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
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Assistant Priest: Fr.Joseph Vuong Nguyen Email: joseph.vuongnguyen@dow.org.au
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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 8 NOVEMBER 2026 32ND SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME / A

ST THERESE WEST WOLLONGONG

Weekend Masses
Sunday: 10.00am and 5.00pm

Weekday Masses
Wednesday: 5.30pm
Friday: 7.45am
Saturday: 9.00am

Eucharistic Adoration:
Wednesday 4.30pm - 5.30pm
Saturday 9.30am - 10.30am

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION UNANDERRA

Weekend Masses
Saturday: 6.00pm
Sunday: 8.00am

Weekday Masses
Monday: 8.00am
Tuesday: 5.30pm
Thursday: 5.30pm

Eucharistic Adoration:
Tuesday and Thursday 6pm - 7pm

RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION):

St Therese - West Wollongong
Saturday: 9.30am – 10.30am
Wednesday: 4.30pm – 5.20pm
Immaculate Conception – Unanderra
Tuesday: 6.00pm – 6.50pm
Thursday: 6.00pm – 6.50pm

BAPTISMS: Notice period: 1 month
2nd Sunday of month 12.30pm West W'gong
4th Sunday of month 12.30pm Unanderra

WEDDINGS: Notice period: 6 months



MESSAGE FROM FR DUANE

It is with great joy that we celebrate the Confirmations of three adults at our 10am Mass this weekend – Clint Berry, Taylor Klohk, and Otavio Rey Silva Martins. All three have already received Baptism and Eucharist in the Catholic Church, and at this Mass we will have the privilege of witnessing the completion of their Sacraments of Initiation. They have prepared well for this day, and as they are sealed with this Gift of the Holy Spirit, as the Apostles received this same gift at Pentecost, let us pray for them that they too will be empowered, like the Apostles, to proclaim the love of Christ in their own unique ways all the days of their lives. May we also reflect upon the power of the Gift of the Holy Spirit we ourselves have received in our Confirmation. If any adults have not yet received this Sacrament and would like to do so, please contact me or the Parish Office and we will let you know the next steps.

Thank you once again to our Community Fun Day organising team of Andrew Thornberry, Jade Nikolovski, Rachael Roberts and Nick Kafer, as well as many other volunteers who contributed in various ways to this year's event – and of course to everyone who came along! It was wonderful to see this day grow to another level this year, and we look forward to making the most of this and many other opportunities to come to keep building bonds among our community.

The next big chance to connect as a community is our parish dinner on Friday 20 November – always a lovely, relaxed evening and a chance to make new connections in the parish, and deepen existing ones. More in the main section of the bulletin, including RSVP details – hope to see you there!

Next Saturday 14 November, everyone is welcome to a special Mass uniting with clergy and parishioners from across the Diocese, celebrating the beginning of the 75th Anniversary year for our Diocese of Wollongong. This Mass will take place at St John Vianney Co-Cathedral, Fairy Meadow, at 11:30am, and will be the first of a number of events marking this anniversary for our Diocese.

NO MASS, RECONCILIATION OR ADORATION, SATURDAY 14 NOVEMBER

There will be no 9am Mass or Reconciliation at St Therese on Saturday 14 November due the Diocesan 75th Anniversary celebration.



RECENTLY DECEASED: Dorothy Green, Tara Grant
DECEASED FOR WHOM OUR PRAYERS HAVE BEEN REQUESTED: Anna Bazun
SICK: Kerrie Maidment, Rachael Wakely, Ruby Hazel, Tony Glossop
ANNIVERSARIES OF PARISHIONERS: June Hunt, Marie Khan, Francis Dick, Frederick Dowding, Anna Van Gils, Robert Edwards, Agnes Politis, Francis Prince, William O'Shea, Robert McDermott, Charles O'Donnell, Johannes DeVet, Pauline Shea, Beverley McGoldrick, Glen Allen, Edward Dekker, Thea Mihajlovic, Lorna Down, Francis O'Dwyer, Michael Canovan, Lillian Larritt, Thomas McGoldrick, Mary Trusket,

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PARISH FINANCES

$470 First Collection (Clergy Remuneration Fund)
$408 Second Collection (Parish Expenses)
$514 Tap Point - Parish Donations
$360 Planned Giving Envelopes
$516 Direct Debits (Weekly average for October)



Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly. Parishioners who wish to join the planned giving program via envelope or Direct Debit to assist with our parish expenses, can complete the Catholic Development Fund Direct Debit form available on the resource table or please contact the parish office for further information. Thank you for your generous giving.

NOVEMBER MASSES FOR ALL SOULS

As we prepare for November, as the month of praying for all souls, please email the parish office with any names of the deceased that you would like to be included in the parish book of remembrance, with the subject "November Masses". Email: **westwollongong@dow.org.au**

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PARISH DINNER



Save the date: **20 November, 6pm at Figgy Sports**,
Please make your booking by contacting Mary O'Rourke maryo42@optusnet.com.au Ph: 0419 573 868 or Barry Duggan Ph: 0411 236 616

FREE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM FOR OLDER PARISHIONERS

Dates, 19 Nov, 3 Dec
9.10am to 10.30am, Holy Spirit College
Cross+Gen is a FREE program where students support seniors with everyday technology in a friendly, relaxed setting. Bring along your mobile phone, tablet or laptop and join other people who also struggle with technology.
Please contact Jane Hollier from CatholicCare on **0417 018 152 or janeh@catholiccare.dow.org.au**

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP - "REVIVE YOUTH"

Meets every Friday during school terms
7-9pm, St Therese School Hall
Come along and enjoy fun games, some snacks and meet awesome people. It's also a great way to learn more about our faith. We'd love to see you there!
Contact: reviveyouth25@gmail.com

STIC YOUNG ADULTS UPCOMING DATES

19 November: Guest speaker (Fr Matthew Timonera), West Wollongong

MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS, 210-228

Pope Leo denounces the construction of a world in a state of perpetual conflict as an evil. But he reminds us that even in the darkest night, the Lord raises up men and women who persevere in doing good, protecting the vulnerable and opening pathways to reconciliation.
He compares the approach based on power and pride (outlined last week) with one where humanity and the common good are safeguarded, which he calls (after Saint Paul VI) the 'civilisation of love'. Creating such a world order is a demanding project but only this social love, as Pope Francis reminded us, can bring about a 'stable international order', building a universal human family.
While not everyone has the same power to make a difference 'we can all do our part', choosing whether to 'fuel the mentality of force' or to 'preserve the mindset of peace'. The civilisation of love will not arise from a single or spectacular gesture but from the sum total of small and steadfast acts of fidelity. We need to 'disarm words', 'build peace through justice', 'adopt the perspective of victims', 'cultivate a healthy realism' and 'revive dialogue and multilateralism'.
And Pope Leo exhorts us 'Let us never tire of praying for peace

THE TRIBUNAL OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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 at the back of the church in the notice board area. The Wollongong Office of the Tribunal is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. You are welcome to contact the Tribunal on 42222409 or tribunal@dow.org.au

EPHPHATHA - "BE OPENED" - A DISCERNMENT EVENT FOR YOUNG MEN

After the success of our first "Ephphatha" event in June this year, we are excited to hold a second event for unmarried young men over 18 years old who are open to discerning God's call in their lives. How do you live your baptism more fully as a single young man? How do you know if you if you are called to marriage, priesthood or religious life? Join the priests of the Vocations Team and other young men for lunch, formation, conversations and Adoration on Saturday 12th December at St Therese Parish Centre West Wollongong, 12pm for 12:30pm lunch, finishing at 4pm – RSVP by 5 December using this QR Code or **dow.sh/Ephphatha**

VOCARIS YOUNG ADULTS EVENT

Join us for the final **Vocaris** of 2026... Movie Night Under the Stars!

Young adults 18+ are invited to come and enjoy a free food truck dinner, a catechesis on the Seven Deadly Sins and an outdoor screening of *Fr. Stu*, an inspiring story of faith and discovering God's call.

When: Saturday 5 December, 6:00–10:00pm,

Where: St Mary's Towers, Douglas Park

Bring a picnic rug or camping chair, your favourite movie snacks and a friend! Head to dow.sh/vocarisdec26 for more information or to register! for more information or to register!

CATHOLIC CHAPLAINCY AT UOW – WITH FR JOSEPH

UOW students and staff are warmly invited to become involved with the UOW Catholic Society. Join us for Mass and lunch, 12:30pm Thursdays during semester in the Building 11 Clubs Room, with Fr Joseph. See @uowcathsoc on social media to find out more.

"ALIVE" FAMILY RETREAT DAY

9:00am – 4:00pm, Saturday, 14 November

Beginning with 9:00am Mass at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish (Varroville), then moving to the parish hall for a day of inputs and activities.

The **MGL Sisters** warmly welcome you and your family to this retreat day to unleash the power of the Holy Spirit. Discover as a family your unique mission and how to live with boldness and love! This interactive retreat is designed for all ages to enjoy together. Please **bring your own lunch and snacks** to safely accommodate your family's specific dietary needs and preferences. Further information and Registration: trybooking.com?DIDCJ

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

Speaker: Robert Haddad "Battle Ready"

Friday 20 Nov 2026 | 6:30am–8:00am

Xavier Conference Centre, Wollongong

Join other men for a morning of breakfast, prayer and inspiring input from our Guest Speaker, Peter Gilmore. Be inspired and strengthened as you connect with others seeking to live as authentic disciples on mission.

Bookings: dow.sh/MPBNov26 **by Wednesday 18 November**

WHAT'S ON AROUND THE DIOCESE?

Check out upcoming Diocesan events and courses - too many to list in one place. Subscribe here and we will keep you in the loop dow.sh/stayingconnected about what's happening around our Diocese!

DIOCESAN ANNUAL CATECHIST MASS

10am, Saturday, 21 November, St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Wollongong

All active and retired SRE Catechists and those involved in the Sacramental preparation of children are warmly invited to the Annual Catechist Mass and Awards Ceremony. Join Bishop Brian Mascord, for this celebration, followed by a light refreshment. To register: visit **dow.sh/cm26** or scan the QR Code or contact helen.bennett@dow.org.au for more information.

For any suggestions or concerns about safeguarding our children and vulnerable people, please contact the Parish Office OR the Diocesan Office of Professional Standards and Safeguarding at **safeguarding@dow.org.au** Ph: 4222 2428

Find us on facebook

Upcoming Parish Events

Sunday 1 Nov, 11am St Therese School	Community Fun Day
Friday 20 Nov, 6pm, Figgy Sports	Parish Dinner
Mondays, 5pm Parish Centre	Christian Meditation Group Monica Ph: 0418 172072
1st and 3rd Wed of month, 7.00pm Parish Centre	West Wollongong Vinnies Conference
Saturdays, 8.30am St Therese Church	The Rosary
2nd Sat of month 10.00am Parish Centre	Ladies' Cuppa and Chat Contact Elaine 0410692973

Revive Youth (12-18yrs)

Meets weekly on Fridays during school terms
7-9pm, St Therese School Hall
Contact: reviveyouth25@gmail.com

STIC Young Adults (18-35yrs)

Meets 2nd & 4th Thursday of the month, 7pm, Parish Centre
Message us on FB or Insta (@sticyoungadults) to join our WhatsApp for regular updates

First Reading: Wisdom 6:12-16
A reading from the book of Wisdom
Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim.
By those who love her she is readily seen,
and found by those who look for her.
Quick to anticipate those who desire her, she makes herself known to them. Watch for her early and you will have no trouble; you will find her sitting at your gates.
Even to think about her is understanding fully grown;
be on the alert for her and anxiety will quickly leave you.
She herself walks about looking for those who are worthy of her and graciously shows herself to them as they go,
in every thought of theirs coming to meet them.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 62:2-8
R. My soul is thirsting for you O Lord my God.

O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water. **R.**

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise. **R.**

So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy. **R.**

On my bed I remember you.
On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. **R.**

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians



We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him. We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have died. At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them, to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord for ever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Matthew 24:42. 44

Alleluia, alleluia!
Be watchful and ready:
you know not when the Son of Man is coming.
Alleluia!

Gospel : Matthew 25:1-13
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew



Jesus told this parable to his disciples:
'The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said, "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'



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 Christ.