

# PARISH OF ST JOHN'S WOOD / THE GAP



Parish of St John's Wood/The Gap

**WELCOME**

## RECONCILIATION

Mater Dei

Saturday 5.00-5.20

St. Peter Chanel

Sunday 4.30-4.45

## BAPTISMS

Mater Dei

3rd Sunday

St Peter Chanel

4th Sunday

Baptism preparation details available on our website under Parish Activities

## PARISH SCHOOLS

Mater Dei  
Primary School

Phone: 3514 4100

St Peter Chanel  
Primary School

Phone: 3300 1202

## PARISH COUNCIL

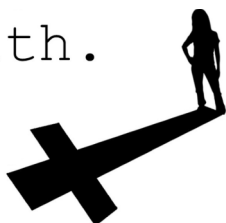
Kylie Gaul  
(Chairperson)

kylie.brian@bigpond.com

New Parishioners  
**WELCOME**

Please complete the form  
in the newsletter.

faith.



Website: [www.stjohnswoodthegap.net.au](http://www.stjohnswoodthegap.net.au)

Facebook page: [@St John's Wood / The Gap Parish](https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsWoodTheGapCatholicChurch)

Facebook group: St John's Wood / The Gap Parish

Parish Office: PO Box 408, The Gap, Qld 4061

Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday 8.30 am—3.00 pm

Contact: Phone: 3300 6099 Fax: 3300 6255

Churches: Mater Dei : 16 Philomene Drive, Ashgrove

St Peter Chanel: 41 Chaprowe Road, The Gap

Parish Priest: Fr. Vu Dinh Tuong [mdei@bigpond.com](mailto:mdei@bigpond.com)

Parish Manager: Richard James [manager.thegap@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:manager.thegap@bne.catholic.net.au)

Parish Secretary: Caryn Lee [thegap@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:thegap@bne.catholic.net.au)

Sacramental Program enquiries only: [ps.thegap@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:ps.thegap@bne.catholic.net.au)



*Please note the Parish Office will be closed between Christmas and New Years (Last day Friday 23rd December 2016 reopening on Tuesday 3rd January 2017).*



**SUNDAY 11<sup>th</sup> December 2016**  
**Third Sunday in Advent**



## Question in Faith

Children often ask their parents lots of questions about mostly everything they see or hear. Some questions they ask are simple and easy to answer; others are quite hard and some of their questions are nonsense questions. Parents try to answer hard questions children ask and often children are unable to understand simply because of simplicity of mind they have about life. In the adults' world we yearn to know where we come from and where the end is when our earthly journey finishes. Our faith in Jesus has a definite answer for the problem but people who refuse the answer Jesus gave struggle hard to solve the problem. They ask questions about the origin of man. Some of the questions they ask are very much a child like questioning about life. We admire people who have great knowledge of the universe but we also recognize their confession about how little they have discovered about the universe. The vastness of the universe they have not known and any conclusion about the origin of the universe is only a hypothesis.

Without a bit of faith we are unable to ask sensible questions about faith. The basic faith requires humility and with humility we can start to advance in faith. Questions that lead us to accept our limitations of the spiritual world are humble questions.

There are two different kinds of questions: the first one is a question *about* faith and the second one is a question *in* faith. The former one is more concerning with knowledge of the faith while the latter is more relating to the faith in Jesus. Questions about knowledge of faith can either lead to have faith in Jesus or it leads to deny the existence of the loving God; while questions in faith are the kind of questions a person asks to know what to do more to improve his/her personal faith in Jesus. They have already had faith in God and seek for direction to know what to do. There are numerous occasions recording questions in faith in the Bible. When John the Baptist preached about repentance the crowd and the tax collectors and some soldiers asked John what they must do to inherit God's kingdom. These questions are questions in faith because they have already believed in God and just want to know what to do (Luke 3,10-16). John the Baptist himself when he was in prison also asked the question in faith when he heard what Jesus was doing, John sent one of his disciples to Jesus asking the question: Are you the one who is to come or have we got to wait for someone else? John believed that the Messiah was going to come but he was not sure which one was the true Messiah. Questions in faith is what we need to have to explore more about the faith. Without questions in faith we would not have learnt much about faith.

Questioning *about* the knowledge of God is a kind of question people want to find proof of God while questioning *in* faith is a kind of question that demonstrates having faith in God. It reveals the inner life of a person who sees with the eyes of faith. Their inner eyes help them to ask question in faith. Before we can ask questions in faith and learn more about the faith we need to have some faith in Jesus.

Vudinh Tuong

**Next Week's Readings:  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent**

*First Reading  
Isaiah 7:10-14*

*Second Reading  
Romans 1:1-7*

*Gospel  
Matthew 1:18-24*

**Prayers for the Sick**

Jane McMahon  
Frank Guest  
Sonia Renwick  
Robert Wirth

**Recently Deceased**

Michael Ratnayake

**Anniversaries**

Terry Mahoney  
Scott Mahoney  
Meta Truscott  
Frank Southwell  
Anne Baker  
William Holt  
Cyril Galvin  
Gladys Robinson

**Please let us know about  
the sick**

Every so often we learn of people confined to their home for quite a while or even transferred to permanent care in a hospice or nursing home.

We would like to bring the sacraments to them so please let the Parish Office know if family members are so confined.

**Please contact the parish office: 3300 6099 or Vi Hall: Mob: 0409 894 904**

**Rosary**

Rosary will be held at 7:30pm on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2016 at Michael O'Connor's house, 3 Tamara St, The Gap



**Rosary**

If you would like to pray the Rosary in your home please contact **Bruce Bonney** Phone: 3300 2959

**First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6,10**

God himself will come and save us.

**Responsorial Psalm:**

Lord, come and save us.

**Second Reading: James 5:7-10**

You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon.

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 11:2-11**

Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?



**MONEY COUNTERS**

**2017 Collection Counters Roster**

A huge thank you to our 13, 2016 collection counters for your efforts each Monday morning during the year. Please advise Richard James at the office if you are available for 2017 and an invitation is extended to anyone who would like to participate in this parish ministry. The new roster will commence on Monday 06/02/17. Kev Kelly (Co-ordinator)

**2017 Cleaning Roster**

The Parish is in desperate need for volunteers to join the cleaning roster for next year. If you can help out, please contact the Parish Office.



**Parish Choir Concert Practice**

There is a combined choir concert to start the Christmas festivities for the parish on the 18<sup>th</sup> December. Practice will be at SPC Church on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> Dec at 7pm.

We would love you to come and sing with us.

Everyone is welcome even if you are not in the parish choir but just like singing and carolling!

See you at rehearsal! 🎵



**Wine Sales**

Looking for Christmas gift ideas or maybe just for yourself. Our Wines from Seven Hills winery in SA are available for purchase. Merlot and Riesling \$15 per bottle or \$160 per carton of 12. Money raised goes towards families in need in our Parish. Please contact the parish office.



**Anyone who would like a visit from Father Tuong before Christmas, please contact the parish office on 3300 6099 before Friday 16th December.**

**Bible Group**

Meeting Wednesday evening 14<sup>th</sup> December at SPC Parish Office at 7:30pm to 9:00pm. Anyone interested please contact Luisa Ph: 0422 919 887



**Christmas Festival Volunteers Needed**

Please see the sign up sheet at the back of the church if you can help out at the Christmas Festival one night from Sunday 18 December to Thursday 22 December.

Your help is appreciated.

**Raffle Tickets!**

**PARISH FUNDRAISING RAFFLE**

PRIZES COMPRISE OF HAMPERS EACH CONTAINING DIFFERENT ITEMS

**TICKETS \$2 EACH OR 3 FOR \$5**

AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT THE PARISH OFFICE OR AFTER EACH WEEKEND MASSES

THE RAFFLE WILL BE DRAWN ON THE LAST NIGHT OF THE CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL



**Exposition of the Blessed  
Sacrament**  
Mater Dei Church  
Monday 7pm-10pm  
Friday 9.30am-10pm

### BEQUEST OR WILLS

All parishioners are asked to consider including our parish St John's Wood/The Gap in your will.

One of the greatest contributions you can make to our parish is to ensure a legacy of faith for the young and to provide proper care for the old.



### NEW PARISHIONER CONTACT FORM

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other Names: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Marital Status: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spouse Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spouse's DOB: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Children & DOB's: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Tick to commence Parish  
Planned Giving

Please place this completed form in the collection plate or email your details to the Parish Office at: [thegap@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:thegap@bne.catholic.net.au) or contact the Parish Office on 3300 6099.

### Reflection

A man planted a rose and watered it faithfully and before it blossomed, he examined it.

He saw the bud that would soon blossom, but noticed thorns upon the stem and he thought, "How can any beautiful flower come from a plant burdened with so many sharp thorns? Saddened by this thought, he neglected to water the rose, and just before it was ready to bloom... it died.

So it is with many people. Within every soul there is a rose. The God-like qualities planted in us at birth, grow amid the thorns of our faults. Many of us look at ourselves and see only the thorns, the defects.

We despair, thinking that nothing good can possibly come from us. We neglect to water the good within us, and eventually it dies. We never realise our potential.

Some people do not see the rose within themselves; someone else must show it to them. One of the greatest gifts a person can possess is to be able to reach past the thorns of another, and find the rose within them.

This is one of the characteristic of love... to look at a person, know their true faults and accepting that person into your life... all the while recognising the nobility in their soul. Help others to realise they can overcome their faults. If we show them the "rose" within themselves, they will conquer their thorns. Only then will they blossom many times over.

You are all beautiful blossoming roses in the garden of St John's Wood / The Gap Parish.



### Friends and Partners with East Timor

**Annual General Meeting** – Monday 12th Dec, 7.30 pm, Mater Dei Meeting Room. **All welcome.**

Lindsay Stokes, President (0419 731388)

### Christmas Festival Treats Stall

We are selling pre packed home made Christmas treats at the Christmas festivities from 18 December - 22 December. There will be a recipe book for sale. If you would like your favourite Christmas recipe included in the Christmas book, please ring Robyn Locke on 3366 5501 / 0428 733 131. We also would love to have your baking skills included with your recipe. All proceeds from the stall go directly to the parish.

*"You too must be patient. Make you hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand."* JAMES 5:8



Patience is another one of those things many of us struggle with. We want things to go according to our plan and our schedule. Any change brings anxiety and fear. Through daily prayer we better align ourselves with God's will and His plan, which is far better than anything we can come up with on our own. (Accessed on 20 Sept 2016 from <http://archstl.org/stewardship/page/bulletin-inserts>)

### Children's Sewing Group

On Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December at SPC Hall from 9:30am - 12:00noon. (\$15 per session). All girls aged 11 upwards and mothers wanting to learn sewing are welcome. Morning tea is provided and you make something to take home each time.

**Bookings essential**

Email [shalafi@aapt.net.au](mailto:shalafi@aapt.net.au) or call Moria Flynn 3366 4536





**Christmas Mass Times**

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December**

– MD Church 5:30pm Christmas Carols followed by 6pm Mass  
 – SPC Church 6:30pm Christmas Carols followed by 7pm Mass

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December**

– SPC Church 8am Mass  
 – MD Church 9:30am Mass

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> December**

– SPC Church 9:30am Mass

**Extra New Years Mass**

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> January**

– SPC Church 9:30am Mass

MASS TIMES	MATER DEI	ST PETER CHANEL	FEAST DAYS/NOTES
Monday 12/12			
Tuesday 13/12	9:00am		Saint Lucy
Wednesday 14/12		9:00am	Saint John of the Cross
Thursday 15/12		9:00am	
Friday 16/12	9:00am		
Saturday 17/12	5:30pm		
Sunday 18/12	9:30am	8:00am 5:00pm	Parish Christmas Concert and BBQ begins 6:00pm (SPC)

The Parish now has a Facebook page

**StJohnsWoodTheGapCatholicChurch@St John's Wood / The Gap Parish**

and a Facebook Community Group **St John's Wood / The Gap Parish**



**Birthday's for this week in December**

**Noel Saunders**  
**Maureen Foley**  
**Kylie Gaul**  
**Paul Ryan**  
**Joan Moore**

**One Week to Go.....  
 Christmas in our Parish 2016**

Our Christmas festival will run for 5 nights commencing next Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December and finishing Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at SPC Church Hall, with a Christmas hamper raffle being drawn on the last night.

Singers booked for the nights are as follows:

- Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December - **Parish Group Choir (both SPC & MD)**
- Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December – **Jubilee Singers followed by Samford Community Choir**
- Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December – **Peace 'n' Choir**
- Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December – **Denise Parker & Peter Monaghan**
- Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December – **Brisbane Ukulele Musicians**

Each night the BBQ will commence at 5:30pm (6:00pm on Sunday) with the concert to begin at 7:00pm.

Each evening will have children activities from 6:00pm-7:00pm together with a

Christmas movie.

Come along for a fun night of great company and entertainment.



**Prayers for the sick:**

When there is a request to pray for a sick person their names will be in the Prayers of the Faithful for 2 weeks and in the Bulletin for 2 weeks. If you wish to continue after that, please contact the parish office.

Names of recently deceased will be on the prayer list for 2 weeks

The Editor retains the right to edit any items that are submitted to the bulletin.

The cut off for the Parish Bulletin is Wednesday 3pm.

If you have any queries please contact the Parish Office on: 33006099

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**A VOCATION VIEW:**

**Third Sunday in Advent - A**

A VOCATION VIEW: "As your models in suffering hardships and in patience, friend, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord." (James5:10) A vocation is responding to the call of God.



**HOLY CROSS FUNERALS**

The only funeral service owned and operated by the Catholic Church

Ph: (07) 3293 0555 Web: www.holycrossfunerals.com

