending to build a tower, would not first sit down and work out the cost to see if he had enough to complete it? Otherwise, if he laid the foundation and then found himself unable to finish the work, the onlookers would all start making fun of him and saying, "Here is a man who started to build and was unable to finish." Or again, what king marching to war against another king would not first sit down and consider whether with ten thousand men he could stand up to the other who advanced against him with twenty thousand? If not, then while the other king was still a long way off, he would send envoys to sue for peace. So in the same way, none of you can be my disciple unless he gives up all his possessions.'