



ST THERESE PARISH - WEST WOLLONGONG

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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 11 MAY 2025

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER / 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

Before sharing my continued reflections upon Pope Francis this week, I share a brief reflection about his successor, the 267th Successor of Peter, Pope Leo XIV. At the time of the publishing of this bulletin I have only

been able to read his first speech as Pope from the balcony of St Peter's Basilica. From his first words, "Peace be with you", he articulated a powerful mission statement for our Church, to be above all else an instrument of peace and unity in a world in which war, division, and polarisation of all kinds continues to spread. In this chosen emphasis, Pope Leo XIV continues the same message of Pope Francis, and indeed all of his predecessors in living memory – the message of the risen Christ himself. As I have encouraged on many occasions, may we as Catholics rise above the political categories and divisions that external observers continue to apply to the Church and the Popes, and unite as one family in faith under this one shepherd, the Successor of Peter – whose very office signifies and brings about unity for the universal Church, and brings hope of peace to the world. May each of us do our part, united as one in Christ, to "be a church that always seeks peace, that always seeks charity, that always seeks to be close especially to those who suffer" (Pope Leo XIV).

REFLECTIONS ON POPE FRANCIS – PART 3

As I continue my weekly reflections on Pope Francis, this Sunday we are given two specific lenses by which to reflect

upon his teachings: the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, and Mothers Day.

The Fourth Sunday of Easter, often called "Good Shepherd Sunday", is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Our Christian vocation or "calling" begins in our baptism, lived out either in single life, marriage, ordained ministry or consecrated life. As we continue to celebrate the wonderful way Pope Francis lived his own vocation, we remember this Sunday that *each and every one of us is called to bring the joy of Christ's loving mercy into this world in our own unique ways*. In his final message for this Day, the 62nd World Day of Prayer for Vocations, Pope Francis wrote:

"Dear friends, the world pushes you to make hasty decisions and bombards you with a constant blare that prevents you from experiencing a silence that is open to God who speaks to the heart. Have the courage to pause, to listen to what your heart tells you, and to ask God about his dreams for you. The silence of prayer is indispensable if we are to learn how to hear God's call amid the specific circumstances of our lives and to respond consciously and freely" (read his full message here: <https://dow.sh/gss25>).

In my role as Diocesan Vocations Director I would love to speak with you if you are seeking help in discerning God's call in your life.

Continued on next page...



RECENTLY DECEASED: Susanne Gross, Deacon Peter Presdee, Fr. Michael Fallon, Pope Francis, Dianne Stow, Antonio Lavallo, Faye Munro, Terry Gilbert, Tina Carnevale.

DECEASED FOR WHOM OUR PRAYERS HAVE BEEN REQUESTED: Kathy Faulks, Luis De Barros

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

ANNIVERSARIES OF PARISHIONERS: Ivy McGuire, George Rowles, Mary Smith, Dean Miller, Cecil Cooper, Melitta Rada, Vincent Clifford, Edwin Johnson, Palmira Bravin, John Taggart AIF., Matthew McGoldrick, Eileen Gregg, Frederick Parkinson, Angus Cook, Paul Downing, Emma Wirth, Edwin Quinn, Patricia Kleem, Joan Towns, Giovanni Bortolazzo, Tannous Moussa, Phillip Williams.

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This Mothers Day, I share also a beautiful reflection from Pope Francis on motherhood, and in particular the mother we all share – Mary, the Blessed Mother, who responded perfectly to God's call in her life and helps us to grow in this same wholehearted "yes" to God's call:

"In the journey of life, *let us allow ourselves to be taken by the hand*. Mothers take their children by the hand and lovingly introduce them to life. But how many children today wander off on their own and lose their way. Thinking they are strong, they get lost; thinking they are free, they become slaves. How many, forgetting a mother's affection, live in anger with themselves and indifference to everything! How many, sad to say, react to everything and everyone with bitterness and malice! Life is such. Showing oneself "malicious" even seems at times to be a sign of strength. Yet it is nothing more than weakness. We need to learn from mothers that heroism is shown in self-giving, strength in compassion, wisdom in meekness.

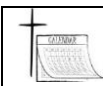
God himself needed a Mother: how much more so do we! Jesus himself gave her to us, from the cross: "Behold your mother!" (Jn 19:27). He said this to the beloved disciple and to every disciple. Our Lady is not an optional accessory: she has to be welcomed into our life. She is the Queen of peace, who triumphs over evil and leads us along paths of goodness, who restores unity to her children, who teaches us compassion.

Mary, take us by the hand. Clinging to you, we will pass safely through the straits of history. Lead us by the hand to rediscover the bonds that unite us. Gather us beneath your mantle, in the tenderness of true love, where the human family is reborn: "*We fly to thy protection, O Holy Mother of God*." (From the Pope's homily on 1st January 2019 – the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God).

8am Monday morning Mass at Unanderra cancelled this week only: Apologies for any inconvenience caused, but for Mothers Day I will be visiting my mother and grandmother in Sydney on Sunday evening and Monday, and will only return to the parish on Monday evening.

Pentecost Multicultural Mass – Sunday 8 June 10am

Thank you to all who came to our planning meeting last Sunday for the Multicultural Mass. For those who aren't familiar with this annual event, we celebrate the many cultures of our parish through prayers in various languages, traditional dress, and a wonderful array of food after Mass. If you are willing to contribute in any way to this special event, please contact us to let us know at westwollongong@dow.org.au with the subject "Multicultural Mass". This year, we are also hoping to build upon this event outside of the Mass, beginning with sharing recipes of the various delicious foods that are prepared for the event, so if you are willing to share a recipe or to get involved with more multicultural celebrations moving forward outside of this Mass, please also let us know!



Wednesday St Matthias

PARISH DINNER

6pm 23 May

Figtree Sports Club

All are welcome.

Contact Mary

O'Rourke maryo42@optusnet.com.au

Ph: 0419 573868 OR Barry Duggan Ph: 0411 236616 to register your attendance.



PARISH FINANCES

Collections week ending 4/5/25

\$305 First Collection - Clergy Remuneration Fund

\$238 Second Collection – Parish Expenses

\$352 Tap Point – Parish Donations

\$340 Planned Giving Envelopes

\$687 Direct Debits (weekly average for April)

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 the Parish office for further information.



Wishing all Mothers a truly happy Mother's Day.
May those cherished mothers who have departed this life be forever embraced by God's love and peace.

VINNIES NEWS

The St Vincent de Paul Society publishes a Spiritual Guide which assists us to reflect on the gospel and consider it in the light of our mission as Vincentians. Leo Tucker, Director of Mission and Formation, in his introductory letter this month, writes, "Pope Francis, teaches that the true order of love that must be promoted is "that which we discover by meditating constantly on the parable of the "Good Samaritan" (Lk 10:25-37), that is, by meditating on the love that builds a fraternity open to all, without exception." In this parable we are called to not just accept radical inclusion and diversity but to embrace and transcend all labels and status profoundly...why? Those we assist hold the grace and the very dignity of our shared humanity. Because everyone matters every day!"



CHANGES TO THE WEEKDAY SACRAMENTAL TIMETABLE

The new timetable is located on the first page of this Bulletin.
Note: 8am Mass at Unanderra this Monday 12/5 is cancelled.

TURN DEBT INTO HOPE IN THE YEAR OF JUBILEE

Some countries spend more repaying unjust debt than on healthcare or education, so the key Focus of Laudato Si' Week 2025, in honour of Pope Francis, is to forgive these Debts for the sake of the poor and the earth. Do something powerful and practical simply by signing the global petition at caritas.org.au/debt where you can also **register for a talk with Archbishop Coleridge on Friday 16 May, 12-1pm**



YOUNG ADULTS - SANCTUS SUMMIT EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND DINNER

Wednesday 21 May 2025, Immaculate Conception

Monthly adoration for youth and young adults of the diocese at two locations, rotating each month. **Third Wednesday of every month from 6:30-7:30pm** for adoration in a beautiful and sacred space. (Dinner at Unanderra Hotel)

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE WALK FOR LIFE

Join pilgrims from around the Diocese from **Fri 23 May - Sat 24 May** for all or part of the walk for life along the stunning South Coast from Kiama to Culburra. Pope Francis has urged us in this Jubilee Year to build a culture of life, where every human life is cherished and protected.

Day 1: From Kiama to Gerringong, followed by dinner with Bishop Mascord & overnight adoration.

Day 2: Gerringong to Culburra, finishing with mass and dinner.

Free but Registration is Essential

For more information go to dow.sh/WFL or contact jude.hennessy@dow.org.au 4222 2407



LAY LEADERSHIP IN THE ABSENCE OF A PRIEST FORMATION

Saturday 24 May, 10.00am – 12.00pm

Xavier Centre, 38 Harbour St, Wollongong

Sr Monica Barlow is running a formation session for anyone interested in exploring the possibility of leading liturgical celebrations in the absence of a Priest. This ministry is open to both men and women. The link to register for this formation session is <https://dow.sh/LayLeadership>

THE MARRIAGE COURSE

Want to build a strong, better marriage?

Held online in the comfort of your own home!

The Marriage Course is for any couples who are married (from 2 years married to 50 years married) and it has been run in over 117 countries for over 1.5 million couples since its inception in 1996. There are seven sessions covering topics such as resolving conflict, impact of family and the art of communication.

It's a great way to strengthen your marriage, learn practical tools to deepen your connection, gain insights from top psychologists, authors and relationship specialists and give you more time to spend as a couple!

The course begins on **Monday 26 May at 7.30pm** and runs **weekly until the 7 July**. Register now at:

<https://app.tickets.org.au/DOW/Marriagecoursedow>

FATHER DAVID CATTERALL'S URGENT APPEAL FOR STEM CELL DONORS ACROSS OUR DIOCESE

Each year, over 1,100 Australians, like Fr David, search for a stem cell donor to help save their life. Australia's small donor pool means only 80 patients are helped annually, leaving many struggling to find a match. A simple cheek swab, sent to your home could change someone's life, becoming a source of hope in this jubilee year. If you are 18 to 35 and generally healthy, you can join Fr David's appeal by visiting stemcelldonors.org.au/appeal/david



UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

Fri 23 May, 6 for 6.30pm Parish Social Dinner
Figtree Sports

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 Faith Studies and Fellowship
Parish Centre

Follow "STIC Young Adults" on Instagram and Facebook

First Reading: Acts 13:14. 43-52

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Paul and Barnabas carried on from Perga till they reached Antioch in Pisidia. Here they went to the synagogue on the sabbath and took their seats.

When the meeting broke up, many Jews and devout converts joined Paul and Barnabas, and in their talks with them Paul and Barnabas urged them to remain faithful to the grace God has given them.

The next sabbath almost the whole town assembled to hear the word of God. When they saw the crowds, the Jews, prompted by jealousy, used blasphemies and contradicted everything Paul said. Then Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly. 'We had to proclaim the word of God to you first, but since you have rejected it, since you do not think yourselves worthy of eternal life, we must turn to the pagans. For this is what the Lord commanded us to do when he said:

I have made you a light for the nations,
so that my salvation may reach the ends of the earth.'

It made the pagans very happy to hear this and they thanked the Lord for his message; all who were destined for eternal life became believers. Thus the word of the Lord spread through the whole countryside.

But the Jews worked upon some of the devout women of the upper classes and the leading men of the city and persuaded them to turn against Paul and Barnabas and expel them from their territory. So they shook the dust from their feet in defiance and went off to Iconium; but the disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 99:1-3. 5

R. We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

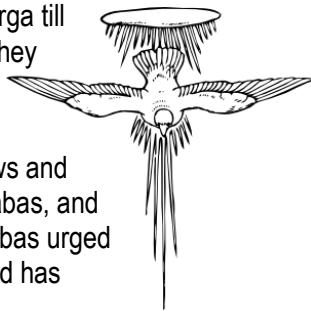
Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.
Serve the Lord with gladness.
Come before him, singing for joy. **R.**

Know that he, the Lord, is God.
He made us, we belong to him,
we are his people, the sheep of his flock. **R.**

Indeed, how good is the Lord,
eternal his merciful love.
He is faithful from age to age. **R.**



'My sheep listen to my voice and follow me.'



Second Reading: Revelation 7:9. 14-17

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

I, John, saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. One of the elders said to me, 'These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and because they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb, they now stand in front of God's throne and serve him day and night in his sanctuary; and the One who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. They will never hunger or thirst again; neither the sun nor scorching wind will ever plague them, because the Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water; and God will wipe away all tears from their eyes.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: John 10:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;

I know my sheep, and mine know me.

Alleluia!

Gospel: John 10:27-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said:

'The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice;
I know them and they follow me.

I give them eternal life;

they will never be lost

and no one will ever steal them from me.

The Father who gave them to me is greater than anyone,
and no one can steal from the Father.

The Father and I are one.'

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. **'My sheep listen to my voice and follow me.'**

John 10:27 Good News Bible Annie Vallotton drawing © American Bible Society all rights reserved