

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

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

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

Please note the Parish Office will be closed between Christmas and Tuesday 9th January 2018. The Last newsletter for 2017 will be the Christmas weekend and the next issue will be the weekend of 13th & 14th January 2018.

SUNDAY 10th December 2017 - Second Sunday of Advent

Recovery

After torrential rain houses were infested underwater and bridges washed away, roads were eroded with pot holes and nothing on the waterway would escape being reshaped. When the water had receded the next step was to mop up before any reconstruction could be restored and the state of recovery would follow suit. Demolition and removal of damaged stuff is a slow process and it is tiring and a boring job but it is necessary for regrowth.

Advent is the time for each individual to look deep in our heart to see how we have been journeying with God and with others. It calls us to look into our inner life to see whether we have been enriched with God's grace or we have been infested and eroded by the business of life causing no time for daily prayers and when occasionally we pray we find that it is boring with much distractions. Advent calls us to correct our ways of life and re-examine our relationships with God on the spirit of the preaching of the Messenger of God- John the Baptist.

John calls us to simplify our lives. He himself lived simply, wore camel's hair, leather belt and ate locusts and honey. It is a life free from attachment of the world's materials. Free from the world's attachment means that the world is not our true home, we are only passing by; our true home is with the loving God. John's mind was clear and had more time to discern about the spiritual life and that enabled him to recognize Jesus who is the Son of God, Saviour of the world, who comes with the Spirit of God in Him and we recognize it at the baptism.

The Messenger began his preaching in the wilderness calling to correct our way of life because in the wilderness animals prey on one another, killing is a way of life and stronger animals rule weaker ones with fear. In the wilderness small animals have no straight roads but use curved tracks, networks combining with winding underground tunnels as a method of survival; these escape routes would have helped them evade danger when facing bigger animals. We need escape routes when we are combating our spiritual battles. Our safeguard is the protection of the Lord. Taking shelter in God by means of coming close to God through daily prayers and meditations and receiving the sacrament of reconciliation. Advent is our prayer-time to get closer to God. It is a time to rest in God's love and strengthened by God. God's Messenger calls to fix old roads, old ways of life, eroded by sins, not to make new roads but call to 'Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight' Luke 3:4(v. 2). Straightened the paths by means of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. It really means to walk in the right paths. Redirect our lives, deny our former ways to follow God's ways. When we are doing that we are listening to the voice of the Spirit who quietly whispers into our heart asking for correction. Without the guidance of the Spirit we are unable to walk the righteous paths. Without the power of the Spirit our bad habits will not be conquered. At the baptism we receive the gift of the Spirit and since then she is active in our lives. We need to cooperate with the Spirit to do the repairs, the reconstruction and become a new creation in Jesus.

Vudinh Tuong

**Next Week's Readings:
Third Sunday of Advent**

First Reading
Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

Second Reading
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Gospel
John 1:6-8, 19-28

Prayers for the Sick

Stefan Golebiowski
Carolyn Webster
Andrew Dudgeon
Catherine Smith
Michele Henselien
Catherine Murphy
John Perks
Lorraine Stevens

Recently Deceased

Noela Harrison
Elizabeth McInerney
Shelagh Colley

Anniversaries

Anne Baker
Frank Southwell
Meta Truscott
Alfo Paiva
Milroy Perise
Cyril Galvin

Please note: we cannot add a name to the sick list or recently deceased list unless advised by a family member direct.

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: 0477 894 904

Anyone who would like a visit from Father Tuong before Christmas, please contact the parish office on 3300 6099 before Friday 15th December.

Rosary

Rosary will be held at 7:30pm on Monday 11th December 2017 at Carmel Herbert's house, The Gap
Call Val Bonney for details
0417 631 246



Rosary

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

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Prepare the way for the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm:

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14

We wait for new heavens and a new earth.

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: Mark 1:1-8

Make straight the paths of the Lord.



UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

Date	Mater Dei	St Peter Chanel	Notes
December 2017			
Tues 12/12/17	7:30pm		Mass of Forgiveness - MD
Sun 17/12/17		5:00pm Mass 6:00pm BBQ	Christmas Festival Begins 6:30pm-7:00pm Combined SPC / MD Choir 7:10pm – 8ish Brothers James Singers
Mon 18/12/17		6:00pm BBQ	Christmas Festival 6:30pm-7:00pm Samford Community Choir 7:10pm – 8ish Jubilee Singers
Tues 19/12/17		6:00pm BBQ	Christmas Festival 6:30pm-7:00pm Steven Foley & Friends 7:10pm – 8ish Going for a Song
Wed 20/12/17		6:00pm BBQ	Christmas Festival 6:30pm-7:00pm Peace 'n' Choir 7:10pm – 8ish NUMB BUMS (Brisbane Ukulele Musicians Society)
Thurs 21/12/17		6:00pm BBQ	Last night of Christmas Festival 6:30pm-7:00pm Denise Parker & Peter Monaghan 7:10pm – 8ish Tatty Tenors
Sat 23/12/17	5:30pm		Normal MD Mass
Sun 24/12/17	9:30am 5:30pm Carols 6:00pm Vigil Mass Outside	8:00am 6:00pm Carols 6:30pm Vigil Mass	Normal Masses (NO 5:00pm Mass) Christmas Eve Masses
Mon 25/12/17	9:30am	8:00am	Christmas Day Masses
Tues 26/12/17		9:30am Mass	
Sat 30/12/17	5:30pm		Normal MD Mass
Sun 31/12/17	9:30am	8:00am	NO 5:00pm Mass
January 2018			
Mon 01/01/18	9:00am Mass		New Years Day Mass

Now Available to Purchase From Each Church & Parish Office

Christmas cards - pack of 8 \$4. Holy Prayer Cards - pack of 10 \$3. 2018

Columban Art Calendar \$9 each. Advent Calendars - \$5 each.

Five Minutes with the WORD (Advent) - \$4. Little Blue Book (Advent & Christmas Season) - \$5.00

Farewell Donations for Father Tuong

With Father Tuong leaving us at the end of the year, we have been asked by some parishioners what they can do or get for Father Tuong as a farewell gift. The parish has opened up a bank account exclusively for Father Tuong to use as he wishes. If you would like to make a donation details are:

Account Name: Donations Fr Tuong

BSB No.: 064-786

Account No.: 007121108

Bank: Commonwealth Bank

Otherwise money can be left at the parish office in an envelope for Father.



Mass of Forgiveness

Tuesday 12th December
7:30pm
Mater Dei Church



Message from the Archbishop regarding the postal survey on same-sex marriage. Please see the A4 printout at the back of the church.



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
 Mater Dei Church
 Monday 7pm-8pm
 Friday 6pm-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.



St Vincent de Paul Christmas Giving Tree

We invite you to take a card from the Christmas Giving tree which is located in each church, which suggests gifts to give needy families in our parish. Gifts are required to be returned under the Giving Tree by Saturday 16th December.



Gifts for sale at the SPC Piety Stall

The SPC Church piety stall will open during the Christmas festival. Gift prices range from \$3 to \$20.

HISTORICAL context

A Baptism of Forgiveness

The understanding that we generally have of baptism today has not always been the case. At the time of John and Jesus, the Jewish tradition used baptism as a ritual bath to cleanse a person who had become ritually unclean and make them able to participate in religious rituals. What John was preaching was a baptism for the forgiveness of sins – a new interpretation at the time. He emphasised that repentance was essential for forgiveness and that there needed to be a conscious returning to God. John's baptism was a symbolic act to signify the willingness of the person to renounce their sins and make a more conscious return to God.

Wine & Port 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 for carton of 12. Also available Port for \$20 a bottle.

Money raised goes towards families in need in our Parish.

Please contact the parish office.



Prepare the way of the Lord



SPC Church Cleaning Roster 2018

The new SPC church cleaning roster for 2018 is currently being prepared. If you would like to join or come off, please contact the Parish Office.

Can you Help?

Volunteers are needed for the Christmas festival. Volunteer sign up forms are located at the back of the church if you are able to help out on any of the nights or for set up /clean up. Donations for the Christmas hampers are also needed. If you have any gifts you would like to donate, please drop off to the parish office.

Thank you.

Help for Christmas Masses MD

Help is needed for the outdoor 5.30pm Carols and 6pm Mass on Sunday, Christmas Eve. Sunday after 9.30am mass Christmas Eve at 10.30am – help needed to erect the Mater Dei stage, put up the Black Curtain, bring out the altar and put out chairs etc. All needs to be put away after the 6pm Mass.

There will be some chairs provided. **BYO chairs** if possible.

Children to come dressed as angels, shepherds and wise men to be part of acting out the gospel for the 6pm mass. **Help** needed to organize this. Please contact Mary Davidson Ph.3366 5103. On Sunday 17th Dec all meet at the stage area of the MD School for a practice.

Ministers – Coordinator, Ministers of Communion, Altar Servers, & Singers - are needed for the 9.30am Mass on Christmas Day at Mater Dei.

Please indicate on the sheet at the door of the church where you can help or contact Tricia Wogan Ph.33004773 Email tricia.wogan44@gmail.com

Please see A4 handouts at the back of the church for more information.

Thank you The Liturgy Committee Mater Dei

SPC CHRISTMAS EVE MASS PLAY

Fr Tuong is writing a Christmas play for the children to act out at SPC Christmas Eve Mass. It is just acting roles, no speaking so little preparation will be required. If your children would like to be involved please contact Michelle

themeads@gmail.com

Birthday's for this week in December

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



MASS TIMES	MATER DEI	ST PETER CHANEL	FEAST DAYS/NOTES
Monday 11/12			
Tuesday 12/12	9:00am		
Wednesday 13/12		9:00am	Saint Lucy
Thursday 14/12		9:00am	Saint John of the Cross
Friday 15/12	9:00am		
Saturday 16/12	5:30pm mass		
Sunday 17/12	9:30am Mass	8:00am Mass 5:00pm Mass	Third Sunday of Advent Christmas Festival Begins

One Week to Go..... Christmas in our Parish 2017

Our Christmas festival will run for 5 nights commencing next Sunday 17th December and finishing Thursday 21st December, with a Christmas hamper raffle being drawn on the last night.

We propose to do something different this year and have 2 performances each night.

Performers booked for the nights are as follows:

- Sunday 17th December
- **Parish Group Choir (both SPC & MD) / Brothers James Singers**
- Monday 18th December
- **Samford Community Choir / Jubilee Singers**
- Tuesday 19th December
- **Steven Foley & Others / Going for a Song**
- Wednesday 20th December
- **Peace 'n' Choir / Brisbane Ukulele Musicians Society "NUMB BUMS"**
- Thursday 21st December
- **Denise Parker & Peter Monaghan / Tatty Tenors**

Each night the BBQ will commence at 6:00pm with the first performance from 6:30pm to 7:00pm and the second performance from 7:10pm to 8:00pm.

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.

A VOCATION VIEW:

2nd Sunday of Advent - B

A VOCATION VIEW:

The cry of the people: "Lord, let us see your kindness". Who will prepare the way of the Lord coming to us today?

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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