



St John's Wood/The Gap Parish Bulletin

Vol 5, Issue 05

9 February 2025



FIFTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: [Is 6:1-8](#)

Here am I! Send me.

Second Reading: [1 Cor 15:1-11](#)

I preach what they preach, and this is what you believe.

Gospel: [Luke 5:1-11](#)

They left everything and followed him.

THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL REFLECTION:

THE JOURNEY OF DISCIPLESHIP

In this week's gospel, we witness the all-too-familiar story of Jesus by the Sea of Galilee calling Simon Peter and other fisherfolk to join him in his mission.

Unlike similar call stories in Mark (1:16-20) and Mathew (4:18-22), the journey to discipleship in Luke is not a single moment of decisive conversion but rather a gradual process, marked by repeated encounters, personal challenges, and an evolving understanding of Jesus' identity. By the time we encounter Simon Peter in this passage, he has already had several meetings with Jesus. Earlier, Jesus performed miracles in Peter's hometown of Capernaum (Lk 4:31-37), healing many who came to Peter's house (4:40-41), including Peter's mother-in-law (Lk 4:38-39).

Peter and his colleagues may have been curious about this miracle worker from Nazareth. However, curiosity alone was not enough to prompt them to abandon their lives and livelihoods. In this later encounter by the lake, Peter and his companions still engaged in their work, weary from an unfruitful night of fishing, are still rooted in the security of their familiar lives.

Jesus enters Peter's boat and asks him to "put out into the deep" (Lk 5:4) which, in Luke is probably meant to be read as both a physical and a spiritual quest. The depth of the lake symbolises a deeper dive into trust and faith, a willingness to venture beyond comfort.

The miraculous catch that follows is not only a sign of Jesus' power but also a revelation for Peter, who, "seized with astonishment" (Lk 5:9), falls to his knees and acknowledges his own unworthiness. This response signifies a **transformative moment**, one in which Peter's initial curiosity is challenged by the overwhelming presence of the sacred in Jesus.

This passage reminds us that discipleship often requires repeated encounters with the sacred presence in our lives. Each encounter **deepens the call**, drawing us from curiosity to faith and, eventually, to a committed life of discipleship. It is easy to think that a single moment of conviction or inspiration will suffice to sustain a life of faith.

However, Peter's journey suggests that a faithful response to Jesus is nurtured over time, with each encounter inviting us to trust more deeply and let go of our reservations. The call to "leave everything and follow" (Lk 5:11) becomes possible only when Peter has experienced both Jesus' authority and his compassion in a personal and transformative way.

In our own lives, we may find that discipleship also unfolds through a series of **invitations to trust, each one a step deeper into relationship with Jesus**. We might be drawn to the message of Jesus through curiosity, but it is through ongoing encounters—moments of insight, challenge, or comfort—that we grow into a life of committed discipleship.

Like Peter and his fellow fisherfolk, we come to realise that following Jesus is not merely **a call to faith but a call to transformation**. We are invited to leave behind the life we know, trusting in the new purpose Jesus reveals, one encounter at a time.

Ian J Elmer © Majellan Media 2025



[Readings and Commentaries](#)

PRAYING with CHILDREN
SUNDAY LITURGY

TWO-MINUTE REFLECTION

Fifth
Sunday in
Ordinary Time

Dcn Ivan and Liliana Ortiz



WATCH NOW

When you feel you are not worthy or uncertain of where you are going, open your heart and listen to the voice of Jesus that says, do not be afraid. [Watch now.](#)

Recently Deceased

Anniversary

Stefan Golebiowski, 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

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!

Day/Date	Liturgy	Mass Times	Venue
Monday 10/02/2025	St Scholastica, virgin	9am	Mater Dei
Wednesday 12/02/2025	Weekday, Ord Time 5	9am	SPC
Thursday 13/02/2025	Weekday, Ord Time 5	9am-School Mass	SPC
Friday 14/02/2025	Sts Cyril, monk, & Methodius, bishop	9am	Mater Dei
Saturday 15/02/2025	SIXTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME	5.30pm	Mater Dei
Sunday 16/02/2025		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.



FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION PROGRAM

PARENT INFORMATION EVENING

Communion is the third of our Initiation Sacra-

ments. The Sacramental Policy of the Archdiocese of Brisbane states *“in the year when children turn nine (Year Four), they are welcomed to the Lord’s Table and receive Holy Communion for the first time”*.

Children may receive Holy Communion for the first time at any age after this, but they **must be baptised and confirmed** before they prepare for and receive their First Communion.

We are beginning our parish preparation program for the celebration of First Communion with a **PARENT INFORMATION EVENING**.

WHEN: Thursday, February 13th

WHERE: St Peter Chanel Church

TIME: 7pm – 8pm

If you are unable to attend, please make contact with the Parish Office.

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 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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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

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Majella Deegan

Sacramental Program Coordinator

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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 Brian & Bernadette on Monday 10th 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>

PROMULGATION OF THE SYNOD24 ACTION PLANS



In response to the two highly successful SYNOD24 sessions in September and October 2024, Archbishop Mark Coleridge has promulgated the SYNOD24 Action Plans. Honouring the journey we have all been on since 2019, these 50 actions give clear guidance on how we, as the Archdiocese of Brisbane, can implement the Australian Plenary Council Decrees. This is a significant milestone for us all to celebrate, as the Archbishop explains in his introduction, "this is a document not just for some. It is for everyone; and I urge all parishes, communities, agencies and individuals to read and reflect upon the action plans and to be as creative as possible in implementing them." To download your copy of the SYNOD24 Act ion Plans: Implementing the Plenary Council Decrees, please visit www.aobsynod2024.com

SOMETHING FOR A LAUGH

Angelina Lupo decided to visit the gravesite of her late husband, Vincent, after Mass. Her retired criminal husband had been dead just one month, so Angelina thought it was time to say a prayer at his gravesite. But when Angelina arrived at the cemetery, she couldn't find her hubby's resting place. Finally, she came across a grounds keeper who ushered her into a small room where the records were kept. Poring over maps and lists of the deceased, he turned to the widow and said, "I can't find any record of a Vincent Lupo buried here. The closest I can find is an Angelina Lupo." "That's him," she cried. "He always put everything in my name."



😊😊😊😊 Enjoy your week ahead

WORLD DAY OF THE SICK 11 February

MESSAGE OF THE HOLY FATHER

**"Hope does not disappoint"
(Rom 5:5),
but strengthens us in times of trial"**



Dear brothers and sisters,

We are celebrating the 33rd World Day of the Sick in the Jubilee Year 2025, in which the Church invites us to become "pilgrims of hope". The word of God accompanies us and offers us, in the words of Saint Paul, an encouraging message: "Hope does not disappoint" (Rom 5:5); indeed, it strengthens us in times of trial.

These are comforting words, but they can also prove perplexing, especially for those who are suffering. How can we be strong, for example, when our bodies are prey to severe, debilitating illnesses that require costly treatment that we may not be able to afford? How can we show strength when, in addition to our own sufferings, we see those of our loved ones who support us yet feel powerless to help us? In these situations, we sense our need for a strength greater than our own. We realize that we need God's help, his grace, his Providence, and the strength that is the gift of his Spirit (cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1808).

Let us stop for a moment to reflect on how God remains close to those who are suffering in three particular ways: through *encounter*, *gift* and *sharing*. To read more:

<https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2025/01/27/250127f.html>

THE IMPORTANCE OF FAITH

The saints are an important part of our Catholic faith and our Christian journey. One such saint is Bernadette Soubirous, who at the age of fourteen saw the Blessed Virgin at a grotto in Lourdes, France.



On February 11, 1858, the teenager was collecting firewood near a grotto when she said the Virgin Mary first appeared to her.

As was the situation with the three children at Fatima in Portugal almost sixty years later, authorities at first refused to accept that she was telling the truth. However, after intense questioning and with Bernadette refusing to change her story, the local clergy finally agreed that she had seen the Virgin Mary.

Bernadette, who was canonised in 1933, said the apparition appeared to her eighteen times.

Throughout the centuries those who have witnessed the Virgin Mary have had a few things in common. They have come from humble beginnings and struggled with poor health. Despite their meagre circumstances, they have also shared a strong faith in God.

Today, Lourdes is the church's most famous Marian shrine and pilgrimage site with thousands of people travelling there each year to pray and seek divine help with their ailments. Lourdes, like other Marian sites, offers the faithful hope of a better future and eternal life.

Sourced from Majellan Media

ANNIVERSARY OF NATIONAL APOLOGY DAY

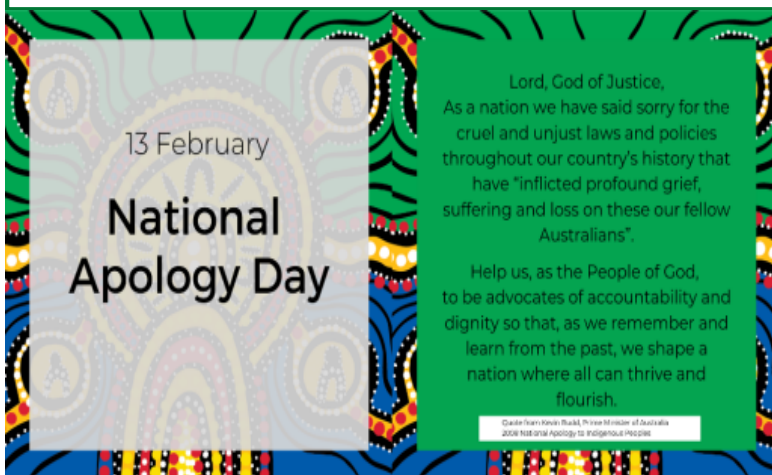
Each year, 13 February offers an important time to reflect on how generations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples have been affected, and continue to be affected, by the past policies of the Australian Government and the ongoing impacts of this on the health and wellbeing of First Nations People.

On this day in 2008, Kevin Rudd (then Prime Minister) made a formal apology to First Nations people and the Stolen Generations. Why was the National Apology so important? The National Apology was an historic acknowledgement of the wrongs done to the Stolen Generations. It was a significant step towards building a respectful new relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

The impact of the Apology is evidence of the importance of historical acceptance, which is one of the five dimensions we use to describe and measure reconciliation in our Reconciliation Action Plans.

Historical acceptance is not just about accepting and understanding our shared history and its ongoing impacts? It's about making sure that Australia does what is necessary to ensure past wrongs are never repeated. The Bringing Them Home report found that forced removal has had life-long and profoundly destructive consequences for those taken.

These policies continued right up until the 1970s and many of those affected by the trauma are still alive today. Stolen children lost connection to family, land, culture and language and were taken to homes and institutions where they were often abused, neglected and unloved. The mothers, fathers and family who were left behind also suffered from the loss.



13 February
National Apology Day

Lord, God of Justice,
As a nation we have said sorry for the cruel and unjust laws and policies throughout our country's history that have "inflicted profound grief, suffering and loss on these our fellow Australians".

Help us, as the People of God, to be advocates of accountability and dignity so that, as we remember and learn from the past, we shape a nation where all can thrive and flourish.

Quote from Kevin Rudd, Prime Minister of Australia
2008 National Apology to Indigenous Peoples

A vocation View Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time – C/1

Holiness is a gift of God. Open yourself to the gift. When God calls, be ready to respond: "Here I am, send me!" (Isaiah 6:1-2, 3-8) **Pray for vocations.**



Scan the QR code to find out more, or call 1300 133 544
www.vocationbrisbane.com
Follow us on socials @vocationbrisbane



ST JAMES COLLEGE, SPRING HILL is a progressive multicultural Catholic Coeducational Secondary College for Years 5 - 12 in the Edmund Rice tradition. The college reintroduced Year 5 and Year 6 in 2023 and welcomes students from all backgrounds and abilities so they can flourish in their learning and realise their potential. **Bursaries available.**

ENROLMENT INFORMATION EVENING on Monday, 17 February from 6:00pm. ENQUIRIES to Maria Young, Enrolments Officer, MYoung@stjamescollege.qld.edu.au, 3230 8600. Register at [JTA.link/SJC](https://jta.link/SJC).

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 researches theological aesthetics, music, spirituality, ministry and leadership.

We're proudly supporting

Safer Internet Day

11 February 2025



www.eSafetyCommissioner.gov.au

Safer Internet Day is a global day of action dedicated to raising awareness of online safety. The Office of Safeguarding Services is proud to support #SaferInternetDay on Tuesday 11 February 2025, and join eSafety Office to help make the internet a safer, more positive place.

For more information, please visit www.eSafety.gov.au/SI On this page, you'll find everything you need to make online safety visible in your school, workplace, home or community.



SCAN ME