



St John's Wood/The Gap Parish Bulletin

Vol 5, Issue 04

2 February 2025



THE PRESENTATION of the LORD

First Reading: [Mal 3:1-4](#)

The Lord whom you seek will come to his temple.

Second Reading: [Hebrews 2:14-18](#)

He had to be made like us in all things.

Gospel: [Luke 2:22-40](#)

My eyes have seen your saving power.

THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL REFLECTION:

A CHILD TO LIGHT UP THE WORLD

Have you ever wondered what God looks like? Various images might come to mind, but why not turn to the person next to you who is made in the image and likeness of God? But, what if God looks like this baby? A child whose crying wakes us and worries us at moments as we hold them close, a child who depends on us for life.



Forty days after Christmas, Mary and Joseph travel to Jerusalem, where she is to present herself and her child, as the Law required. But there, in the Temple, something unexpected happens. They are amazed at what Simeon and Anna have to say about their baby, but it's not clear to them what it might mean – how could it be? – because God's ways often upend our way of doing things.

Before he utters his prophetic words, Simeon takes this baby in his arms and gives praise to God. That's what we're asked to do: to take Him in our arms, take God to heart, and give thanks. But often we're not too sure about this. We're open to it, but we hesitate, and Simeon reveals why, when he speaks of Him as being rejected by many in Israel and of a sword piercing Mary's soul.

Perhaps we find it difficult to imagine His birth and His death at the same time. Indeed, we may prefer to put any thought of the cross out of our minds for a while and think fondly of the baby in his crib or his mother's arms.

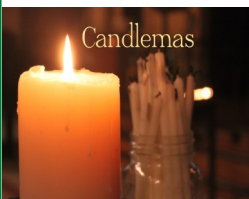
Of course, none of us is anticipating grief, but when grief enters our lives, how to respond? As the aunt of a baby who died soon after birth once said, "It's tough to believe that we will emerge from the darkness." Later she reflected, "In each of us we harbour both the living and the dying Christ." Recalling her words on first seeing her niece – "You are so beautiful. I love you so much" – she realised that's what God says to us ... always.

Taking to heart her words, when we hear of the Lord suddenly entering his Temple, not in power and might, as in the first reading, but in weakness and need as a baby, we see in this child a light to enlighten the world.

This child is our salvation. So today, which is also known as Candlemas Day, we might light a candle and give thanks for His coming amongst us. For He comes to free us from our fear of death, as the second reading says, so that, in time, we may find ourselves sharing the gift of His life with others. We're invited to take Him into our hearts and accompany Him as He grows in maturity, wisdom and grace.

Whatever the future holds, God is with us.

Damian Coleridge © Majellan Media 2025



TWO-MINUTE HOMILY

Presentation of the Lord

Dcn Ivan Ortiz



WATCH NOW

Forty days after Christmas we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, when Joseph and Mary take the child Jesus to the temple. [Watch now.](#)

Recently Deceased

Ben Affonso

Anniversary

Maurice De Silva, Joe Tracey, Ron & Joy Hambleton, Peter Stevenson, Dawn Jenkins

Sick

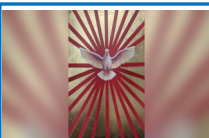
Peter Hadley, Jim Johnson, Mike McAuliffe, Dorothea Feodoroff, Kathleen Cosgrove, Robert Minns, Tim chen chen zuo Zu, Mary Thomas, Antonio Ferrante, Deborah Austin, Lorraine Stevens, Carol Black, Moira De Silva, Juliana Ryman, Lorna McConnachie, Margaret Sullivan, Bernie Knapp, Mary Davidson, Val Bonney, 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



THE JUBILEE OF ARTISTS

Catholics are being invited to reflect on the importance of art and artists, as the Church marks the Jubilee of Artists from February 15-18. Source: *ACBC Media Blog*. **The Jubilee of**

Artists is one of dozens of major events under the banner of the Jubilee year, which has the theme "Pilgrims of Hope".

As part of the celebrations, the National Liturgical Architecture and Art Council – an expert advisory body to the Bishops Commission for Liturgy of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference – has issued an "Invitation to Artists". The Invitation to Artists can be found at the Australian Catholic Liturgical Art website [An Invitation To Artists – Australian Catholic Liturgical Art](#).

| Day/Date | Liturgy | Mass Times | Venue |
|-------------------------|--|---------------------------|-----------|
| Monday 03/02/2025 | Weekday, Ord Time 4 | 9am | Mater Dei |
| Wednesday 05/02/2025 | St Agatha, virgin, martyr | 9am | SPC |
| Thursday 06/02/2025 | St Paul Miki & companions martyrs | 9am | SPC |
| Friday 7/02/2025 | Weekday, Ord Time 4 | 9am-Anointing Mass | Mater Dei |
| Saturday 08/02/2025 | FIFTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME | 5.30pm | Mater Dei |
| Sunday 09/02/2025 | | 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]

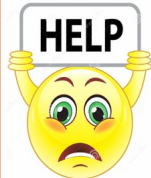
The morning starts at 7am with the traditional cooked breakfast and coffee and concludes at 1pm. The location of the Gathering is the Parish Hall at Saint Peter Chanel, 41 Chaprowe Rd, The Gap. The cost is \$25 and please RSVP Mike on 0459 992 228 before 19 February for catering purposes.

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

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 Anthony Odionyenfea

Parish Priest

E: odionyenfea@bne.catholic.net.au

P: 3300 6099

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 Chris & Ron on Monday 3rd February. Contact the parish office for further details.

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





**PLEASE SIGN UP NOW!
TIME IS RUNNING OUT**
Please register your family on Flocknote so you don't miss any communications from the Parish Office.

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>

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 5-10minutes 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.

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

SOMETHING FOR A LAUGH



There was an old couple ... they noticed that they were getting more and more forgetful and decided to go to the doctor. The doctor told them to start writing things down so they wouldn't forget. They went home and the old woman told her husband to bring her a bowl of ice cream. "She said, "You might want to write this down.

He said, "No, I remember that you wanted a bowl of ice cream.

So the wife told her husband that she wanted a bowl of ice cream with whipped cream. "Write that down," she said to him.

"No, no, I remember: you want a bowl of ice cream with whipped cream," he said again.

Then the old woman said she wanted a bowl of ice cream with whipped cream and a cherry on top. She said to her husband, "Write that down.

Again he said, "No, I understand. You want a bowl of ice cream with whipped cream and a cherry on top."

He went to get the ice cream and spent an unusually long time in the kitchen, over 30 minutes.

He comes to his wife and hands her a plate of bacon and eggs.

The old woman looks at the plate for a while, then looks at her husband and asks, "Where's the toast?"



Enjoy your week ahead.....

Tuesday is World Cancer Day. Cancer is an insidious disease. It's estimated about one in five people will develop some sort of cancer in their lifetime. I lost a brother to it seven months ago and a cousin to breast cancer thirty-five years ago. My brother was sixty and my cousin just twenty-eight. The only consolation was they were surrounded by family and everyone had an opportunity to say goodbye.

It is heart breaking to see loved ones suffer and fight the good fight until their bodies can take no more.

The World Cancer Day theme is *United by Unique* and the event aims to 'place people at the centre of care and their stories at the heart of the conversation'.

As the official website says, "Every experience with cancer is unique and it will take all of us, united, to create a world where we look beyond the disease and see the person before the patient. This World Cancer Day, let's come together to rewrite the future of cancer care, one where the needs of people and communities come first."

More details about World Cancer Day are available at <https://www.worldcancerday.org/>

If you have a family member or friend who is battling cancer, maybe reach out to them in the week ahead. It could be a phone call or a simple text message with the words, 'I'm thinking of you'. A few choice words can make all the difference. Sourced from *Majellan Media*

FINDING STRENGTH IN LOVE AND HOPE

"Cancer pushed me to see what's really important in life, and I learned to cherish every moment."

~ A cancer survivor ~

Families dealing with a cancer diagnosis face a flood of emotions. Fear, apprehension and vulnerability change the way you live each day, but in the middle of it all, you find strength through the love you share and the hope you hold on to.

Prayer brings comfort and peace, not just to the person with cancer, but to everyone in the family. It offers a sense of hope and calm in the middle of uncertainty, helping them navigate the difficult emotions and challenges that come with treatment. For the individual, prayer can be a source of strength and courage, while for the family, it becomes a way to feel connected, supported and uplifted. In those quiet moments, it creates a space for reflection and resilience, giving everyone the ability to face the tough days with renewed determination. Life changes in unexpected ways, but cancer can also bring families closer. In those difficult times, you find new ways to be there for each other and that love makes you strong. Remember, you are not alone, together with your loved ones, there is always hope for better days ahead.

Dear Lord, give us the courage to face the challenges before us and the wisdom to know we are never alone. Be our strength today and always. Amen



SING A NEW SONG: HOW WE MIGHT NAME GOD INTO THE FUTURE

This evening brings together a new setting of the entitled **Mass of the**

Ascension with other

pieces of music seeking to name God

through song in ways that help young

people to pray. The intent is to voice

God through music

that the generations

of the future might

resonate with. At sixty

years since the close

of the Second Vatican

Council, we are invited

to revisit the hopes

and dreams of the

Church in relation to

its prayer-life.

Date: Thursday 29 May 2025

Time: 6 - 7.30pm

Venue:

St Stephen's Cathedral, Brisbane

Organisers

Maeve Louise Heaney VDMF, Xavier Centre for the Theological Formation, Michael Jones, Villanova College and Anthony Young, St Laurence's College in collaboration with St Stephen's Cathedral, Brisbane Catholic Education, Religious Institute Schools Holy Spirit Seminary, and Liturgy Brisbane.

Register to attend



Follow the link to register or scan the QR code:
forms.office.com/r/VQWgYeiilO



Associate Professor Maeve Louise Heaney VDMF

is a consecrated member of the Verbum Dei Community and Xavier Chair for Theological Formation at Australian Catholic University. A theologian, musician and composer who specialises and researchers theological aesthetics, music, spirituality, ministry and leadership.

Archbishop Mark has a message for you

Once Australia Day is behind us it feels as if summer is finally over and the working year can begin in earnest. Australia has been called the Land of the Long Weekend, but it's really the Land of the Long Summer, beginning after Melbourne Cup and finishing with Australia Day. Christmas adds a touch of frenzy in the middle, but for the rest it's sabbath, sun and sport. The sense that down-time is over is aggravated by the return to school which, apart from anything else, means more traffic on the road in the morning and afternoon. Parents of course breathe a sigh of relief. Sabbath, a time of rest, is a basic law on human life. Human beings aren't machines. We need time-out. Even God had a rest after the six days of creation. It's not always easy to get the balance right between rest and work, but it's a key part of a happy and peaceful life. The Italians speak of *dolce far niente*, the sweet doing of nothing. But they also say, *Buon lavoro*, work well. So *Buon lavoro* as we bid farewell to summer.

A vocation View Presentation of the Lord - C/1

Like Simeon, we should listen to God's call and allow the Holy Spirit to guide us as we serve with faith and purpose. **Pray for vocations.**

To find out more, call 1300 133 544

