



# St John's Wood/The Gap Parish Bulletin

Vol 5, Issue 08

2 March 2025



## 8TH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

**First Reading:** [Sirach 27:4-7](#)

Do not praise someone before they have spoken.

**Second Reading:** [1 Cor 15:54-58](#)

Victory has been given to us through Jesus Christ.

**Gospel:** [Luke 6:39-45](#)

A person speaks from what is in his heart.

## THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL REFLECTION:

### THE SPOTLIGHT ON OUR OWN HEARTS

This week's first reading offers the kind of pithy advice that would have been common in the ancient world. In this case, the author of Sirach, or Ecclesiasticus as also called, encourages the reader to test the words and actions of others. This way, we avoid looking foolish for endorsing someone with egregious character flaws.



This is good advice and, at first glance, in the gospel reading it seems that Jesus is encouraging his disciples to do the same. He even uses the same visual metaphors of examining the fruit (words and actions) to determine the true quality of a tree (the inner character of a person).

Jesus agrees that a person reveals their inner spiritual state through their words and actions. However, he spins this advice around towards the people he is addressing. Instead of measuring the character of *others* by interrogating *their* thoughts and actions, Jesus is pointing us towards *our own capacity for self-deception*.

Jesus immediately turns the spotlight on our own hearts. He exposes how our attempts to justify our own selfish desires as morally good do as much good as trying to pick grapes from brambles.

However, because it requires us to thoroughly examine and change our own hearts and minds, we often try to look for other ways to make ourselves seem and feel good. When we do this, we demonstrate in the way that we live that we follow a teacher other than Christ. But, as Jesus explains, there is only one teacher who has conclusively proved, by the fruits of his words and actions, the goodness of his character and teaching. This is why St Paul exhorts us in the second reading to remember that Jesus has won the victory that will make us capable of living God's way.

God works through our humble hearts when we acknowledge how much we need the truth and love that Christ alone brings, and labour to change ourselves accordingly. In this way, we become like the "fully trained disciple" Jesus describes who can fully emulate "his teacher."

What we experience in the day-to-day journey of following Jesus, with the thousands of little corrections that we need to make to stay on course, is God transforming us into the image of his Son.

This work of transformation in this life will be completed in the life to come. St Paul, in the second reading, shows us a glimpse of the kind of people that we will be when our "perishable natures" will "put on imperishability" and our "mortal nature" will "put on immortality".

St Paul exhorts us to keep going with the spiritual introspection and labour that will turn us from brambles into fruitful trees where, in the words of the Psalm, we will "flourish in the courts of our God".

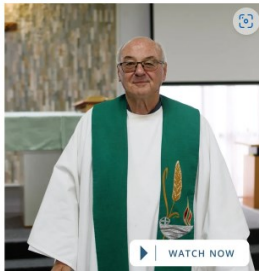
Joseph Doyle © Majellan Media 2025



TWO-MINUTE HOMILY

**Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Fr Wrex Woolnough



WATCH NOW

We all have our blind spots, which is why it is always best when we feel the need to criticise another, to stop and ask where we are coming from. [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



## ASH WEDNESDAY MASS TIMES—5th March

- **9am at St Peter Chanel**  
*(joining us will be the whole school)*
- **Mater Dei at 7pm**

Day/Date	Liturgy	Mass Times	Venue
Monday 03/03/2025	<b>Weekday, Ord Time 7</b>	9am	Mater Dei
Wednesday 05/03/2025	<b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>9am (whole school SPC) 7pm</b>	SPC Mater Dei
Thursday 06/03/2025	<b>Thursday after Ash Wednesday</b>	9am	SPC
Friday 07/03/2025	<b>Friday after Ash Wednesday</b>	9am	Mater Dei
Saturday 08/03/2025	<b>FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT</b>	5.30pm	Mater Dei
Sunday 09/03/2025		8.00am	SPC
		9.30 am (Father Stephen Byrnes)	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](mailto:kaysullivan41@hotmail.com) or phone 33001702 /0423 186 840

#### THANK YOU

menCONNECT had a very successful and inspirational day last Saturday with Fr Ray Chapman. The record number of 55 men appreciated the many prayers and best wishes of the parishioners before and during 'The Gathering'. Men came from across the diocese, and beyond including Too-woomba and even one from Thailand. Please continue to pray for our men.

#### WELCOME TO OUR NEW GROUNDSKEEPER

We would like to welcome John who has joined the Parish Team as groundskeeper. John and his family are part of our parish community so please make him and his family welcome.

#### 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 i.e. 22/23 March. No Blue card required. Please let the parish office know if you wish to join this ministry.**

#### STATIONS OF THE CROSS



The parish would like to invite you to attend the Stations of the Cross that are held every Friday during Lent at Mater Dei commencing at 7.30pm.

We pray that the Holy Spirit strengthens Pope Francis as he remains in a critical, but stable, condition. Join with us as we pray with the whole Church, for Pope Francis' health and leadership.

#### 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 Odionyene

Parish Priest

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

**P:** 0437406047

##### 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 Pushpa on Monday 10th March.

Contact the parish office for further details.

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





**PROJECT  
COMPASSION**

## Project Compassion Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of March 2025

This Lent, we are called to *Unite Against Poverty* through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion. Your generous support this Lenten Season will enable Caritas Australia to provide life-changing support to vulnerable communities in need.



**UNITE  
AGAINST  
POVERTY**  
this Lent

**Please donate today.**

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above.

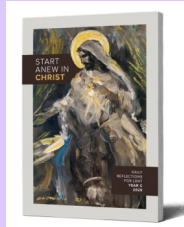
Or online at: [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](https://caritas.org.au/project-compassion)

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we  
*Unite Against Poverty this Lent.*

### 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.



## Turning Over a New Leaf

*"Your life does not get better by chance, it gets better by change."*

*~ Jim Rohn ~*

Seasons change and so do we. A tree doesn't resist when its leaves fall, it trusts that something new will take their place. In the same way, we can let go of what weighs us down – worries, regrets or old habits that no longer serve us.

Turning over a new leaf doesn't always mean making drastic changes. It might be a shift in attitude, a simple act of kindness or the courage to try again. Maybe it's letting go of past mistakes, forgiving ourselves or learning to see challenges as opportunities to grow. Change happens gradually and every small step matters.

We are not bound by our past. Each new day is a fresh beginning, a chance to choose kindness, patience and hope. The trees don't fear change, they stand firm, knowing that new growth will come. We too, can embrace life's seasons with faith and strength. Even in times of uncertainty, we can trust that new opportunities, new joys and new possibilities are ahead.



*Lord, as the seasons change, remind me that change can help me grow. Help me let go of what holds me back and trust new opportunities. May I wake each day ready to learn, to love and to become the person You want me to be. Amen.*



**Palms Australia**

Palms International Volunteering formerly known as Palms Australia invites you to join an intimate group of just eight to twelve travellers for an extraordinary journey that goes far beyond typical tourism.

Our Encounters program; **Timor-Leste from July 8-19, 2025** and **Samoa from 27<sup>th</sup> September to 4<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

At \$3,500, your Encounter includes accommodation, meals, activities, expert guides, visas, and in-country transportation. Reserve your place today by clicking on the link: <https://palms.org.au/encounters/>



### Downs & West Community Support

A ministry of Sisters of Charity Community Care Ltd.  
ABN: 39 093 448 410

Please support the Sisters of Charity stalls at Brookside on the following days:

Winter items: Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June and Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June from 9am – 5pm and Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June from 8.30am to 12pm  
Spring/Christmas stall: Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November and Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November from 9-5 and Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> from 8.30 to 12pm

### SOMETHING FOR A LAUGH

A common problem with smartphones is that when they are locked you often only see a one-sentence message.



It is only fully revealed when you open the phone. My wife recently texted, “I’m leaving you ...” I was horrified. I quickly opened my phone to read more “... after lunch to go shopping with my sister.” Phew!



Enjoy your week ahead.....

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](mailto:liturgy@liturgybrisbane.net.au)



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 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>

**PLEASE NOTE:** All communications from the Parish office including the sending out of the bulletin will be done through Flocknote. If you haven’t registered your family will miss out on receiving important information. This is simply a database and as such is used only for communication purposes. If you have any further queries please contact the Parish office.



Archbishop Mark Coleridge with 10 new seminarians at the annual opening Mass at Holy Spirit Seminary. Please keep them in your prayers so that the Holy Spirit will guide them on their journey to be beacons of light for the church.

### A vocation View

#### Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jesus leads where we need to go. Do not close your eyes, ears or heart to Jesus' plan for your life. (Luke 6:39-45) **Pray for vocations.**



Scan the QR code to find out more, or call 1300 133 544  
[www.vocationbrisbane.com](http://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.

