



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 7 SEPTEMBER 2025

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

ST THERESE WEST WOLLONGONG	IMMACULATE CONCEPTION UNANDERRA	RECONCILIATION:
<u>Weekend Masses</u> Sunday: 10am and 5pm	<u>Weekend Masses</u> Saturday: 5pm Sunday: 8am	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
<u>Weekday Masses</u> Wednesday: 5.30pm Friday: 7.45am Saturday: 9.00am	<u>Weekday Masses</u> Monday: 8.00am Tuesday: 5.30pm Thursday: 5.30pm	<u>BAPTISMS:</u> Notice period: 1 month 2 nd Sunday of month 12pm West Wollongong 4 th Sunday of month 12pm Unanderra
<u>Eucharistic Adoration:</u> Wednesday 4.30pm - 5.30pm	<u>Eucharistic Adoration:</u> Tuesday and Thursday 6pm - 7pm	<u>WEDDINGS:</u> Notice period: 6 months

MESSAGE FROM FR DUANE



During this past week we celebrated the 10th World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation (1 September). We know that care for creation was one of the key teachings from Pope Francis, but it is worth noting that Pope St John Paul 2, Pope Benedict

XVI, and now Pope Leo XIV, have all taught this same message. Pope Leo XIV called us to mark this day and the ecumenical "Season of Creation" (1 Sep to 4 Oct) with a renewed awareness of the beauty of God's creation and of our responsibility as God's people to care for the works of his hands. Pope Leo's "Message for the 10th World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation" can be found online, or contact the parish office if you would like a hard copy.

Our "thank you to volunteers" is coming up on Friday 26 September at 7pm with a "wine and cheese" evening at the St Therese Parish Centre. We will be endeavouring to send personal invitations to all of our many parish volunteers, but if you do not receive one and volunteer in any capacity in the parish, please save the date and come along – RSVP essential to westwollongong@dow.org.au.

Our annual "Community Fun Day" is coming up on Sunday 2 November – save the date! We are also keen to make this day even more fun and family friendly this year, so if any of

you have any ideas or if you would like to join an organising committee (just temporarily for this event – you won't be committed for life), please contact the parish office.

Happy Fathers Day to all the fathers and father figures of our community! I share words of our late Holy Father, Pope Francis, in one of his messages for Fathers Day, reminding us of St Joseph as the model for all men, and especially of earthly fatherhood:

"St Joseph is the model of the educator and the dad, the father. I, therefore, entrust to his protection those who are fathers. Best wishes to you on your day! I ask for you the grace to be ever closer to your children, allow them to grow, but be close, close! They need you, your presence, your closeness, your love. May you be for them as St Joseph was: guardians of their growth in age, wisdom and grace. May you guard them on their journey: be educators and walk with them. Thank you for all you do for your children: thank you. May St Joseph bless you and accompany you."

This weekend, Pope Leo XIV will celebrate the canonisation of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati and Blessed Carlo Acutis. These two young saints will be a great inspiration for the youth of our time. I encourage you all to learn more about them, and share their stories especially with any young people you are in contact with, and perhaps to tune in to watch the canonisation Mass this Sunday 6pm AEST.



RECENTLY DECEASED: Joan Bunten, Marie Aubrey (nee Bunten), John Packham, Margaret Walsh, Yolanda Yu
DECEASED FOR WHOM OUR PRAYERS HAVE BEEN REQUESTED: Jennifer Bell

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

ANNIVERSARIES OF PARISHIONERS: John White, Frank Pyseck, Monica Delahunty, Elsie Gillin, Joseph Juhasz, Frederick Thompson, Mary McDerrott, Alfred Pozzer, Mary McGoldrick, Zita Everett, Desilee Dwyer, Eileen Riordan, Domenico Carvana, Irene Hermann, Wally Ongaro, John Darby, Philip Goodman, Daphne Peckman, Edward Conran, John Chalker, Lucy Hayes, Harry Smith, Jane Hawker, Kathleen Tate, James Marceau, James O'Leary.

GATHERING AFTER MASS

It is wonderful to see more and more people gathering to chat after Mass! Just a reminder that for reasons of safety and convenience, please try to gather either under the awning (with the "no parking" signs) or in the Parish Centre.

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY – EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Losing a loved one is one of the deepest sorrows in this life, and the beginning of a journey of grief. As the Church we can help to lighten this burden, with the help of volunteers who might provide support for the bereaved in various ways – for example, helping in preparation for a funeral, following up after a funeral with a cup of tea, providing a meal during a time of grief, or other ways – the specific details will be finalised after we know how many are interested in the ministry, and ongoing support and formation will be provided to all involved as needed before we commence the ministry. If you would like to know more about this ministry or if you have any suggestions, please contact the parish office and we will be in touch with you soon to let you know the next steps.

PARISH FINANCES

\$465 First Collection - Clergy Remuneration Fund
 \$329 Second Collection – Parish Expenses
 \$459 Tap Point – Parish Donations
 \$255 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

SEASON OF CREATION 2025 – PEACE WITH CREATION

Creation is God's sacred gift, entrusted to our care. Christians are called to protect and nurture Creation in peace, working in partnership with others and passing this responsibility on to future generations. Its deep interconnectedness makes peace both essential and fragile.

Pope Francis challenges us: "What is the goal of our work? What need does the Earth have of us? Leaving an inhabitable planet to future generations is up to us" (*Laudato Si'*, 160). Churches engage globally in climate, agriculture, and biodiversity efforts, grounded in theology and a prophetic call for repentance and justice. Only through reconciliation with and genuine justice for all living beings will Creation find peace.

**HAVE A BLESSED
FATHER'S DAY!**

PRAYING FOR THE BISHOP'S VISION

**Sacred Heart Chapel, Stewart St Wollongong
 Friday 12 September**

Join us at 7pm for thirty minutes of charismatic praise to implement our Bishop's Vision for the Wollongong Diocese, followed by Holy Mass at 7.30pm. There will also be an opportunity for individual healing prayer after Mass and cuppa. Celebrant: Fr George Condookala. Everyone welcome.

STIC YOUNG ADULTS IS ON THURSDAYS 7PM AT ST THERESE PARISH CENTRE

11 Sept: Formation and fellowship

18 Sept: Guest Speaker- Elise Duval "Discover the Jubilee: Making the most of the Jubilee year and beyond"

25 Sept: 5:30 Unanderra Mass, 6:45 Dinner @ Unanderra Hotel. Message us on FB or Insta (@sticyoungadults) to join our WhatsApp for regular updates.

CATECHIST RETREAT 2025: GROWING IN FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE

**9:30am - 2:30pm, Monday 22 September, Wollongong
 St Francis Xavier Cathedral and Conference Room**

As part of the Jubilee for Catechists, *Growing in Faith, Hope and Love* will be a joyful day of celebration and a special time to be nourished and refreshed. Wonderful facilitators: Jude Hennessy, Fr Bernard Gordon VG, and Sr Magdalen Mather OSB, will each lead us into a richer and more personal understanding of the theological virtues: Faith, Hope and Love. Spouses are welcome. Morning Tea is provided. BYO lunch. To register go to: dow.sh/catret

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL

Spots are limited and must be finalised by mid-September.

Join the Diocese of Wollongong's pilgrimage to the *Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF)*, taking place at the Melbourne Exhibition Centre from **30 November to 2 December 2025**.

ACYF is a national celebration of faith, drawing together thousands of young people (Year 9 to 25 years old) from across Australia for a powerful experience of encounter, formation, prayer, and community. Each day includes dynamic speakers, workshops, music, Mass, and an interactive expo. Travel and accommodation are being organised through **Harvest Journeys**, with a full package including your ACYF ticket, return flights, transfers, 4 nights' hotel accommodation, daily breakfast, and dinner on arrival (the night before the Festival). To register or find out more, visit dow.org.au/cymw or email Arnie Hurdoyal: arnie.hurdoyal@dow.org.au

LAST DAYS TO REGISTER (BY MON 8 SEPT) FOR THE COMPASS: "BUSH" FAMILY CAMPING WEEKEND

Fri 12 – Sun 14 September

Guntawang - Wooglemai Catholic Camping Facility

These weekends bring Catholic families of all ages, including couples with or without children, single parents and grandparents, together to celebrate the incredible gift of family life. Enjoy shared meals, games, music, prayer, and Mass together. Cost: \$50 per adult or \$100 per family. Register at: dow.org.au/events/compass-bush-family-camping-weekend

AGED CARE AT HOME

CatholicCare can assist you to access aged care support services at home ensuring you or your loved ones receive the right care and support. Ph: 4211 6103 or go to www.catholiccare.dow.org.au

HELP AT HOME WITH HEALTH, MOBILITY & SAFETY

CatholicCare has a caring Clinical Aged Care Team ready to help you or your loved ones - quickly and professionally. Their team of Registered Nurses, Occupational Therapists, and Physiotherapists can come to you. Call CatholicCare on Ph: 4211 6103 or go to www.catholiccare.dow.org.au

SANCTUS SUMMIT- UNANDERRA

Sanctus Summit is a monthly Adoration + Fellowship night, primarily for youth and young adults **every 3rd Wednesday of the month** in **Rosemeadow and Unanderra**. The next Sanctus Summit will be at Immaculate Conception, Unanderra on **17 September from 6.30pm**.

The night consists of Eucharistic Adoration, Vespers, Gospel + Reflection. Fellowship and dinner will follow afterwards at Unanderra Hotel.



NAPPY DRIVE - SUPPORTING PREGNANT MOTHERS

We are collecting nappies and baby products, such as lotions, barrier cream, baby powder, etc, to support pregnant women. Many mums-to-be face unexpected challenges, and your donation

can help provide comfort and dignity as they prepare to welcome their babies. Every pack of nappies is a gift of care and hope. All donations will be given to Diamond Women, an organisation which provides compassionate care, professional support and counselling to assist women and their families facing an unplanned pregnancy. **Donations can be left at marked baskets in the foyer this weekend.**

CATHOLIC BUSINESS CONNECTIONS (CBC) SEPTEMBER

LUNCHEON Thursday 23 Sept 2025, 11.45 - 2.00pm
Rydges Campbelltown

Topic: The Power of Intergenerational Learning

The guest speakers will be Jane Hollier and David Gearin, from CatholicCare who will be speaking about The Power of Intergenerational Learning, part of the Cross+Gen digital literacy initiative which is being promoted throughout the diocese. **RSVP: 15 September 2025.** Link to buy guest tickets: Guest Tickets cbc.dow.org.au

ST JOHN VIANNEY'S FAIRY MEADOW CLASS OF 75 YEAR 6 ARE HAVING A 50TH REUNION

Is this YOU? Please contact Angela, Luiza, Jose or Sophie for details. Email: info.sjvclassof75@gmail.com OR Facebook: St John Vianney's Class of 75 - 50th reunion

A VOCATION VIEW:

You have one precious life to give. How do you choose to offer it to God? Be willing to accept the challenges of discipleship. (Luke 14:25-33) If you want to talk about your vocation, please contact the diocesan vocations director, Fr Duane Fernandez at vocations@dow.org.au



UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

Fri 26 Sept, 7pm Parish Centre	Volunteer thank you, RSVP: westwollongong@dow.org.au
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 Thu 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)

Fortnightly on Fridays 7-9pm, Parish Centre

Next Meeting: 19 September

Contact reviveyouth25@gmail.com

STIC Young Adults (18-35yrs)

Meets each Thursday

Last Thursday Prayer & Pub

5.30pm Mass at Immaculate Conception + 6.45pm dinner at Collegians, Figtree

Other Thursdays 7pm Faith Studies and Fellowship
Parish Centre

Message us on FB or Insta (@sticyoungadults) to join our WhatsApp for regular updates.

First Reading: : Wisdom 9:13-18*A reading from the book of Wisdom*

What man can know the intentions of God?
 Who can divine the will of the Lord?
 The reasonings of mortals are unsure
 and our intentions unstable;
 for a perishable body presses down the soul,
 and this tent of clay weighs down the teeming mind.
 It is hard enough for us to work out what is on earth,
 laborious to know what lies within our reach;
 who, then, can discover what is in the heavens?
 As for your intention, who could have learnt it, had you
 not granted Wisdom
 and sent your holy spirit from above?
 Thus have the paths of those on earth been straightened
 and men been taught what pleases you,
 and saved, by Wisdom.
 The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 89:3-6. 12-14. 17**R.** In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

You turn men back in to dust
 and say: 'Go back, sons of men.'
 To your eyes a thousand years
 are like yesterday, come and gone,
 no more than a watch in the night. **R.**

You sweep men away like a dream,
 like grass which springs up in the morning.
 In the morning it springs up and flowers:
 by evening it withers and fades. **R.**

Make us know the shortness of our life
 that we may gain wisdom of heart.
 Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever?
 Show pity to your servants. **R.**

In the morning, fill us with your love;
 we shall exult and rejoice all our days.
 Let the favour of the Lord be upon us:
 give success to the work of our hands. **R.**

**Second Reading: Philemon 9-10. 12-17***A reading from the letter of St Paul to Philemon*

This is Paul writing, an old man now and, what is more,
 still a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for a
 child of mine, whose father I became while wearing these
 chains: I mean Onesimus. I am sending him back to you,
 and with him - I could say - a part of my own self. I should
 have liked to keep him with me; he could have been a
 substitute for you, to help me while I am in the chains that
 the Good News has brought me. However, I did not want
 to do anything without your consent; it would have been
 forcing your act of kindness, which should be
 spontaneous. I know you have been deprived of
 Onesimus for a time, but it was only so that you could
 have him back for ever, not as a slave any more, but
 something much better than a slave, a dear brother;
 especially dear to me, but how much more to you, as a
 blood-brother as well as a brother in the Lord. So if all
 that we have in common means anything to you,
 welcome him as you would me.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.**Gospel Acclamation: Ps 118:135****Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Let your face shine on your servant,
 and teach me your laws.**

Alleluia!**Gospel: Luke 14:25-33***A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke*

Great crowds accompanied Jesus on his way and he
 turned and spoke to them. 'If any man comes to me
 without hating his father, mother, wife, children, brothers,
 sisters, yes, and his own life too, he cannot be my
 disciple. Anyone who does not carry his cross and come
 after me cannot be my disciple.

And indeed, which of you here, intending to build a tower,
 would not first sit down and work out the cost to see if he
 had enough to complete it? Otherwise, if he laid the
 foundation and then found himself unable to finish the
 work, the onlookers would all start making fun of him and
 saying, "Here is a man who started to build and was
 unable to finish." Or again, what king marching to war
 against another king would not first sit down and consider
 whether with ten thousand men he could stand up to the
 other who advanced against him with twenty thousand? If
 not, then while the other king was still a long way off, he
 would send envoys to sue for peace. So in the same way,
 none of you can be my disciple unless he gives up all his
 possessions.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.