



# 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](mailto:westwollongong@dow.org.au)  
Website: [www.sttherese.com.au](http://www.sttherese.com.au)  
Bulletin/Media Email: [communications@sttherese.com.au](mailto:communications@sttherese.com.au)

**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 6 APRIL 2025**

**5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT /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

We have recently updated our parish website, and whether you are a new parishioner or have been coming along for years, it contains a lot of updated information and accessible ways to connect with various new and ongoing activities in our parish. A big thank you to Cliff Bunten, Andrew Thornberry and Rebecca Hall for their work through recent years in making the ever-growing life of our parish community more accessible to all online. Check out the latest at <https://www.sttherese.com.au/> - the more visitors to the site, the better!

We are fast approaching Holy Week and Easter, and the details of the ceremonies are in the main section of the bulletin. As the high point of the Church year, we will have many people coming along to our Church who don't usually attend, and it would be great if we could help them to feel as welcome as possible. If you would be able to volunteer to greet people at the door with bulletins and other materials (and a smile) at either of the Good Friday services or any of the Easter Masses, please contact the parish office at [westwollongong@dow.org.au](mailto:westwollongong@dow.org.au) with the subject "welcoming for Holy Week".

This weekend, with the Church throughout the world we celebrate the "Jubilee of the Sick and Health Care Workers". We remember with thanksgiving the nurses and doctors in our health system who I have regularly seen attend to the sick and dying with the utmost care and compassion. We remember also the many people who lovingly care for their sick and aged family members, often behind the scenes. We thank God for the ministry of Communion to the sick and housebound that enables our sick parishioners to remain spiritually united with us though they can no longer physically attend Mass. Above all, we pray for the sick, that they may know the healing mercy of Jesus, our Saviour, and the peace and hope that only he can give – especially through the prayers of the Church and the support of health care workers and loved ones.

Finally, we are planning to commence 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 7pm-8:30pm at St Therese Parish Centre West Wollongong, 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.

*...Continued over page...*



**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Jean Quinn, Jan Markwort, Colin Bell, Valerie Farrington, Rosalie Melouney  
**DECEASED FOR WHOM OUR PRAYERS HAVE BEEN REQUESTED:** Rita Zampa, Moya Daly (10yrs)

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

**ANNIVERSARIES OF PARISHIONERS:** Leonard Purss AIF., Helen McMahon, Neal Ransley, Arthur Brown, Moya Daly, Phillippa Connelly, Frances Benson, Alice Sopp, Tania Pass, Hedwig Viro, Edith Jordan, Ruth Thompson, Enrico Prosperi, Eileen Hannan, Alfred Parker, Martino Maisano, Rosalia Marito, Timothy Condon, Antonious Michels, Richard Brailsford, Henry Cook, Lionel Ransley, Ivan Zewkoff, Michielin Sante

### **...Fr Duane's message continued...**

This 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 me as soon as possible on [duane.fernandez@dow.org.au](mailto:duane.fernandez@dow.org.au) with the subject "Youth Alpha" and I will share more details with you.

### **HOLY WEEK at ST THERESE 2025**

**Holy Thursday 17 April,**  
 7pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

**Good Friday, 18 April,**  
 10am, Stations of the Cross  
*Reconciliation will be available after Stations of the Cross*  
 3pm Commemoration of the Passion

**Easter Saturday 19 April,**  
 7pm, Easter Vigil

**Easter Sunday, 20 April**  
 8am, Mass  
 10am, Mass

***There will be no evening Mass on Easter Sunday***



### **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 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](mailto:rsvp.dow.org.au) (preferred) or Ph. 02 4222 2400**  
 The formal invitation from Bishop Brian is displayed on the Notice Board.

### **STATIONS OF THE CROSS FRIDAYS OF LENT**

Stations of the Cross will take place on the Fridays of Lent at **5.30pm** at both St Therese West Wollongong and at Immaculate Conception, Unanderra.



### **PARISH FINANCES**

#### **Collections week ending 31/03/2025**

\$242 First Collection - Clergy Remuneration Fund  
 \$294 Second Collection - Parish Expenses  
 \$347 Tap Point - Parish Donations  
 \$227 Planned Giving Envelopes  
 \$673 Direct Debits (weekly average for February)



**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.

### **COLUMBARIUM PROJECT**

At the Pastoral Council meeting on Tuesday, it was decided that there is enough interest in the St Therese community for the project to go ahead. Therefore, next steps will be taken, including permission from Bishop Brian and work on a final design. This design will be shared with the parish community, especially with those who have expressed interest in pre-purchasing a niche. The parish will then be in touch with those purchasers to let them know when the balance needs to be paid (not yet).

If you have an interest in this project, please let the parish office know, or speak with Fr Duane or me at Mass, so that you can be included in the process. You can still fill in an Expression of Interest Form (yellow forms on resource table) and pay deposit of \$200, if you wish to pre-purchase. Thank you to all those who have made this possible through their Expressions of Interest.

Brenda Wilson

[bwilson76@hotmail.com](mailto:bwilson76@hotmail.com)

### **VINNIES NEWS**

National President of the St Vincent de Paul, Mark Gaetani, has released the Society's Election Statement titled 'Justice and Compassion'. The Society's policies are well researched, informed by Catholic Social Teaching and based on social justice principles. The Society is non-partisan and encourages us to engage with all candidates, asking them to include Vinnies priorities in their election platform. The four priority areas outlined in *Justice and Compassion* are:



- Supporting an adequate financial safety net for all.
- Providing housing security across the country.
- Addressing the needs of First Nations peoples.
- Rising to the refugee challenge.

Want to find out more? Click on the QR code



### **IDEAS FOR A GREENER LENT FROM ST. THERESE JUSTICE ECOLOGY AND PEACE GROUP**

Talk about the environment with your kids. There are many great books for young readers from Dr Suess 'The Lorax' to Kim Michelle Toft 'The World that we Want'. Or watch a movie together, perhaps 'Fern Gully', 'Fly Away Home' or the Meryl Streep narrated 'Here We are: Notes for Living on Planet Earth.' Older teenagers may appreciate Pope Francis' 'The Letter: A Message for our Earth'.

Please come along to an Environmental Stations of the Cross in the church grounds after morning mass on Saturday 12 April, 9.30-10am.

### **EMBRACING THE CANONISATION OF CARLO ACUTIS: SUNDAY 27 APRIL**

Watch the Boy from Milan (Released April 2) and hundreds of other great Catholic documentaries for FREE. Go to [www.formed.org](http://www.formed.org) / Click 'Formed for Individuals' button / Enter your email address / Submit / Type 'Wollongong' into the box / Click the Diocese's name and address (38 Harbour St) / Click Next / Enter your name and email address / Respond to your confirmation email / Sign in and then follow the prompts / Watch The Movie – The Boy from Milan - or any of the Hundreds of Catholic Programs

### **CHARISMATIC HEALING MASS**

**Friday 11 April 2025, Sacred Heart Chapel, Stewart Street Wollongong, Celebrant: Fr Paul Clark**

A warm invitation is extended to all members of the public, all prayer groups, Alpha graduates, and members of Cursillo, Couples for Christ and Disciples of Jesus, to join us in charismatic praise to implement our Bishop's Vision for the Wollongong Diocese, followed by Holy Mass. There will also be an opportunity for individual healing prayer after Mass and cuppa. Everyone welcome. 7:00pm Praise and Worship. 7:30pm Holy Mass. For more Info: Gabriella De Battista 0414 205 404

### **FREE COUNSELLING SESSION AT CATHOLICCARE**

CatholicCare's counselling service provides support to children, adults, couples and families who are experiencing:

- grief and loss
- family, relationship and marriage difficulties
- stress/anxiety/depression
- changes in personal or family situations
- pregnancy loss

Our skilful and compassionate counsellors are qualified professionals experienced in couple, family and individual counselling. First session is free and subsequent sessions are charged at a flexible, mutually agreed fee. Funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services. Go to <http://www.dss.gov.au> for more information.

### **A VOCATION VIEW**

God continues to open a way for us. How is God doing something new in your life? Perhaps God is inviting you to be a priest or religious. (Isaiah 43:16-21) If you want to talk about your vocation, please contact the diocesan vocations director, Fr Duane Fernandez at [vocations@dow.org.au](mailto:vocations@dow.org.au)

### **PENROSE PARK: JUBILEE YOUTH PILGRIMAGE, Saturday 26 April 2025, Shrine of Our Lady of Mercy Penrose Park, 10am – 3pm**

Join us for a special Youth Pilgrimage—a day of prayer, reflection, and encounter as we journey in faith through: Mass, Reconciliation, Rosary Walk, International Chapels, Fellowship & Lunch, and Creative Prayer Stations

**Bring your passports** to get stamped along the way!

Come as **Pilgrims of Hope**, embracing the grace of this Jubilee Year! Register Now at [dow.org.au/events/penrose-park-jubilee-youth-pilgrimage/](http://dow.org.au/events/penrose-park-jubilee-youth-pilgrimage/)

### **WHAT'S GOING ON?**

In the next few weeks there are formation courses, youth events, walks, camping and jubilee events – too many to list in one place. Subscribe here and we will keep you in the loop [dow.sh/stayingconnected](http://dow.sh/stayingconnected) or visit [dow.sh/weeklybulletin](http://dow.sh/weeklybulletin) to see everything that is on around our Diocese!



<https://www.facebook.com/StThereseWestGong>



### **UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS**

<b>Tuesday, 17 June</b>	<b>Registration for Reconciliation and First Holy Communion</b>
<b>Thursday, 19 June 7pm, Parish Centre</b>	
<b>Wednesdays, 7pm Parish Centre</b>	<b>Alpha continues</b>
<b>Mondays, 5pm Parish Centre</b>	<b>Christian Meditation Group</b> Monica Ph: 0418 172072
<b>Last Tues of month Parish Centre, 6.30pm</b>	<b>Parish Pastoral Council</b> <a href="mailto:ppc@sttherese.com.au">ppc@sttherese.com.au</a>
<b>1st and 3rd Thu of month, 7.30pm Parish Centre</b>	<b>West Wollongong Vinnies Conference</b> <a href="mailto:louise.pinson@vinnies.org.au">louise.pinson@vinnies.org.au</a>
<b>Fridays, 5.30pm St Therese Church</b>	<b>Stations of the Cross</b> <b>During Lent</b>
<b>Saturdays, 8.30am St Therese Church</b>	<b>The Rosary</b>
<b>2nd Sat of month 10.00am Parish Centre</b>	<b>Ladies' cuppa and chat</b> contact Elaine 0410692973

### **STIC Young Adults**

**Thursdays, 7pm St Therese Parish Centre**  
**Lenten Group**  
This Lent, we encourage all young adults (18+) to join us as we enter into this season through the diocesan Lenten Program *Metanoia*. Follow "STIC Young Adults" on Instagram and Facebook.



### First Reading: Isaiah 43:16-21

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah*

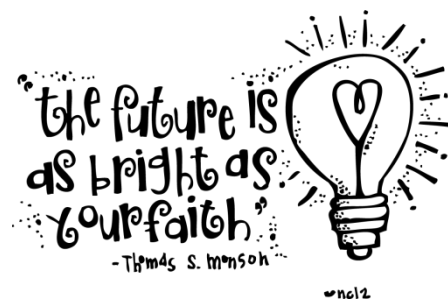
Thus says the Lord, who made a way through the sea, a path in the great waters; who put chariots and horse in the field and a powerful army, which lay there never to rise again, snuffed out, put out like a wick:

No need to recall the past,  
no need to think about what was done before.  
See, I am doing a new deed,  
even now it comes to light; can you not see it?  
Yes, I am making a road in the wilderness,  
paths in the wilds.

The wild beasts will honour me,  
jackals and ostriches,  
because I am putting water in the wilderness  
(rivers in the wild)  
to give my chosen people drink.  
The people I have formed for myself  
will sing my praises.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



### Responsorial Psalm: Ps 125

**R:** The Lord has done great things for us;  
we are filled with joy.

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,  
it seemed like a dream.  
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,  
on our lips there were songs. **R**

The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels  
the Lord worked for them!'  
What marvels the Lord worked for us!  
Indeed, we were glad. **R**

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage  
as streams in dry land.  
Those who are sowing in tears  
will sing when they reap. **R**

They go out, they go out, full of tears,  
carrying seed for the sowing:  
they come back, they come back, full of song,  
carrying their sheaves. **R**

### Second Reading: Philippians 3:8-14

*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians*

I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For him I have accepted the loss of everything, and I look on everything as so much rubbish if only I can have Christ and be given a place in him. I am no longer trying for perfection by my own efforts, the perfection that comes from the Law, but I want only the perfection that comes through faith in Christ, and is from God and based on faith. All I want is to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and to share his sufferings by reproducing the pattern of his death. That is the way I can hope to take my place in the resurrection of the dead. Not that I have become perfect yet: I have not yet won, but I am still running, trying to capture the prize for which Christ Jesus captured me. I can assure you my brothers, I am far from thinking that I have already won. All I can say is that I forget the past and I strain ahead for what is still to come; I am racing for the finish, for the prize to which God calls us upwards to receive in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Gospel Acclamation: Joel 2:12-13

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

**With all your heart turn to me,  
for I am tender and compassionate.**

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

### Gospel: John 8:1-11

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to John*



Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.  
At daybreak he appeared in the  
Temple again; and as all the people  
came to him, he sat down and  
began to teach them.

The scribes and Pharisees brought  
a woman along who had been  
caught committing adultery; and  
making her stand there in full view of  
everybody, they said to Jesus,

'Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women like this to death by stoning. What have you to say?' They asked him this as a test, looking for something to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, 'If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.' Then he bent down and wrote on the ground again. When they heard this, they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained standing there. He looked up and said, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she replied. 'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus 'go away, and don't sin anymore.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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