



St John's Wood/The Gap Parish Bulletin

Vol 5, Issue 12 30 March 2025



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading: [Joshua 5:9-12](#)

The people of God went to the promised land and there kept the Passover.

Second Reading: [2 Cor 5:17-21](#)

God reconciled us to himself through Christ.

Gospel: [Luke 15:1-3,11-32](#)

Your brother here was dead and has come to life.



[Readings and Commentaries](#)



TWO-MINUTE HOMILY

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Fr Anson Kalathiparambil OSA



WATCH NOW

Christ reveals the heart of God, a Father who does not dwell on our failures but instead celebrates our return and welcomes us back with open arms.

[Watch now.](#)

Deceased

Anthony Peterson, Robert Connelly

Anniversary

Bruce Bonney, Edward Newman, Brian Noonan

Sick

Yvonne Harrision, 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, 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:

TO LOVE EQUALLY

The parable in this week's gospel tells us about the experience of being loved. It is about a father who shares his love equally with both his sons and as they mature into adulthood, he gives them space to make their own decisions.

But the younger son decides he wants to have his own life and so he moves away and becomes disconnected from his father and brother. The oldest son, however, decides to remain loyal and to serve his father. But one day after arriving home after a day working in the fields, he becomes angry after seeing his father embrace his younger brother who has returned home.

It seems unbelievable that his father would welcome the younger sibling because he turned his back on his father and the family home. However, this is where we witness God's mercy which goes beyond our human thoughts and standards. Seeing his younger son coming towards him, his father runs to him, welcoming and hugging him with tremendous joy and love. To his relief, the younger son finds his father is still the same loving and merciful man.

His father can't hide his joy so he throws a party to celebrate his son's return. The younger son feels even more loved by his father than before he left the family property. The oldest son is invited to join the celebrations but refuses and complains that he has served his father loyally all his life but has never been treated like a king. Why would the younger brother be treated like a king when he turned his back on his father? It doesn't make sense!

At this moment he doesn't feel loved even though he experienced his father's care all his life. Both sons at different times fail to see the deepest generosity of their father's heart. The father knows that if they are away and lose contact with him, they will die. They will have no life.

The younger son experienced this scenario which is why his father is so happy when he returns. The elder son, momentarily blinded by envy and jealousy, already has a wonderful life with his father but fails to see this.

Likewise, we are all safe in God's house who loves us so much we have the freedom to make our own decisions. Coming home is really a journey of love. It takes a lot of courage as the younger son showed. The parable also reveals that staying with the father can provide great joy and the fullness of life.

God the Father never changes his love for us.

He is always waiting for us. Let us make the move and go back home to renew our relationship with God the Father, to experience his unconditional love and mercy, and be ready to share God's life with others, especially with the wounded ones.

Sourced from Majellan Media 2025



PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

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 31/03/2025	Monday of the 4th week of Lent	9am	Mater Dei
Wednesday 02/04/2025	Wednesday of the 4th week of Lent	9am	SPC
Thursday 03/04/2025	Thursday of 4th week of Lent	9am	SPC
Friday 04/04/2025	Friday of the 4th week of Lent	9am	Mater Dei
Saturday 05/04/2025	FIFTH SUNDAY of LENT	5.30pm	Mater Dei
Sunday 06/04/2025		8.00am	SPC
		9.30am	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.



DATE CLAIMERS:

- Monday 7th April—
Rite of Reconciliation **6pm** - at Mater Dei
(PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF TIME)
- First Holy Communions will be held on the week-ends of 5/6th April, 12/13th April and 26/27th April.

CHANGE OF SUNDAY MASS TIME FOR MATER DEI

PLEASE BE ADVISED: To allow Father Anthony time to arrive from 8am Sunday Mass at St Peter Chanel to Mater Dei there will be a **change of Mass time** for the morning Mass **at Mater Dei to 10am. This will commence on April 27th** (Divine Mercy Sunday) and it gives Father Anthony time to speak with parishioners after the 8am Mass and to arrive safely at Mater Dei without rushing. We trust this won't inconvenience our parishioners.

PRAYER INVITE

Risen Lord Community, a catholic based prayers community is inviting parishioners of St John's Wood/ The Gap and other catholic families who wish to join a prayer session featuring; rosary, worship songs, adoration/benediction and dinner. Please bring a plate to share.

Date: 4th April 2025 **Venue:** St Peter Chanel Church Time: 7-9pm

For further details please contact- Pushpa on 0418101083



FUNERAL SERVICE

There will be a funeral service held for Anthony

Peterson, on Friday 4th April commencing at 11am. We ask that you keep the family in your prayers.

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 this **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

E: odionyenfea@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 Donna & Brendan on Monday 31st March. Contact the parish office for further details.

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





**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

Fourth Sunday of Lent 29th and 30th of March 2025

Irene lives in the Kongolo Region in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and faced immense challenges after losing her father to war and raising her children in poverty. With support from Caritas Australia, Irene received vocational training in sewing and farming and can now support her whole family.



Photo credit: Arlette Bashizi/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

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

JUST A REMINDER

Don't forget to bring your project compassion boxes and envelopes to **Holy Thursday Mass** and place them in the basket at the beginning of Mass so they can be processed in and placed on the altar. If you are not attending this Mass the donations can be left at the back of both churches.



SOMETHING FOR A LAUGH

April 1 is on Tuesday ... a day when people should be careful not to be fooled. Pranksters are always up to something, so beware!



Knock, knock! *Who's there?* Noah. *Noah who?* Noah good April Fools' joke?

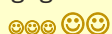
How do you keep a fool in suspense? I'll tell you the answer tomorrow.

Why should you avoid the stairs on April Fools' Day? Because they're always up to something.

What did the mama cow say to her baby after he stayed up too late on April Fools' Day? "It's pasture bedtime."

Why don't eggs play April Fools' pranks? They might crack each other up.

Why don't chickens play pranks on April Fools' Day? They don't engage in fowl play.



Enjoy your week ahead



24 HOURS FOR THE LORD

The "24 Hours for the Lord" was introduced by Pope Francis in 2014 and has been held every year since. It is a Lenten initiative of prayer and reconciliation. It is celebrated on the eve of the Fourth Sunday of Lent each year. Its intention is to put the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation at the centre of the pastoral life of the Church. Parishes and communities can implement this initiative taking care to adapt it according to local needs and customs.

[24 Hours for the Lord.pdf](#)

JUBILEE OF THE MISSIONARIES OF MERCY

The Jubilee of the Missionaries of Mercy recognises those who work to spread mercy throughout the world.

PRAYER

In the name of Jesus Christ crucified and risen, in the spirit of His messianic mission, enduring in the history of humanity, we raise our voices and pray that the Love which is in the Father may once again be revealed at this stage of history, and that, through the work of the Son and Holy Spirit, it may be shown to be present in our modern world and to be more powerful than evil: more powerful than sin and death. We pray for this through the intercession of [Mary] who does not cease to proclaim "mercy...from generation to generation," and also through the intercession of those for whom there have been completely fulfilled the words of the Sermon on the Mount: "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy."

(From Dives in Misericordia, n. 15.)

If you would like to read more on the above follow the link below:

[Jubilee of the Missionaries of Mercy.pdf](#)

LETTING GO, FINDING PEACE

"With God, all things are possible."

~ Matthew 19:26 ~

Life can feel heavy when we carry too many worries, burdens or past hurts, but God never meant for us to walk alone, weighed down by things we cannot fix on our own.

He invites us to bring everything to Him – the fears, the struggles, the things we don't understand. "Come to me, all who are weary, and I will give you rest." These words remind us that we don't have to hold on to what drains our strength.

Knowing when to unload means trusting God with what we cannot control. It means letting go of worry and placing our cares in His hands. It doesn't mean our problems disappear instantly, but we find peace in knowing we are not alone.

God's love never changes, His wisdom never fails and His strength never ends. When life feels too much, we can pause, pray and hand over the weight. He is always ready to carry what we cannot.

WHEREVER YOU GO, GOD IS WALKING WITH YOU

"Dear God, when life feels heavy, remind me to release my worries to You.

Give me rest when I am weary and faith when I am uncertain.

Thank You for always walking beside me. Amen."

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



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

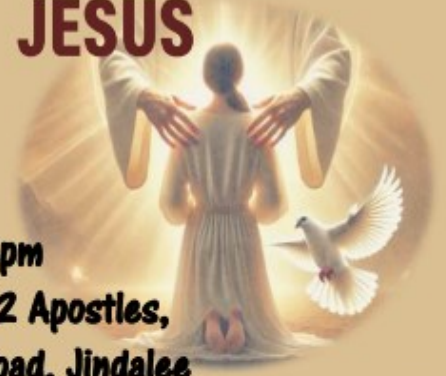
THE HEALING LOVE OF JESUS

Saturday

5 April 2025

9.30am - 4.15pm

Church of the 12 Apostles,
111 Yallambee Road, Jindalee



Encounter the healing and transforming touch of God



Bring your own lunch. Morning and afternoon tea provided. A love offering will be taken up to cover costs.

Presented by:

The Mission Team of Catholic Charismatic Renewal Brisbane, a group of lay people whose mission is to "Foster a personal conversion and relationship with Jesus Christ through the release of the Holy Spirit".

For registration or further information contact:

Gem 0414 341 506 or Chris 0414 481 506

A LIVING HOPE

Guided Retreat

4 to 6 April 2025 at Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre

Archdiocesan
MINISTRIES
ADULT FORMATION

Scan to register



A vocation View Fourth Sunday in Lent – C/1

God welcomes us home with extravagant love. Let the call to holiness draw you home into a deeper relationship with God. (Luke 15:1-3, 11-32) **Please pray for vocations.**



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



SAINT

CARLO ACUTIS

A CELEBRATION FOR
THE CANONISATION OF
BL CARLO ACUTIS

3PM SUN 27 APR
ST STEPHENS CATHEDRAL



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