



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
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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 25 MAY 2025

6TH 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 OTHER POPES)

As I continue my reflections on Pope Francis, I turn my attention this week to his first

Encyclical Letter, the 10th anniversary of which is marked this weekend: "Laudato Si", which means literally "Praise be to you", based on a famous prayer of St Francis of Assisi. The letter is subtitled: "On Care for our Common Home" and reminds all the faithful and indeed "every person living on this planet" of our shared responsibility to care for the common home that has been entrusted to us by God. It is important to note that Pope Francis was not the first Pope to teach this; Pope St Paul VI, Pope St John Paul 2 and Pope Benedict XVI regularly and emphatically taught the same message, and Pope Francis quotes them all in his letter. Some secular observers even dubbed Pope Benedict XVI "the Green Pope" during his Pontificate because of his regular and emphatic teachings on the importance of caring for the environment, including practical action in moving the Vatican itself towards renewable energy. Indeed, Pope Francis's successor Pope Leo XIV preached in his inaugural homily:

"I would like that our first great desire be for a united Church, a sign of unity and communion, which becomes a leaven for a reconciled world. In this our time, we still see too much discord, too many wounds caused by hatred, violence, prejudice, the fear of difference, and an economic paradigm that exploits the Earth's resources and marginalizes the poorest."

In our time, the topic of caring for the environment can all too easily fall prey to political partisanship. As Catholics, we are called to rise above these superficial divisions and to unite around the teaching of every Pope of the past 50 years, all of whom have taught that caring for the environment is indeed an essential part of our Christian calling. Pope Francis's teaching in Laudato Si brought these teachings into a profound synthesis, proceeding from the foundational truths of our faith that every detail of creation has been willed by our loving Creator and reveals something of the Creator, and that we are created in the image of God with a special responsibility of actively and proactively caring for creation and for one another – with special care for the most vulnerable among us.

MULTICULTURAL MASS: SUNDAY 8th JUNE

It is only two weeks until our annual "Multicultural Mass", with a special focus on celebrating the rich diversity of our community, on the Feast of Pentecost when many languages first united in the one faith by the power of the Holy Spirit. There will be prayers in various languages, all are encouraged to wear traditional dress, and a multicultural feast after Mass which is not to be missed! Thank you to everyone who has already offered to contribute, and we encourage everyone of any culture (including local culture) to bring a plate to share if you would be willing to do so. If anyone would like to get involved in any way and would like to know how this might be possible, please contact the parish office at westwollongong@dow.org.au.



RECENTLY DECEASED: Barbara Chalker, Maureen Coughlin, Roseli Bulka, Dianne Stow, Antonio Lavallo, Faye Munro, Terrence Gilbert, Tina Carnevale, Joe Arnone, Richard Piekarcz

DECEASED FOR WHOM OUR PRAYERS HAVE BEEN REQUESTED:

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

ANNIVERSARIES OF PARISHIONERS: John Delahunty, Emilija Judickas, William Walker, Benaida Bliss, Etta Taafe, Margaret Smith, Mary Prosser, Hilda Bessett, Clarence Bodel, Emma McCrohon, Joseph Fitzgerald, William Jubb, Bernard O'Connor, Peter McNamara, Maxwell Bond, Doris Cassar, William Weir, Kathleen Madden, Francis Fitzgibbon, Benjamin Cole, Doreen Quinn, Stanislaw Kosicki, Ivy Gill, Charles Bennett



Saturday The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

PARISH FINANCES

Collections week ending 18/5/25

\$348 First Collection - Clergy Remuneration Fund

\$378 Second Collection – Parish Expenses

\$460 Tap Point – Parish Donations

\$197 Planned Giving Envelopes

\$1032 Project Compassion 2025

\$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

Each Monday, Woolworths Figtree donates a big tray of fresh fruit to be distributed among those we visit during the week. This makes a wonderful addition to the processed items in our hampers. Occasionally there is fruit left over and this goes out in the Vinnies Van which operates five days a week across Wollongong and Shellharbour. We are very grateful for this assistance from a local business and to our Van volunteers whose helping hand reaches further than we can.



HEAR FROM POPE LEO XIV

Sunday Echo is a **limited-release resource** the Diocese has developed that contains 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.

LAUDATO SI' 10TH ANNIVERSARY

This weekend we celebrate 10 years since the release of Pope Francis' environmental encyclical *Laudato Si'*. This publication is both joyful and challenging. Some sections sparkle with the delight of St Francis of Assisi as the awesome beauty of nature and our interconnectedness with all living things are described. In other places, we are reminded of the important task of caring for the earth and for those most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Join us as we pray for ecological conversion to accept this challenge.

AGEING WITH CONFIDENCE – A CATHOLICARE INITIATIVE

Friday 13 June, 10am–1pm The Fraternity Club Fairy Meadow (Pick up a brochure from the resource table)

Join Robert Fitzgerald AM, Age Discrimination Commissioner, as he explores the critical issues facing older Australians today - including elder abuse and ageism - while offering practical insights and strategies for ageing with dignity, purpose and positivity.

To register for this free community event including morning tea, please use the QR code or call 02 4227 1122 or click on the link below.

<https://www.catholiccare.dow.org.au/get-involved/events-calendar/ageing-with-confidence-2025-wollongong/>



For any other information, please contact Jane Hollier on 0417 018 152 or janeh@catholiccare.dow.org.au

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:

SPIRITUAL EXERCISES RETREAT IN DAILY LIFE GIVEN BY AN IGNATIAN SPIRITUAL DIRECTION FORMATION CANDIDATE

A fellow parishioner and Ignatian Spiritual Direction formation candidate invites you to a *Spiritual Exercises retreat in daily life*—a personal journey to deepen your relationship with Jesus. The retreat is individually guided over 6–9 months through weekly 30–45 minute meetings (in person or via Zoom), tailored to your pace. Cost: \$40 for the full retreat. For more information Ph: 0411 845118 or email meriden168@gmail.com

SUMMIT NIGHT- AN EVENING WITH REAL TALK

After the success of the first **Summit Night with Matt Fradd**, we are excited to bring the young adults of the diocese another transformative night of community, truth and encounter with Jesus. This time, we will be welcoming two presenters from **Real Talk Australia** who will present on "What Am I Made For?: The Good News about Love, Sex & Marriage".

When: Tuesday 10 June, 6.30pm- 9pm

Where: Xavier Conference Centre, 38 Harbour St Wollongong

What: Wine + Cheese Reception, vibrant community, guest speakers, meaningful conversation and Eucharistic Adoration in the Cathedral.

Cost: Free- donations will graciously be accepted on entry. Registration is essential. To secure your seat visit app.tickets.org.au/DOW/SummitNight2 !

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.



WOLLONGONG DIOCESE CURSILLO MOVEMENT

Celebrating 25 years of guidance by the Holy Spirit. We would like to invite anyone who has been involved with the CM in the past 25 years to join us for Mass and a reunion luncheon on **21st June at 11am**. Mass will be celebrated at St. Paul's Church Camden with lunch in the church hall. Please call Dianne for further details. 0418640373.

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.



menALIVE REGIONAL WEEKEND

9 – 10 August 2025, Xavier Conference Centre, Wollongong

Come along to our menALIVE weekend and be impacted by an encounter with the Gospel in the presence of other good men seeking to be renewed in faith and life. For more information and to register: <https://menalive-weekend-2025>

A VOCATION VIEW

If we love, we know the presence of God. Take time to be aware of God's loving presence. Be open to the Holy Spirit. (John 14:23-29) If you want to talk about your vocation, please contact the diocesan vocations director, Fr Duane Fernandez at vocations@dow.org.au

WHAT'S ON AROUND THE DIOCESE?

Check out upcoming 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 or visit dow.sh/weeklybulletin to see everything that is on around our Diocese!

SUNDAY FUNNY

Q. What do you call a Catholic priest who became a lawyer?
A. A father-in-law.



UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

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 15:1-2. 22-29

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Some men came down from Judaea and taught the brothers, 'Unless you have yourselves circumcised in the tradition of Moses you cannot be saved.' This led to disagreement, and after Paul and Barnabas had a long argument with these men it was arranged that Paul and Barnabas and others of the church should go up to Jerusalem and discuss the problem with the apostles and elders.

Then the apostles and elders decided to choose delegates to send to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; the whole church concurred with this. They chose Judas known as Barnabas and Silas, both leading men in the brotherhood, and gave them this letter to take with them:

'The apostles and elders, your brothers, send greetings to the brothers of pagan birth in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia. We hear that some of our members have disturbed you with their demands and have unsettled your minds. They acted without any authority from us, and so we have decided unanimously to elect delegates and to send them to you with Barnabas and Paul, men we highly respect who have dedicated their lives to the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accordingly we are sending you Judas and Silas, who will confirm by word of mouth what we have written in this letter. It has been decided by the Holy Spirit and by ourselves not to saddle you with any burden beyond these essentials: you are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from fornication. Avoid these, and you will do what is right. Farewell.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 66:2-3. 5-6. 8

R. O God, let all the nations praise you!

O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help. **R**

Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth. **R.**

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him. **R.**

Second Reading: Revelation 21:10-14. 22-23

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

In the spirit, the angel took me to the top of an enormous high mountain and showed me Jerusalem, the holy city, coming down from God out of heaven. It had all the radiant glory of God and glittered like some precious jewel or

crystal-clear diamond. The walls of it were of a great height, and had twelve gates; at each of the twelve gates there was an angel, and over the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel; on the east there were three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. The city walls stood on twelve foundation stones, each one of which bore the name of one of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

I saw that there was no temple in the city since the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb were themselves the temple, and the city did not need the sun or the moon for light, since it was lit by the radiant glory of God and the Lamb was a lighted torch for it.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: John 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

**All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we will come to them.
Alleluia!**

Gospel : John 14:23-29

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If anyone loves me he will keep my word,
and my Father will love him,
and we shall come to him
and make our home with him.

Those who do not love me do not keep my words.

And my word is not my own;

it is the word of the one who sent me.

I have said these things to you

while still with you;

but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit,

whom the Father will send in my name,

will teach you everything

and remind you of all I have said to you.

Peace I bequeath to you,

my own peace I give you,

a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you.

Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.

You heard me say:

I am going away, and shall return.

If you loved me you would have been glad to know that I am going to the Father,
for the Father is greater than I.

I have told you this now, before it happens,
so that when it does happen you may believe.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



**Whoever Loves Me
Will Keep It**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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