



St John's Wood/The Gap Parish Bulletin

Vol 5, Issue 11

23 March 2025



THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading: [Ex 3:1-8,13-15](#)

This is what you must say to the children of Israel: I Am has sent me to you.

Second Reading: [1 Cor 10:1-6,10-12](#)

All this that happened to the people of Moses in the desert was written for our benefit.

Gospel: [Luke 13:1-9](#)

Unless you repent you will all perish as they did.



[Readings and Commentaries](#)

PRAYING With CHILDREN
SUNDAY LITURGY

TWO-MINUTE HOMILY

Third Sunday of Lent

Fr Ladu Yanga



This Third Sunday of Lent, Fr Ladu reflects on the story of Moses and encourages us to embrace God's call with faith and obedience. [Watch now.](#)

Anniversary

Bruce Bonney, Edward Newman, Brian Noonan

Sick

Suzanne Black, Beth Kloza, 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, 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:

BEARING FRUIT IN OUR LIVES



You never get a second chance to make a first impression.

I saw these words on a poster in an employment agency I blessed. Yes, so often we judge others, based on first impressions. Once formed, first impressions can be difficult to let go, in order for us to give someone another chance or see them anew. It's not easy to change our opinions or judgements.

Thankfully, God doesn't relate to us in this way. God is "compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy," and offers us many chances and opportunities to change, and to free ourselves from whatever weighs us down or prevents us from living as people of love committed to Christ and His Kingdom. This week's gospel parable illustrates this truth perfectly.

A fig tree requires the right conditions to produce fruit. The tree in the parable remains fruitless after three years. The vineyard owner wants the gardener to cut it down because it's taking up ground that could be put to better use. The hopeful gardener appeals to the owner to leave it for another year, during which time he will "dig round it and manure it." Just as the gardener is patient with the fig tree, so God is patient with us, and gives us many chances to bear fruit in our lives.

The challenge is not to waste the opportunities given to us. We must repent. Jesus warns the people: **"Unless you repent, you will all perish."** Repentance is a central demand of the Good News, and Jesus begins his mission to proclaim the Kingdom with: "Repent and believe the Good news." (Mk 1:15).

Repentance is not focussed on the past, but the future. It's a decision to turn away from where we are and move towards God. To turn away from the darkness in our lives and journey towards the light. To completely change our direction and joyously 'come home' to God. Repentance calls us to leave behind the past and all that has been, and to open our minds and hearts to the person God wants us to be. God's grace will bring us to newness of life.

Sadly, a reluctance to believe that God really loves us, no matter what we've done or where we've been in life, often hinders our willingness to repent and change direction. All too often, our understanding of God is engulfed by fear and anxiety, which trap and bind us from reaching out to God with faith, trust and confidence.

God never gives up on us. Instead, God continually reaches out to us, helping us to become the people that God yearns for us to be. Let's take heart this Lenten season, that God who is compassion and love, is waiting patiently for us, and will transform our repentant hearts, so that the vineyard of our lives will bear.

David J Hore CSsR© Majellan Media 2025

Dear Parishioners,

This is a gentle reminder of our commitment to nominate spirit-filled men and women, cutting across the different cultural backgrounds in our parish, well suited for the leadership role in our parish council. It is a moment of careful discernment.

We shall raise in the coming weeks a nomination form template, both online and at the back of our churches, to that regard. Wishing you all a spirit-filled Lent as you discern whom to nominate. You can nominate yourself or one other parishioner for the role.

Kind regards,

Anthony

Day/Date	Liturgy	Mass Times	Venue
Monday 24/03/2025	Monday of the 3rd week of Lent	9am	Mater Dei
Tuesday 25/03/2025	The ANNUNCIATION of the LORD	9am	SPC
Wednesday 26/03/2025	Wednesday of the 3rd week of Lent	9am	SPC
Thursday 27/03/2025	Thursday of 3rd week of Lent	9am	SPC
Friday 28/03/2025	Friday of the 3rd week of Lent	9am	Mater Dei
Saturday 29/03/2025	FOURTH SUNDAY of LENT	5.30pm	Mater Dei
Sunday 30/03/2025		8.00am (Father Stephen Byrnes)	SPC
		9.30am	Mater Dei
		5.00pm	SPC

PLEASE NOTE: THERE WILL BE A MASS HELD ON TUESDAY 25TH MARCH for The Annunciation of the Lord commencing at 9am at St Peter Chanel Church.

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.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN A MINISTRY AT MATER DEI?

The new rosters for all the Masses at Mater Dei are being prepared for April through to and including September 2025.

If you wish to join the roster for any of the Ministries – Coordinator, Reader, Minister of Communion please contact Annie Kirwan on 0416 192 411 or via email, annie3011@hotmail.com Training and support will be provided. Altar Servers will receive training from Cathy Kruij.



BAPTISMS THIS WEEKEND

On Saturday we welcome through the Sacrament of Baptism at **St Peter Chanel** Harriet daughter of Amanda and Nicholas and Arthur son of Isabel and Harrison. We congratulate the families and ask that you keep them in your prayers.

EVER YOUNG GROUP



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

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.

MINISTERS OF COMMUNION WORKSHOPS

For all special ministers of Communion OR anyone who would like to join this ministry the workshop will now take place on: **Sunday 30 March 4pm at SPC.**

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 Odionyenfe

Parish Priest

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Silvana Geldenhuys

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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 Carmel on Monday 24th March.

Contact the parish office for further details.

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





**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

Third Sunday of Lent
22nd and 23rd of March 2025

Lam is 27 years old from a small village in rural Vietnam who faced significant challenges due to his short stature. Through the I-SHINE program Lam completed a six-month course developing his graphic design skills. He now runs a successful freelance graphic design business from home, serving clients worldwide and earning a steady income.



Photo credit: Caritas Australia

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

Or by calling: 1800 024 413 413.

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



ST VINCENT De PAUL SOCIETY

"The Rosalie Regional Council (RRC) Western Diocese of the St Vincent de Paul Society is seeking volunteers for the following positions; RRC Secretary and

RRC Treasurer. The RRC presidents meet bi monthly, for not more than 1.5 hrs, in the undercroft of The Sacred Heart Parish Office with meetings, planned on the following dates, 10 April 2025 and 12 June 2025. Should you be interested in volunteering it would be greatly appreciated if you could contact the President, Kevin Bray 0418875534 who can provide you with all relevant information."

SOMETHING FOR A LAUGH



An Irishman was flustered at not being able to find a parking space in a large shopping centre car park. He'd circled the centre three times without luck. "Lord," he finally prayed, "I can't stand this. If you find a space up for me, I swear I'll give up drinking me whiskey, and I promise to go to church every Sunday." Suddenly, the clouds parted and the sun shone on an empty parking spot. Without hesitation, the man said, "Never mind, I found one."

😊😊😊😊 Enjoy your week ahead



DATE CLAIMERS:

- Mass Tuesday 25th March—
The Annunciation of the Lord at SPC
- Monday 7th April—
Rite of Reconciliation 7pm
at Mater Dei
- First Holy Communions will be held on the week-ends of 5/6th April, 12/13th April and 26/27th April.

ORGAN WORKSHOPS

The Organ Society of Qld is presenting a series of Workshops during 2025 in churches in different parts of Brisbane, some having a pipe organ and others a digital instrument. The purpose of the Workshops is to assist pianists to understand the organ and develop their technique in playing the instrument and would suit anyone with an interest in playing the organ.

The next Workshop in the north-west suburbs will be held at Mater Dei on Saturday 5th April 10.00am to Noon.

The Workshops are free but advance booking is essential. Please contact the Secretary on rsnisbet@optusnet.com.au

LIVING WITH HARMONY

"Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble."

~ 1 Peter 3:8 ~

Harmony isn't just found in quiet moments, it's in the way we live, work and connect with others.

- It's in a group of friends, each with different opinions, finding joy in a shared conversation instead of arguing over who is right.
 - It's in a family where everyone has their own way of doing things, yet they respect each other's space and choices.
 - It's in a workplace where people lift each other up instead of competing, knowing that success is greater when shared.
 - It's in nature, where the sun, the rain and the earth work together to bring life.
 - It's in a simple smile that softens a difficult day.
- Harmony doesn't mean everything is the same, it means everything finds its place and works together and when we choose understanding, patience and kindness, we help make that happen.

Dear God, the world can seem like it's full of arguments and division. Please help us to bring harmony by choosing kindness instead of anger and compassion instead of judgment. May the way we live show Your love and bring hope and unity to those around us. Amen.

FAMILY MASS AT SPC

Last Sunday the children and their parents from St Peter Chanel School joined the parish community to celebrate Sunday Mass. The teachers did a wonderful job to help the children to participate in the celebration. The children read the prayers of the faithful, took part in the offertory procession and did the readings. The Mass was followed by a BBQ arranged by the SPC school and it was great to have the school and parish communities together. We would like to thank the staff and families who came and made the celebration most enjoyable and we pray that your little lights shine brightly into the future.

God Bless!



Reading the Gospels with Bishop David Walker: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

Bishop David Walker has spent a lifetime reflecting on the Gospels, studying Scripture, and exploring how they guide Christian discipleship. Now, he invites you to join him in a series of enriching discussion on the Gospels.

What to Expect: Weekly Gospel Video Access – FREE

* **Live Online Discussions Every Saturday (4:00 – 5:00 PM AEDT)**

* **Ask Questions, Share Reflections, Seek Clarification**

* **Connect with Like-Minded Catholics**

Schedule:

Mark – March 2025 – 4 Sessions

Matthew – April 2025 – 6 Sessions

Luke – June 2025 – 6 Sessions

John – July 2025 – 6 Sessions

Ideal for **Parish Bible Study Groups** or anyone seeking to deepen their understanding of Scripture.

Sign Up & Stay Notified!

Get weekly reminders and video access before each session.

[Register Now!](#)

ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

Single Working Middle Aged Male seeking Granny Flat to Rent or Room to House Share even if it's only Available Short term, Non Smoker, Cooks Meals But Always Cleans up etc.

Contact Kevin please on +61 435275728 Or Email

k_richardson@live.com.au



RECO RALLY LOURDES HILL COLLEGE,

HAWTHORNE learn more at:

catholiccollectiveorg.au/reco-rally

A vocation View Third Sunday in Lent – C/1

Moses heard God's call from a burning bush. What is your passion, your burning bush? Take time to know what God is sending you to do and be. (Exodus: 3:1-8, 13-15)



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

