



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 17 AUGUST 2025

20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / 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



During this past week I have been catching up as best I can after my annual leave. Thank you for your patience if I have not yet replied to a message from you. One of my tasks for the near future will be to follow up with some of the

expressions of interest in joining new ministries and groups in the parish, from the "Come and See Cup of Tea" before I went on leave, and the expression of interest folder on the church resource table in the weeks since then. It is not too late to indicate in that folder if you are interested in knowing more about joining a ministry or group in the parish.

This coming week, we will have many of our children celebrating their First Reconciliation. Please keep them and their families in your prayers as they come to encounter the mercy of Christ in this special way for the first time. This is also an opportunity for all of us to remember what a great gift Christ has given us in this Sacrament of healing and peace. No matter how long it might have been since you have received the Sacrament, please don't hesitate to come to any of the scheduled times for Reconciliation across our two parishes each week. If it has been a long time, you can let me (or any

priest) know that you need some guidance and we will be happy to guide you through the Sacrament. If you prefer, you can also make a private appointment with me. Next Saturday, Darren McDowell will be ordained as a Deacon, in preparation for ordination to the Priesthood. This will be a wonderful celebration for both the Diocese and for Darren, who has been connected with this parish through his prior work with the Office of the Bishop. Next Saturday's morning Mass will be canceled as both Deacon Joseph and I will be attending Darren's Ordination Mass at 10am at St Francis Xavier's Cathedral. All are welcome to attend - more details in the main section of the bulletin.

Thanks and blessings to Terry and Jenny Clout

Terry and Jenny Clout have been faithful parishioners at St Therese for many years, generously serving and leading in many ministries over the years and presently. As they now relocate to Wagga Wagga we thank God for all they have brought to our parish, knowing that their presence, prayers and ministry here has borne lasting fruit for our community. We assure them of our continued closeness in prayer and wish them all the best in this next chapter.



RECENTLY DECEASED: Helen Robson

DECEASED FOR WHOM OUR PRAYERS HAVE BEEN REQUESTED:

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

ANNIVERSARIES OF PARISHIONERS: Kloung Nguyen, Eugina Vaughan, Hendrickus Classen, Josip Staver, Marguerite Campbell, Paul Walkowiecki, Emily Watson, Richard Waples, Margaret Ferguson, Milton McGirr, Brian Franklin, Brigid Pass, Mary Hennessy, Timothy Smith, Ursula Maitz, Margaret Guilly, Katherine McLean, James Mehl, Arthur Gilmore, Elizabeth Brown, Walter Watts, Mary Cairns, Helen Hill, Christopher Armitage, Sarah Chinnock, Malcolm Jansson, Henry Manning-Knight, Antonio D'Attoma, Walter Tyner, Marcelo Radman, Elaine Campbell,

VINNIES NEWS

Our local conference will hold our Vinnies Winter Appeal on Sunday August 24.

What is your donation spent on? We may be asked to assist with health and medical expenses and we pay for medical scripts, enhanced baby formula and prescription glasses. We also contribute to the cost of medical specialist visits when this can mean more timely intervention than is possible through the public system. Through our advocacy, local businesses often adjust processes, seek government subsidies, bulk bill or accept part payment for services for those suffering financial hardship. If you'd like to make an online donation, our details are: BSB 062000, Account 19889862, Name SVDP Society NSW Conference. Please add Reference for West Wollongong 46426 to ensure it comes to us.



ST THERESE JUSTICE, ECOLOGY AND PEACE GROUP

At the closing mass for the Jubilee of Youth earlier in the month, Pope Leo said, 'In communion with Christ, our peace and hope for the world, we are closer than ever to young people who suffer the most serious evils which are caused by other human beings. We are with the young people of Gaza.' You may wish to show your support by donating to the Caritas Gaza Emergency Appeal or by joining the 'Let Gaza Live - Blue Mile by Candlelight' walk, starting at North Wollongong Beach at 6pm on Thursday 21 August.

MINISTRY OF THE TRIBUNAL

In 2015, Pope Francis wrote that "charity and mercy demand that the Church, like a good mother, be near her children who feel themselves estranged from her." The Interdiocesan Tribunal of Sydney, which has an Office in the Diocese of Wollongong, is a service of the Church to assist with the pastoral care of Catholics and non-Catholics who are civilly divorced, and who are seeking to remarry or who want clarification of their standing in the Church. The Tribunal also assists remarried persons seeking to have their current marriage recognised in the Church, and remarried persons wishing to be baptised or received into the Catholic Church. Any divorced person, or a divorced and remarried person is welcome to contact the Wollongong Office of the Tribunal to obtain further information, or to have their status within the Church clarified. Brochures are available from the church foyer or notice board area. The Wollongong Office of the Tribunal is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. You are welcome to contact the Tribunal on 4222 2409 or tribunal@dow.org.au or visit www.tribunal.dow.org.au

COLUMBARIUM UPDATE

The Pastoral Council has been working with the company who builds columbaria to finalise a suitable design and quote. Some details which we are finalising are - lighting; water feature; statue or cross as a focal point; seating; colour; accessibility. When we receive a quote for these features, we will be able to choose which ones we can afford at the start, and which ones will be added as more niches are sold. We are also bringing together a letter to be sent to Bishop Brian for his approval.

I thank you all for your patience while we look to establish a columbarium which will be a fitting resting place for parishioners for many years to come.

Brenda Wilson

Pastoral Council member

CARITAS AUSTRALIA INVITES US TO PRAY FOR THE PEOPLE OF GAZA

The situation in Gaza continues to deteriorate at an alarming rate, with severe shortages of food, safe drinking water, and emergency shelter. Gaza is the most dangerous place in the world for children. Caritas is calling for an immediate and permanent ceasefire.

God of light,

You meet us in the darkest places.

Every year, when we light our Easter candle, we pray 'may the light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our minds and hearts.'

We pray today that all people may work with you to dispel the darkness of violence and war.

May this fragile light be a sign of our hope for the people of Gaza.

May they find healing and lasting peace.

Amen.

If you are able to support Caritas Australia's Gaza Appeal, please donate online at www.caritas.org.au/gaza or phone 1800 024 413

INVITATION FROM DARREN MCDOWELL ORDINATION TO DIACONATE

It is with great pleasure and gratitude that I invite you to attend my ordination to the Diaconate occurring on **Saturday 23 August, 10am at St Francis Xavier Cathedral Wollongong**. This will be a wonderful celebration for me and for our Diocese. Please RSVP at <https://www.sjec.org.au/darren> so that we can arrange appropriate catering for the light lunch which will follow the mass.

<p><u>PLEASE NOTE..</u> There will be no 9am Mass next Saturday 23 August due to the ordination to Diaconate of Darren McDowell</p>
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CATECHIST CREATIVE STORYTELLING AND CRAFT **MORNING IN-SERVICE**

Build up your confidence in storytelling and create anticipation in your lessons using simple visual items and techniques. We'll draw from the spirit of Advent and our upcoming Saints as role-models to guide us.

WOLLONGONG: Monday 8 Sept 10am-1:30

Xavier Centre, 38 Harbour St

Morning Tea will be provided.

Click here to register at either location:

<https://dow.sh/45ne1hV>

Enquiries: Sue Clark 0457 427 583

JUBILEE YEAR EVENT

Kangaroo Valley Jubilee Pilgrimage Day Saturday 30 August, 10.30 am The Parish of Nowra, invites the faithful to a Jubilee Pilgrimage Mass to be held at St Joseph's Kangaroo Valley, 130, Moss Vale Road, to be Celebrated by Bishop Brian Mascord, who will impart the papal blessing, offering attendees the opportunity to gain the Jubilee indulgence under the usual conditions. Don't forget to bring your Pilgrim Passport, and have it stamped as a reminder of your visit.

BEING AT HOME IN THE UNIVERSE STORY

Jamberoo Abbey Friday, 5 September – Sunday 7 September 2025 Speaker: Sr Mechtild Crawford OSB You are invited to a gentle retreat which will expand our minds and hearts to the unfolding mystery of the universe, helping us to see our place as human beings within this sacred unfolding. There will be times for listening and learning and times for personal reflection and creativity. Sr Mechtild Crawford leads this retreat at the Benedictine Abbey, Jamberoo. Register and pay for this weekend retreat 02 4236 0011 ext 114 or email

cottageretreats@jamberooabbey.org.au

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP - "REVIVE YOUTH"

Meets fortnightly 7-9pm, St Therese Parish Centre

Next meeting 22 August

Contact reviveyouth25@gmail.com for more information.

ERC P&F GALA DINNER

23 August at Fraternity Club

Raising funds for Raising the Bar, a wonderful local Illawarra charity supporting the mental health and wellbeing of men in our community. This year's ERC P&F Gala Dinner is going to be a night to remember, with a theme of "Formal Elegance" – and we're bringing the country charm in style! 🍷

🎁 Incredible raffle prizes will be drawn on the night – including a Seiko watch, fitness packages, a pizza oven, luxury stays and more.

📅 Book your Gala Dinner tickets now:

👉 <https://events.humanitix.com/edmund-rice-college-gala-2025>

🎟 Buy your raffle tickets here:

👉 <https://rafflelink.com.au/erc-pf-gala>

Warm regards,

ERC P&F Committee

✉ pandf@erc.nsw.edu.au

📱 Stay connected with us on:

Facebook: [ERC P&F Facebook](#)

Instagram: [ERC P&F Instagram](#)

HEAR FROM POPE LEO XIV

Sunday Echo is a **limited-release resource** containing 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.

A VOCATION VIEW:

Jesus wants to set our faith on fire, so we can share His love with zeal. (Luke 12) If you want to talk about your vocation, please contact the diocesan vocations director, Fr Duane Fernandez at vocations@dow.org.au

SUMMIT NIGHT – AN EVENING WITH DR EDWARD SRI

For young adults aged 18+

6.30 – 8.30pm, Saturday, 30 August

Xavier Conference Centre (adjacent to St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Wollongong)

Free – donations gratefully accepted on the night

Young adults of the Diocese of Wollongong, this is our final Summit Night for 2025



UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

First Fri. of month, Environmental Stations of the
Parish Grounds, 5.30pm Cross

Mondays, 5pm Christian Meditation Group
Parish Centre Monica Ph: 0418 172072

Last Tue of month Parish Pastoral Council
Parish Centre, 6.30pm ppc@sttherese.com.au

1st and 3rd Wed West Wollongong Vinnies
of month, 7.30pm Conference
Parish Centre louise.pinson@vinnies.org.au

Saturdays, 8.30am The Rosary
St Therese Church

2nd Sat of month Ladies' cuppa and chat
10.00am Parish Centre contact Elaine 0410692973

Revive Youth (12-18yrs)

8 & 22 August

Fortnightly on Fridays 7-9pm, Parish Centre

Contact reviveyouth25@gmail.com

STIC Young Adults (18-35yrs)

In recess during August

First Reading: Jeremiah 38:4-6. 8-10

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

The king's leading men spoke to the king. 'Let Jeremiah be put to death: he is unquestionably disheartening the remaining soldiers in the city, and all the people too, by talking like this. The fellow does not have the welfare of this people at heart so much as its ruin.' 'He is in your hands as you know,' King Zedekiah answered 'for the king is powerless against you.' So they took Jeremiah and threw him into the well of Prince Malchiah in the Court of the Guard, letting him down with ropes. There was no water in the well, only mud, and into the mud Jeremiah sank.

Ebed-melech came out from the palace and spoke to the king. 'My lord king,' he said, 'these men have done a wicked thing by treating the prophet Jeremiah like this: they have thrown him into the well where he will die.' At this the king gave Ebed-melech the Cushite the following order: 'Take three men with you from here and pull the prophet Jeremiah out of the well before he dies.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 39:2-4. 18

R. Lord, come to my aid!

I waited, I waited for the Lord
and he stooped down to me;
he heard my cry. **R.**

He drew me from the deadly pit,
from the miry clay.
He set my feet upon a rock
and made my footsteps firm. **R.**

He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God.
Many shall see and fear
and shall trust in the Lord. **R.**

As for me, wretched and poor,
the Lord thinks of me.
You are my rescuer, my help,
O God, do not delay! **R.**



Second Reading: Hebrews 12:1-4

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

With so many witnesses in a great cloud on every side of us, we too, then, should throw off everything that hinders us, especially the sin that clings so easily, and keep running steadily in the race we have started. Let us not lose sight of Jesus, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection: for the sake of the joy which was still in the future, he endured the cross, disregarding the shameful of it, and from now on has taken his place at the right of God's throne. Think of the way he stood such opposition from sinners and then you will not give up for want of courage. In the fight against sin, you have not yet had to keep fighting to the point of death.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: John 10:27

Alleluia, alleluia!

**My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me.
Alleluia!**

Gospel: Luke 12:49-53

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus said to his disciples:

'I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already!

There is a baptism I must still receive, and how great is my distress till it is over!

'Do you suppose that I am here to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on a household of five will be divided: three against two and two against three; the father divided against the son, son against father, mother against daughter, daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law, daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'

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.