



St John's Wood/The Gap Parish Bulletin

Vol 5, Issue 44

10 November 2024



32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: [1 Kings 17:10-16](#)

The widow made a little scone from her flour meal and brought it to Elijah.

Second Reading: [Heb 9:24-28](#)

Christ offered himself only once to take the faults of many on himself.

Gospel: [Mark 12:38-44](#)

This poor widow has put more in than all who contributed.



[Readings and Commentaries](#)

PRAYING With CHILDREN
SUNDAY LITURGY

TWO-MINUTE HOMILY

Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Rev Dr Peter Devenish-Mearns



You give so little when you give of your possessions, but when you give of yourself and allow yourself to be poured out, then you truly give. [Watch now.](#)

Recently Deceased

Christian Yr Vanathas, Margaret Caradine

Anniversary

Andrew Mahoney, Doloris Menke, Terry Stewart

Sick

Dorothea Feodoroff, Kathleen Cosgrove, Howard Hall, Robert Minns, Tim chen chen zuo Zu, Mary Thomas, Antonio Ferrante, Deborah Austin, Lorraine Stevens, Carol Black, Moira De Silva, Juliana Ryman, Lorna McConnachie, Margaret Sullivan, Bernie Knapp, Mary Davidson, Val Bonney, Ryan Ferguson, Linda & Andrea Pisano, Estelle Freney, Toni Bennett, Deiana Martin, Kathy Fraser, Les Grimson, Carmel Selva

WCCM (Christian Meditation)

Monday at 9.30am Parish Office.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Mater Dei: Monday & Friday 6 - 7pm

Remembering the Fallen: Honouring Sacrifice and Reflecting on the Cost of War



Remembrance Day

As Remembrance Day approaches, we honour those who sacrificed their lives to protect our freedoms and way of life. The solemn ceremonies, the laying of wreaths, and moments of silence are expressions of our deep gratitude. Yet, amid our reflections, it's crucial to acknowledge a sobering reality: the burden of war often falls disproportionately on the poor.

Historically, individuals from lower socio-economic backgrounds have made up a significant portion of military forces. Limited economic opportunities can make military service one of the few paths to stability, education, or career advancement. This means the costs of war—loss of life, physical and psychological wounds, and the impact on families—are heavily borne by those already facing societal challenges.

We are currently witnessing the devastation of war in regions like the Middle East and Ukraine. These conflicts not only result in tragic loss of life but also displace countless families, destroy homes, and disrupt communities. The turmoil exacerbates existing inequalities, leaving the most vulnerable to bear the heaviest burdens. The images of destroyed neighbourhoods and stories of families torn apart remind us that the consequences of war are far-reaching and indiscriminate, yet often most acutely felt by those with the least resources to recover.

The World Day of the Poor, also observed this week, invites us to consider the struggles of the less fortunate in our communities. The proximity of these two observances is a poignant reminder of how social issues are interconnected. War exacerbates poverty by displacing populations, destroying homes and infrastructure, and diverting resources from essential services like healthcare and education. The aftermath of conflict often leaves lasting scars, trapping communities in cycles of deprivation.

As we reflect on these realities, the words of the prophet Isaiah resonates: "They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" (Isaiah 2:4, NRSV). This passage envisions a world transformed by peace and justice, where resources are redirected from instruments of war to tools that cultivate life and prosperity.

As we wear poppies and attend memorials, let us also commit to addressing the underlying issues that lead to such disproportionate sacrifices. Supporting veterans, many of whom struggle with poverty and homelessness upon returning home, is a start. Advocating for equitable access to education and employment can reduce the economic disparities that funnel the poor into the military. Working towards peaceful resolutions of conflicts is essential to prevent future generations from bearing these burdens.

In remembering those who have protected our way of life, we must strive to protect theirs. Let this week serve as a call to action—not only to commemorate the past but to actively shape a future where the costs of war are not shouldered by the most vulnerable among us.

Sourced from Majellan media 2024



FATHER ANTHONY

Fr Anthony came to Australia in late October 2021, together with another priest from Nigeria. Upon arrival, he was baptised with two weeks quarantine at the Pullman Hotel Brisbane, near the airport. His appointment as PP of Saint John's Wood is his first in that capacity and his third appointment here in Australia (having been associate pastor at Caboolture and Surfers' Paradise Parishes). We were told that ANTHONY is spelt with an "H" but pronounced without it.

Day/Date	Liturgy	Mass Times	Venue
Wednesday 13/11/2024	Weekday, Ordinary Time 32	9am	SPC
Friday 15/11/2024	Weekday, Ordinary Time 32	9am	Mater Dei
Saturday 16/11/2024	33rd SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME	5.30pm	Mater Dei
Sunday 17/11/2024		8.00am (Father Ray Chapman)	SPC
		9.30am (Father Ray Chapman)	Mater Dei
		5.00pm	SPC

ST JOHN'S WOOD / THE GAP PARISH

Office Hours

Mon, Wed, Fri:- 8:30am - 3:30pm
Tue, Thurs: - 8:30am - 12:30pm

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PARISH TEAM

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CHURCHES

Mater Dei

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St. Peter Chanel

41 Chaprowe Road, The Gap, 4061

SCHOOLS

Mater Dei Primary School

T: 3514 4100

St Peter Chanel Primary School

T: 3300 1202



HOME ROSARY

This week's rosary will be said at the home of Angela on Monday 18th November.

Contact the Parish Office for further details.

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Sunday 24th November 5pm SPC— Youth led Mass and Pot Luck Dinner

Sunday 1st of December after 5:00pm Mass – **Volunteer BBQ Dinner**

(if you have anything you would like to donate towards our raffles on the night please drop it at the Parish office) Any assistance appreciated.



The next **PARISH YOUTH LED MASS** is on the **24th of November at 5pm at St Peter Chanel Church** and we'd love YOU to be part of it. Even if you don't wish to participate come along to celebrate Mass anyway, invite others.

Following Mass will be **POTLUCK DINNER** in the hall so stick around afterwards too! (**DON'T FORGET TO BRING A PLATE TO SHARE**). Contact the parish office for more details!

We would like to thank you for your generosity supporting the Church in Mongolia and House of Mercy.

Thanks to your kindness, people like Chuluunbaatar will have access to the support they need to help them get back on their feet. Your gift will also support a variety of Church programs around the world.

To learn more about the impact your support is making, please visit catholicmission.org.au/our-work. Here, you can also sign up to our regular newsletter to keep up to date with the latest news.

If you have not yet had the opportunity to give, please do so at catholicmission.org.au/mongolia. Your action will make a profound change on people's lives.

SCAN ME



Freecall: 1800 257 296
catholicmission.org.au/mongolia



ST JOHNS WOOD THE GAP CONFERENCE OF THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY will be conducting its annual Christmas Appeal from the weekend **commencing 16 November**. Our conference sincerely thank our parish community for their on-going support of our appeals for which we are extremely grateful. We will have Christmas Trees in place at both Mater Dei and St Peter Chanel Churches **until Sunday 8 December**. Your support of Vinnies enables us to continue to support those in our community who are less fortunate in our conference area. Once again sincere thanks for your support.

A vocation Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time - B

We are called to be apostles of unity, ourselves living in, and calling others to, communion with Christ in His Body, the Church. May we seek out opportunities to proclaim this message.

Please pray for Vocations.

To find out more call 1300 133 544

or scan the QR code



Please check out our [Parish Webpage](#) and [Facebook Page](#) for regular updates.



THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL REFLECTION: ACT HUMBLY AND BE REAL

If you sit in church long enough you will hear it read that Jesus brings a kingdom, or rather, *the* capital 'K' Kingdom—the Kingdom that never comes to an end, unlike all the others that have appeared in history. He's relentlessly talking about it in the gospels.



Even the capital 'P' Prayer he taught his disciples (the 'Our Father') is above all concerned with the Kingdom's arrival or accomplishment. This Kingdom defines His mission. Since we share his mission, we share too his Kingdom.

As members of the Church, we are his chosen collaborators. But why God would choose people like you and me, flawed human beings, people like St Peter (who denied him when things got dicey), and like St Paul (a violent persecutor of his followers), and so on, to accomplish his most important purpose with his creation? The old quip about Jesus being either a lunatic, or a liar, or the lord he claims to be is appropriate here. It's one of the three.

Sometimes he can appear to be a liar (when, for example, you feel abandoned in a time of profound suffering) and sometimes he could appear to be a lunatic (when, for example, the people who bear his authority seem to fall very short of their calling). So, at the very least, his lordship and the kind of kingdom he is accomplishing both require some adjustments in our outlook to perceive their wonders.

The good thing is that he clearly anticipated this need of ours for adjustment. His teachings gathered in the gospels are full of precisely such adjustments. You could even call his parables 'outlook adjustment training' for his Kingdom collaborators. One of these is his comment on the poor widow's offering to the temple treasury. The widow gives out of her poverty, two small coins, worth next to nothing in monetary value. The fact that she gave "all she had to live on, everything she had" means that she had just about nothing and gave just about nothing.

And yet, she gave "more than all the others" who were putting in large sums. Jesus' Kingdom is radically different, upside-down you could say, compared to the kingdoms of this world. Amid our kingdoms, our ways of power, authority, greatness, wealth, and so on, the poor widow gave a negligible amount. Nothing to pay attention to or applaud, of no value, with no effect. In reality, however, *in the Kingdom*, she gave an incredibly large amount.

The adjustment of outlook Jesus requires of his collaborators is radical. But once made, you will find that opportunities for greatness abound, maybe especially for the nobodies, the overlooked, the weak, and the poor.

Are you counted among one of these? Act on your opportunities! Are you wealthy, powerful, honoured, rich in the goods of the world? Be humbled and see and act *according to Reality, the Reality of the Kingdom*. Sourced from Majellan Media 2024

LITURGY CORNER: **DOING THE WORK OF LITURGY**

The Second Vatican Council said that "*full conscious and active participation by all the people*" in the liturgy was of utmost importance. Liturgy is the public prayer of the Church and work of the people. Readers, communion ministers and others with up-front roles are obviously actively involved in the liturgy, but what about the rest? Here are six things which everyone can do to participate more fully:

– be hospitable and attentive towards those with whom we worship and extend a welcome to everyone, not just people we know.

-sit near others and close to the Lord's Table which is what makes us one body of Christ. Separating ourselves from others makes it look like we are there as individuals rather than as an assembly.

-take part in the action of the liturgy by listening attentively, joining in the responses, sharing the sign of peace and by taking notice of the symbols, sounds, smells and tastes of the celebration.

– pray our parts of the Mass as though every prayer depended upon our words. The story goes that in the early Church in Rome the assembly's response in the Great Amen sounded like the rumble of thunder! How does ours sound?

– join in the hymns and sung responses. Singing is one way in which everyone can join in the celebration of faith. Only someone whose voice is so bad that they have been banned from singing "Happy Birthday" at parties is exempt!

- continue our celebration of Mass after we leave the church and extend our ministry as disciples of Christ into the rest of our lives. The words of the familiar hymn express it well: "*Go now you are sent forth to live what you proclaim, to show the world you follow Christ in fact, not just in name*".

Elizabeth Harrington @ Liturgy Brisbane



FAREWELL DENISE PARKER AND PETER MONAGHAN.

As they embark on a new chapter of their life's journey, we want to express our heartfelt appreciation for all they have contributed to the parish. We feel sorrow in their leaving, yet we rejoice with them in anticipation of this new phase of their life. We will miss their love and support, yet we know they will add much to the lives of those who will be their new church family, as they have added much to our lives. We wish them God's blessings as they leave us for Caloundra Rise Retirement Village at Little Mountain. Denise & Peter 's last Sunday will be November 17.

SOMETHING FOR A LAUGH



A priest fell in the ocean while fishing, but he couldn't swim. However, he knew to float on his back so he wouldn't sink.

When a boat came by, the captain yelled, "Do you need help, sir?"

The priest calmly said, "No, God will save me."

A little later, another boat came by and a fisherman asked, "Hey, do you need help?"

The priest replied again, "No, I have faith in God. He will save me."

Eventually the priest could stay afloat no longer and drowned. In heaven and a tad annoyed, the priest asked God, "Why didn't you save me?"

God replied, "Fool, I sent you two boats. What more did you want!"

😊😊😊😊😊 Enjoy your week ahead.....

AN UPDATE

Sam

NET
AUS & NZ



My team: me, Alaina, Gabby, Maddie, Nathan and Noah

Dear amazing supporters,

As I finish my year of youth ministry with NET Ministries, I'm so excited to give you an update on what the second half of this year in Maroochydore has looked like for myself and my team! But, firstly, thank you so much once again for allowing me to undertake this mission – this vital work couldn't have happened without your financial and prayerful backing of me and, by extension, my team and NET Ministries as a whole, so thank you!

After our two-week mid-year break and week-long mid-year training, we hit the ground running again in the Maroochydore Parish and Siena Catholic College.

At Siena, we've loved running our weekly lunchtime sessions with the Years 7-9s and Years 10-12s. Our Years 7-9 sessions begin with a game, after which we have small groups, where we discuss how our week's been and how God's been moving in it, and then end in a prayer. I've been fortunate to lead the Year 7 boys' small group and it's been incredible to see them get so involved with the games and the small group sharing. Their embrace of sharing where God has been present in their week is particularly beautiful and, whenever I see them around the school, they eagerly double-check that the session will be on that week. I've loved seeing how much they gain from these sessions and how the sessions have made faith more accessible and opened their eyes to God being with them always, in the everyday. We also have had two Year 10s – who we have journeyed very closely with over the year – help lead these sessions. It's truly been a blessing to have had these two Year 10 students, those Year 7 boys and a large handful of other students from all grades journeying very closely with us at Siena and have very clearly seen the Holy Spirit working in their lives and ours. We have felt very privileged to be a part of the school community this year and know that Jesus will bring to completion this good work that He's started (Phil 1:6) in their lives through our ministry.

At the adjoining Siena Primary School, this term we've led the Year 4, 5 and 6 cohorts in Retreat Days, where we get to know the students, play games, do activities, share with them our stories of how Jesus has impacted our lives and pray with them. These days have helped the students give Jesus space to be present in their lives in a new way.

You might be surprised to learn that we also recently travelled to St Patrick's College, Gympie to lead music for a whole-school Youth Mass and run a Retreat Day for the Year 8's! And, at the beginning of October, we made the trip all the way up to

Rocky to lead 17 high schoolers from youth groups in the area in a three-day retreat. The days were full of games, talks, small groups, water balloon fights, music, prayer, Sacraments and a lot of fun. I had a small group of five Year 7 boys and it was a joy getting to support, guide and be a model of faith to them. They all shared that they had incredible experiences of God over the retreat – experiences like realising that God is a personal Father to them and finding Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration. We certainly had a blast and we know they did too!

In the parish, we've begun a weekly youth group for high schoolers. A core group of students have come back each week, bringing along their friends, discovering more about our faith and spending time with others who are interested in knowing more about Jesus. We've also been involved with the primary school youth group, which is centred around children learning how they can serve in various ways at Mass, followed by pizza and games. It's been really enjoyable getting to know many of the parish's primary schoolers, making connections, sharing our faith with them and seeing them put their learning into practice. Our young adults group has also been a weekly highlight, drawing the parish's young adults together to enjoy each other's company and learn more about our faith. The connections and community that has formed is amazing to be a part of. Some of the young adults will continue running these sessions in our absence, while youth group will resume when a new NET Team arrives in Maroochydore next year. We've felt very loved in the parish and it's definitely sad to say goodbye!

Again, I wouldn't be able to do this work of encouraging young people to love Jesus and embrace the Church if it wasn't for your support! I certainly have seen the Holy Spirit moving and touching lives – including my own – this year and you have had a huge role in allowing that to happen, so thank you so much!

God bless, Sam.



Me giving a talk at the Year 8 Retreat in Gympie