



ST THERESE PARISH - WEST WOLLONGONG

2 Powell Street, West Wollongong NSW 2500

Parish Office: Phone: (02) 4243 9610
Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 8.30am to 1.30pm
 Parish Secretary: Mrs Lani Perez
 Email: westwollongong@dow.org.au
 Website: www.sttherese.com.au
 Bulletin/Media Email: communications@sttherese.com.au

Parish Priest: Fr. Duane Fernandez Email: Duane.Fernandez@dow.org.au
Deacon: Dn. Joseph Nguyen Email: joseph.vuongnguyen@dow.org.au

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."

SUNDAY 31 AUGUST 2025

22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

<u>ST THERESE WEST WOLLONGONG</u>	<u>IMMACULATE CONCEPTION UNANDERRA</u>	<u>RECONCILIATION:</u>
<u>Weekend Masses</u> Sunday: 10am and 5pm	<u>Weekend Masses</u> Saturday: 5pm Sunday: 8am	St Therese - West Wollongong Saturday: 9.30am – 10.30am Wednesday: 4.30pm – 5.30pm Immaculate Conception – Unanderra Tuesday: 6.00pm – 7.00pm Thursday: 6.00pm – 7.00pm
<u>Weekday Masses</u> Wednesday: 5.30pm Friday: 7.45am Saturday: 9.00am	<u>Weekday Masses</u> Monday: 8.00am Tuesday: 5.30pm Thursday: 5.30pm	<u>BAPTISMS:</u> Notice period: 1 month 2 nd Sunday of month 12pm West Wollongong 4 th Sunday of month 12pm Unanderra
<u>Eucharistic Adoration:</u> Wednesday 4.30pm - 5.30pm	<u>Eucharistic Adoration:</u> Tuesday and Thursday 6pm - 7pm	<u>WEDDINGS:</u> Notice period: 6 months

MESSAGE FROM FR DUANE



This Sunday is "Social Justice Sunday", when the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference publishes an annual Social Justice Statement. This year's statement is entitled "Signs of Hope on the Edge: Serving Homeless People with

Mental Ill-Health". It is a very powerful and practical statement which contains reflection questions throughout, and I encourage you all to read and engage with the statement prayerfully and reflectively. The Australian Bishops quote Pope Benedict XVI who wrote powerfully in his encyclical "Deus Caritas Est (God is Love)": "Love for widows and orphans, for prisoners, and the sick and needy of every kind, is as essential to [the Church] as the ministry of the sacraments and preaching of the Gospel. The Church cannot neglect the service of charity any more than she can neglect the Sacraments and the Word."

Having studied psychology previously and having worked with many people with mental ill-health throughout my own ministry, I was greatly encouraged by the honest insights provided by this Social Justice Statement, where the Bishops describe some of the tragic realities facing some of our most vulnerable brothers and sisters in their times of greatest need. The Bishops also remind us of the genuine hope that Christ provides, especially through us, the Church.

The Church is already making a genuine, lasting difference in so many lives, especially through the work of the St Vincent De Paul Society – and I also take this opportunity to thank you for your generous support to the Winter Appeal last weekend (which can of course continue in the weeks to come). I am also eager to see how we might be able to respond to the call of the Australian Bishops not only as individuals but as a parish community. The Social Justice Statement extends throughout 2025-2026 (until Social Justice Sunday next year) and we will be seeking to provide opportunities to engage more deeply with shared reflection and action based upon this statement in the year ahead. If you are interested in knowing more, stay tuned, or feel free to contact me to discuss this further. This year's statement can be accessed at <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/>

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY: NEW TO THE PARISH

The Parish Pastoral Council is hoping to form a new ministry, which might include practical and ongoing personal and emotional support for the bereaved – 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 of potentially walking with individuals and families before and after funerals in our parish. The specific details will be finalised after we know how many are interested in the ministry, and ongoing support and formation

Continued over page...



RECENTLY DECEASED: Joan Bunten, Marie Aubrey (nee Bunten), John Packham, Margaret Walsh
DECEASED FOR WHOM OUR PRAYERS HAVE BEEN REQUESTED: Bernie Fitzpatrick, Jennifer Bell, Romeyo Zampa
SICK: Kerrie Maidment, Lucila Montano, Rachael Wakely, Margaret Beamish, Daniel Hiew
ANNIVERSARIES OF PARISHIONERS: Gertrude McGoldrick, Frederick Buchhorn, Tomas Kereszy, Dorothy Smith, Thomas Murphy, Babs Himmelreich, Noel Smith Frederick Farrington, Edward Mulligan, William Greaves, Shirley Elkins, Neville Templeton, Michael Fitzgibbon, John Travers, Mary McCahon, Gwendoline Breeze, Vita Mariani, Elizabeth Byron, Ross Greenfield, Harold Atkinson, Margaret Haywood, Peter Phennings, Elizabeth McGirr, Wincenty Piater, Brigid Abberton, Anne McKee, Lillian Dorin, Noel O'Shea, Pat Murphy, Walter Castles, Brian Crookham, Reinaldo Montero

... Fr Duane's message continued

will be provided to all involved as needed before we commence the ministry. Thank you to those who have already expressed their interest from the "Come and See Cup of Tea", and if anyone else is interested in knowing 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.

PARISH FINANCES

\$365 First Collection - Clergy Remuneration Fund
 \$255 Second Collection – Parish Expenses
 \$400 Tap Point – Parish Donations
 \$205 Planned Giving Envelopes
 \$705 Direct Debits (weekly average for July)



Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly.

Parishioners who wish to join the planned giving program via envelope or direct debit to assist with our parish expenses, please contact the parish office for further information

VINNIES NEWS

A huge thank you to all for your amazing support of our Winter Appeal last weekend. You donated twice as much as we dared hope for: \$8,829. Together with our community grant, this sets us up to continue the support we would like to give to our neighbours in need. While we have always felt supported by our fellow parishioners, this generosity gives us a new vitality to continue our mission: to support those experiencing poverty and work to shape a more just and compassionate society.



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION - FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH 6pm - 9pm

All are invited to Eucharistic Adoration at Immaculate Conception Church, Unanderra. Come for any part of the evening, with the Sacrament of Reconciliation also available.



ENVIRONMENTAL STATIONS OF THE CROSS

This Friday at 5.30pm on the church grounds. Come along and pray for the earth and its people.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP - "REVIVE YOUTH"

Meets fortnightly 7-9pm, St Therese Parish Centre
Next meeting: 5 September

Come along and enjoy fun games, some snacks and meet awesome people. It's also a great way to learn more about our faith. We'd love to see you there!

Contact reviveyouth25@gmail.com for more information.

STIC YOUNG ADULTS IS BACK THURSDAYS 7PM @ST THERESE PARISH CENTRE

4 & 11 Sept: Formation and fellowship

18 Sept: Guest Speaker- Elise Duval "Discover the Jubilee: Making the most of the Jubilee year and beyond"

25 Sept: 5:30 Unanderra Mass, 6:45 Dinner @ Unanderra Hotel. Message us on FB or Insta (@sticyoungadults) to join our WhatsApp for regular updates.

STIC MASS AND BUSHWALK

Saturday 6 September

All young adults are invited to Mass and a bushwalk to celebrate Bl Carlo and Pier's Canonisation. 9am Mass @ St Therese, followed by Mt Kembla Summit Track (meet 10:15)

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY TODAY

This year's statement is titled 'Signs of Hope on the Edge' and focuses on two related causes of isolation and suffering: homelessness and poor mental health. We are called on to follow the example of Jesus, who always noticed, listened to, and cared for those on the edge of society. Just as Jesus healed the blind man Bartimaeus (*Mark 10:46-52*), we are called to see and respond to the needs of our sisters and brothers living in hardship. The statement shares powerful stories of real people. You can download the statement online and watch Archbishop Tim Costello speak at <https://youtu.be/PfYAxV6BLvs>

POPE LEO'S MESSAGE FOR 2025 WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CREATION

"Environmental justice — implicitly proclaimed by the prophets — can no longer be regarded as an abstract concept or a distant goal. It is an urgent need that involves much more than simply protecting the environment. For it is a matter of justice — social, economic and human. For believers it is also a duty born of faith, since the universe reflects the face of Jesus Christ, in whom all things were created and redeemed. In a world where the most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters are the first to suffer the devastating effects of climate change, deforestation and pollution, care for creation becomes an expression of our faith and humanity."

ACT FOR GAZA

As atrocities in Gaza continue, we can feel overwhelmed. Caritas suggests ways in which we can take action: sign the Pledge for Peace (by this Sunday); pray in solidarity with the people of Gaza; read messages from the churches of Jerusalem; light a candle and share a simple rice meal as you acknowledge the suffering of the Palestinian people. See <https://www.caritas.org.au/act/gaza/>

A VOCATION VIEW:

Humility is needed for those who choose to serve. Recognise your gifts and offer them in humble service. (Luke 14:1, 7-14) If you want to talk about your vocation, please contact the diocesan vocations director, Fr Duane Fernandez at vocations@dow.org.au

ROSEMEADOW JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE DAY

Saturday 6 September 2025

The Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians, Rosemeadow invites everyone to a Jubilee Pilgrimage Day where we will uncover the profound meaning, history and significance of the Year of Jubilee and how we can continue living it out in our pilgrimage of life towards Christ. **The day begins with Mass at 10:00am**, followed by a catechesis led by Elise Duval, a time of Eucharistic Adoration with opportunity for confession, and concludes with Benediction at 3:00pm. Please BYO lunch. Come and be renewed in God's mercy!

4TH ILLAWARRA WOMEN'S DAY OF DANCE AND CULTURE – TAKE ME TO THE ISLANDS

Join Healthy Cities Illawarra on **Friday 5 September 2025 from 10.30 to 2.30 at Wollongong Town Hall**. We are welcoming women from diverse cultures and backgrounds to connect in a safe space, sharing Pasifika traditional dances and delicious food from Empress Eventz. Come meet Rosemary Kariuki OAM from Oran Park Parish who founded this series of events across Sydney and beyond. To get your tickets for this women only event visit Healthy Cities Australia on Facebook, book online at www.merrigong.com.au or buy tickets in person at the Illawarra Performing Arts Centre.

PRAYING FOR THE BISHOP'S VISION

**Sacred Heart Chapel, Stewart St Wollongong
Friday 12 September**

Join us for thirty minutes of charismatic praise to implement our Bishop's Vision for the Wollongong Diocese, followed by Holy Mass. There will also be an opportunity for individual healing prayer after Mass and cuppa. Celebrant: Fr George Condoakala Everyone welcome.
7:00pm Praise and Worship / 7:30pm Mass
Info: Gabriella De Battista 0414 205 404

PARISH FINANCE AND PAYROLL OFFICER

The Catholic Diocese of Wollongong is seeking a full-time Parish Finance and Payroll Officer to join the Office of the Bishop (Finance Department). Reporting to the Financial Controller, this role supports parishes and clergy by managing payroll, assisting with bookkeeping and audits, and providing guidance on financial and sacramental systems.

Applications close 5 September 2025. For a detailed position description or to apply, please contact Nick Dyball (Financial Controller) by email (nick.dyball@dow.org.au) and a detailed position description will be emailed to you or you can apply via <https://www.seek.com.au/job/86640070>

THE JOURNEY, CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM

Airs on Sundays 11am on Pulse 94.1FM or go to www.jcr.org.au

NAPPY DRIVE - SUPPORTING PREGNANT MOTHERS

We are collecting nappies and baby products, such as lotions, barrier cream, baby powder, etc, to support pregnant women. Many mums-to-be face unexpected challenges, and your donation can help provide comfort and dignity as they prepare to welcome their babies.



Every pack of nappies is a gift of care and hope. 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 at marked baskets in the foyer during this next two weeks.**



UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

First Fri. of month, Parish Grounds, 5.30pm Environmental Stations of the Cross

Mondays, 5pm Parish Centre Christian Meditation Group
Monica Ph: 0418 172072

Last Tue of month Parish Centre, 6.30pm Parish Pastoral Council
ppc@sttherese.com.au

1st and 3rd Thu of month, 7.30pm Parish Centre West Wollongong Vinnies Conference
louise.pinson@vinnies.org.au

Saturdays, 8.30am St Therese Church The Rosary

2nd Sat of month 10.00am Parish Centre Ladies' cuppa and chat
contact Elaine 0410692973

Revive Youth (12-18yrs)

Fortnightly on Fridays 7-9pm, Parish Centre

September Dates: 5 & 19

Contact reviveyouth25@gmail.com

STIC Young Adults (18-35yrs)

Meets each Thursday

Last Thursday Prayer & Pub

5.30pm Mass at Immaculate Conception + 6.45pm dinner at Collegians, Figtree

Other Thursdays 7pm Faith Studies and Fellowship Parish Centre

Message us on FB or Insta (@sticyoungadults) to join our WhatsApp for regular updates.

First Reading: Sirach 3:17-20. 28-29*A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus*

My son, be gentle in carrying out your business,
and you will be better loved than a lavish giver.
The greater you are, the more you should behave
humbly,
and then you will find favour with the Lord;
for great though the power of the Lord is,
he accepts the homage of the
humble.

There is no cure for the proud
man's malady,
since an evil growth has taken
root in him.

The heart of a sensible man will
reflect on parables,
an attentive ear is the sage's
dream.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**Responsorial Psalm: Ps 67:4-7. 10-11**

R. God, in your goodness, you have made a home for
the poor.

The just shall rejoice at the presence of God,
they shall exult and dance for joy.
O sing to the Lord, make music to his name;
rejoice in the Lord, exult at his presence. **R.**

Father of the orphan, defender of the widow,
such is God in his holy place.
God gives the lonely a home to live in;
he leads the prisoners forth into freedom. **R.**

You poured down, O God, a generous rain:
when your people were starved you gave them new life.
It was there that your people found a home,
prepared in your goodness, O God, for the poor. **R.**

Second Reading: Hebrews 12:18-19. 22-24*A reading from the letter to the Hebrews*

What you have come to is nothing known to the senses:
not a blazing fire, or a gloom turning to total darkness, or
a storm; or trumpeting thunder or the great voice
speaking which made everyone that heard it beg that no
more should be said to them. But what you have come to
is Mount Zion and the city of the living God, the heavenly
Jerusalem where the millions of angels have gathered for
the festival, with the whole Church in which everyone is a
'first-born son' and a citizen of heaven. You have come to
God himself, the supreme Judge, and been placed with
spirits of the saints who have been made perfect; and to
Jesus, the mediator who brings a new covenant.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Matthew 11:29

Alleluia, alleluia!

Take my yoke upon you;

learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 14:1. 7-14*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke*

On a sabbath day Jesus had
gone for a meal to the house
of one of the leading
Pharisees; and they watched
him closely. He then told the
guests a parable, because he
had noticed how they picked the places of honour. He
said this, 'When someone invites you to a wedding feast,
do not take your seat in the place of honour. A more
distinguished person than you may have been invited,
and the person who invited you both may come and say,
"Give up your place to this man." And then, to your
embarrassment, you would have to go and take the
lowest place. No; when you are a guest, make your way
to the lowest place and sit there, so that, when your host
comes, he may say, "My friend, move up higher." In that
way, everyone with you at the table will see you
honoured. For everyone who exalts himself will be
humbled, and the man who humbles himself will be
exalted.'



Then he said to his host, 'When you give a lunch or a
dinner, do not ask your friends, brothers, relations or rich
neighbours, for fear they repay your courtesy by inviting
you in return. No; when you have a party, invite the poor,
the crippled, the lame, the blind; that they cannot pay you
back means that you are fortunate, because repayment
will be made to you when the virtuous rise again.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

