



# St John's Wood/The Gap Parish Bulletin

Vol 5, Issue 03

26 January 2025



## THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR C/1

**First Reading:** [Nehemiah 8:2-6, 8-10](#)

They read from the book of Law and they understood what was read.

**Second Reading:** [1 Cor 12:12-30](#)

Together you are Christ's body; but each of you is a different part of it.

**Gospel:** [Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21](#)

The scriptures were fulfilled on this day.

Today is Australia Day. It is a good opportunity to pray for the nation, asking God to help us become a more just, harmonious and respectful society. Paul's image of the parts of the body, each working to complement the others, is a beautiful way of thinking about Australia. Likewise in the Gospel, Jesus' reading from the prophet Isaiah offers a vision of social justice which is a most appropriate way to speak of our hopes for our homeland – as indeed did Jesus for his home territory in Nazareth in Galilee. Openness to the working of the Holy Spirit is important as we seek God's guidance in Australia. It is a valuable lesson the Church has been learning through the new approach of synodality. As Pope Francis wrote in 2013, *"There is no greater freedom than that of allowing oneself to be guided by the Holy Spirit, renouncing the attempt to plan and control everything to the last detail, and instead letting him enlighten, guide and direct us, leading us wherever he wills"* (*The Joy of the Gospel* 280).



[Readings and Commentaries](#)

**PRAYING With CHILDREN**  
SUNDAY LITURGY

TWO-MINUTE HOMILY

**Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**



Dcn Gary Stone

WATCH NOW

May we be aware that we have been anointed to bring good news to the afflicted and be good news in all that we say and do. [Watch now.](#)

### Recently Deceased

Ben Affonso

### Anniversary

Maurice De Silva, Betty Stevenson, Dawn Jenkins

### Sick

Peter Hadley, Jim Johnson, Mike McAuliffe, Dorothea Feodoroff, Kathleen Cosgrove, 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:

#### IT'S ALL ABOUT TODAY

Returning home after more than eleven years 'on mission' overseas has been a challenging and confronting experience. So much has changed. I've changed. Society has changed. The Church has changed. So much is unfamiliar to me and I'm 'unknown'. I feel like a foreigner in the country I call home.

Luke portrays something similar in the gospel. After being away, Jesus has returned home for a visit. Some people will remember him growing up in Nazareth. Others will know his parents. Others may have benefitted from his carpentry skills. Others may be curious or uncertain about why he's returned. Others may treat him with suspicion if he's unknown to them.

He's not some 'local lad' who's come home after travelling or working away. He has a reputation and it's gone ahead of him. He's somewhat of a 'celebrity'. Will he live up to his reputation? Will he be as wise as they've heard? Will he say or do something special in his home town? Will he challenge them to live differently and change their way of life?

As expected, Jesus goes to the synagogue on the Sabbath, where he would have spent time as a boy and young man. He's handed the scroll of the prophet Isaiah and he reads: ***"The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour."***

Jesus then says something that disturbs and challenges those who are gathered: *"This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen."* Surely he's not suggesting that *he* is the fulfilment of Isaiah's prophecy? The people were expecting the Messiah sometime in the future. They can't believe that the time is now. The Messiah is there in their midst! Naturally, they can't comprehend what's just unfolded in their presence. In time, they will want him to prove his prophetic words through special deeds and miraculous signs.

**"Today"** has really disturbed them. Jesus says nothing about the future. Rather, he claims that he has the power to transform the present. Good times are not some future dream. They are here now, and the Kingdom of God is among them. **Today** is what counts. **Today** grace abounds. **Today** the kingdom is realised. **Today** God is revealed.

**"Today"** is the very reason that this gospel challenged the people of Jesus' home town, and it challenges us to be open to the life of Christ here and now, and to live our lives to the full. The fulfilment of God's promise **today** is important for us to understand and embrace, so that we'll not miss the grace of God's saving action in the simple, ordinary and everyday experiences and encounters of our lives.

David Hore CSSR © Majellan Media 2025



Day/Date	Liturgy	Mass Times	Venue
Monday 27/01/2025	<b>Weekday, Ord Time 3</b>	9am	Mater Dei
Wednesday 29/01/2025	<b>Weekday, Ord Time 3</b>	9am	SPC
Thursday 30/01/2025	<b>Weekday, Ord Time 3</b>	9am	SPC
Friday 31/01/2025	<b>St John Bosco, priest</b>	9am	Mater Dei
Saturday 01/02/2025	<b>The PRESENTATION of the LORD</b>	5.30pm	Mater Dei
Sunday 02/02/2025		8.00am	SPC
		9.30 am	Mater Dei
		5.00pm	SPC

**PLEASE NOTE: THERE ARE NO MASSES IN THE PARISH ON TUESDAYS**

**PLEASE NOTE:** Confession times in our parish will be held prior to these weekend Masses as follows:

**5:00pm – Saturday Night Mater Dei 4:30pm – Sunday Night SPC**

If a parishioner would like confession at any other time, they can speak to Fr Anthony after any mass.

**HAVE YOU TRIED ADORATION BEFORE?**



Join us at **Mater Dei church** for **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** which takes place every Monday and Friday evening from 6–7 pm. Feel free to drop in on your way home from work or stay longer to spend some quiet time with the Lord. All are welcome!

**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.

**ST VINCENT de PAUL St John’s Wood/The Gap Conference**



The St Johns Wood The Gap Conference of Vinnies seek new members to join our group. We have a roster where 2 members are rostered every 4-5 weeks to undertake visits to companions twice a week, generally on Tuesdays and Fridays. Training will be provided. Please contact Kevin Bray [0418875534](tel:0418875534) should you wish to join this important ministry in our community.

**ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED**



“Do you have a spare room to rent for a young student?”

Paul (Phong) came from Vietnam two years ago to complete high school, and now has to find new accommodation. He is hoping to take up nursing.

If you can help, please call (Peter) on 0413 497 462, or Paul 0421 156 350.”

**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](mailto:thegap@bne.catholic.net.au)

**Web:** [www.stjohnswoodthegap.net.au](http://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](mailto:bulletin.thegap@bne.catholic.net.au)

**PARISH TEAM**

**Fr Anthony Odionyenfea**

Parish Priest

**E:** [odionyenfea@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:odionyenfea@bne.catholic.net.au)

**P:** 3300 6099

**Silvana Geldenhuys**

Parish Secretary

**E:** [poa.thegap@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:poa.thegap@bne.catholic.net.au)

**Ann Lister**

Local Safeguarding Representative & Parish Office Assistant

**E:** [poa2.thegap@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:poa2.thegap@bne.catholic.net.au)

**Majella Deegan**

Sacramental Program Coordinator

**E:** [spco.thegap@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto: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 Angela on Monday 20th January.

Contact the parish office for further details.

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



## WELCOME BACK TO OUR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS FOR 2025

As you kick-start another wonderful academic journey this year 2025, I would like to extend to you the Parish Community's excitement, wishes, prayers and hopes for you our wonderful school community; Saint Peter Chanel Primary School and Mater Dei Primary school. It's good to have you back dear students, teachers, parents/grandparents, care givers and friends.

We want you to know as always that you have our support and prayers, and collaboration when you need it. Our hope is to continue to create a welcoming community and a nurturing environment that is safe, where everyone matters and where everyone's talent can thrive. It's a teamwork and we believe we can achieve that together. So once again, well come back. **Father Anthony**

## SOMETHING FOR A LAUGH

Why Women Need a Husband?

A woman goes to a psychiatrist and complains:

"I don't want to marry. I am educated, independent, and self-sufficient. I don't need a husband. But my parents are asking me to marry. What do I do?"

The psychiatrist replied: "You undoubtedly will achieve great things in life. But somethings inevitably will not go the way you want. Somethings will go wrong. Sometimes you will fail. Sometimes your plans won't work. Sometimes your wishes will not be fulfilled ... Then who will you blame? Will you blame Yourself?"

Woman: "NO!!!"

Psychiatrist: "That's why you need a husband."

😊😊😊😊 *Enjoy your week ahead.....*



## MARIST COLLEGE ASHGROVE CARD AND GAMES DAY

The Marist College Ashgrove P&F Association warmly invites community members to attend their quarterly Card and Games Day.

Attendees are asked to form their own table of up to 4 friends and bring a game that they would like to play – cards (such as Bridge), mahjong, scrabble, or other board games.

**Date:** Wednesday 19 February 2025

**Time:** 9:30am for 10:00am until 2:00pm

**Venue:** Br Cyprian Pavilion at Marist College Ashgrove, entrance via Frasers Road

Parking available in the Br Cyprian Carpark

**Cost per person:** \$25 which includes morning tea, lunch, tea/coffee, and a lucky door ticket

Pay on arrival with EFTPOS only (no cash)

**Raffle Tickets are also available:** \$2 each or 3 for \$5

**BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL – RSVP BY Wednesday 12 February 2025**

**FOR BOOKINGS OR ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT**

Ann Rainbow on Phone: 0411 482 792 or  
Email: CardDayPandF@marash.qld.edu.au



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## PLEASE SIGN UP NOW! TIME IS RUNNING OUT

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.

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.

## 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/>



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Parishioners and visitors are invited to use the link or QR code below and sign up 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>





# Finding God in Community - Weekend Retreat for Groups and Individuals



**Saturday 22 March 2025 @ 9.00am to Sunday 23 March 2025 @ 4.00pm**

*A shared experience of listening to the Holy Spirit in myself and in others.*

Do you desire to grow in intimacy with God and have an experience of journeying for yourself, or together with others in your community or group? This weekend could be for you.

Through personal prayer and by practicing imaginative contemplation, discernment in common, active listening and conversations in the Spirit, we can learn to recognise the promptings of the Holy Spirit. For ourselves and with others. Exploring the path of 'synodality', the renewed vision of being 'Church' in the world.

*We grow in confidence to offer our gifts and to accompany others in building up the body of Christ. Ephesians 4*

We invite you to join us for this weekend retreat in the beautiful tranquil surrounds of Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre in Ormiston Queensland.

All are welcome, no retreat experience is necessary. Come as you are.

**When:** Saturday 22nd March 9am - Sunday 23rd March 4pm 2025

**BOOK BY FRIDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2025**

**Where:** Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre, 267 Wellington Street, Ormiston QLD

**Price:** \$435 per person, includes accommodation at Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre (including linen and towels), all main meals, morning and afternoon teas, retreat facilitation, input presentations, material, and take-home resources.

**Book by:** Contact Sandra on **1300 EXAMEN (1300-392-636)** or [info@jisa.org.au](mailto:info@jisa.org.au)

**BOOK BY FRIDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2025**

**Facilitated by:** Jesuit and Ignatian Spirituality Australia Spiritual Directors: Clive Hamlin, Pierre Scholtes, Gillian Stephens, and Peter Webb. Clive, Pierre, Gillian and Peter are all experienced Givers of the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises, Retreat Facilitators and members of the JISA Faber Centre in Brisbane.



## QLD PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY INTO VOLUNTEERING

The Archdiocese Government Relations team is undertaking a survey on volunteering across the Archdiocese of Brisbane. We would appreciate if you would be willing to take part in the survey.

### **HAVE YOUR SAY ON VOLUNTEERING IN QLD**

Volunteers are the heart of our parishes, schools, and ministries, contributing so much to our community. Whether you currently volunteer, have volunteered in the past, or are considering volunteering in the future, your feedback is invaluable in shaping the future of volunteering in Queensland.

We invite you to take part in our Community questionnaire for the Queensland Parliamentary Inquiry into Volunteering. Your responses will help us highlight the challenges, opportunities, and the incredible value that volunteers bring to our communities.

**To complete the survey, please visit this link:**

<http://bit.ly/40sk81Y>

This survey is open to all parishioners, Staff, volunteers, and those involved in our ministries and services. It only takes about 5-10 minutes to complete, and your input will make a real difference.

*Thank you for your time and dedication to our community. Together, we can work to support and grow the spirit of volunteering across Queensland.*



**JOIN THE GUIDES & WELCOMERS TEAM**

**Could you be the face of St Stephen's Cathedral that greets and welcomes our many visitors? If you have an interest in history and like being a part of a good team - this could be for you!**

**We are holding an Information Day at the Cathedral on Thursday February 6th for prospective Guides & Welcomers.**

**To find out more and register, please email [CathedralGandW@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:CathedralGandW@bne.catholic.net.au) or contact the office on 3324 3030**



## A vocation View Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – C/1

Through the power of the Spirit, Jesus proclaimed his mission. How are you carrying on that mission today? Ponder the possibility of being a deacon, priest, brother or sister. (Luke 1:1, 4:14-21) **Pray for vocations. To find out more, visit**

[www.vocationbrisbane.com](http://www.vocationbrisbane.com) or call 1300 133 544 OR

**Scan the QR code**

**Follow us on socials @vocationbrisbane**



*Dear God,  
Help us to start each day with kindness, seeing the value in every person. May our actions reflect compassion and empathy, strengthening our bonds and uplifting those around us. Guide us to create a world where we all thrive together in Your love and grace.*

*Amen.*