



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 10 AUGUST 2025

19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / 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



As I return from my annual leave this weekend, I am very grateful to all who took on extra work in my absence. Special thanks to Monsignor David O'Brien, Monsignor Bryan Jones, Fr Leo Duck and Fr Hung Tran, as well as

our own Deacon Joseph, for ensuring that the Sacramental life of the parish could continue in my absence. Thank you also to Sister Kerry and Helen James as the main contacts in my absence, Melissa and Lani the parish secretaries, and many other lay leaders and volunteers who have been taking on extra work in various ways in my absence.

One particularly exciting new ministry that has not only continued but grown in my absence is the ministry to our high school aged youth. This ministry commenced last term with "Youth Alpha", led by a wonderful team of young adult volunteers. After the successful conclusion of Youth Alpha last term, these volunteers, along with a few new volunteers after the "Come and See Cup of Tea", have committed to continuing this ministry to our youth. The ongoing youth group for high school aged youth in our two parishes is called "Revive Youth", and I am very grateful to our generous young adult volunteers for their commitment to this vital ministry, enabling our youth to be

supported and encouraged in their faith in the midst of the many challenges facing the youth of our time. This term's gatherings are fortnightly on Friday evenings, and each session is self-contained which means newcomers are always welcome to "come and see". If you know of anyone who might be interested, please invite them along – practical details are in the main section of the bulletin, permission forms are available at the church, or contact reviveyouth25@gmail.com for more information.

As I return from my family time to my parish family, I know that I will be missing my family but will remain close to them in prayer – as was true also of my "parish family" while I was away from the parish. It might take a little time for me to recover from my uncle duties with my two very energetic and wonderful nephews and to catch up with work and get back into the rhythm of it all, but I look forward to this next chapter of reconnecting with you all and working with you and for you with renewed energy!

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

takes place this Friday 15 August. This is a Holy Day of Obligation, meaning that all Catholics are called to come together to celebrate Mass if possible, as for the Sundays of the year and Christmas Day. As well as the usual Friday Mass at 7:45am at St Therese, there will be an additional Mass this Friday at 7pm at Immaculate Conception.



RECENTLY DECEASED: Helen Robson

DECEASED FOR WHOM OUR PRAYERS HAVE BEEN REQUESTED:

SICK: Kerrie Maidment, Lucila Montano, Rachael Wakely, Margaret Beamish, Daniel Hiew

ANNIVERSARIES OF PARISHIONERS: Edward Purcell, William Russell, Johanna Sikora, Cyril Bartlett, Brendon Townsend, Joyce Randles, Eileen McMullan, Mary McEwan, Milly Green, George Souter, Adrianus Husson, Erica Weingartner, Thomas Chriscoli, Gertrude Breitschaft, Rita Turner, Pina Nash, James McMillan, Eduardo Flores, Leslie Donnelley, Ossie Rush, Mavis Mc Kenzie, William Moran, Sarah Bill, Robert Heffer

VINNIES NEWS

Our local conference will hold our Vinnies Winter Appeal on Sunday August 24. What is your donation spent on? When people move into our area, often from or into temporary accommodation, they have few household effects. We supply a reconditioned fridge, delivered for free by Ryan's Electricals for \$300 and a mattress for \$200. In addition, we will buy a new toaster and kettle for \$20. If you'd like to make an online donation, our details are: BSB 062000, Account 19889862, Name SVDP Society NSW Conference. Please add Reference for West Wollongong 46426 to ensure it comes to us.



PARISH FINANCES

\$354 First Collection - Clergy Remuneration Fund

\$201 Second Collection – Parish Expenses

\$317 Tap Point – Parish Donations

\$372 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



HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP - "REVIVE YOUTH"

Meets fortnightly 7-9pm, St Therese Parish Centre

Next meeting 22 August

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 in recess during August.

Message us on FB or Insta (@sticyoungadults) to join our WhatsApp for regular updates. See you in September!

ST THERESE JUSTICE, ECOLOGY AND PEACE GROUP

From Kiama's 'Laudato Si Circle by the Ocean':

Letter Writing to Make a Difference

Calling all people, who are passionate about our Federal government addressing Climate Change and Caring for Creation. Join our Letter Writing Afternoon on **Sunday 17 August, 2.30 pm at SS Peter and Paul Catholic Church, Kiama (Parish Meeting Room)**. You don't have to be an expert. Resources and advice will be provided for you to choose an issue dear to your heart. Please bring your own device as the focus will be on sending emails. Paper and pens will also be available. We hope to see you there.

COLUMBARIUM UPDATE

I know it must seem like a long time since I spoke to you at Mass about the possibility of establishing a columbarium at St Therese Parish.

Many thanks to the parishioners who have shown interest in the project and who have provided a deposit to allow us to gauge actual interest. Since those early days much has been happening.

The Pastoral Council has been working with the company who builds columbaria to finalise a suitable design and quote. As happens with these types of projects, as each draft of a final design is produced, more discussion and questions arise, which then need to be answered. We are very close to the final design, which will be shared with you as soon as I receive it.

Some details which we are finalising are - lighting; water feature; statue or cross as a focal point; seating; colour; accessibility. When we receive a quote for these features, we will be able to choose which ones we can afford at the start, and which ones will be added as more niches are sold. We are also bringing together a letter to be sent to Bishop Brian for his approval. This also requires details.

I thank you all for your patience while we look to establish a columbarium which will be a fitting resting place for parishioners for many years to come.

Brenda Wilson

Pastoral Council member

CARITAS AUSTRALIA INVITES US TO PRAY FOR THE PEOPLE OF GAZA

The situation in Gaza continues to deteriorate at an alarming rate, with severe shortages of food, safe drinking water, and emergency shelter. Gaza is the most dangerous place in the world for children. Caritas is calling for an immediate and permanent ceasefire.

God of light,

You meet us in the darkest places.

Every year, when we light our Easter candle, we pray 'may the light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our minds and hearts.'

We pray today that all people may work with you to dispel the darkness of violence and war.

May this fragile light be a sign of our hope for the people of Gaza.

May they find healing and lasting peace.

Amen.

If you are able to support Caritas Australia's Gaza Appeal, please donate online at www.caritas.org.au/gaza or phone 1800 024 413

INVITATION FROM DARREN MCDOWELL **ORDINATION TO DIACONATE**

It is with great pleasure and gratitude that I invite you to attend my ordination to the Diaconate occurring on **Saturday 23 August, 10am at St Francis Xavier Cathedral Wollongong**. This will be a wonderful celebration for me and for our Diocese. Please RSVP at <https://www.sjec.org.au/darren> so that we can arrange appropriate catering for the light lunch which will follow the mass.

ERC P&F GALA DINNER

23 August at Fraternity Club

raising funds for Raising the Bar, a wonderful local Illawarra charity supporting the mental health and wellbeing of men in our community. But while the raffle is heating up...

Have you booked your tickets to the Gala Dinner yet?

This year's ERC P&F Gala Dinner is going to be a night to remember, with a theme of "Formal Elegance" – and we're bringing the country charm in style! 🍷

🌟 Highlights of the night include:

🎤 MCs Christian & Bella from i98FM

🎵 Live music by The Craig Woodward Party Band

🎲 Plenty of dancing, games, raffles and fun

🍷 A delicious dinner and drinks package

👯 And to top it off – Miss Zoe's School of Dance will be showcasing a line dance or two... then getting everyone up to join in! Don't forget your boots!

🎁 Incredible raffle prizes will be drawn on the night – including a Seiko watch, fitness packages, a pizza oven, luxury stays and more.

📅 Book your Gala Dinner tickets now:

👉 <https://events.humanitix.com/edmund-rice-college-gala-2025>

🎟 Buy your raffle tickets here:

👉 <https://rafflelink.com.au/erc-pf-gala>

Warm regards,

ERC P&F Committee

✉ pandf@erc.nsw.edu.au

📱 Stay connected with us on:

Facebook: [ERC P&F Facebook](#)

Instagram: [ERC P&F Instagram](#)

2025 SIGNIFICANT MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARIES MASS

If you are celebrating 25, 30, 40, 50, 60 or over 60 years of marriage this year, we invite you to the celebration of Significant Marriage Anniversaries, to be celebrated with Bishop Brian Mascord on **Sunday 24 August 2025 at 2pm at the St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Wollongong**. Mass will be followed by light refreshments in the Xavier Centre Conference Room. **Please register online at <https://dow.sh/MA2025> by no later than Monday, 11 August 2025**. Any enquiries please email Helen Bennett helen.bennett@dow.org.au

HEAR FROM POPE LEO XIV

Sunday Echo is a **limited-release resource** containing the Holy Father's most recent homily or reflection and accompanying discussion questions. **Each issue will be released the day after Pope Leo XIV gives a homily or reflection on the most recent Sunday Gospel readings** go to <https://www.dow.org.au/media-resources/faith-circles/> to access or sign up to have sent straight to you.

SUMMIT NIGHT – AN EVENING WITH DR EDWARD SRI

For young adults aged 18+

6.30 – 8.30pm, Saturday, 30 August

Xavier Conference Centre (adjacent to St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Wollongong)

Free – donations gratefully accepted on the night

Young adults of the Diocese of Wollongong, this is our final Summit Night for 2025! We're inviting you to an unforgettable evening designed to challenge, inspire, and renew. At Summit Night, you'll join a vibrant community seeking truth, building faith, and growing closer to Christ. This time, we will be joined by Dr Edward Sri. He is a renowned Catholic, author and theologian who presents to tens of thousands of people from around the world each year, including clergy, parish leaders, catechists and laity.



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 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

Revive Youth (12-18yrs)

8 & 22 August

Fortnightly on Fridays 7-9pm, Parish Centre
Contact reviveyouth25@gmail.com

STIC Young Adults (18-35yrs)

In recess during August

First Reading: Wisdom 18:6-9

A reading from the book of Wisdom

Just as you struck our enemies, you made us glorious by calling us to you

That night had been foretold to our ancestors, so that, once they saw what kind of oaths they had put their trust in, they would joyfully take courage.

This was the expectation of your people, the saving of the virtuous and the ruin of their enemies; for by the same act with which you took vengeance on our foes you made us glorious by calling us to you.

The devout children of worthy men offered sacrifice in secret and this divine pact they struck with one accord: that the saints would share the same blessings and dangers alike; and forthwith they had begun to chant the hymns of the fathers.

.The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 32:1. 12. 18-20. 22

R. Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.

They are happy, whose God is the Lord, the people he has chosen as his own, **R.**

The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine **R.**

Our soul is waiting for the Lord.

The Lord is our help and our shield.

May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you. **R.**

Second Reading: Hebrews 11:1-2. 8-19

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

We will look for the city designed and built by God.

Only faith can guarantee the blessings that we hope for, or prove the existence of the realities that at present remain unseen. It was for faith that our ancestors were commended.

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going. By faith he arrived, as a foreigner, in the Promised Land, and lived there as if in a strange country, with Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. They lived there in tents while he looked forward to a city founded, designed and built by God.

It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore.

All these died in faith, before receiving any of the things that had been promised, but they saw them in the far distance and welcomed them, recognising that they were only strangers and nomads on earth. People who use such terms about themselves make it quite plain that they are in search of their real homeland. They can hardly have meant the country they

came from, since they had the opportunity to go back to it; but in fact they were longing for a better homeland, their heavenly homeland. That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God, since he has founded the city for them.

It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead, and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Gospel : Luke 12:32-48

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

See that you are prepared.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There is no need to be afraid, little flock, for it has pleased your Father to give you the kingdom.

'Sell your possessions and give alms. Get yourselves purses that do not wear out, treasure that will not fail you, in heaven where no thief can reach it and no moth destroy it. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

'See that you are dressed for action and have your lamps lit. Be like men waiting for their master to return from the wedding feast, ready to open the door as soon as he comes and knocks. Happy those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. I tell you solemnly, he will put on an apron, sit them down at table and wait on them. It may be in the second watch he comes, or in the third, but happy those servants if he finds them ready. You may be quite sure of this, that if the householder had known at what hour the burglar would come, he would not have let anyone break through the wall of his house. You too must stand ready, because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

Peter said, 'Lord, do you mean this parable for us, or for everyone?' The Lord replied, 'What sort of steward, then, is faithful and wise enough for the master to place him over his household to give them their allowance of food at the proper time? Happy that servant if his master's arrival finds him at this employment. I tell you truly, he will place him over everything he owns. But as for the servant who says to himself, "My master is taking his time coming", and sets about beating the menservants and the maids, and eating and drinking and getting drunk, his master will come on a day he does not expect and at an hour he does not know. The master will cut him off and send him to the same fate as the unfaithful.

'The servant who knows what his master wants, but has not even started to carry out those wishes, will receive very many strokes of the lash. The one who did not know, but deserves to be beaten for what he has done, will receive fewer strokes. When a man has had a great deal given him, a great deal will be demanded of him; when a man has had a great deal given him on trust, even more will be expected of him.'

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.