

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.



Website: www.stjohnswoodthegap.net.au

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

Parish Manager: Richard James manager.thegap@bne.catholic.net.au

Parish Secretary: Caryn Lee thegap@bne.catholic.net.au

Sacramental Program enquiries only: ps.thegap@bne.catholic.net.au



SUNDAY 4th December 2016
Second Sunday in Advent

Voice in the Wilderness

Christmas lights illuminate at dawn that lightens darkness and brings joy to our eyes. During day time their lights are nothing under the sun but at night their lights attract both human eyes, animals and insects. Christmas lights were born for and took part in the celebration of the birth of Jesus. They remind people about the Season of joy and the hope the infant Jesus would offer to the world. Many people celebrate Christmas by ways of just enjoying holiday breaks and food and drinks. This kind of cultural of consumerism celebrating Christmas is not what true Christians are about to celebrate. Christians celebrate Christmas with Jesus who is the centre of any celebration. We put up Christmas lights for Jesus. We greet people 'Merry Christmas' for Jesus. We put up manger for Jesus and we go to Christmas Mass for Jesus. We do this for a host of reasons. First we give thanks Jesus for coming to live amongst us. Second we give thanks to Jesus for being one of us. Third, we give thanks to Jesus for rescuing us from the power of darkness and bringing us to the Light. Fourth, we give thanks to Jesus for others coming into our lives in the name of Jesus.

Before Jesus' public ministry John the Baptist went before him calling people to prepare the way for the Lord. John's appearance was wild and he came out from the wilderness. He wore a garment and a belt made out of camel hair and skin. He ate locusts mixed with wild honey. It was a wild life style in his appearance but his message was not wild but it was about God's love. The message was down to earth and relevant to the life of people who were yearning for the meaning and purpose of life. John's message wasn't about himself but it was about Jesus who was appearing after him and who was much more powerful than him. Jesus preached not of his own message but he preached about God's love and mercy. We the followers of Christ preached about Jesus and his life and the cross and his resurrection from the dead. We celebrate Christmas with Jesus who is in the midst of our celebration. Anything else serves as an aid that helps us focus more on Jesus and his presence amongst us.

John cried in the wilderness calling people to repent and return to God, prepare a way for the Lord and make his paths straight. There was another voice that cried out in the wilderness and that was the voice of a baby who cried aloud in the middle of the night and in the middle of the winter. The baby cried aloud partly because the bitterness of a winter but it was more about the coldness existing in a human heart. Hearts turn people away and hearts that deny the existence of God in their lives, and hearts that worship creation instead of God, the Creator. The baby cried aloud because there was no room for the poor peasant couple but there were plenty of luxury rooms reserved for the wealthy. The baby cried aloud to voice for the voiceless being unheard justice for all. Today the Church continues to prolong the cry the baby Jesus started.

Vudinh Tuong

**Next Week's Readings:
3rd Sunday in Advent**

First Reading
Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

Second Reading
James 5:7-10

Gospel
Matthew 11:2-11

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

He judges the poor with justice.

Responsorial Psalm:

Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

Second Reading: Romans 15:4-9

Christ, the hope of all people.

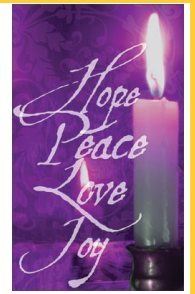
Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 3:1-12

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.



Prayers for the Sick

Dominic Smith
Jane McMahon
Frank Guest
Sonia Renwick

Recently Deceased

Michael Ratnayake

Anniversaries

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

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 5th December 2016 at Gordon Simpson's house, 34 Arkana St, The Gap



Rosary

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

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.



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)

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 Dec to Thursday 22 Dec. Your help is appreciated.

Thank you families for putting up Christmas lights at your home. It is always lovely to drive by at night and see the spirit of Christmas throughout our parish.

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.



St Vincent De Paul "Giving Tree"

The Parish Conference of St Vincent de Paul Society thanks everyone who generously donated to our Christmas Appeal. Your generosity helps us to continue helping the needy in the Parish.

We invite you to take a gift card from the "Giving Tree" at the front of each church which suggest Christmas gifts for families we visit in the parish. Please return your gift to the "Giving Tree" by Sunday 11th December to allow us time to deliver the gifts before Christmas.



PARISH FUNDRAISING RAFFLE

Raffle Tickets!

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



Year of Mercy
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 or contact the Parish Office on 3300 6099.

Christmas Festival Sweets and Delicacies Stall

We are proposing a stall of sweets and delicacies in this year's Parish Christmas festivities. There will be a recipe book for sale and the possible inclusion of a small amount of food. The recipe book is in the process of being prepared and we are asking for more recipes to be included. As well we are asking for volunteers to bake and prepare some of the food for the stall.

For more information, please contact Robyn Locke on 3366 5501 / 0428 733 131 or email robyn@opuscons.com.au



Support for Family in Need

A refugee family who have been a part of St Thomas More's Parish, Toowoomba is in need of urgent accommodation because their youngest girl had an accident which requires medical assistance from Lady Cilento Hospital. The family has a good rental record and require a 3 bedroom house. If you can assist please call St Thomas More's Parish on 07 46359555 or email parishleader@stthomasmores.org.au

Parish Choir Concert Practice

There is a combined choir concert to start the Christmas festivities for the parish on the 18th December. Practices will be at SPC Church on Tuesday 6th Dec and Tuesday 13th 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! 🎵



LOST UMBRELLA

Green full size ladies umbrella (not the folding type) with a green hook handle (like a walking cane). The background of the material is green with small ochre yellow/light brown flowers. Left at SPC Church after mass a few weeks. If found please contact the parish office as it has sentimental value to the owner.

Children's Sewing Group

On Saturday 19th November 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 or call Moria Flynn 3366 4536



Date Claimers
Christmas in our Parish 2016

Our Christmas festival will run for 5 nights commencing Sunday 18th December and finishing Thursday 22nd December, with a Christmas hamper raffle being drawn on the last night.

Singers booked for the nights are as follows:

- Sunday 18th December - **Parish Group Choir (both SPC & MD)**
- Monday 19th December – **Jubilee Singers & Samford Community Choir**
- Tuesday 20th December – **Peace 'n' Choir**
- Wednesday 21st December – **Denise Parker & Peter Monaghan**
- Thursday 22nd December – **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.

Mark these dates in your diary and come along for a fun night of great company and entertainment.



School End of Year

Masses

Tues 29th November
MD Year 6 Graduation Mass
6pm

Wed 30th November
SPC Year 6 Graduation Mass
6pm

Fri 2nd December
MD End of school Mass 9am
SCP End of school Mass 11am

Christmas Mass Times

Saturday 24th December
 – MD Church 5:30pm Christmas Carols followed by 6pm Mass
 – SPC Church 6:30pm Christmas Carols followed by 7pm Mass

Sunday 25th December

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

Monday 26th December

– SPC Church 9:30am Mass

Extra New Years Mass

Monday 2nd January
 – SPC Church 9:30am Mass

MASS TIMES	MATER DEI	ST PETER CHANEL	FEAST DAYS/NOTES
Monday 05/12			Regis Nursing Home Mass
Tuesday 06/12	9:00am		
Wednesday 07/12		9:00am	Saint Ambrose
Thursday 08/12		9:00am	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Friday 09/12	9:00am		
Saturday 10/12	5:30pm		
Sunday 11/12	9:30am	8:00am 5:00pm	



Thank you to everyone who came and helped celebrate Father Tuong's 25th anniversary of ordination and the volunteer's BBQ on Sunday night. It was a wonderful turnout. The Christmas lights are now on and it is such a spectacular display.



Birthday's for this week in December
Catherine Murphy
Narelle Davis
John Hood
Sue Mooney

Happy Birthday

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:

Second Sunday in Advent - A

A VOCATION VIEW: Isaiah says: "The earth shall be filled with knowledge of the Lord." Who taught you knowledge of the Lord, and who are you teaching today?

HOLY CROSS FUNERALS
 The only funeral service owned and operated by the Catholic Church
 Ph: (07) 3293 0555 Web: www.holycrossfunerals.com