



# 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  
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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 27 APRIL 2025**

**EASTER 2 / C**

### MASS TIMES:

**St Therese - West Wollongong**

#### Weekend Masses

Sunday: 10am and 5pm

#### Weekday Masses

Wednesday: 5.30pm

Friday: 7.45am  
Saturday: 9.00am

### MASS TIMES:

**Immaculate Conception - Unanderra**

#### Weekend Masses

Saturday 6pm  
Sunday: 8am

#### Weekday Masses

Monday: 8.00am  
Tuesday: 5.30pm

Thursday: 5.30pm

### RECONCILIATION:

**St Therese - West Wollongong**

Saturday: 9.30am – 10.30am

Wednesday: 4.30pm – 5.30pm

**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

When we lose a loved one, we experience a mix of grief and gratitude, and an opportunity to reflect upon the bigger picture of their life. In the case of the Pope, we are united in this grief and gratitude, and we now have the opportunity to reflect upon the bigger picture of his remarkable Pontificate.

It is impossible to summarise the rich and powerful legacy of Pope Francis in a single message. It is all too tempting to try to force him into our own pre-conceived categories of thought and politics, and we will see many of these over-simplified narratives in the secular media – this is to be expected. However, Pope Francis himself regularly warned us against such over-simplifications of our faith. As Catholics, who are not simply "external observers" of the Pope but rather the family of faith united under his leadership, may we take the time to reflect more deeply, and from the heart, during the days, weeks, months and years ahead, upon the powerful and challenging messages Pope Francis proclaimed through his words and deeds. I will be doing this myself and sharing some of these reflections in future messages.

For now, the reflection that I choose to share comes from one of his early interviews as Pope, and a response which I

believe provides us with a beautiful insight into the man and his mission. When he was asked as a first question in an interview "who is Jorge Mario Bergoglio", the Pope paused in silent reflection and then responded: "I do not know what might be the most fitting description...I am a sinner. This is the most accurate definition. It is not a figure of speech, a literary genre. I am a sinner." He then spoke of the motto he chose as Bishop and Pope: "*Miserando atque eligendo*" which means "having mercy and choosing him" – based upon Jesus's call of Matthew, the tax-collector. He then concluded his answer: "Here, this is me, a sinner on whom the Lord has turned his gaze. And this is what I said when they asked me if I would accept my election as pontiff...I am a sinner, but I trust in the infinite mercy and patience of our Lord Jesus Christ, and I accept in a spirit of penance."

I have a clear memory of watching the live footage of Pope Francis's opening address after he was elected Pope (13 March 2013). Before the Pope's first Papal Blessing as Bishop of Rome "to the city and the world" (the "Urbi et Orbi"), he asked the city and the world to pray for him, and bowed in silence as we prayed for him. How fitting that, as frail and weak as he was on Easter Sunday, he so generously made his way to that same place, to give the Easter Urbi et Orbi, imparting the blessing of the risen Christ to the city and the world, before departing this world that the year most explicitly dedicated to remembering the infinite



**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Fay Davey, Vincenza Cuoco, Antonietta Di Mambro, Susanne Gross,

Deacon Peter Presdee, Fr. Michael Fallon, Pope Francis

**DECEASED FOR WHOM OUR PRAYERS HAVE BEEN REQUESTED:**

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

**ANNIVERSARIES OF PARISHIONERS:** John Brown, John Pass, Archibald Burge, Colleen McKenzie, Maude Lobb, Kathleen Siennicki, Leila Hetherington, James Templeton, Clarence Quinlivan, Fr. John Mulheren, Paul Kent, John Skulimowski,

James Tobin, Dante Biasotto, Thomas Naughton James McKee, Patrick Loughlin, Clare Cartwright, Eileen Lythgo, William Cook, Virginia Biasotto, Charles Hayes, Anne Hawkin, Patrick Brown, Margaret Robertson, Noemi Zalunardo,

John Drummond, John Kitchener,

#### **MESSAGE FROM FR DUANE (ctd.)**

mercy of the crucified and risen Christ. As he asked of us as he began his Pontificate, may we continue now to pray for Pope Francis, with gratitude for his service, and with confidence in the infinite mercy of the risen Lord, which he experienced so deeply within himself and shared so generously with the world.

#### **CHANGES TO THE WEEKDAY SACRAMENTAL TIMETABLE**

Fr Jerzy Slowinski departs for his annual leave this coming week, and thereby concludes his 6 year term at Unanderra. Upon his return he will move to a house with brother priests of his religious order. Fr Jerzy will continue his ministry to the Polish Community but will no longer be serving the Unanderra parish in their weekday Sacraments. As such I have modified the weekday timetable across the two parishes of West Wollongong and Unanderra for this period between now and the ordination of Joseph as Priest towards the end of this year. Note: the Saturday morning reconciliation at Unanderra will be discontinued for now, meaning 2 hours per week of Reconciliation in each place. I hope that these changes cause minimal inconvenience to you all and I will be open to your questions and feedback about these changes during the coming weeks. I thank Fr Jerzy for his generous service to the parish of Unanderra, and also at West Wollongong when I have requested his assistance here, and let us pray for him during this time of transition.

#### **OTHER PRAYER REQUESTS**

Some of you would know Deacon Peter Presdee, a permanent Deacon who served in our Diocese for many years, with a special ministry of mercy to prisoners in the South Coast Correctional Centre. I had the privilege of working alongside Deacon Peter in my previous parish of Nowra. Sadly, Deacon Peter passed away last week, and his funeral is this Wednesday at 11am at Our Lady of Mt Carmel Catholic Church, Varroville. May he rest in eternal peace. Let us pray for next week's Federal Election, that all seeking leadership positions, and all voters, will be guided by the Spirit of Christ. The Election Statement of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has been shared as an attachment with the emailed bulletin, and can be viewed here: [bit.ly/ElectionStatement2025](http://bit.ly/ElectionStatement2025)

Finally let us pray especially this week for Seminarians Joseph and Sinh, ordained as Deacons this Tuesday evening (more details in the bulletin – all welcome to attend). We look forward to welcoming *Deacon* Joseph to serve across the parishes of West Wollongong and Unanderra!

#### **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.

#### **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 7.30pm, 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.*

#### **PARISH FINANCES**

##### **Collections week ending 20/4/25**

\$1070 First Collection - Clergy Remuneration Fund

\$717 Second Collection – Parish Expenses

\$436 Tap Point – Parish Donations

\$512 Planned Giving Envelopes

\$673 Direct Debits (weekly average for March)

Good Friday special collection for the Holy Land \$ 477

**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.



#### **PARISH DINNER**

Save the date

**23 May, 6pm**

at Figtree Sports

Please make your booking

by contacting Mary O'Rourke [maryo42@optusnet.com.au](mailto:maryo42@optusnet.com.au)

Barry Duggan Ph: 0411 236 616

[westwollongong@dow.org.au](mailto:westwollongong@dow.org.au) or phone the parish office on 4243 9610 Tuesday & Thursday between 8.30am-1.30pm to register your attendance.



#### **ANNIVERSARY OF MGR. JOHN MULHERON**

Mgr. John Mulheron was parish Priest of St. Therese from November 1940 to shortly before his death on 29 April 1978

## **PROJECT COMPASSION**

Could you please return your Project Compassion boxes to the Church in the next week. Thank you.

## **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](http://dow.sh/WFL) or contact [jude.hennessy@dow.org.au](mailto:jude.hennessy@dow.org.au) 4222 2407



## **VINNIES NEWS**

Many people are rightly concerned about how difficult it is for young people to afford to buy their own home. It is worth broadening our view. Many of the people we assist live in social housing but there are many more whose accommodation situation is not as secure. There has been a 16% increase in the number of applicants on the state's social housing register in the last two years and we have seen an increase in the call for assistance with rental arrears in our own area. The St Vincent de Paul Society recognises that a large-scale, long-term investment in social housing, along with relief for renters, must be critical actions taken by the next Federal Government. Let us continue to be concerned about the plight of our neighbours in need. Interested in helping Vinnies? Contact [louise.pinson@vinnies.org.au](mailto:louise.pinson@vinnies.org.au)



## **SANCTUS SUMMIT UNANDERRA**

**Eucharistic 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. 3rd Wednesday of every month from **6:30-7:30 PM** for adoration in a beautiful and sacred space.

Dinner: Unanderra Hotel

## **ST.THERESE JUSTICE ECOLOGY AND PEACE GROUP**

Members of the group will gather on the first Friday of the month in the church grounds to pray the Stations of the Cross. The text of the reflections and prayers focuses on the suffering of Jesus and the suffering of the Earth and the Poor in the face of environmental and human violence, neglect and injustice. The first gathering will take place on **Friday 2 May at 5.30 pm**, meeting under the tree in front of the School.

## **MEET A PARISHIONER**

Mary O'Rourke was born in Tumut in 1942. She grew up there and worked in secretarial work till she married Frank. Mary then became a stop at home mum as their family grew to 4 daughters. Frank's work with the Railway took them to many destinations and they finally settled in Wollongong when one of the girls started studying at university. Mary was involved with the Catholic Womens League and is a Reader at Mass and organises our social gatherings. What Mary likes about the Parish is the prayerfulness and friendliness of the community.



## **UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS**

**Fri. 23 May, 6 for 6.30pm Parish Social 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 Tues. of month  
Parish Centre, 6.30pm**

**Parish Pastoral Council  
[ppc@sttherese.com.au](mailto:ppc@sttherese.com.au)**

**1st and 3rd Thu  
of month, 7.30pm  
Parish Centre**

**West Wollongong Vinnies  
Conference  
[louise.pinson@vinnies.org.au](mailto: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**

**1 May**

**Guest Speaker, 7pm St Therese Parish  
Centre Centre**

**Follow "STIC Young Adults" on Instagram and Facebook**

**First Reading: Acts 5:12-16**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The faithful all used to meet by common consent in the Portico of Solomon. No one else ever dared to join them, but the people were loud in their praise and the numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily. So many signs and wonders were worked among the people at the hands of the apostles that the sick were even taken out into the streets and laid on beds and sleeping-mats in the hope that at least the shadow of Peter might fall across some of them as he went past. People even came crowding in from the towns round about Jerusalem, bringing with them their sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and all of them were cured.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm: Ps 117:2-4. 22-27**

**R.** Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,  
his love is everlasting.

Let the sons of Israel say:

'His love has no end.'

Let the sons of Aaron say:

'His love has no end.'

Let those who fear the Lord say:

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

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

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

This day was made by the Lord;  
we rejoice and are glad. **R**

O Lord, grant us salvation;

O Lord, grant success.

Blessed in the name of the Lord  
is he who comes.

We bless you from the house of the Lord;  
the Lord God is our light. **R.**

**Second Reading: Revelation 1:9-13. 17-19**

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

My name is John, and through our union in Jesus I am your brother and share your sufferings, your kingdom, and all you endure. I was on the island of Patmos for having preached God's word and witnessed for Jesus; it was the Lord's day and the Spirit possessed me, and I heard a voice behind me, shouting like a trumpet, 'Write down all that you see in a book.' I turned round to see who had spoken to me, and when I turned I saw seven golden lamp-stands and, surrounded by them, a figure like a Son of man, dressed in a long robe tied at the waist with a golden girdle.

When I saw him, I fell in a dead faint at his feet, but he touched me with his right hand and said, 'Do not be afraid; it is I, the First and the Last; I am the Living One. I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and of the underworld. Now write down all that you see of present happenings and things that are still to come.'

**The word of the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation: John 20:29**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me;  
happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!**

**Alleluia!**

Gospel : John 20:19-31

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*After eight days Jesus came in and stood among them.*

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me

so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive,

they are forgiven;

for those whose sins you retain,

they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord,' he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you,' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me.

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but

they are not

recorded in this

book. These are

recorded so that you

may believe that

Jesus is the Christ,

the Son of God, and

that believing this

you may have life

through his name.

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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