



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
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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 1 JUNE 2025

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD / C

ST THERESE WEST WOLLONGONG

Weekend Masses

Sunday: 10am and 5pm

Weekday Masses

Wednesday: 5.30pm

Friday: 7.45am

Saturday: 9.00am

Eucharistic Adoration:

Wednesday 4.30pm - 5.30pm

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION UNANDERRA

Weekend Masses

Saturday: 5pm

Sunday: 8am

Weekday Masses

Monday: 8.00am

Tuesday: 5.30pm

Thursday: 5.30pm

Eucharistic Adoration:

Tuesday and Thursday 6pm - 7pm

RECONCILIATION:

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

BAPTISMS: Notice period: 1 month

2nd Sunday of month 12pm West Wollongong

4th Sunday of month 12pm Unanderra

WEDDINGS: Notice period: 6 months



MESSAGE FROM FR DUANE

FINAL REFLECTION ON POPE FRANCIS

In this, my final reflection on Pope Francis, I wish to focus on unity. The very office of Pope is itself directed towards unity, as

before his Ascension Jesus appointed Peter as the visible sign and source of unity for his flock. In 2013, Pope Francis, the 265th Successor of Peter, in his first full letter to the Church, "The Joy of the Gospel", wrote powerfully about unity being greater than conflict:

"When conflict arises, some people simply look at it and go their way as if nothing happened...Others embrace it in such a way that they become its prisoners...But there is also a third way, and it is the best way to deal with conflict. It is the willingness to face conflict head on, to resolve it and to make it a link in the chain of a new process. "Blessed are the peacemakers!" (Mt 5:9)...but this can only be achieved by those great persons who are willing to go beyond the surface of the conflict and to see others in their deepest dignity." He went on to note that Christ himself is the source of this hope for unity: "Peace is possible because the Lord has overcome the world and its constant conflict 'by making peace through the blood of his cross' (Col 1:20)" and that this peace must begin within the human heart: "the locus of this reconciliation of differences is within ourselves, in our own lives, ever threatened as they are by fragmentation and breakdown. If hearts are shattered in thousands of pieces, it is not easy to

create authentic peace in society" (from paragraphs 227-229). He echoed this same sentiment in his final Encyclical Letter in 2024, *Dilexit Nos*: "It is only by starting from the heart that our communities will succeed in uniting and reconciling differing minds and wills, so that the Spirit can guide us in unity as brothers and sisters. Reconciliation and peace are also born of the heart...Our hearts, united with the heart of Christ, are capable of working this social miracle." May each of us open our hearts to a deeper encounter with Christ who is our peace, that we may see more clearly the deepest dignity of every person – including those who disagree with us – that together we may continue to participate in this "social miracle". To quote Pope Leo XIV in his inauguration homily: "Brothers and sisters, I would like that our first great desire be for a united Church, a sign of unity and communion, which becomes a leaven for a reconciled world."

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK

The Church of Australia joins in prayer during this National Reconciliation Week for an ever deeper reconciliation between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the wider Australian society. In the words of Pope St John Paul 2nd in "Ecclesia in Oceania" (2001): "The past cannot be undone, but honest recognition of past injustices can lead to measures and attitudes which will help to rectify the damaging effects for both the indigenous community and the wider society."

Continued on next page...



RECENTLY DECEASED: Gregory Potts, Barbara Chalker, Maureen Coughlan, Roseli Bulka, Terrence Gilbert,

Tina Carnevale, Joe Arnone, Richard Piekarcz

DECEASED FOR WHOM OUR PRAYERS HAVE BEEN REQUESTED: Faye Munro, Peter Ba Loc Nguyen

SICK: Kerrie Maidment, Fr David Catterall, Lucila Montano, Rachael Wakely

ANNIVERSARIES OF PARISHIONERS: Margaret Simpson, Silvana Zollia, John McGee, Jessie Wren, Euphemia Wright, Phillip Quin, Briguia O'Connor, Francis McDonough, Brenda Dillon, June Wrzos, Blanche Denison, Elsie Stewart, Allan Hough, Frederick Moane, Clare Timis, Michael Murphy, Florence Yearnshaw, Leslie Rau, Anna Mroczek, Sean Murphy, Peter Elvins, Monica Cruickshanks, Stephen Abdilla, Najla Moussa, William Vining, Onofrio Visaggio.

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MULTICULTURAL MASS – NEXT SUNDAY 8TH JUNE 10AM PENTECOST MASS

At next Sunday morning's Mass, we celebrate and deepen the unity we share amidst our cultural diversity with our Pentecost Multicultural Mass. All are warmly encouraged to wear traditional cultural dress, and to bring a plate to share for the festivities after Mass (including food from our local cultures), as we celebrate the "birth of the Church" at Pentecost, when many languages united in profession of the one faith by the power of the Holy Spirit!

CANCELLATIONS OF TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY EVENING MASS

Due to Confirmation Liturgies with Bishop Brian for our young people and their families on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings (two liturgies each evening) the Tuesday evening and Wednesday evening Mass and prayers are cancelled for this week only. Please keep our Confirmation candidates and their families in your prayers.

PARISH FINANCES

Collections week ending 25/5/25

\$430 First Collection - Clergy Remuneration Fund

\$199 Second Collection – Parish Expenses

\$341 Tap Point – Parish Donations

\$275 Planned Giving Envelopes

\$687 Direct Debits (weekly average for April)

Parishioners who wish to join the Parish Planned Giving program via envelope or Direct Debit to assist with our parish expenses, please contact Parish office for further information.



ENVIRONMENTAL STATIONS OF THE CROSS

This **Friday, 6 June at 5.30pm** on the church grounds. Come along and pray for the earth and its peoples.

PENTECOST MULTICULTURAL MASS

10am, Sunday 8 June

Share a Recipe, Share a Story

In this mass we celebrate the many cultures of our parish through prayers in various languages, traditional dress and sharing food together afterwards. This year we're building on that tradition to continue sharing and connecting beyond our Parish celebration – as Pope Francis reminded us, our society is enriched by diversity and cultural exchanges! We'd love to share not just our food but our stories as well. **You're invited to share a recipe that is special to you and a story connected with it or your culture(s).** Send your recipe and your story to westwollongong@dow.org.au

2025 RECONCILIATION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAM REGISTRATION

**Tuesday 17 June OR Thursday 19 June,
7pm, Parish Centre**

This year the sacraments will be celebrated at both St. Therese and Immaculate Conception parishes. Please note that ALL registration sessions will be held at the St Therese Parish Centre. Should you wish to register your child, attendance at **ONE** of the sessions is required.

VINNIES NEWS

Scripture readings this week have focused on the Holy Spirit as the 'Advocate', the divine helper and support in our world. In our conference work, advocacy is an important element and is most effective when we have built up trust and connection with those we serve. Accompanying someone as they speak up about their needs and struggles is just as vital as providing material assistance and links us with the Jubilee Year as Pilgrims of Hope.



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.

ST THERESE JUSTICE, ECOLOGY AND PEACE GROUP

During Reconciliation Week, it is worth reflecting on Aboriginal connection to the land. 'The landscape was, and is, the embodiment of a vast and timeless spiritual reality. The identity and meaning of any individual human life is profoundly connected to a particular tract of country and the stories it features. It's more than living on it, more than knowing it, more than being sustained by it, more than loving it, though it's all of those. It's a vital part of who a person is and where they fit in the cosmos', Kate Grenville 'Unsettled'.

CHARIS MONTHLY MASS

Praying for our needs and the Bishop's Vision Sacred Heart Chapel, Stewart St Wollongong Friday 13 June

Are you struggling with praying alone? Join others in charismatic praise for all our needs, and 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 Patrick Vaughan. Everyone welcome.

7:00pm Praise and Worship 7:30pm Holy Mass

Info: Gabriella De Battista 0414 205 404

FEEDBACK ON BISHOPS VISION AND PARISH LIFE

Bishop Brian invites all parishioners across the Diocese, to take the time to prayerfully reflect on his vision for renewed parishes, **'In the Parish I see'**, by completing the online activity @ dow.sh/csgmactivity The activity takes approximately 30-45 minutes and will help you both engage with Bishop's Vision and share your valuable perspectives.

A VOCATION VIEW

Jesus promised his disciples that they would be clothed in power from God. As a follower of Jesus, you are also given that same promise. Pray for the grace to be a faithful witness. (Luke 24:46-53) If you want to talk about your vocation, please contact the diocesan vocations director, Fr Duane Fernandez at vocations@dow.org.au

UOW CATHOLIC SOCIETY RETREAT DAY

9:30am Monday 6 Jun at Carmelite Priory Varroville, \$20 includes light lunch

UOWCathSoc invites students and other young adults (18-30) to our Winter Retreat Day. This is a great opportunity to pause and recentre our busy lives on Christ. On offer are some excellent talks, opportunities for prayer, Holy Mass, Confessions, adoration, and small group conversations. See our social media for more details @uowcathsoc.

To register: shorturl.at/jZd3i

AGEING WITH CONFIDENCE – A CATHOLIC CARE INITIATIVE

Friday 13 June, 10am–1pm The Fraternity Club Fairy Meadow (*Pick up a brochure from the resource table*)

Join Robert Fitzgerald AM, Age Discrimination Commissioner, as he explores the critical issues facing older Australians today - including elder abuse and ageism - while offering practical insights and strategies for ageing with dignity, purpose and positivity.

To register for this free community event including morning tea, please use the QR code or call 02 4227 1122 or click on the link below.

<https://www.catholiccare.dow.org.au/get-involved/events-calendar/ageing-with-confidence-2025-wollongong/>



For any other information, please contact Jane Hollier on 0417 018 152 or janeh@catholiccare.dow.org.au

THE WOLLONGONG VOCATIONS PROMOTIONS TEAM

is excited to invite all young adults (over 18) from across the diocese to our *June VOCARIS* with the theme of Jubilee, followed by a Trivia Night! **Saturday, 14 June (5:30pm to 9.30pm).**

20 Broughton Street, Wilton (25 minutes from Wollongong). For more information and to register please use the QR Code.



WOLLONGONG DIOCESE CURSILLO MOVEMENT

Celebrating 25 years of guidance by the Holy Spirit. We would like to invite anyone who has been involved with the CM in the past 25 years to join us for Mass and a reunion luncheon on **21st June at 11am**. Mass will be celebrated at St. Paul's Church Camden with lunch in the church hall. Please call Dianne for further details. 0418640373.

UNDERSTANDING THE MASS

Seeking a deeper understanding of the Eucharist, the origins of the Mass or want to deepen your faith? Join us for the Corpus Christi Event! You will never celebrate Mass again the same way! Sunday 22 June (10am to 3:30pm) at OLHC Hall - 80A Demetrius Rd, Rosemeadow. Please use the QR code provided for more details or to register.



UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

**Friday, 6 June
St Therese, 5.30pm**

Environmental Stations of the Cross

**Sunday, 8 June
St. Therese, 10am**

**Feast of Pentecost
Multicultural Mass and Celebration**

**Tuesday, 17 June
Thursday, 19 June
7pm, Parish Centre**

Registration for Reconciliation and First Holy Communion

**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 Wed
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**

STIC Young Adults (18-35yrs) Meets each Thursday

**First Thursday 7pm
Parish Centre**

Guest Speaker

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

Prayer & Pub

**Other Thursdays 7pm
Parish Centre**

Faith Studies and Fellowship

Follow "STIC Young Adults" on Instagram and Facebook

First Reading: Acts 1:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations:

for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

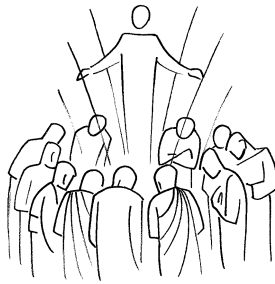
Responsorial Psalm: Ps 46:2-3. 6-9

**R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth. **R.**

God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise. **R.**

God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne. **R.**



Second Reading: Ephesians 1:17-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit

and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Matthew 28:19. 20

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel.

I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 24:46-53

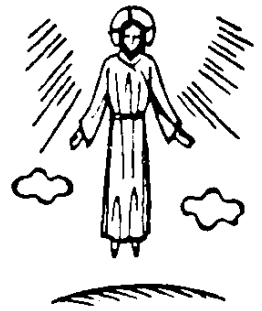
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.

'And now I am sending down to you what the Father has promised. Stay in the city then, until you are clothed with the power from on high.' Then he took them out as far as the outskirts of Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. Now as he blessed them, he withdrew from them and was carried up heaven. They worshipped him and then went back to Jerusalem full of joy; and they were continually in the Temple praising God.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

English translation of *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, ICEL; the English translation of *The Roman Missal* © 1973, *Clip Art for Feasts and Seasons, Celebrations and Service* © 1996, LITURGICAL PRESS. Sunday, weekday and other readings from the Jerusalem Bible © 1966, 1967, 1968, Darton Longman and Todd Ltd. Used by permission. Psalm texts from *The Psalms: A New Translation* © 1963, The Grail (England). Used by permission. 'As he was blessing them' Luke 24:51 Good News Bible © American Bible Society all rights reserved