



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)

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 6 APRIL 2025

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT /C

MASS TIMES:

St Therese - West Wollongong

Weekend Masses

Sunday: 10am and
5pm

Weekday Masses

Tuesday: 7.45am
Wednesday: 5.30pm
Thursday: 7.45am
Friday: 9.30am
Saturday: 9.00am

MASS TIMES:

Immaculate Conception - Unanderra

Weekend Masses

Saturday 6pm
Sunday: 8am

Weekday Masses

Monday: 7.00am
Tuesday: 5.30pm
Wednesday: 7.00am
Thursday: 5.30pm
Friday: 7.00am
Saturday: 7.30am

RECONCILIATION:

St Therese - West Wollongong

Saturday: 9.30am – 10.30am
Wednesday: 4.30pm – 5.15pm

Immaculate Conception - Unanderra

Thursday: 6.00pm – 7.00pm
Saturday: 11.30am-12.30pm

BAPTISMS: Notice period: 1 month
2nd Sunday of month 12pm West Wollongong
4th Sunday of month 12pm Unanderra

WEDDINGS: Notice period: 6 months

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: West Wollongong: Wed 4.30 - 5.30pm, Unanderra: Tue and Thu 6 - 7pm, Fri 7.30 - 8am



MESSAGE FROM FR DUANE

I am excited to confirm that we definitely have enough interest to proceed with Youth Alpha for high school aged youth in Term 2. This will be a joint initiative of the parishes of St Therese and Immaculate Conception,

commencing Saturday 3rd May, 7pm to 8:30pm, at St Therese Parish Centre. It will include food (with the young people able to choose their menu), a fun and engaging clip on faith and life, and small group sharing where they will be able to share anything or simply listen and grow together in faith. If anyone you know is interested, please contact me at duane.fernandez@dow.org.au with the subject Youth Alpha and I will give you more details to share, including a permission form.

As we enter into Holy Week, I take this opportunity to thank everyone who has given their time and energy to prepare behind the scenes for these most important celebrations of the year, from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday. If anyone would be willing and able to assist by "greeting" people at the door at the Good Friday or Easter services, handing out bulletins and other materials with a smile, please let me know either after Mass or via email at duane.fernandez@dow.org.au.

I pray that this coming week will be full of blessings for every

one of you, as we reflect together upon the infinite love of our God, revealed most perfectly in the cross and resurrection of Jesus our Saviour!

HOLY WEEK at ST THERESE 2025

Holy Thursday 17 April,
7pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday, 18 April,
10am, Stations of the Cross
Reconciliation will be available after Stations of the Cross
3pm Commemoration of the Passion

Easter Saturday 19 April,
7pm, Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday, 20 April
8am, Mass
10am, Mass

There will be no evening Mass on Easter Sunday



DIOCESAN CHRISM MASS:

St Francis Xavier's Cathedral, 7pm Tuesday 15 April.
All welcome (note that it is usually very crowded).



RECENTLY DECEASED: Jean Quinn, Jan Markwort, , Fay Davey, Vincenza Cuoco, Antonietta Di Mambro
DECEASED FOR WHOM OUR PRAYERS HAVE BEEN REQUESTED:

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

ANNIVERSARIES OF PARISHIONERS: Florence Ludlain, Agnes Swiney, Stanley McCarthy, Mary Devlin, Maria De Leeun, George Vojtech, James Lynch, Ronald Houghton, Angela Scioscia, John Brown, Leslie Murphy, James Condell, Carmel O'Hara, Syl Petre, Stanley Kleem, Alma D'Sena, Edward Viles, Sylvester Noonan, Dawn Quinn Frances Foulstone, Bernard McGuren, Rita Sirianni, Mary Clifford, Sylvia Ireland, Thomas Walsh, Jean Cooper,

ORDINATION TO THE DIACONATE OF JOSEPH NGUYEN and SINH LEE

Following is a personal invitation from Joseph and Sinh to attend their ordination.

Dear parishioners,

We hope you are doing well. We would like to extend our invitation to the Ordination to the Diaconate on 29 April 2025, at All Saints Catholic Church, Shellharbour. We do not have the personal contact of you all, so we extend our invitation to you via the Bulletin.

It will be wonderful for us to have you there. If you would like to attend kindly RSVP by 20 April.

In Christ, Sinh & Joseph

RSVP to rsvp.dow.org.au (preferred) or Ph. 02 4222 2400

The formal invitation from Bishop Brian is displayed on the Notice Board.

MINISTRY OF COMMUNION TO THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

Are you interested in taking Communion to someone who is unwell or having difficulty getting to Mass? This Ministry could be for you.



We need some new members to our small team to visit parishioners individually where you go to their home at a time that suits both you and the recipient. Or attend at Greenhill Manor where the staff bring the residents to a lounge area and we watch Mass online and distribute communion at the appropriate time.

Training for this Ministry is available online in your own time and takes about 3 hours in total.

For more information contact Therese Driscoll
t.driscoll.td7@gmail.com ph 0407898710.

COLUMBARIUM PROJECT

At the Pastoral Council meeting on 25 March, we decided that there is enough interest in the St Therese community for the project to go ahead. Therefore, next steps will be taken, including permission from Bishop Brian and work on a final design. This design will be shared with the parish community, especially with those who have expressed interest in pre-purchasing a niche. The parish will then be in touch with those purchasers to let them know when the balance needs to be paid (not yet).

If you have an interest in this project, please let the parish office know, or speak with Fr Duane or me at Mass, so that you can be included in the process. You can still fill in an Expression of Interest Form (yellow forms on resource table) and pay deposit of \$200, if you wish to pre-purchase.

Thank you to all those who have made this possible through their Expressions of Interest.

Brenda Wilson bwilson76@hotmail.com

PARISH FINANCES

Collections week ending 31/03/2025

\$349 First Collection - Clergy Remuneration Fund

\$175 Second Collection – Parish Expenses

\$424 Tap Point – Parish Donations

\$245 Planned Giving Envelopes

\$673 Direct Debits (weekly average for February)

Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly.

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.



IDEAS FOR A GREENER LENT FROM ST. THERESE JUSTICE ECOLOGY AND PEACE GROUP

Make this Lent a time of transition. Create practices that you can carry throughout the year. Look inward. The Ignatian Eco Examen is an excellent resource:

www.ecologicalexamen.org This is a tool for prayer, reflection and action as we deepen our response to Pope Francis' call to care for creation and the most vulnerable. Would you like more information?

Contact louisepinson10@gmail.com

VINNIES NEWS

Our conference holds an Easter morning tea to celebrate the season with those we assist. This year it will be on Holy Thursday (17April) and we will be preparing at the Parish Centre from 9am. If you would like to contribute a slice or a plate of sandwiches, please bring them along on the morning. Alternatively, you may like to drop a donation in one of our buckets at the church doors. We will use the cash to buy nutritious fillings for sandwiches and wraps. It's one of our favourite events of the year and you can join us in bringing Easter joy to those in need.



LEVEL 3 CATECHIST DIPLOMA COURSE 2025

All interested parishioners and catechists are encouraged to attend the Level 3 course. Taught by a variety of excellent presenters, the Level 3 course takes us on a journey through the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

The six-week course will be held in Rosemeadow on Fridays and Wollongong on Mondays, commencing Friday 2 May and Monday 5 May, respectfully. Each session will start at 9:30am and conclude at 2:30pm. Morning tea is provided but please BYO lunch.

For more information and to register, please go to

<https://dow.sh/CCD-Level>

For course outline [2025-Level-3-Catechist-Course.pdf](#).

A VOCATION VIEW

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Surrender your life to God. You are promised eternal life.
(Luke 22:14-23:1-49) If you want to talk about your vocation,
please contact the diocesan vocations director, Fr Duane
Fernandez at vocations@dow.org.au

CATHOLICARE'S FOSTERING FUTURES PROGRAM is seeking a forever home for Lachlan* aged 12

Lachlan is a happy, loving boy who would like a family who can take him to the park to ride his scooter, kick a football around or push him on the swing. An ideal carer for Lachlan is someone who can help him find his feet in new surroundings. There is a critical shortage of foster carers at the moment and Lachlan has been waiting for a long time for his forever homes. Like all kids he deserves a home where he can feel safe, secure and loved. CatholicCare have over 30 years' experience helping carers give vulnerable children a loving home and a brighter future. Carers receive comprehensive support including training, regular case worker support and career allowance for the child's day-to-day financial needs. If you can provide a safe and supportive home for Lachlan, or kids like him, we'd love to hear from you. Please call 0418 783 956 or email fosteringfutures@catholiccare.dow.org.au for more information and we will support you every step of the way.

*Name has been changed for privacy

WOLLONGONG OFFICE OF THE TRIBUNAL

In 2015, Pope Francis wrote that "charity and mercy demand that the Church, like a good mother, be near her children who feel themselves estranged from her." The Inter-diocesan Tribunal of Sydney, which has an Office in the Diocese of Wollongong, is a service of the Church to assist with the pastoral care of Catholics and non-Catholics who are civilly divorced, and who are seeking to remarry or who want clarification of their standing in the Church. The Tribunal also assists remarried persons seeking to have their current marriage recognised in the Church, and remarried persons wishing to be baptised or received into the Catholic Church.

Any divorced person, or a divorced and remarried person is welcome to contact the Wollongong Office of the Tribunal to obtain further information, or to have their status within the Church clarified.

Brochures are available from the church foyer or notice board area.

The Wollongong Office of the Tribunal is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. You are welcome to contact the Tribunal on 4222 2409 or tribunal@dow.org.au or visit www.tribunal.dow.org.au



<https://www.facebook.com/StThereseWestGong>



UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

Fri. 23 May, 6 for 6.30pm Figtree Sports Club	Parish Social
Tuesday, 17 June Thursday, 19 June 7pm, Parish Centre	Registration for Reconciliation and First Holy Communion
Wednesdays, 7pm Parish Centre	Alpha continues
Mondays, 5pm Parish Centre	Christian Meditation Group Monica Ph: 0418 172072
Last Tues. 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
Fridays, 5.30pm St Therese Church	Stations of the Cross During Lent
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

17 April:	No STIC this week, join us at one of the Parish Masses for Holy Thursday..
24 April	Easter Potluck Feast. 7pm St Therese Parish Centre, bring a plate to share for an evening of fellowship and Easter festivity.
1 May	Guest Speaker, 7pm St Therese Parish Centre
Follow "STIC Young Adults" on Instagram and Facebook.	

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue.
So that I may know how to reply to the
wearied
he provides me with speech
Each morning he wakes me to hear,
to listen like a disciple.
The Lord has opened my ear.
For my part, I made no resistance,
neither did I turn away.
I offered my back to those who struck me,
my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;
I did not cover my face
against insult and spittle.
The Lord comes to my help,
so that I am untouched by the insults.
So, too, I set my face like flint;
I know I shall not be shamed.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God..



Responsorial Psalm: Ps 21:8-9. 17-20. 23-24

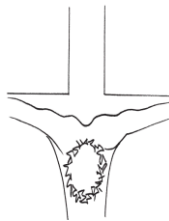
R. My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

All who see me deride me.
They curl their lips, they toss their heads.
'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;
let him release him if this is his friend.' **R.**

Many dogs have surrounded me,
a band of the wicked beset me.
They tear holes in my hands and my feet.
I can count every one of my bones. **R.**

They divide my clothing among them.
They cast lots for my robe.
O Lord, do not leave me alone,
my strength, make haste to help me! **R.**

I will tell of your name to my brethren
and praise you where they are assembled.
'You who fear the Lord give him praise;
all sons of Jacob, give him glory.
Revere him, Israel's sons.' **R.**



Second Reading: Philippians 2:6-11

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are, and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Philippians 2:8-9

**Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
Christ became obedient for us even to death,
dying on the cross. Therefore, God raised him on high
and gave him a name above all other names.
Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

The long reading of the Passion will now take place. A shorter reading is included below for your reflection during the week.

Gospel : Luke 23:1-49

The elders of the people and the chief priests and scribes rose, and they brought Jesus before Pilate.
They began their accusation by saying, 'We found this man inciting our people to revolt, opposing payment of tribute to Caesar, and claiming to be Christ, a king.' Pilate put to him this question, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' 'It is you who say it' he replied. Pilate then said to the chief priests and the crowd, 'I find no case against this man.' But they persisted, 'He is inflaming the people with his teaching all over Judaea; it has come all the way from Galilee, where he started, down to here.' When Pilate heard this, he asked if the man were a Galilean; and finding that he came under Herod's jurisdiction he passed him over to Herod who was also in Jerusalem at that time.

Herod was delighted to see Jesus; he had heard about him and had been wanting for a long time to set eyes on him; moreover, he was hoping to see some miracle worked by him. So he questioned him at some length; but without getting any reply. Meanwhile the chief priests and scribes were there, violently pressing their accusations. Then Herod, together with his guards, treated him with contempt and made fun of him; he put a rich cloak on him and sent him back to Pilate. And though Herod and Pilate had been enemies before, they were reconciled that same day.

Pilate then summoned the chief priests and the leading men and the people. 'You brought this man before me' he said 'as a political agitator. Now I have gone into the matter myself in your presence and found no case against the man in respect of all the charges you bring against him. Nor has Herod either, since he has sent him back to us. As you can see, the man has done nothing that deserves death, so I shall have him flogged and then let him go.' But as one man they howled, 'Away with him! Give us Barabbas!' (This man had been thrown into prison for causing a riot in the city and for murder.)

Pilate was anxious to set Jesus free and addressed them again, but they shouted back, 'Crucify him! Crucify him!' And for the third time he spoke to them, 'Why? What harm has this man done? I have found no case against him that deserves death, so I shall have him punished and then let him go.' But they kept on shouting at the top of their voices, demanding that he should be crucified. And their shouts were growing louder.

Pilate then gave his verdict: their demand was to be granted. He released the man they asked for, who had been imprisoned for rioting and murder, and handed Jesus over to them to deal with as they pleased.

As they were leading him away they seized on a man, Simon from Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and made him shoulder the cross and carry it behind Jesus. Large numbers of people followed him, and of women too, who mourned and lamented for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, 'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep rather for yourselves and for your children. For the days will surely come when people will say, "Happy are those who are barren, the wombs that have never borne, the breasts that have never suckled!" Then they will begin to say to the mountains, "Fall on us!"; to the hills, "Cover us!" For if men use the green wood like this, what will happen when it is dry?' Now with him they were also leading out two other criminals to be executed.

When they reached the place called The Skull, they crucified him there and the two criminals also, one on the right, the other on the left. Jesus said, 'Father forgive them; they do not know what they are doing.' Then they cast lots to share out his clothing.

The people stayed there watching him. As for the leaders, they jeered at him. 'He saved others,' they said 'let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.' The soldiers mocked him too and when they approached to offer him vinegar they said, 'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.' Above him there was an inscription: 'This is the King of the Jews.'

One of the criminals hanging there abused him. 'Are you not the Christ?' he said. 'Save yourself and us as well.' But the other spoke up and rebuked him. 'Have you no fear of God at all?' he said. 'You got the same sentence as he did, but in our case we deserved it; we are paying for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus,' he said 'remember me when you come into your kingdom.' 'Indeed, I promise you,' he replied 'today you will be with me in paradise.'

It was now about the sixth hour and, with the sun eclipsed, a darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. The veil of the Temple was torn right down the middle; and when Jesus had cried out in a loud voice, he said, 'Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.' With these words he breathed his last.

All kneel and pause a moment.

When the centurion saw what had taken place, he gave praise to God and said, 'This was a great and good man.' And when all the people who had gathered for the spectacle saw what had happened, they went home beating their breasts.

All his friends stood at a distance; so also did the women who had accompanied him from Galilee, and they saw all this happen.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.