



# ST THERESE PARISH - WEST WOLLONGONG

2 Powell Street, West Wollongong NSW 2500

**Parish Office:** Phone: (02) 4243 9610  
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**Parish Priest:** Fr. Duane Fernandez (email: [Duane.Fernandez@dow.org.au](mailto: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 20 APRIL 2025**

**EASTER SUNDAY /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  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of month 12pm West Wollongong  
4<sup>th</sup> 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

It is a great joy for our community to celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation for 12 adults this Easter! Congratulations to Declan Homonnay, Hayley Millsom, Sofia Martin, and Stephanie and John Steele who will

receive Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil, as well as Anna Douglas, Anna Pigott, Ella De La Cruz, Marilyn Thompson, Matthew Smith, Sophia Johnson and Stephanie Ivkovic who will receive Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Sunday 10am Mass. They have all shown wonderful commitment throughout their journey of preparation for the Sacraments, and it has been a joy for me to witness their openness to God. Thank you to their sponsors and families who have supported them and let us all continue to pray for them and support them and each other in our shared journey of faith and life. If you or anyone you know might be interested in knowing more about becoming Catholic, please don't hesitate to contact me at [duane.fernandez@dow.org.au](mailto:duane.fernandez@dow.org.au) or see me after a Mass and I'd love to chat with you!

It has also been a joy for our parish to welcome Joseph Nguyen into our community in recent months as a seminarian. Joseph will be ordained as Deacon very soon, and as Priest hopefully by the end of the year, working with me in serving the parishes of West Wollongong and

Unanderra. I encourage you all to take the opportunity to meet Joseph after Masses this weekend and in the weeks and months ahead, and also to consider joining Joseph and Sinh for their celebration of Ordination (details in the main section of the bulletin).

Thank you to everyone who has shared their time and gifts so generously in preparing for our Easter ceremonies. There are too many people to thank in person, but God knows who you are and may you be richly blessed for your service to our community! Thank you also to each and every one of you for coming along to join us for Mass at this high point of our Church year. It is an exciting time for our parish community with many new opportunities to get more involved as you'll see in this bulletin. Have a read and see what you or your loved ones might like to get involved in. May the risen Lord be with you and bring you strength, hope and peace, this Easter and always!

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Children's Liturgy of the Word has been growing in recent years at the 10am Sunday Mass during school term, where children about 4 years old and up come to the front of the church for a blessing and gather with the other children and trained volunteers to hear God's Word together, before rejoining their families for the second half of Mass (the Liturgy of the Eucharist).



**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, Deacon Peter Presdee

**ANNIVERSARIES OF PARISHIONERS:** Elizabeth O'Donnell, Edward Brown, Elaine Whitaker, Primo Bedilaqua, Patrick Driscoll, Mary Bartley, Marie MacDonald, Hugh Taafe, John Byron, Keith Sewell, Grazina Kovalskis, Catherine Hammond, Margaret Dobum, Ida Wall, Harold O'Neill, Barbara Lammers, Loz Moreno, Irene Spillane, Mary Cooper, Helen McCrorey, Pietro Roncali, William Muller, Dorothy McGoldrick, James Morosin, Preston Gray, Alice Doughty, Norma Roach, Dennis Geary, John Drummond, John Kitchener,

## ALPHA



Wherever you might be in your own faith journey, Easter is one of those times when we reflect on the deeper questions of life and meaning. Alpha has proven to be a joyful and fruitful experience for people of all ages and stages of life and faith. Each Alpha session starts with a

meal, moves to an engaging clip and finishes with sharing in small groups, where everyone can feel free to share anything or just to listen to the reflections of others. I'll share just a few words from a few of the 200+ satisfied customers from recent seasons of Alpha during these past two years:

"I loved how inclusive everyone was no matter the age or religion." *Annalise – 21 years old*

"Alpha for me was really special, in more ways than one. It opened my eyes to religion & helped me relate to different circumstances in different videos." *Toby – 23 years old*

"For me Alpha was a great introduction to the Catholic faith, as I haven't come from a religious upbringing and didn't attend catholic schools growing up." *Gemma – 32 years old*

"Alpha became the highlight of my week. Everyone should gift this experience to themselves because it changes your life for the better." *Natalie – 46 years old*

"I feel that everyone has their story to tell and with the aid of Alpha it may provide answers to some questions." *Janko – 57 years old*

There will be a "come and see" night where you can hear more about Alpha including sharing from those who have completed the most recent season, on Wednesday June 18 at 7pm at St Therese Parish Centre. You can book your spot by using this QR code or email [alphawwu@gmail.com](mailto:alphawwu@gmail.com)

## YOUTH ALPHA

We will be commencing a new high school youth initiative in Term 2 called "Youth Alpha". This will be a joint initiative of West Wollongong and Unanderra parishes, on Saturday evenings commencing Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May at 7pm-8:30pm at St Therese Parish Centre West Wollongong. Each evening will begin with food, followed by a fun and engaging video, and small group reflection on life and faith where every young person will feel welcome, safe and respected. It will be facilitated by young adults who have received appropriate training in youth ministry and safeguarding and will be wonderful role models for our young people. If your child or anyone else you know might be interested in joining Youth Alpha, **please contact Fr Duane By no later than 27 April** on [duane.fernandez@dow.org.au](mailto:duane.fernandez@dow.org.au) with the subject "Youth Alpha" to receive more information and the permission forms to complete.

## CONNECT GROUPS



This year we launched "Connect Groups" for the first time in our parish – a new initiative in our parish where small groups of about 10-12 people gather fortnightly in a relaxed space for spiritual reflection, friendship and prayer, enabling people to

go deeper in their relationships with God and with one another. You can find out more information, or register your interest and potential availabilities by either using the QR code or contacting the parish office.

## MULTICULTURAL MASS – A PENTECOST

### CELEBRATION



Easter is not just a single day – it is an entire 50 day season! It culminates in the feast of Pentecost, when many nations and languages first heard the message of Jesus "in their own language", through the

preaching of the Apostles who had been filled with the Holy Spirit. In our parish of St Therese, the 10am Mass on Pentecost Sunday is a wonderful celebration of the rich cultural diversity in our parish. At last year's Pentecost Multicultural Mass, we had prayers of the faithful in 10 languages (with English translations on the screens), a special hymn led by the Burmese community, many people coming along in their traditional dress, and afterwards a feast with many foods from a variety of cultural backgrounds. If you'd like to get involved by sharing your cultural gifts in any way, you can register your interest with this QR code, or contact the parish office with the subject "Multicultural Mass" – or feel free to simply come along and enjoy the celebration!

## TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF?



If you're relatively new, or keen to get more connected and not sure how, you can fill out the form with this QR code or contact our parish office to tell us more about yourself, and we'll get in touch with you soon to guide you in possible next steps.

## SHARE YOUR GIFTS IN OUR PARISH AND BEYOND!



If you would like to see what opportunities are on offer to serve and give back to the community within this parish or through parish activities that can serve those in the broader community, see what's available by

using this QR code, contact our parish office. Also make sure to check out our recently updated website at [www.sttherese.com.au](http://www.sttherese.com.au) for more information about what's happening in our parish

### **STIC YOUNG ADULTS**

warmly invites local Catholics aged 18 to ~35, as well as any young person interested in discovering our faith, to check out the great events we run here in West Wollongong. We organise social events, service opportunities, and retreat days throughout the year, as well as collaborations with other ministries in the diocese. Becoming involved with STIC is a wonderful way to grow in your faith—and form lasting friendships along the way. All newcomers are welcome this Thursday, 24 April at 7pm at St Therese Parish Centre, for our Easter Potluck Feast. Check out our Instagram and Facebook @sticyoungadults for more information. Everyone is welcome and we'd love to meet you!

### **COLUMBARIUM**

Our parish community has recently confirmed plans to proceed with a "columbarium" in our parish. A columbarium is a wall with cylindrical holes (niches) where the ashes of a deceased person can be interred. A number of parishioners have expressed their interest in having their remains interred in a columbarium on parish grounds. If you would be interested in knowing more about this possibility for yourself or a loved one, please contact Brenda Wilson at [bwilson76@hotmail.com](mailto:bwilson76@hotmail.com)

### **ORDINATION TO THE DIACONATE OF JOSEPH NGUYEN and SINH LEE**

*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](https://rsvp.dow.org.au) (preferred) or Ph. 02 4222 2400**

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

### **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](mailto:fosteringfutures@catholiccare.dow.org.au) for more information and we will support you every step of the way.

\*Name has been changed for privacy

### **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 [t.driscoll.td7@gmail.com](mailto:t.driscoll.td7@gmail.com) ph 0407898710

### **VINNIES NEWS**

Alleluia! Thanks to parishioners and members who made our Easter morning tea such a success last Thursday. We can learn so much from our brothers and sisters who have so little. The St Vincent de Paul Society will continue to advocate for an increase in welfare payments to restore some security and dignity to the lives of people unable to find work.



### **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 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.

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](mailto:tribunal@dow.org.au) or visit [www.tribunal.dow.org.au](http://www.tribunal.dow.org.au)

### **PARISH FINANCES**

#### **Collections week ending 13/4/25**

\$504 First Collection - Clergy Remuneration Fund

\$354 Second Collection – Parish Expenses

\$308 Tap Point – Parish Donations

\$330 Planned Giving Envelopes

\$673 Direct Debits (weekly average for March)



#### **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.



### First Reading: Acts 10:34. 37-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.' Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses - we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead - and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Responsorial Psalm: Ps 117:1-2. 16-17. 22-23

**R. This is the day the Lord has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad.**

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,  
for his love has no end.

Let the sons of Israel say:

'His love has no end.' **R.**

The Lord's right hand has triumphed;  
his right hand raised me up.

I shall not die, I shall live  
and recount his deeds. **R.**

The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord,  
a marvel in our eyes. **R.**

### Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-4

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed - and he is your life - you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Please remain seated and join in the sequence**

### Sequence

Christians, to the Paschal Victim offer sacrifice and praise.  
The sheep are ransomed by the Lamb;  
and Christ, the undefiled,  
hath sinners to his Father reconciled.  
Death with life contended: combat strangely ended!  
Life's own Champion, slain, yet lives to reign.  
Tell us, Mary: say what thou didst see upon the way.  
The tomb the Living did enclose;  
I saw Christ's glory as he rose!  
The angels there attesting;  
shroud with grave-clothes resting.  
Christ, my hope, has risen: he goes before you into Galilee.  
That Christ is truly risen from the dead we know.  
Victorious king, thy mercy show!

### Gospel Acclamation: 1 Corinthians 5:7-8

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Christ has become our paschal sacrifice;  
let us feast with joy in the Lord.  
Alleluia!**

### Gospel : John 20:1-9

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb' she said 'and we don't know where they have put him.'

So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who

was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.



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.