



St John's Wood/The Gap Parish Bulletin

Vol 5, Issue 48 8 December 2024



SECOND SUNDAY of ADVENT YEAR C

First Reading: [Baruch 5:1-9](#)

Jerusalem-God will show you splendour.

Second Reading: [Phil 1:4-6,8-11](#)

Show yourself sinless and without blame in the day of Christ.

Gospel: [Luke 3:1-6](#)

All people shall see the salvation of God.

THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL REFLECTION.....

PREPARE A WAY FOR THE LORD

One of British street artist Banksy's famous pictures is *The Flower Thrower*. In this powerful image of peaceful resistance, a figure leans backwards with his arm poised to throw an object. A similar figure in other protest posters would be poised to hurl a violent projectile. Instead, Banksy subverts a potentially violent image with his figure holding a bouquet of colourful flowers.



John the Baptist emerges from the wilderness, clothed in camel's hair, surviving on a diet of locusts and honey. His wild appearance is juxtaposed against his peaceful, steadfast call to repentance and the forgiveness of sins. He calls people to turn towards the One who is coming, the One who will be the embodiment of all that John currently preaches.

Jesus's spiritual kingship subverts and overturns all notions of a powerful earthly leader who dominates his subjects and rules with power. Indeed, the God whom John proclaims not only meets his people in love but also accompanies them all the way to the cross. Jesus embodies a love which is tender and compassionate, but which is also fiercely committed to accompaniment and solidarity with us, in the entirety of life's circumstances.

Philosopher Hannah Arendt explained that power is the human ability not just to act, but to act in concert (*On Violence*, 1969). In contrast to conventional notions of power, she held that power is the ability to communicate and cooperate, not to coerce and dominate.

In contemporary times, John's call to prepare for the Lord's coming, by making rough roads smooth so that humanity will see the salvation of the Lord can perhaps be heard in the voices calling to us from the margins: the voices of women, LBGTIQ+ sisters and brothers, ethnic minorities, victims of abuse, and those fleeing persecution among others. We are invited to welcome everyone with compassion, to collaborate and stand with them. Together, we are witnesses to a community of faith which is united by love.

Building God's kingdom is almost always an uphill struggle, yet it helps to hold fast to the vision that his kingdom is both "now and not yet" and to persist with our efforts for mercy, justice and unity.

In the first reading, the prophet Baruch uses the metaphor of beauty to encourage Jerusalem to hold fast to its vision of God: Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress; put on the beauty of the glory of God forever.

In challenging times, a helpful way to remind ourselves of the presence of God is to notice and rejoice in the beauty which surrounds us, to recognise God's presence, amidst our struggles. French philosopher Simone Weill in *Waiting for God* describes it quite profoundly: The beautiful is the experiential proof that the incarnation is possible ... "Christ is really present in the universal beauty ... the beauty of this world is Christ's tender smile coming to us."

Sourced from Majellan Media



[Readings and Commentaries](#)



TWO-MINUTE HOMILY

Second Sunday of Advent



Fr Jack Ho

WATCH NOW

Jesus wants to enter into our heart, to bring us love, to bring us mercy and peace, so that we can in turn give to others as well. [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 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

WCCM (Christian Meditation)

Monday at 9.30am Parish Office.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Mater Dei: Monday & Friday 6 - 7pm

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENT FROM FATHER TERRY

Dear Parishioners,

As we enter our transitional period of farewelling Father Terry and welcoming Father Anthony we need to begin looking at how and in what areas our Parish can flourish. With this in mind Father Terry has set up a Leadership group to help in assisting any necessary changes that need to help us move forward. The Leadership group is made up of the following people who Father Terry has chosen: Trish Wogan, Denis Newman, Luke Garske, Rosemarie Brady, Michelle Mead, Phil Anderton, Silvana Geldenhuys, Ann Lister and Majella Deegan.

Day/Date	Liturgy	Mass Times	Venue
Wednesday 11/12/2024	2nd Week of Advent	9am	SPC
Friday 13/12/2024	St Lucy, virgin, martyr	9am	Mater Dei
Saturday 14/12/2024	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	5.30pm	Mater Dei
Sunday 15/12/2024		8.00am	SPC
		9.30am (Father Ray Chapman)	Mater Dei
		5.00pm	SPC

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.

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.

As Christmas approaches, Deacon Gary urges us to promote peace and support those in need through acts of love, embodying the spirit of the season. [Watch now.](#)

ST JOHN'S WOOD / THE GAP PARISH

Office Hours

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

Contact

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T: 07 3300 6099

E: thegap@bne.catholic.net.au

Web: www.stjohnswoodthegap.net.au

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

PARISH TEAM

Fr Terence Nueva

Parish Priest

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M: 0438 946 000

Silvana Geldenhuys

Parish Secretary

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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

HOME ROSARY



This week's rosary will be said at the home of Gordon on Monday 8th December.

Contact the Parish Office for further details.

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



INVITATION



FR TERRY FAREWELL & THANK YOU

Please join us in farewelling our beloved Fr Terry at his last mass as our Parish Priest

Mass will be at 10:30am on Sunday the 12th of January 2025, at St Peter Chanel Church

This will be followed by lunch in the hall

Please note there will be only one mass that day

If you would like to contribute towards Fr Terry's farewell gift please drop this off to the parish office by Wednesday 8th January 2025

RSVP for catering purposes to the parish office or thegap@bne.catholic.net.au

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 **CRAIG JOYCE**



Hope & Inspiration

Thoughts to inspire

ADVENT – A TIME FOR REFLECTION

“Advent is the time to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ, not just at Christmas but every day.”

~ Unknown ~

Reflections Leading Up to Christmas:

Gratitude: Recall moments and people you're thankful for this year.

Kindness: Reflect on simple acts of compassion, given or received.

Forgiveness: Consider letting go of past hurts, making space for peace.

Connections: Think about relationships that need nurturing or mending.

Simplicity: Focus on what truly matters beyond material things.

Joy: Remember small moments that brought genuine happiness.

Hope: Visualise positive possibilities for the coming year.

Generosity: Reflect on how you can share your time, love or resources.

Mindfulness: Notice the beauty in everyday moments.

Light: Consider how you can bring light to someone else's life.

Each reflection helps prepare us not just for Christmas Day, but for carrying it forward into the year ahead.



Dear God, help us slow down and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. Fill our hearts with gratitude, kindness and a deeper sense of Your presence. Amen.



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**



SOMETHING FOR A LAUGH



The teacher asked little Johnny if he knew his numbers.

“Yes,” he said. “My dad taught me.”

“Good. So, what comes after eight?”

“Nine,” answered little Johnny.

“And what comes after nine?”

“Ten.” “And what comes after ten?”

“The Jack.”



Enjoy your week ahead.....

PARISH CHRISTMAS GATHERING & VOLUNTEERS THANK YOU



Last Sunday night we came together as a Parish community to celebrate and to thank all the volunteers in our parish. Parish communities rely on their volunteers and we are extremely blessed in this parish to have so many wonderful volunteers.

Volunteers are seldom paid; not because they are worthless, but because they are PRICELESS!

Thank you for your commitment, your investment, your encouragement, your involvement and your achievement. We look forward to next year being even bigger. Blessings to you all!

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10



A HUGE THANK YOU!

Thank you for the wonderful donations that went towards our Christmas raffles it was a huge success, with over \$524.00 raised from it. A huge thank you to Frescos for the \$50 voucher donated, and to Councillor Steve Toomey and MP Jonty Bush for the basket of goodies and the voucher donated. A special thank you to our parishioners for your donations of gifts, time and talents towards making our evening a huge success. We would also like to thank Des from Meat U @ home, the chickens were very yummy, and to Ann and her helpers for all the hard work in making the evening so special.



Parish Volunteers Thank you 'Celebration'.

Many thanks to all who helped make last Sunday evening "Parish Thank You" a lovely social event. The Chicken and Salads were great. Thank you to the MC, Ann and to the cake maker, Silvana, for the delicious individual "Thank You" cakes.

Thank You!

