



St John's Wood/The Gap Parish Bulletin

Vol 5, Issue 16

27 April 2025



SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY)

First Reading: [Acts 5:12-16](#)

The numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily.

Second Reading: [Rev 1:9-13,17-19](#)

I was dead and now I am to live forever and ever.

Gospel: [John 20:19-31](#)

After eight days Jesus came in and stood among them.

This weeks Gospel Reflection:

TRUSTING JESUS TO CATCH US

Fear can be such a paralysing emotion. With its familiar twin, anxiety, it keeps us from acting or thinking constructively and clouds our awareness of grace. In this week's gospel reading, the disciples are gathered in fear behind closed doors. They are terrified about what may happen next.

Suddenly, they find Jesus standing in their midst. He offers them his peace, showing them his hands and side. They are overjoyed and their fear is dispelled. This is no fleeting reassurance. He repeats his blessing of peace and exhorts them to go forth in courage. He breathes on them and confers on each of them, the gift of his spirit.

It is a sacred moment, preparing them for a time when he would no longer be physically present with them. Yet, his spirit would remain with them always. This would be no passive presence but a dynamic, enlivening, divine presence which would animate them. They would be his witnesses to his love and redemption throughout the world.

Jesus's words of mission also foreshadow his words at his ascension: I am with you always (Matthew 28:20). It also foreshadows the coming of the Holy Spirit in the mighty wind of Pentecost.

The calling to a life of mission is not without risk. In his book, *Flying, Falling and Catching: An Unlikely Story of Finding Freedom*, Dutch priest, theologian and psychologist Henri Nouwen described a life changing encounter with a travelling trapeze troupe, the Flying Rodleighs. He was amazed at how they flew through the air. He befriended the troupe and even travelled for a short time with them.

Nouwen once asked Rodleigh, the troupe's leader, the secret of a successful trapeze act. Rodleigh explained that, as a flyer, he had to have complete trust in his catcher. The secret was for the flyer to do nothing and trust the catcher to do everything, to catch him as he flew through the air and pull him safely onto the platform. In fact, the worst thing the flyer could do is to try and catch the catcher. If he tried to grab the catcher's wrists, it could end disastrously for them both. Nouwen suggested this as a sublime metaphor for our invitation to let go of fear and trust God utterly in all the circumstances of our life and beyond.

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks once described faith, not as belief in certainty, but as the courage to live with uncertainty. The figure of Thomas in today's gospel, wanting certainty, expresses the parts of our being which are still held back by fear and anxiety. We fear stepping forward into the unknown and allow our fears to sideline God's promise of his abiding presence. Nevertheless, Jesus invites us to trust him completely. Like the catcher in Nouwen's story, he promises to catch us as we fly through the air to him. He lovingly and unconditionally embraces all our fears, our frailty and our vulnerability. His peace enlivens our mission to go forth in courage and proclaim the good news. He is risen and, indeed, he will be with us always. *Sophie Clements © Majellan Media 2025*



Readings and Commentaries

PRAYING WITH CHILDREN
SUNDAY LITURGY



Two-Minute
Homily:
Fr Boni
Buahendri
SVD

Through the intercession of Saint Faustina, we pray, For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and the whole world. Click below:

[Second Sunday of Easter - Archdiocese of Brisbane](#)

Deceased

Deborah Austin

Anniversary

Patrick Brudell, Matilda Smith

Sick

Yvonne Harrison, Suzanne Black, Beth Kloza, Heiko Ertel, Jim Johnson, Mike McAuliffe, Kathleen Cosgrove, Robert Minns, Tim chen chen zuo Zu, Mary Thomas, Antonio Ferrante, 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

ANZAC DAY



On Friday we commemorate those who gave their lives and service for Australia in all the major conflicts. Anzac Day is not a celebration of war but a day of remembrance. A day to be grateful for those who gave the ultimate sacrifice.



Day/Date	Liturgy	Mass Times	Venue
Monday 28/04/2025	St Peter Chanel, priest, martyr	9am	Mater Dei
Wednesday 30/04/2025	2nd Week of Easter	9am	SPC
Thursday 01/05/2025	2nd Week of Easter	9am	SPC
Friday 02/05/2025	St Athanasius, bishop, doctor	9am	Mater Dei
Saturday 03/05/2025	Sts Philip and James, apostles	5.30pm	Mater Dei
Sunday 04/05/2025	THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER	8am 10am 5pm	SPC MD SPC

BAPTISMS THIS WEEKEND



On Saturday we welcome through the Sacrament of Baptism at **St Peter Chanel** Finn son of Nicholas and Emily and Aaliyah daughter of Mishel and Jennifer. **On Sunday at Mater Dei** we welcome Angus, son of Kate and Richard, Finley and Lyra children of Clair and Matthew. We congratulate the families and ask that you keep them in your prayers.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION



This weekend we have children that will be 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 and hope this is an experience they will remember and cherish for the rest of their lives. God bless!!

LET US REMEMBER OUR PATRON SAINT AND PRAYER FOR HIM



Quote: It does not matter whether or not I am killed; the religion has taken root on the island; it will not be destroyed by my death, since it comes not from men but from God. ~Saint Peter Chanel

Prayer: Saint Peter, God placed the seed of desire in your heart as a youth to give yourself to His service as a missionary in far-off lands. When that desire came to fruition, you held nothing back, laying your life down sacrificially. Through that sacrifice, your blood nourished the faith of the people you served, and God transformed them into His holy people. Please pray for me,

that I will courageously give of myself for God's glory, no matter the cost. Saint Peter Chanel, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.

menCONNECT+

DATE CLAIMER

Gentlemen, **Deacon Gary Stone OAM** will be our guest speaker at the next Gathering on **9th May**. The **theme** will be, **"Living in the fullness of life, John 10:10"**. The Gathering commences at **6pm** in the Parish Hall, 41 Chaprowe Rd, The Gap. The cost is \$15.00. For catering purposes, would you please RSVP Mike by text on 0459 992 228, or email menCONNECTsjwtg@gmail.com before 6th May.

ST JOHN'S WOOD / THE GAP PARISH

Office Hours

Mon, Wed, Fri:- 8:30am - 3:30pm

Tue, Thurs:- 8:30am - 12:30pm

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PARISH TEAM

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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 Gordon on Monday 28th April.

Contact the parish office for further details.

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





DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

The Parish will be celebrating Divine Mercy Sunday at St Peter Chanel church beginning with the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 2.30pm, followed by the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and concluding at 4.45 followed by the 5pm Mass.

We welcome all our parishioners to participate in the special event. If you have a religious image or object you can bring it along and it will be blessed before the final hymn of the 5pm Mass.



PLEASE RETURN YOUR PROJECT COMPASSION envelopes and boxes as soon as possible.

They can be left at the Parish office or on the giving plate. Thank you for sharing the journey of Lent with the whole Christian Community and especially with Caritas Australia as we have **United Against Poverty this Lent**. As pilgrims of hope in this Jubilee year, we have told the stories of Project Compassion and asked for your support.

We are so honoured to share this journey with you. Thank you for your support. God's family needs you, especially the most marginal.

Eternal rest
grant unto
him, O Lord.
And let
perpetual
light shine
upon him.
May he rest in
peace.

Jorge Mario Bergoglio
17 December 1936 – 21 April 2025

PRAY FOR POPE FRANCIS

Pope Francis will be remembered as a man of simplicity, humility and compassion, according to Australian Catholic Bishops Conference President, Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB. He said the pope's death would be received with "great sadness" by Catholics and by people the world over. While there was criticism of some of his more liberal



views, many Catholics were encouraged by his compassion and mercy. He also led a fairly simple lifestyle, forgoing some of the comforts enjoyed by previous popes. Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference President, Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB, described the late pontiff as a man of simplicity, humility and compassion.

[Australian Catholics mourn Pope Francis - CathNews](#)

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.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

The Pastoral Council assists in promoting pastoral action in the parish." The mission of the council is to play a co-responsible and collaborative role of leadership in our parish, alongside the priest, staff and the parish community. Any parishioner can nominate a fellow parishioner for a seat on Parish Council.

If you nominate someone for Parish Council, the person will be contacted and provided an opportunity to decide if they wish to proceed with submitting an application. Everyone nominated will be contacted for the next step of the process.

If you would like to nominate someone or yourself for the Parish Pastoral Council please use the link below or scan the QR code and fill out the forms.

Scan the QR or use link to join



<https://forms.office.com/r/VP4cuJ9UbU>

Copy link

<https://forms.office.com/r/VP4cuJ9UbU?origin=lprLink>

PLEASE NOTE: NOMINATIONS WILL CLOSE ON 30TH APRIL

so please make sure all nominations are in by then.

THE GAP UNITING CHURCH

Come join us on Saturday, April 20th between 8am and 2pm at The Gap Uniting Church to choose from the hundreds of books and plants we have on offer! For info about what's for sale and how to donate, check out our Facebook event - <https://www.facebook.com/share/18eMJnKDcC/>

A vocation View Divine Mercy Sunday - Year C

Are you like Thomas? Do you need to see to believe?

Pray for faith and trust. (John 20:29) 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



ACYF (Australian Catholic Youth Festival) is a three-day national Catholic festival for young people from students in Year 9 through to 25 years of age. This year, the festival will be held from Sunday 30 November ? Tuesday 2 December in Melbourne. The Archdiocesan Youth & Young Adults team is exploring the viability of creating an Archdiocesan Package for ACYF for groups from schools, parishes and communities. The package would include; flights, transport, accommodation, some meals and event registration. If you are interested in sending a group (no minimums) from your community to ACYF, please register your interest via

tinyurl.com/acyfbne

For further details, contact Natasha Mierendorf at mierendorf@bne.catholic.net.au or 07 3324 3440



Are you interested in taking a group to ACYF?



Complete the ACYF Expression of Interest Form <https://tinyurl.com/acyfbne>

SOMETHING FOR A LAUGH



As soon as she had finished high school, Mary from Dublin shook the Irish dust off her shoes and made her way to London's West End where she lived her dream and became a successful show business performer. Several years later she returned to her hometown for a holiday. While back in the country she thought she should go to confession as it had been some time since her last visit. Mary went to the church she had attended as a child and entered the confessional where she recognised Father Bill's voice, the long-time parish priest. Mary explained she was an acrobatic dancer and was knocking them dead in London. Father Bill wanted to know what Mary meant exactly so she said she would be happy to demonstrate what she did on stage. She stepped out of the confessional and with the elderly priest watching, she did a series of cartwheels, leaping splits, handsprings and backflips. Kneeling in one of the church pews and waiting their turn were two older ladies. Watching the young girl's acrobatics with wide eyes, one said to the other, "Goodness, will you look at the penance Old Father Bill is givin' out. And me, with my bloomers on.



Enjoy your week ahead.....



31 MAY 2025

SANTA TERESA SPIRITUALITY CENTRE

9AM - 3PM

Join Archbishop Mark for

POWERHOUSE OF PRAYER

Scan to register before 24/5/25



LEARN AND PRACTICE THE ART OF PRAYER



Archdiocesan MINISTRIES

CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION


"HE WHO FOLLOWS ME WALKS NOT IN DARKNESS" - JOHN 8:12

2PM SUNDAY 22 JUNE 2025

Starting and ending at the Cathedral of St Stephen and featuring prayers, rosary, hymns and Benediction with proceedings led by Archbishop Mark Coleridge.


corpuschristibrisbane.com



ARCHDIOCESE OF BRISBANE

EVERYONE IS WELCOME HERE



WE INVITE EVERYONE TO BE PART OF OUR CATHOLIC COMMUNITY.