



ST THERESE PARISH - WEST WOLLONGONG

2 Powell Street, West Wollongong NSW 2500

Parish Office: Phone: (02) 4243 9610
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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 18 MAY 2025

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER / 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



MESSAGE FROM FR DUANE

Reflections on Pope Francis – and Pope Leo XIV!

As I continue my promised reflections on the Pontificate of Pope Francis, I do so this week in light of the election of Pope Leo XIV and his first messages to the Church and the world. In his first address and Blessing to the Church and the World ("Urbi et Orbi") when elected Pope, Pope Leo XIV declared: "Christ goes before us. The world needs his light. Humanity needs him as the bridge that can lead us to God and his love. Help us, one and all, to build bridges through dialogue and encounter, joining together as one people, always at peace."

It was a timely reminder for us that while the world understandably focuses its attention on the human personalities of Pope Leo XIV and Pope Francis, that for us as Catholics each Pope serves as a representative of Christ, leading us to Christ, and inspiring us to lead others to this same Christ – just as the first Pope was chosen by Jesus himself precisely after his confession of faith in Christ: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God!" (Matthew 16:16).

One of the greatest exponents of this in our times is not a Pope, but a young woman by the name of St Therese of Lisieux. This weekend marks the Centenary of her

Canonisation which took place on 17 May 1925. In 2023, Pope Francis wrote a beautiful letter on this great, young Saint, and he was not alone in his admiration for St Therese, as he notes in this same letter that Pope Leo XIII gave her special permission to join the Carmelite Convent at the young age of 15; Pope St Pius X declared after her death that she would become the greatest saint of modern times; Pope St John Paul II declared her a Doctor of the Church in 1997 – even though her only theological work was her humble autobiography.

I have shared in my recent reflections on Pope Francis that at the heart of his life and mission was his own personal encounter with the love and mercy of Jesus, which led him to devote his entire life to sharing this love and mercy of Jesus with the world. It is no surprise, then, that Pope Francis chose to quote these words of St Therese in his letter: "If all weak and imperfect souls felt what the least of souls feels, that is, the soul of your little Therese, not one would despair of reaching the summit of the mount of love. Jesus does not demand great actions from us, but simply *surrender* and *gratitude*". It is, as St Therese brilliantly taught, through humbly acknowledging our own littleness, our own need of the mercy of Jesus, that we too commit our whole lives to sharing this mercy with all, without exception – starting with the countless little acts of love and mercy to those nearest to us.

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RECENTLY DECEASED: Dianne Stow, Antonio Lavalle, Faye Munro, Terrence Gilbert, Tina Carnevale. Joe Arnone, Richard Piekarcz.

DECEASED FOR WHOM OUR PRAYERS HAVE BEEN REQUESTED: Kathy Faulks, Paul Downing, Luis De Barros.
SICK: Kerrie Maidment, Fr David Catterall, Lucila Montano, Rachael Wakely.

ANNIVERSARIES OF PARISHIONERS: Rudolph Ascuks, Edward Ryan, Brian Greenfield, Stanley Piper, Charles Hayes, Eva Hannaford, James Marcean, Mary Lacey, Harry Purcell, Roy Fahey, Anthony Houlahan, Peg Kelly, Paul Hammond, Silvano Rostirolla, Palmo Cirauda, Elizabeth Jacobs, Lawrence McEwan, Ellen Taggart, Joseph Begley Ronald Harty, Alfred Shipp, Christopher Graham, Thomas Hallett, Sadie Negro, Frederick Wirth, Ralph Suters, John Prince, Luigi Pelosi.

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Finally, I share Pope Francis's wonderful insight into the power of St Therese's "genius" – it was not to provide a complete analysis of the entire, rich doctrine of Catholic teaching, as other Doctors of the Church have attempted – but rather: "her genius consists in leading us to what is central, essential and indispensable. By her words and her personal experience she shows that, while it is true that all the Church's teachings and rules have their importance, their value, their clarity, some are more urgent and more foundational for the Christian life. That is where Therese directed her eyes and her heart."

And so he concludes his letter:

"A century and a half after her birth, Therese is more alive than ever in the pilgrim Church, in the heart of God's people. She accompanies us on our pilgrim way, doing good on earth, as she had so greatly desired. The most lovely signs of her spiritual vitality are the innumerable "roses" that Therese continues to strew: the graces God grants us through her loving intercession in order to sustain us on our journey through life.

Dear Saint Therese, the Church needs to radiate the brightness, the fragrance and the joy of the Gospel. Send us your roses! Help us to be, like yourself, ever confident in God's immense love for us, so that we may imitate each day your "little way" of holiness. Amen."



Sat 24/5

Our Lady, Help of Christians

PARISH DINNER - 6PM, 23 MAY

Figtree Sports Club

All are welcome.

Contact Mary O'Rourke

maryo42@optusnet.com.au

Ph: 0419 573868 OR Barry Duggan Ph: 0411 236616

to register your attendance.



PARISH FINANCES

Collections week ending 11/5/25

\$385 First Collection - Clergy Remuneration Fund

\$184 Second Collection – Parish Expenses

\$318 Tap Point – Parish Donations

\$260 Planned Giving Envelopes

\$687 Direct Debits (weekly average for April)

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 the Parish office for further information.



PENTECOST MULTICULTURAL MASS

10am, Sunday 8 June

Share a Recipe, Share a Story

In this mass we celebrate the many cultures of our parish through prayers in various languages, traditional dress and sharing food together afterwards. This year we're building on that tradition to continue sharing and connecting beyond our Parish celebration – as Pope Francis reminded us, our society is enriched by diversity and cultural exchanges! We'd love to share not just our food but our stories as well. **You're invited to share a recipe that is special to you and a story connected with it or your culture(s).** Send your recipe and your story to westwollongong@dow.org.au

VINNIES NEWS

Vinnies gatherings begin with an Acknowledgement of Country in which Elders are blessed and honoured and we express our desire to 'join together and build a future based on compassion, justice, faith, hope and reconciliation.' Later this month, during Reconciliation Week, we will be taking part in 'Djurali', a new cultural awareness training program, presented at Charles Gordon O'Neill House in Coniston. 'Djurali' means 'to learn and grow' in the Dharug language.



ST THERESE JUSTICE, ECOLOGY AND PEACE GROUP

Later this month we will be celebrating 10 years since the publication of Pope Francis' encyclical 'Laudato Si' - on care for our common home'. Pope Leo has also been outspoken about the need for action to fight global warming. We invite all parishioners to celebrate at Sunday masses on 25 May and to recommit to our parish plan developed more than two years ago. We have completed some of the actions but there is still plenty to be done.

FEEDBACK ON BISHOPS VISION AND PARISH LIFE

Bishop Brian invites all parishioners across the Diocese, to take the time to prayerfully reflect on his vision for renewed parishes, **'In the Parish I see'**, by completing the online activity @ dow.sh/csgmactivity. The activity takes approximately 30-45 minutes and will help you both engage with Bishop's Vision and share your valuable perspectives.

LAY LEADERSHIP IN THE ABSENCE OF A PRIEST

FORMATION Saturday 24 May, 10.00am – 12.00pm

Xavier Centre, 38 Harbour St, Wollongong

Sr Monica Barlow is running a formation session for anyone interested in exploring the possibility of leading liturgical celebrations in the absence of a Priest. This ministry is open to both men and women. The link to register for this formation session is <https://dow.sh/LayLeadership>

2025 RECONCILIATION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAM REGISTRATION

**Tuesday 17 June OR Thursday 19 June,
7pm, Parish Centre**

This year the sacraments will be celebrated at both St. Therese and Immaculate Conception parishes. Please note that ALL registration sessions will be held at the St Therese Parish Centre. Should you wish to register your child, attendance at **ONE** of the sessions is required:

YOUNG ADULTS - SANCTUS SUMMIT EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND DINNER

Wednesday 21 May, Immaculate Conception

Monthly adoration for youth and young adults of the diocese at two locations, rotating each month. **Third Wednesday of every month from 6:30-7:30pm** for adoration in a beautiful and sacred space. (Dinner at Unanderra Hotel)

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE WALK FOR LIFE

Fri 23 May - Sat 24 May

Join pilgrims for all or part of the walk for life from Kiama to Culburra.

Day 1: From Kiama to Gerringong, followed by dinner with Bishop Mascord & overnight adoration.

Day 2: Gerringong to Culburra, mass and dinner.

Free but Registration is Essential

For more information go to dow.sh/WFL
or contact jude.hennessy@dow.org.au
4222 2407



Can't walk with us but want to come to

pray? Join us for overnight Adoration from 8:30pm

Friday 23 May to 7:30am Saturday 24 May at St Mary Star of the Sea Catholic Church, Gerringong Parish.

Signup here: <https://dow.sh/ado2025>

THE MARRIAGE COURSE

Want to build a strong, better marriage?

Held online in the comfort of your own home!

Monday 26 May at 7.30pm, runs weekly until 7 July

The Marriage Course is for any couples who are married (from 2 years married to 50 years married) and it has been run in over 117 countries for over 1.5 million couples since its inception in 1996. There are seven sessions covering topics such as resolving conflict, impact of family and the art of communication. It's a great way to strengthen your marriage, learn practical tools to deepen your connection, gain insights from top psychologists, authors and relationship specialists and give you more time to spend as a couple! Register now at:

<https://app.tickets.org.au/DOW/Marriagecoursedow>

THE WOLLONGONG VOCATIONS PROMOTIONS TEAM

is excited to invite all young adults (over 18) from across the diocese to our *June VOCARIS* with the theme of Jubilee, followed by a Trivia Night! **Saturday, 14 June (5:30pm to 9.30pm).** 20 Broughton Street, Wilton (25 minutes from Wollongong). For more information and to register please use the QR Code.



UNDERSTANDING THE MASS

Seeking a deeper understanding of the Eucharist, the origins of the Mass or want to deepen your faith? Join us for the Corpus Christi Event! You will never celebrate Mass again the same way! **Sunday 22 June (10am to 3:30pm) at OLHC Hall - 80A** Demetrius Rd, Rosemeadow. Please use the QR code provided for more details or to register.



UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

Fri 23 May, 6 for 6.30pm Parish Social Dinner
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 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

STIC Young Adults (18-35yrs) Meets each Thursday

First Thursday 7pm
Parish Centre

Guest Speaker

Last Thursday

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

Prayer & Pub

Other Thursdays 7pm
Parish Centre

Faith Studies and Fellowship

Follow "STIC Young Adults" on Instagram and Facebook

First Reading: Acts 14:21-27

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Paul and Barnabas went back through Lystra and Iconium to Antioch. They put fresh heart into the disciples, encouraging them to persevere in the faith. 'We all have to experience many hardships' they said 'before we enter the kingdom of God.' In each of these churches they appointed elders, and with prayer and fasting they commended them to the Lord in whom they had come to believe.

They passed through Pisidia and reached Pamphylia. Then after proclaiming the word at Perga they went down to Attalia and from there sailed for Antioch, where they had originally been commended to the grace of God for the work they had now completed.

On their arrival they assembled the church and gave an account of all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith to the pagans.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 144:8-13

R. I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. **R.**

All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.
They shall speak of the glory of your reign
and declare your might, O God,
to make known to men your mighty deeds
and the glorious splendour of your reign. **R.**

Yours is an everlasting kingdom;
your rule lasts from age to age. **R.**



Second Reading: Revelation 21:1-5

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth; the first heaven and the first earth had disappeared now, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the holy city, and the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, as beautiful as a bride all dressed for her husband. Then I heard a loud voice call from the throne, 'You see this city? Here God lives among men. He will make his home among them; they shall be his people, and he will be their God; his name is God-with-them. He will wipe away all tears from their eyes; there will be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness. The world of the past has gone.'

Then the One sitting on the throne spoke: 'Now I am making the whole of creation new'.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: John 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia!

**I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved you.
Alleluia!**

Gospel: John 13:31-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

When Judas had gone Jesus said:

'Now has the Son of Man been glorified,
and in him God has been glorified.

If God has been glorified in him,
God will in turn glorify him in himself,
and will glorify him very soon.

My little children,
I shall not be with you much longer.

I give you a new commandment:
love one another;
just as I have loved you,
you also must love one
another.

By this love you have for one
another,
everyone will know that you
are my disciples'.

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.