

St John's Wood/The Gap Parish Bulletin

Vol 5, Issue 47 1 December 2024



FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT YEAR C

First Reading: [Jer 33:14-16](#)

I will cause a good seed to spring
froth from David.

Second Reading: [1Thess 3:12-4:2](#)

When Christ comes may he strengthen
your hearts in holiness.

Gospel: [Luke 21:25-28,34-36](#)

Your redemption is near at hand.



[Readings and Commentaries](#)



TWO-MINUTE HOMILY

First Sunday
of Advent

Cardinal Giorgio Marengo



The mission of the Church rests on those
words, "As the Father has sent me, so I
send you." [Watch now.](#)

Recently Deceased

Father John Begg, Drew Courtenay, Iris
Martin, Joe Butt

Anniversary

Terry & Scott Mahoney, Anna & Josef Rebl,
James Corkin, Katharina Robinson, Allan
Feodoroff, Terry Eastwood, Andrew
Mahoney, Doloris Menke, Terry Stewart,
Anne MacPherson

Sick

Mike McAuliffe, Dorothea Feodoroff,
Kathleen Cosgrove, Howard Hall, Robert
Minns, Tim chen chen zuo Zu, Mary Thom-
as, 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

WCCM (Christian Meditation)

Monday at 9.30am Parish Office.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Mater Dei: Monday & Friday 6 - 7pm

THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL REFLECTION..... THE COMING OF THE KINGDOM

At the year's end, God comes – Christ is coming – as a
baby at Christmas, coming into the dailiness of our
lives, and at the end of time. It may seem odd at the
beginning of Advent to hear Jesus speak of the second
coming, but when Jesus says we're to watch and stay
awake, he doesn't say it to play on our fears. Instead, he calls us to be alert to the
signs of God's presence in our lives, encouraging us to have faith in God who is
present in the person with whom we are talking, and in the smallest act, though
we may only come to understand this sometime later.



As we grow in our faith, his coming 'with power and glory' will seem less a fearful
prospect than the moment of our liberation.

One way we can prepare for it, says Jesus, is not to let the cares of life overwhelm
us. But what might we say to the woman with a life-threatening illness who said
recently: 'My mental health is an ongoing battle because I live in the unknown. I'm
scared every time I get sick. I live in fear.'

Her words speak to us whenever we find ourselves adrift in the unknown, where
nothing makes sense anymore and everything we've done to secure our future is
called into question. Often our fears are disabling, and we wonder where we
might find help to face them. This is what Jesus is offering us in the gospel, the gift
of himself; and receiving it, in turn we're asked to give it away. It's what the vivid,
apocalyptic language of the gospel seeks to do: to help us be more aware of
God's presence in our lives.

As we gradually grow into this awareness through prayer and our being with one
another, when God's kingdom is revealed in its glory at the end of time, we will
find ourselves able to stand with confidence before the Son of Man and we will be
with God forever. This is the liberation of which Jesus speaks.

In the first reading, while the false prophets speak only of doom and gloom in the
face of exile and what seems like impending disaster, Jeremiah re-assures the
people that God will remain true to his promises and send them a ruler of honesty
and integrity. Enabled to face what is happening, alert to God's presence, the
prophet discovers there, not simply an end, but a new beginning.

In the second reading, Paul describes the life we're called to live in preparation
for Christ's coming again. Whatever our differences, loving one another in a
community of hope reveals the life of Christ to us and to 'the whole human race.'

Whenever this happens, God's kingdom is made real on earth, as in heaven. It's
the coming of the kingdom both now and in the future: it's the promise of Advent.

Sourced from Majellan Media 2024

EVER YOUNG GROUP CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION



The ladies all enjoyed a wonderful
lunch and the time to catch up for a
chat with friends. If you know some-
one who is lonely or isolated that
would like to join the Ever Young
group please contact Lyn on
0423096654 or Joan on 0401806351.
The ladies can help with transporta-
tion and there is no age limit.

Merry Christmas to you all!

Day/Date	Liturgy	Mass Times	Venue
Wednesday 04/12/2024	1st Week of Advent	9am	SPC
Friday 06/12/2024	1st Week of Advent	9am-Anointing Mass	Mater Dei
Saturday 07/12/2024	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	5.30pm	Mater Dei
Sunday 08/12/2024		8.00am (Father Ray Chapman)	SPC
		9.30am	Mater Dei
		5.00pm (Father Stephen Byrnes)	SPC

ST JOHN'S WOOD / THE GAP PARISH

Office Hours

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

Contact

A: 41 Chaprowe Road, The Gap
P: PO Box 408, The Gap Qld 4061
T: 07 3300 6099

E: thegap@bne.catholic.net.au

Web: www.stjohnswoodthegap.net.au

Facebook: [StJohnsWoodTheGapParish](https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsWoodTheGapParish)

Bulletin: *Email this address if you require a copy*
bulletin.thegap@bne.catholic.net.au

PARISH TEAM

Fr Terence Nueva

Parish Priest

E: nuevat@bne.catholic.net.au

M: 0438 946 000

Silvana Geldenhuys

Parish Secretary

E: poa.thegap@bne.catholic.net.au

Ann Lister

Local Safeguarding Representative & Parish Office Assistant

E: poa2.thegap@bne.catholic.net.au

Majella Deegan

Sacramental Program Coordinator

E: spco.thegap@bne.catholic.net.au

CHURCHES

Mater Dei

16 Philomene Drive, Ashgrove, 4060

St. Peter Chanel

41 Chaprowe Road, The Gap, 4061

SCHOOLS

[Mater Dei Primary School](#)

T: 3514 4100

[St Peter Chanel Primary School](#)

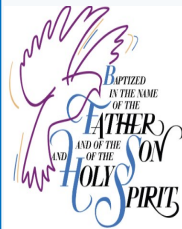
T: 3300 1202

SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION

Feel like you want to wipe the slate clean before Christmas?

Come along and celebrate the gift of God's sacramental forgiveness on **Wednesday 11th December at 7pm at St Peter Chanel Church**. God's mercy and compassion is always worth celebrating and a great gift for Christmas.

BAPTISMS THIS WEEKEND



On **Sunday** we welcome through the Sacrament of Baptism at **St Peter Chanel Church, Antonia and Frederick**, children of Oriana and Joshua, and **Margot and Theo**, children of Meagan and Cameron. We congratulate the families and ask that you keep them in your prayers.

ST JOHNS WOOD THE GAP CONFERENCE OF THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY



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. Should you prefer to donate online our account details are **BSB - 064 786 Account Number - 100026766 Account name—St Johns Woods**. Please record your name as the reference.

ST VINCENT de PAUL are in need of two mowers in good working order. If you can help please contact Noel on 0413 731 105.

THANK YOU & PLEASE JOIN US



We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all our Parishioners for making this year so wonderful. Your dedication, generosity, and community spirit has been a true blessing.

Let's come together to celebrate all we've shared and achieved as a parish family. We warmly invite you to join us for our Christmas gathering as we look ahead to another year of faith and community spirit. **Sunday 1st December after the 5:00pm Mass at St Peter Chanel**.

Donations will be greatly appreciated to help us cover the costs of the evening. Lots of wonderful prizes to be won in our raffle! Don't forget to bring some money for tickets. Join us for an evening of gratitude, fellowship, and joy!

HOME ROSARY



This week's rosary will be said at the home of Brian & Bernadette on Monday 2nd December. Contact the Parish Office for further details.

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



NET (National Evangelisation Teams) Australia –

CRAIG JOYCE



As you know one of our young parishioners, **Craig Joyce**, has signed on to join a NET team in 2025 and this is already a wonderful blessing for our parish. **However, Craig needs your support – your prayers and your financial help.** Each NET-er is asked to raise a substantial sum in order to cover at least part of the food, lodging and transport costs involved. Craig will become better known to you in the coming weeks and will speak to you all

in greater detail about his upcoming mission for NET. And therefore, please make yourself known to Craig and find ways to help him in whatever way you can. In Christ. If you would like to donate please find the link here: https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/W-bEwp5EldEYeCdYImXJPA or Scan the QR code above. Thanking you in anticipation.

Please consider *partnering* in mission with me



Thank you for helping me encourage young people to love Jesus and embrace the Church. In the 'sponsorship for' section please put



THE GIFT OF ADVENT

“Advent increases our hope, a hope which does not disappoint. The Lord never lets us down.”
~ Pope Francis ~

Advent is a time to reflect on the spirit of giving and compassion. It's more than counting down the days to Christmas; it's a season to open our hearts to others. Instead of focusing on gifts or decorations, Advent encourages us to show kindness and care. Compassion during Advent reminds us to look beyond ourselves. There may be people around us who feel lonely or forgotten. This season is a chance to reach out, share a moment and let others know they are not alone. By giving our time and showing we care, we create connections that fill the season with true meaning. As each day of Advent passes, every act of kindness adds to the light and warmth of the season. This spirit of giving doesn't need to be grand, it grows through simple, heartfelt actions. In showing compassion, we discover the real joy of Advent, the joy of making others feel loved and valued.



Dear God, during this Advent season, help us to think of others first. Guide us to see those who are lonely, those in need and those seeking hope. May our hearts be open to share Your love and compassion in every simple act of kindness. Amen.



THANKS FR ANTHONY

A big thanks to Fr Anthony for taking the time to come and say Mass for us on Sunday night and join the parishioners at the Pot

Luck Dinner. It was wonderful for the parishioners to have an opportunity to meet him and visa versa. We look forward to you coming in January.



7pm Saturday 7 December 2024

St Francis of Assisi Church Hall, West End



Young adults (18 – 39 years) are invited to a tropical summer-themed dance next Saturday 7 December, raising funds for St Francis Table Ministry!

The night will include some easy called partnered/ progressive dances, plus plenty of the usual favourite St Francis Social tunes for those who love a bit of classic swing and jive. There will also be prizes for best dressed male and female, so start planning your tropical outfits... the brighter, the better!

Ticket sales close soon at www.trybooking.com/CWKVR

GOOD TUNES + GOOD DANCING + GOOD CROWD + FOR A GOOD CAUSE = A GOOD NIGHT OUT



stfrancissocials



stfrancissocials



SCAN FOR MORE INFO & TO PURCHASE YOUR \$25 TICKETS!

SOMETHING FOR A LAUGH



There were two brothers who were the most notorious criminals in a country town. When one of them died, the surviving brother went to the local priest and said, "I'll donate \$10 million to the church if you give the eulogy, but you have to say nice things and tell everyone my brother was a SAINT."

The priest scratched his head but finally said, "Ok, I'll do it."

The brother was pleasantly shocked that the priest agreed.

At the funeral the priest gets up and begins his eulogy, "... This man was a thief, a rapist, a liar and a crook."

There's a pause as the congregants look surprised. The priest continues, "There's not one good thing I can say about him! Not one!"

The priest then stares at the brother in the front pew and in a loud voice says, "But compared to his brother, HE WAS A SAINT! Amen."



Enjoy your week ahead.....

menCONNECT

Date claimer

Gentlemen, our “main course” event of 2025 will be a **half-day Gathering on Saturday 22 February**. The speaker will be Fr Ray Chapman, SM, PhD, former Parish Priest, international Renewal Program leader and Spiritual Director and the theme is **“Intimacy: with oneself, with others, and with God.”** [*Intimacy is the ability to be aware of and care about your feelings towards yourself and how to be open in sharing them with others*] The morning starts at 7am with the traditional cooked breakfast and coffee and concludes at 1pm. The location of the Gathering is the Parish Hall at Saint Peter Chanel, 41 Chaprowe Rd, The Gap. The cost is \$25 and please RSVP Mike on 0459 992 228 before 19 February for catering purposes.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR AN INTEREST?

Lay volunteers providing pastoral care to the sick in hospitals are invaluable as part of holistic patient care. The foundation for this ministry lies in the parable of the Good Samaritan. Centacare provides accredited training for compassionate men and women who would like to explore if this ministry is where God is calling them to practical Christian action in their lives. The next training course will start in February 2025. To express your interest or to find out more about the course and the volunteer role please email judy.norris@bne.centacare.net.au or phone 3324 3193



TRUTH & PEACE
A GOSPEL WORD IN A VIOLENT WORLD

Looking for resources to explore the latest Social Justice Statement?

The Catholic Justice and Peace Commission site can offer:

- resources
- contemplation events



Truth & Peace In the 2024 - 2025 Social Justice Statement, "Truth and Peace: A Gospel Word in a Violent World," Australia's Bishops scrutinise the signs of our own troubled times, observe the violence around us, and ask why it is so. They also ask what is needed if

there is to be peace. The page of resources was launched on October 7, 2024 in response to Pope Francis call for the day to be time of prayer and fasting for peace. For more information, visit: www.cjpcbrisbane.com



ST JOHNS WOOD / THE GAP PARISH CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Wednesday, 11 December
Second rite of Reconciliation
St Peter Chanel - 7:00pm

Tuesday, December 24
CHRISTMAS VIGIL

Mater Dei - 5:00 PM
St Peter Chanel - 5:30PM

Wednesday, December 25
CHRISTMAS Morning

St Peter Chanel - 8:00 AM
Mater Dei - 8:30 AM



Wednesday, January 1
NEW YEARS DAY

9:00AM - Mater Dei

Weekday Masses re-commence on
Wednesday 8th January at 9am SPC

*****Please note** that the Parish office will be closed from **Wednesday 25th December** and will re-open on **Wednesday 8th January**

The Navel of the Earth

Jerusalem in time, theology and imagination

Archbishop Mark Coleridge



Archbishop Mark Coleridge podcast

Archbishop Mark's latest podcast series, "The Navel of the Earth: Jerusalem in Time, Theology, and Imagination," explores Jerusalem's historical and spiritual significance. [Watch now.](#)

Archbishop Mark has a message for you

As the year draws to a close, I reflect on the many moments of grace that our schools and communities have known through the year – like the young girl who comforted her classmate with real tenderness, or the students who debate and learn with great energy and enthusiasm, or teachers who go the extra mile to lead the young into life. I think too of parents who have been the living embodiment of God's loving presence in a world that can seem at times messy and harsh. The challenge before us is not to retreat into some fake fantasy world, but to discover the extraordinary at the heart of our ordinary daily interactions. In our Catholic schools, we continue to feed not just the mind but also the heart and the soul, so that every child in our schools will come to know that we are accompanied and nurtured by a love greater than ourselves. Thanks to so many for all this year has been.

Free Advent resources for children. Enjoy a free collection of creative resources and ideas designed to engage our youngest disciples during this season of Advent.

[Read now.](#)

