



# St John's Wood/The Gap Parish Bulletin

Vol 5, Issue 13      6 April 2025



## FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

**First Reading:** [Is 43:16-21](#)

I am doing a new thing and I will give drink to my people.

**Second Reading:** [Phil 3:8-14](#)

Because of Christ I look upon everything else as useless in order to gain him.

**Gospel:** [John 8:1-11](#)

Let the person without sin be the first to throw a stone.



[Readings and Commentaries](#)

**PRAYING WITH CHILDREN**  
SUNDAY LITURGY

TWO-MINUTE HOMILY

**Fifth Sunday of Lent**

Fr Tom Elich



In Lent, we examine our conscience and encounter the Lord who is waiting to forgive and heal us even while we are doing wrong. [Watch now.](#)

### Deceased

Anthony Peterson, Robert Connelly, John Blythe

### Anniversary

Joseph Sharpe, Robert and Margaret Minns

### 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:*

#### **THE ART OF FORGIVENESS**

During Lent have we passed judgment on anyone? On social media say, which thrives on it, or at home, at work, perhaps in church, wherever we find ourselves. Often, we criticise others so we feel satisfied we're not like them, and as we do, we happily deflect attention from our own lives.

However, in this week's gospel Jesus shines a light on the woman brought before him where he sits in the Temple teaching the people; on the scribes and Pharisees who want to trap him; and on us.

There's a lot riding on what Jesus says to the woman's accusers because they hope he condemns himself, whatever about her. She might soon be dead because the Law stipulated, she be killed for adultery, though it called for the man's death too, revealing that for her accusers she is simply a means to an end.

Initially Jesus says nothing, so they persist with their questioning. Then he looks up and asks them to consider their own lives if they are to cast the first stone, turning the spotlight back on them: feeling exposed, they move silently away.

Jesus now speaks with her – he's the only one who does – and he doesn't condemn her, or excuse her, instead he offers her the possibility of a first step towards forgiveness. In doing so he reminds us that the naming of our sin and the experience of forgiveness will only happen where there is love, where we are accepted. As happened when a dying man was talking with a friend who often visited him in his flat.

At one point he said, 'Can I just tell you?' He was scared, afraid God wouldn't forgive him.

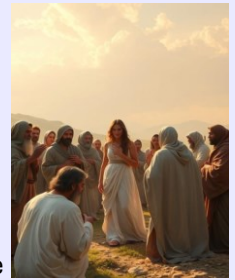
She replied: 'Why don't you say the names of people who hurt you and the people you hurt.'

He started calling out names and after each one they said, 'Lord have mercy.' It's mercy we need, and like these friends we need to create spaces in our lives where it might happen.

With the woman in the gospel, we're invited to take a first step towards forgiveness, towards a renewed relationship with each other and with God; so that, no longer 'burdened by our persistent judgment, our constant exclusion and our withholding', we might take a first step towards the scribes and Pharisees too. For if we stop condemning her only to turn upon them, we have misunderstood Jesus, who doesn't condemn them. Instead, he encourages in us all, a change of heart.

We're invited to experience the joy of reconciliation in Lent; to experience a change of heart, so we might see a new deed come to light, a vision of new life, which the prophet Isaiah speaks of in the first reading. And this new life doesn't simply depend on our own effort, which Paul powerfully affirms in the second reading, but is God's gift to us, in Jesus: we have only to receive him into our lives.

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 now have a nomination form which will be available from this weekend both online and at the back of our churches.** 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 07/04/2025	<b>Monday of the 5th week of Lent</b>	9am <b>6pm Rite of Reconciliation</b>	Mater Dei
Wednesday 09/04/2025	<b>Wednesday of the 5th week of Lent</b>	9am	SPC
Thursday 10/04/2025	<b>Thursday of 5th week of Lent</b>	9am	SPC
Friday 11/04/2025	<b>Friday of the 5th week of Lent</b>	9am	Mater Dei
Saturday 12/04/2025	<b>PALM SUNDAY of the PASSION of the LORD</b>	5.30pm	Mater Dei
<b>Sunday 13/04/2025</b>		8.00am	SPC
		9.30am (Father Stephen Byrne)	Mater Dei
		5.00pm	SPC

### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION



This weekend marks the beginning for the children receiving their first Holy Communion. We ask that you support these children through prayer and perhaps having a chat with the families after Mass. We welcome them all and hope this is an experience they will remember and cherish for the rest of their lives. God bless!!



### DATE CLAIMERS:

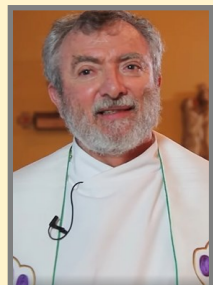
- Monday 7th April—  
Rite of Reconciliation **6pm** - at Mater Dei  
**(PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF TIME)**
- First Holy Communion will be held on the week-ends of 5/6th April, 12/13th April and 26/27th April.

### 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) this will give 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.

## menCONNECT DATE CLAIMER

Yes guys its true, **Deacon Gary Stone OAM** will be our guest speaker at the next dinner on **9<sup>th</sup> May** at 6pm, please keep this evening free for what will be a very interesting time. Further details to follow.



### HAPPY ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY

We would like to wish Father Stephen Byrnes a blessed anniversary. Father Stephen was ordained on 4th April, 1997 and some of his work included being Chaplain at the Prince Charles and Holy Spirit hospitals. We thank him for his help with Masses (and enjoy his wonderful sermons) in our parish and pray for his continued good health.  
God Bless!

## 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:** [StJohnsWood/TheGapParish](https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsWood/TheGapParish)

**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 Odionyenfe

Parish Priest

**E:** [odionyenfe@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:odionyenfe@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 Angela on Monday 7th April.

Contact the parish office for further details.

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





**PROJECT  
COMPASSION**

## Fifth Sunday of Lent 5th and 6th of April 2025

The life-changing work of Caritas Australia is only made possible by the unwavering generosity of our supporters and the dedication of our local partners on the ground.

Our partners are the true heroes, working tirelessly on the frontlines every day to transform lives and build brighter, more hopeful futures for their communities.



**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.*

**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

Three women die and go to heaven. When they arrive, St Peter says: "We only have one rule here in heaven: do not step on the ducks!" So, they enter heaven, and there are ducks everywhere. It is almost impossible not to step on a duck, and although they try their best to avoid them, the first woman accidentally steps on one.

There's a loud quack and along comes St Peter with the ugliest man she ever saw. St Peter chains them together and says: "Your punishment for stepping on a duck is to spend eternity chained to this man!"

The next day, the second woman accidentally steps on a duck and along comes St Peter. With him is another extremely ugly man. He chains them together with the same admonishment as for the first woman.

The third woman has observed all this and is very careful where she steps. She proudly manages to go many months without stepping on any ducks, but one day St Peter comes up to her with the most handsome man she has ever laid eyes on. St Peter chains them together without saying a word. The ecstatic woman says: "I wonder what I did to deserve being chained to you for all of eternity?"

The bloke says: "I don't know about you, but I stepped on a duck!" 😊😊😊😊 *Enjoy your week ahead .....*



### MAHJONG SOCIAL GROUP

There is a group of ladies who are interested in starting a Mahjong Group in the Parish.

Beginners are welcome and they would like to meet on Thursday's com-

mencing on Thursday 24th April from 12.30 -2.30 in the Parish Hall.

If you or someone you know would like to join the group please contact the Parish office.



### THE JUBILEE OF THE SICK & HEALTH CARE WORKERS

The Jubilee of the Sick and Health Care Workers is a

special event within the Jubilee Year 2025, taking place on April 5th and 6th, 2025, to honour those who are ill and those who serve them, offering spiritual solace and recognition.

What is the Jubilee of the Sick & Health Care Workers? **During the Holy Year, we are called to be tangible signs of hope for those of our brothers and sisters who experience hardships of any kind.**

Pope Francis

This year's Jubilee motto is *Pilgrims of Hope*. We are called to reflect and discover hope in the signs of the times. Pope Francis shares that during this special Jubilee year, we are especially called to show signs of hope to the sick, including those living in their home, hospital, or other settings. We are also called to pay inclusive attention to all who experience their own weaknesses and limitations.

**To be a sign of hope for the sick, the Church is celebrating the Jubilee of the Sick and Health Care Workers on April 5, 2025- April 6, 2025.**

Signs of hope should also be shown to the *sick*, at home or in hospital. Their sufferings can be allayed by the closeness and affection of those who visit them. Works of mercy are also works of hope that give rise to immense gratitude. Gratitude should likewise be shown to all those healthcare workers who, often in precarious conditions, carry out their mission with constant care and concern for the sick and for those who are most vulnerable.

Inclusive attention should also be given to all those in particularly difficult situations, who experience their own weaknesses and limitations, especially those affected by illnesses or disabilities that severely restrict their personal independence and freedom. Care given to them is a hymn to human dignity, a song of hope that calls for the choral participation of society as a whole.

# Safeguarding Survey 2025



ARCHDIOCESE  
OF BRISBANE

The protection and wellbeing of children and adults-at-risk is at the core of Church mission, and setting the right approach to safeguarding is important.

Please help us keep everyone safe by completing one of the below surveys.

## Child Safeguarding Survey (Children 5-12 yrs)

Parental consent required.



[Child Safeguarding Survey](#) (5-12 yrs)

## Youth Safeguarding Survey (Children 13-17 yrs)

Parental consent required.



[Youth Safeguarding Survey](#)  
(13-17yrs)

## Parish Safeguarding Survey (Adult)



[Parish Safeguarding Survey](#)  
(Adults)



## We value your feedback!



### *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)

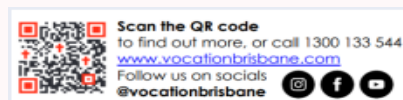
### ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

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](mailto:k_richardson@live.com.au)

### A vocation View Fifth Sunday of Lent – C/1

God continues to open a way for us. How is God doing something new in your life? Perhaps God is inviting you to be a priest or religious. (Isaiah 43:16-21)

Please 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