



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
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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 4 MAY 2025

3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER / 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 5pm
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

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

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: West Wollongong: Wed 4.30 - 5.30pm, Unanderra: Tue and Thu 6 - 7pm



MESSAGE FROM FR DUANE

Last week I reflected upon the Pope's motto, *Miserando atque eligendo*, which was written across his simple coffin during his funeral. The best translation is "having mercy and choosing him", inspired by Jesus looking upon Matthew

the sinful tax collector with the eyes of mercy and choosing him to follow him. It is this ever deepening encounter with his merciful Saviour that brought Pope Francis joy and led him to devote his whole life to helping others to encounter this same mercy, that they too might find the same joy he found in Christ. This is all summed up most powerfully in the first letter that Pope Francis chose to write to the church and the world: *Evangelii Gaudium*, "The Joy of the Gospel". This letter was something of a mission statement that pervaded his life and especially his Pontificate and I encourage you to read it in its entirety. I share some excerpts here:

"The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Christ joy is constantly born anew. In this Exhortation I wish to encourage the Christian faithful to embark upon a new chapter of evangelization marked by this joy, while pointing out new paths for the Church's journey in years to come... I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a

renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unfailingly each day. No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her, since "no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord" [Paul VI, *On Christian Joy*]. The Lord does not disappoint those who take this risk; whenever we take a step towards Jesus, we come to realize that he is already there, waiting for us with open arms. Now is the time to say to Jesus: "Lord, I have let myself be deceived; in a thousand ways I have shunned your love, yet here I am once more, to renew my covenant with you. I need you. Save me once again, Lord, take me once more into your redeeming embrace". How good it feels to come back to him whenever we are lost! Let me say this once more: God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy. Christ, who told us to forgive one another "seventy times seven" (*Mt 18:22*) has given us his example: he has forgiven us seventy times seven. Time and time again he bears us on his shoulders. No one can strip us of the dignity bestowed upon us by this boundless and unfailing love. With a tenderness which never disappoints, but is always capable of restoring our joy, he makes it possible for us to lift up our heads and to start anew. Let us not flee from the resurrection of Jesus, let us never give up, come what will. May nothing inspire more than his life, which impels us onwards!...Thanks solely to this encounter – or renewed encounter – with God's love, which blossoms into an enriching

...continued



RECENTLY DECEASED: Susanne Gross, Deacon Peter Presdee, Fr. Michael Fallon, Pope Francis, Dianne Stow, Antonio Lavalle, Faye Munro.

DECEASED FOR WHOM OUR PRAYERS HAVE BEEN REQUESTED: Carmen Vella, Kath Schembri, Ron Thompson.

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

ANNIVERSARIES OF PARISHIONERS: Percy Larkin, Robert Petre, William Sheean, Alexander Gold, Kevin Clarke, John Gallagher, Ronald Thompson, William Farrington, Thomas O'Connor, Richard Petre, Rosemary Taylor, Jean Piper, Mary Hedley, John Egan, Robert Sargood, Anthony Derkin, Amalia Bonin, Des Woods, Christopher Curran, Percival Paton, David Murphy, Lionel McCabe, Mabel Atkinson, Benoe Belle, Kathy Faulks, Allan McCahon, Sam Veech, Stanley Chapman, Raymond Kennedy, Pat O'Neill, Francis Harris, Gladys Boles, Mary Nicholls, Judy Hill, Mary Patynowski.

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friendship, we are liberated from our narrowness and self-absorption. We become fully human when we become more than human, when we let God bring us beyond ourselves in order to attain the fullest truth of our being. Here we find the source and inspiration of all our efforts at evangelization. For if we have received the love which restores meaning to our lives, how can we fail to share that love with others?" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, from paragraphs 1,3,8).

CONGRATULATIONS DEACON JOSEPH AND DEACON SINH!

It was wonderful to see so many parishioners from West Wollongong and Unanderra, as well as staff from St Therese and St Pius primary schools, joining with Joseph and Sinh at their ordination. It was a truly beautiful and uplifting celebration of these two wonderful young men, and of the diocese they are called to serve. It was a great blessing that Joseph's sister was able to arrive just in time for the ordination – after many weeks of waiting and prayer, her visa was granted just the day before, and she and Joseph managed to organise her flight for her to arrive just in time, to represent Joseph's family for him. How fitting that the ordination took place on the feast of St Catherine of Siena – which is the religious name of Joseph's sister! We welcome Sister Catherine among us for our Masses this weekend, and pray she will enjoy her week with her brother here in Australia. Let us all continue to pray for our new Deacons, and give Deacon Joseph our support and encouragement as his parish family as he devotes himself to his next chapter of ministry.

PARISH DINNER

Save the date

23 May, 6pm

at Figtree Sports.

Please make your booking

by contacting Mary O'Rourke

Barry Duggan Ph: 0411 236 616

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



MULTICULTURAL MASS PLANNING MEETING

The Pentecost Multicultural Mass is a wonderful celebration of the cultural diversity of our parish. We always welcome the input of new participants and ideas. A planning meeting will take place at the St Therese Parish Centre Meeting Room **after the 10am Mass this Sunday 4 May** and we would love to see many of you there to help plan for this special event. If you would like to be involved and can't make the meeting, please contact the parish office.

PARISH FINANCES

Collections week ending 27/4/25

\$413 First Collection - Clergy Remuneration Fund

\$341 Second Collection – Parish Expenses

\$621 Tap Point – Parish Donations

\$890 Planned Giving Envelopes

\$673 Direct Debits (weekly average for March)



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.

TURN DEBT INTO HOPE IN THE YEAR OF JUBILEE

Some countries spend more repaying unjust debt than on healthcare or education, so the key Focus of Laudato Si' Week 2025, in honour of Pope Francis, is to forgive these Debts for the sake of the poor and the earth. Do something powerful and practical simply by signing the global petition at caritas.org.au/debt where you can also **register for a talk with Archbishop Coleridge on Friday 16 May, 12-1pm.**



VINNIES NEWS

We have all been impacted by the death of Pope Francis. For Vincentians, he was a man who lived a life in harmony with the values we share.



Anna Rowlands summed it up in her article on the ABC Religion and Ethics site. 'To the last, the Pope's gestures as much as his words invite us to a life, simpler, gentler, kinder, closer to suffering and unafraid of the civilizational power of empathy, compassion, mercy and love as the pathway to truth. It was a descending movement that sought, in Christ, to raise us up.' Let's heed that invitation.

CHANGES TO THE WEEKDAY SACRAMENTAL TIMETABLE

Please note the new timetable on the first page of this Bulletin.

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE (ACBC) BOOK OF CONDOLENCE - POPE FRANCIS

Anyone wishing to write a message of condolence following the death of Pope Francis is invited to do so at this email address established by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference: condolencebook@catholic.org.au Messages will be passed on to the Apostolic Nuncio and in turn to the Vatican.

SANCTUS SUMMIT UNANDERRA

EUCCHARISTIC 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. **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

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 or contact jude.hennessy@dow.org.au 4222 2407



FORMATION PATHWAY MAY 2025

5 Systems of a Renewed Parish, presented by Tomas Juszczak, Regional Lead for Australasia for Divine Renovation.

Wollongong/Zoom - Wednesday, 7 May

REGISTRATION: [HTTP://dow.sh/fpmay2025](http://dow.sh/fpmay2025)

As the old saying goes, how do you eat an elephant? One mouthful at a time. When it comes to parish renewal, with all the complexity and systems of a living breathing community, it can be overwhelming to try to think of renewing a whole parish community. That's why we don't! Instead, we look at a parish as being the sum total of five important systems. When we do this, like eating the elephant one mouthful at a time, we can start to see a path forward. Note: Please don't eat an elephant. If you'd like to attend, please register as soon as possible! And invite your friends.

THE MARRIAGE COURSE

Want to build a strong, better marriage?

Held online in the comfort of your own home!

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!

The course begins on **Monday 26 May at 7.30pm** and runs **weekly until the 7 July**. Register now at:

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

CHARISMATIC MASS | PRAYING FOR THE PAPAL ELECTION AND OUR BISHOP'S VISION

7:00pm Praise and Worship, 7:30pm Holy Mass

Friday 9 May 2025, Sacred Heart Chapel, Stewart St.

Celebrant: Bishop Brian Mascord

A warm invitation is extended to all members of the public, to join us in charismatic praise for the Election of a new Pope, and 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. Ph: Gabriella: 0414 205 404



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 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

Prayer & Pub

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

Other Thursdays 7pm **Faith Studies and Fellowship**
Parish Centre

Follow "STIC Young Adults" on Instagram and Facebook

First Reading: Acts 5:27-32. 40-41

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The high priest demanded an explanation of the apostles. 'We gave you a formal warning,' he said 'not to preach in this name, and what have you done? You have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and seem determined to fix the guilt of this man's death on us.' In reply Peter and the Apostles said, 'Obedience to God comes before obedience to men; it was the God of our ancestors who raised up Jesus, but it was you who had him executed by hanging on a tree. By his own right-hand God has now raised him up to be leader and saviour, to give repentance and forgiveness of sins through him to Israel. We are witnesses to all this, we and the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.' They warned the Apostles not to speak in the name of Jesus and released them. And so, they left the presence of the Sanhedrin, glad to have had the honour of suffering humiliation for the sake of the name.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Responsorial Psalm: Ps 29:2. 4-6. 11-13

R. I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.

I will praise you, Lord, you have rescued me
and have not let my enemies rejoice over me.
O Lord, you have raised my soul from the dead,
restored me to life from those who sink into the grave. **R.**

Sing psalms to the Lord, you who love him,
give thanks to his holy name.
His anger lasts but a moment; his favour through life.
At night there are tears, but joy comes with dawn. **R.**

The Lord listened and had pity.
The Lord came to my help.
For me you have changed my mourning into dancing;
O Lord my God, I will thank you for ever. **R.**

Second Reading: Revelation 5:11-14

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

In my vision, I, John, heard the sound of an immense number of angels gathered round the throne and the animals and the elders; there were ten thousand times ten thousand of them and thousands upon thousands, shouting, 'The Lamb that was sacrificed is worthy to be given power, riches, wisdom, strength, honour, glory and blessing.' Then I heard all the living things in creation - everything that lives in the air, and on the ground, and under the ground, and in the sea, crying, 'To the One who is sitting on the throne and to the Lamb, be all praise, honour, glory and power, for ever and ever.' And the four animals said, 'Amen'; and the elders prostrated themselves to worship.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Christ is risen, the Lord of all creation;

He has shown pity on all people.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel: John 21:1-19

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus showed himself again to his disciples. It was by the Sea of Tiberias, and it happened like this: Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee and two more of his disciples were together. Simon Peter said, 'I'm going fishing.' They replied, 'We'll come with you.' They went out and got into the boat but caught nothing that night.

It was light by now and there stood Jesus on the shore, though the disciples did not realise that it was Jesus. Jesus called out, 'Have you caught anything, friends?' And when they answered, 'No,' he said, 'Throw the net out to starboard and you'll find something.' So, they dropped the net, and there were so many fish that they could not haul it in. The disciple Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is the Lord.' At these words 'It is the Lord,' Simon Peter, who had practically nothing on, wrapped his cloak round him and jumped into the water. The other disciples came on in the boat, towing the net and the fish; they were only about a hundred yards from land.

As soon as they came ashore, they saw that there was some bread there and a charcoal fire with fish cooking on it. Jesus said, 'Bring some of the fish you have just caught.' Simon Peter went aboard and dragged the net to the shore, full of big fish, one hundred and fifty-three of them; and in spite of there being so many the net was not broken. Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' None of the disciples was bold enough to ask, 'who are you?' they knew quite well it was the Lord. Jesus then stepped forward, took the bread and gave it to them, and the same with the fish. This was the third time that Jesus showed himself to the disciples after rising from the dead.

After the meal Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these others do?' He answered, 'Yes Lord, you know I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs.' A second time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' He replied 'Yes, Lord, you know I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Look after my sheep.' Then he said to him a third time, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter was upset that he asked him the third time, 'Do you love me?' and said, 'Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep.'

'I tell you most solemnly, when you were young you put on your own belt and walked where you liked; but when you grow old you will stretch out your hands, and somebody else will put a belt around you and take you where you would rather not go.'

In these words, he indicated the kind of death by which Peter would give glory to God. After this he said, 'Follow me.'

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

