



St John's Wood/The Gap Parish Bulletin

Vol 5, Issue 07

23 February 2025



7TH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: [1 Sam 26:2,7-9,12-13,22-23](#)

The Lord I kind and merciful.

Second Reading: [1 Cor 15:45-49](#)

Just as we have carried the earthly image, we must carry the heavenly image.

Gospel: [Luke 6:27-38](#)

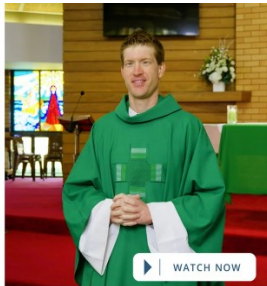
Be merciful as your Father is merciful.



TWO-MINUTE HOMILY

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fr Bradley Davies



Let us be ready to play whatever role we are called to play, in assisting our enemies, and everyone, to strive for holiness. [Watch now.](#)

Recently Deceased

Anniversary

Errol Davis, Fred Price, Beatrice & Kevin McMahon

Sick

Heiko Ertel, Peter Hadley, Jim Johnson, Mike McAuliffe, 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:

NO SUCH THING AS TOO MUCH LOVE

In the Book of Samuel, we find two mortal enemies, David and Saul, in conflict. Saul is the anointed King of Judah and David has been anointed to succeed him. What happens next is an all too familiar human story. David is jealous of Saul's power; Saul is suspicious of David's motives.

How often family feuds and human relations take on these negative forces of jealousy and suspicion, resulting in the breakdown of relationships. We also see this operating at the international level between ethnic groups and nations, resulting in open conflict and even warfare.

To return to the story of King Saul and the yet-to-be appointed King David, there is a glimmer of light.

Previously, in a rage, Saul had attempted to kill David by throwing a javelin at him! In this week's story, David has the opportunity to kill Saul, but relents. Choosing not to kill your enemy is a good first step! Even here we note David's motives are not entirely pure. He acts partly out of guilt, fearing divine anger if he was to kill one of God's anointed.

However, fear of God has its role as a pathway to a more authentic and loving life.

Let us now compare this approach to the words of Jesus in the gospel: "Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you". At a logical level, Jesus' reasoning is difficult to dispute: "If you only love those who love you, what thanks can you expect?" No, says Jesus, you must overcome all those narrow views of love and forgiveness: "Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate". Moreover, "don't judge others, don't condemn, always forgive".

We may complain that Jesus is asking too much of us! Surely all this love and forgiveness will be seen as pure weakness, leading us to being eaten up, spewed out and trodden underfoot by our enemies! Yet, something within us knows we must break the cycle of violence and vengeance if we are to achieve peace, harmony and goodwill among people and nations. This is the way of the gospel as lived and proclaimed by Jesus.

This is also the centre-point of Pope Francis' encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* (2020), where Francis uses the parable of the Good Samaritan to insist that love must go beyond tribe, family and nation to include stranger, migrant and refugee. We also note Francis' joint statement with Grand Imam Ahmad Al-Tayeb in Abu Dhabi (2019) which acknowledged that "God has created all human beings equal in rights, duties and dignity, and has called them to live together as brothers and sisters".

In today's world, 'loving your enemy' is best expressed in terms of commitment to dialogue and mutual respect among peoples of diverse religions and cultures. This enables us to open our hearts to become people of love, service and compassion.

This way, we allow God's love to enter our lives and world, mindful of Jesus' words: **"The amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back!"**

Gerard Hall SM © Majellan Media 2025



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 24/02/2025	Weekday, Ord Time 7	9am	Mater Dei
Wednesday 26/02/2025	Weekday, Ord Time 7	9am	SPC
Thursday 27/02/2025	Weekday, Ord Time 7	9am	SPC
Friday 28/02/2025	Weekday, Ord Time 7	9am	Mater Dei
Saturday 01/03/2025	EIGHTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME	5.30pm	Mater Dei
Sunday 02/03/2025		8.00am (Fr Stephen Byrnes)	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.

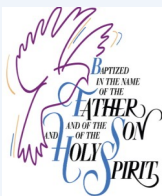
CHURCH FLOWERS FOR SPC



Church Flower Helpers Needed at St Peter Chanel

Do you have a love of flowers and some time to spare? The members of the Flower Team at St Peter Chanel would like to welcome some new volunteers. **No experience** is necessary just a love of flowers. Help will be given to all new members. Please contact Kay Sullivan by email – kaysullivan41@hotmail.com or phone 33001702

BAPTISMS THIS WEEKEND



On Saturday we welcome through the Sacrament of Baptism at **St Peter Chanel** at 11am we welcome Callie daughter of Elle & Chris, Claudia and Chloe daughters of Amanda & Daniel, and on **Sunday at Mater Dei** at 11am we welcome Charles son of Kellie & James, Jackson son of Michelle & David, Alexis son of Renee & Jeffrey, Phoebe daughter of Renee & Jeffrey. We congratulate the families and ask that you keep them in your prayers.

SPECIAL MINISTERS OF COMMUNION

Calling all special ministers of communion and any parishioners who wish to join this ministry. There will be 2 workshops for training and a refresher for those who are currently ministers. **St Peter Chanel on Sunday March 9 at 4pm Mater Dei on Sunday March 16 after 9.30am mass.**

There will be a commissioning at all masses the weekend after training eg 22/23 March. No Blue card required. Please let the parish office know if you wish to join this ministry.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAM 2025

For children in **Year 4 and above** who have been **Baptised and Confirmed**

WORKSHOP A

Wednesday 26th February 4-5pm at **St Peter Chanel.**

Thursday 27th February Mater Dei Church at 4-5pm
OR 6.30-7.30pm

First Holy Communion will be celebrated on:

Weekends: 5th/6th April, 13th/13th April & 26th/27th April and 10th/11th May.

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 Odionyene

Parish Priest

E: odionyene@bne.catholic.net.au

P: 0437406047

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 Pushpa on Monday 24th February. Contact the parish office for further details.

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



EVER YOUNG GROUP



Our group will be meeting Thursday 27th February at 10:00am. We gather in the SPC church hall for morning tea. There is no age limit! Please contact Lyn Dudgeon if you have any enquiries on 33001951.

FOR THE YOUTH IN OUR PARISH

By way of introduction, my name is Samuel Chamberlain and I am the Queensland Director of the Australian Catholic Students Association (ACSA).

ACSA will be hosting an upcoming event called the Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati Oration. Details of the talk can be found in the links below.

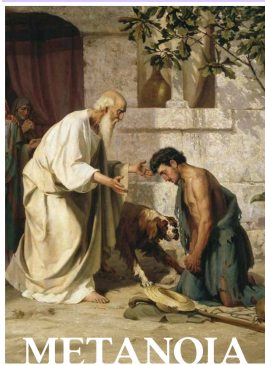
This is the link to the Facebook Event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/3481968372110992>

This is the trybooking link: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1344816>

Lenten Resources

Archdiocesan Ministries has developed a new Lenten reflection resource for the 2025 Jubilee Year, "Pilgrims of Hope", called *Start Anew in Christ*.

This resource is designed with both individuals and groups in mind, offering simple, easy-to-follow prompts for small group leaders to use each Sunday during Lent. Each weekday includes a short scripture text, a reflection upon it, as well as some thoughts to provoke prayer and discussion. **Cost \$5**



This Lent, embark on a journey of *metanoia*—a transformative change of heart inspired by the Gospels. Let this beautifully designed, 76-page, full-colour companion guide your spiritual renewal through daily reflections, Sunday readings and reflections, spiritual direction, prayers, and group discussion questions. The **Cost is \$10** and both books are available in limited numbers from the Parish Office.

SOMETHING FOR A LAUGH

A man goes into a chemist and asks the pharmacist if he can have something for hiccups.

The pharmacist promptly reaches out and slaps the man's face.

"What did you do that for?" the man asks, rubbing his reddening cheek.

"Well, you don't have the hiccups anymore, do you?" asked the pharmacist with a smile.

"No, but my wife out in the car still does!"



Enjoy your week ahead



*"Prayer is the most powerful means we have on earth to come closer to God."
~ St. Padre Pio ~*

In tough times, arming yourself with prayer means choosing to lean on God rather than your own strength. It's taking a moment to pause, breathe and ask for wisdom and courage. Prayer brings clarity, helping you see the situation with fresh eyes. It reminds you that God's guidance is always available. In moments of doubt, prayer strengthens your spirit, filling you with peace and assurance. It helps release worry and shifts your focus from fear to hope. Prayer encourages you to embrace faith, knowing that God is always present and at work, even when you can't see it. It's not always about changing your circumstances but about shifting your perspective, allowing you to face challenges with a renewed sense of strength. With each prayer, you are reminded that God's wisdom and love are guiding you through every situation, enabling you to step forward with courage and trust.



Lord, thank You for Your constant love and grace. Help us to live with compassion, serve with humility and walk with faith. Let us reflect Your goodness in everything we do. Amen.

MESSAGE FROM SAFEGUARDING

Ola! The Archdiocese of Brisbane is a very diverse organisation dealing with a number of different catholic communities (in excess of 30!). Our workplaces are diverse, our schools are diverse and our parishes are most certainly diverse.

For this reason the Office for Safeguarding Services has just released a suite of Multilingual Safeguarding Resources including How to Make a Complaint, the Safe Behaviour Code (with a child-friendly version), the Archdiocesan Safeguarding Commitment Statement, the Archdiocesan Safeguarding Policy and STOpline Service details.

The resources are available in 15 different languages such as Arabic, Chinese, French, Hindi, Indonesian, Portuguese and Thai...to name but a few.

The resources may be found at this link. <https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/safeguarding/safeguarding-resources/#multilingual-safeguarding-resources>.

NOTE: The translation may not be perfect...sometimes things do get lost in translation. If any budding linguists out there spot any GLARING errors, please let us know by emailing safeguarding@bne.catholic.net.au.

COMMUNIONING MASS FOR CRAIG AND SAM

Last Thursday night NET held the Commissioning Mass at the Twelve Apostles Church for all the missionaries heading off to their Parishes and Diocese for the year. Craig and Sam are so grateful for all of your prayers and financial support for their time of ministry and look forward to updating you throughout the year on the work they are doing. Please keep them both in your prayers as journey through the next year. The parish is blessed to have you both as shining lights for the youth in the church. We look forward to following your story. Bless you both!!!



JUBILEE OF DEACONS

The Jubilee of Deacons has a theme: 'Deacons: Joyful Witnesses of Hope', reminding us that Deacons help bring the

hope and love of Christ to a world which has lost hope. The origins of the ministry of Deacon can be traced back to the days of the New Testament, and were well-established early in the life of the Church. From the earliest decades, ordination by the laying on of hands was conferred on deacons, presbyters and bishops, these orders being three grades of one sacrament of Holy Orders. Over the years, however, as the priesthood grew in prominence, the diaconate declined. Eventually, in the Latin Church, the diaconate became a mere formality on the path to priesthood. After Vatican II the diaconate was restored as a permanent order and is open to both married and single men.

To find out more use the link below:

[Jubilee_of_Deacons.pdf](https://www.archdioceseofbrisbane.org.au/jubilee-of-deacons)



ARCHDIOCESE OF BRISBANE



**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 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>

Internationally Renowned Composer, Theologian & Recording Artist

TONY ALONSO

Brisbane - May 2025



**I Will Lift My Eyes –
An Evening Concert
with Tony Alonso**

All are invited to an uplifting concert by internationally renowned USA

Catholic composer & recording artist **Tony Alonso**. Tony will be joined by St Laurence's College students and a Combined Parishes Choir.

- 6.30 pm – 8:00 pm, Friday 16 May 2025
- St Laurence's College, South Brisbane • \$20.00.

To purchase tickets: Click [Tony Alonso Tickets](#) or email liturgy@liturgybrisbane.net.au



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

Jesus helps our faith be fruitful; the amount we measure out is the amount we are given back. How can we generously follow the call of Christ today? (Luke 6:27-38) **Pray for vocations.**



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

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2025 MARCH FORWARD FOR ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS

#MarchForward
#IWD2025



Archdiocese of Brisbane and Catholic Mission invite you to celebrate the difference women are making in diverse areas of mission.

Date: Monday 10th March 2025
Time: 10:00am - 11:00am
Venue: Francis Rush Centre,
277 Elizabeth St, Brisbane

A formation session for students will be held in the Hanly Room from 11:00am - 12:00pm.

Come and be inspired by the guest panelists present on the day.

Please RSVP by 28th Feb 2025.

