



St John's Wood/The Gap Parish Bulletin

Vol 5, Issue 50

22 December 2024



FOURTH SUNDAY of ADVENT YEAR C

First Reading: [Micah 5:1-4](#)

Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel.

Second Reading: [Heb 10:5-10](#)

I am coming to do your will.

Gospel: [Luke 1:39-44](#)

Why should it happen that I am honoured with visit from the mother of my Lord?



[Readings and Commentaries](#)



Offering Love This Advent

Seth Perry



Seth reminds us that love has the power to transform those around us and is the greatest gift we can offer this Christmas.

[Watch now.](#)

Recently Deceased

Neville Treston

Anniversary

Michael Newman, Adam Lister

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



THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL REFLECTION.....

THE WAIT IS ALMOST OVER

This week's gospel story from Luke is one of the most beautiful and touching, building up to and preparing us for the long-awaited birth of Jesus the messiah. If you have ever visited the Vatican Museum, you may have seen a lovely Advent image of the pregnant Mary, wearing a long pink dress.

It's an image that is very meaningful as we await Christmas. In fact, there aren't too many similar images of Mary, carrying Jesus inside her body. We have come to honour her under many titles down the ages, but the earliest one was 'Theotokos', a Greek word which means God-bearer. Mary is the preeminent God-bearer, bearing for us in time the One who was begotten in eternity.

God could only become human in Jesus because Mary freely said 'Yes' at the time of the Annunciation. This was to lead her down a path that was far from easy. We can imagine how much Mary needed the empathy, encouragement and inspiration. The Visitation enabled her to be with a relative who understood what was happening to her, and who was part way through her own pregnancy.

Mary's relief would have been deepened in that shared moment when the Holy Spirit came upon them, and the babe in Elizabeth's womb leapt for joy. As Elizabeth blessed her, Mary found in this meeting support and strength to deal with the difficulties that came with the role of being a God-bearer.

And so on the eve of Christmas, we see in Mary what we too are invited to become: God-bearers in our own day. We can learn so much from this woman who was totally faithful, prayerful and open to the leadings of God. As for her, our lives, in their own way, take us on just as long and arduous journey. We go through patches of trouble and difficulty when it's hard to keep trusting, and persevering. Then, at other times God provides us with moments of support and strengthening.

To be a God-bearer is a challenge. We are called to bear Jesus in such a way that others find him in our daily lives, and especially in the way we love people. As Teresa of Avila said: 'Christ has no body now but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours'. Each of us bears some part of the image of God inside of us.

God wants to send us forth like Mary to tell the good news of the gospel. As it's almost Christmas, perhaps now is the time to think of ourselves as an inn keeper, as the person who decides whether to allow Jesus in, so that he might be enabled to come to birth anew in us.

Sourced from Majellan Media



Christmas Wishes from the Parish Office

On behalf of Fr Terry and the parish office, we wish all our parishioners a Christmas season filled with an abundance of love and blessings. Fr Terry would like to thank everyone for their amazing support, calls, cards, meals and prayers it is very much appreciated. We would also like to thank Father Ray Chapman and all the priests who helped us this year.

This is the last bulletin for the year. The parish office will be closed from Wednesday 25th of December and re-open on Wednesday the 8th of January 2025 at 8:30am. For any urgent matters please call (07) 3300 6099 Midweek masses will resume on Wednesday the 8th of January 2025.

Day/Date	Liturgy	Mass Times	Venue
Tuesday 24/12/2024	Christmas Vigil	5.00pm (Father Ray) 5.30pm (Father Terry)	Mater Dei SPC
Wednesday 25/12/2024	Christmas Day	8.00am (Father Ray) 8.30am (Father Terry)	SPC Mater Dei
Saturday 28/12/2024	THE HOLY FAMILY of Jesus, Mary and Joseph	5.30pm	Mater Dei
Sunday 29/12/2024		8.00am (Father Ray)	SPC
		9.30am	Mater Dei
		5.00pm	SPC
Wednesday 01/01/2025	New Years Day	9.00am	Mater Dei

**PLEASE NOTE: WEEKDAY MASSES WILL RE- COMMENCE ON
WEDNESDAY 8TH JANUARY AT 9AM AT ST PETER CHANEL**

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.

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

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



HOME ROSARY

This week's rosary will be said at the home of Puspha during the Christmas period.

Contact Pushpa for further details.

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



HELP: A LIFT TO MASS REQUIRED

Is there any parishioner who can pick up a lady to go Mass either Mater Dei or St Peter Chanel either morning or evening service for Christmas. Please contact the parish office or call Carmel on 33003271. Many thanks



flocknote +



ARCHDIOCESE OF BRISBANE

Thank you to all the families that have signed up for Flocknote. We invite all of you and visitors to sign-up to Flocknote, our communication and engagement tool. Our Parish (and the Archdiocese of Brisbane) has officially adopted Flocknote for all parishes, as a safe, new, and improved way of communicating in parishes. Flocknote is free for parishioners to use, and there is no need to download anything. Your info is kept secure and private. It only takes a couple minutes to sign up to receive emails from the parish. You are even able to reply directly back to those emails so we can get feedback and hear from you.

Flocknote is an amazing engagement and communication tool that gives parishes the ability to easily gather all of their parishioner contact info, sacrament history, and planned giving history. Flocknote also helps parishes communicate with their flock through beautiful email newsletters, emails to ministry groups, and is also the place parishes will use to manage their volunteer records. This will give all our parishes a consistent communication hub and interface for all ministry and parish activity, while simplifying communication across the entire archdiocese.

As part of our transition period, we would like to invite our parishioners to register on our new database.

If you have any questions, please speak with the Parish office.

There is also a template of the registration form that can be printed for those who don't have access to a phone or computer. If you need a paper form you will need to return it to the parish office and these forms will be added to Flocknote.

Parishioners and visitors are invited to use the link or QR code below and signup and register with the parish.

<https://thegapparish.flocknote.com/register>

The Archdiocese privacy policy is available here—

<https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/privacy-policy.pdf>

REGISTER TODAY

- 1 Follow the URL (or scan the QR code) for your parish and enter your email address.
- 2 Flocknote will email you a secure 4-digit code to verify your email address. Enter this code to begin the registration process. If you are already registered, you can update the information we already have.
- 3 Register yourself, and your family much like a parish census form. You can enter as much or as little information as you want.



Your information is secure, and we will never share your information with anyone else. For more information, please refer to our Privacy Policy. <https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/privacy-policy/>



flocknote +



ARCHDIOCESE OF BRISBANE

CHRISTMAS DAY

"Let us not forget to thank God for the gift of Jesus, the greatest gift of Christmas."

~ Pope Francis ~

Christmas Day is a time for families to come together, sharing moments of joy, love and laughter.

It's about enjoying meals, telling stories and simply being with those who make us feel at home.

Family isn't just about who we are related to, it's anyone who brings love and happiness into our lives.

If you are spending Christmas on your own, please remember being alone doesn't mean you're not in people's thoughts. This season reminds us that the heart of Christmas is about care, understanding and reaching out to one another, no matter how near or far.

Christmas also highlights the absence of those we have lost, the loved ones who are no longer with us, leaving an empty place at the table and in our hearts. Yet, the memories they have left behind bring comfort and keep them close, even when they can't be here.

This Christmas, let's appreciate the love we share with those around us and remember the ones we miss.

Their love is still a part of our lives, making this special day brighter and more meaningful.



"Lord, on this holy day, we thank You for the gift of Jesus.

May His love fill our hearts with joy, our homes with love and our lives with hope.

Amen."



CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE



2025 Enrolments are open

Study scripture, theology, pastoral ministry and spirituality

Introductory or further studies

Face-to-face or online mode
Audit, undergraduate or postgraduate level

For more information:

view our [2025 Prospectus](https://ctc.edu.au/contact/contact-the-registrar/)
ctc.edu.au/contact/contact-the-registrar/

SOMETHING FOR A LAUGH



A town decided to form a clergy group to have Catholics, Jews, Protestants and Muslims gather to talk about various issues facing their places of worship. The Rabbi went first and said they were having a terrible issue with squirrels. He said they were hanging around outside of church and aggressively begging for food. He said they were scaring their kids. The pastor said they were having the same issue, in fact, a few of the squirrels had actually gotten inside of the church and had done some damage to the roof. The Imam agreed saying that in fact one of the squirrels had bitten a few people at the mosque. The Priest then spoke up and said they used to have the same issue but had solved it. He said they took all of their squirrels, baptised them, confirmed them, and now they only come around at Christmas.



Enjoy your week ahead.....

SAFEGUARDING CORNER

Hi everyone,

We are thrilled to announce the upcoming launch of our ArcheLearn system to our parish. Previously used exclusively by employees, the ArcheLearn system has been expanded to provide our parish volunteers with an enhanced user experience and a streamlined way to access the training they need for their roles. This upgrade ensures that all volunteers have an easy-to-use path to access mandatory training and other learning resources. Below is a sample of the registration page you will encounter when you log on. All your requirements will be on this portal once you have registered and you will be notified when you are required to update your training requirements. PLEASE NOTE: This is for any NEW VOLUNTEERS and is much simpler than what we previously had access to. **All volunteers** who have a role on the Volunteer Matrix e.g. Counter, Sacristan etc who have **previously registered** please take note of the following:

For volunteers whose records are up to date and who is part of the Volunteer Safeguarding Matrix, they will be setup in ArcheLearn **within the next 14 days**. Volunteers will receive an email invitation to their registered email account when their ArcheLearn is created.

Be assured volunteers that the emails are not spam, and if you don't receive an email notification within in the next 14 days please also check your spam/junk folders.

- **Previous Safeguarding Training:** Any previous Safeguarding Training completed in the last two years will be credited in the system, so it only needs to be completed when it is next due to expire.

User-Friendly Interface: Volunteers will enjoy a visually appealing and easy-to-navigate experience, making it simple to discover and access mandatory and relevant learning content, courses, and resources.

I will advise more in the new year, however if you have any questions please feel free to contact me. Cheers Ann

Welcome Volunteers

ArcheLearn Guidelines for Volunteers

Thank you for joining our organisation as a Volunteer. This guide will help you access your ArcheLearn profile and complete the Volunteer New Starter Training.

ArcheLearn is an easy-to-use learning platform and if you have any questions or troubles, please contact the Learning and Development team: archelearn@bne.catholic.net.au / 07 3324 3075.

BABY NUMBER 3



CONGRATUALIONS!

A special morning tea was enjoyed by all parishioners after the 8am Mass at SPC on Sunday. A lovely cake was the centrepiece and was shared to celebrate the impending arrival of baby McKinnon.

The parish community eagerly awaits the arrival of baby number 3 for the McKinnon family and loved being able to celebrate this exciting time. We will keep Cecile and the family in our prayers over the coming weeks.

God bless!!



SUPPORT VANUATU EARTHQUAKE RELIEF

Thousands of people have been severely impacted by the earthquake in Vanuatu. Please help provide emergency shelter, food and other essentials, psychosocial support to those who are experiencing hardship.

DONATE NOW

caritas.org.au/vanuatu
1800 024 413



Congratulations Alex



On Sunday 1st December at the 8am Mass Alexandre Ducroz received his First Communion. For the past five months Alex has been receiving instruction through the RCIA program in preparation for full communion with the Church. Recently he was confirmed by Bishop Tim Norton and has now taken the final step in his journey. Alex has been accompanied by Vincent DuBois during this time. Alex's mother arrived from France to be present at his First Communion and to spend time with the family and of course her grandchildren. Please pray for Alexandre during this special time.