

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

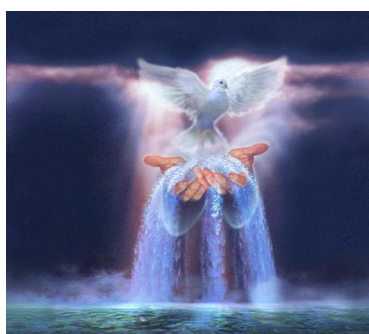
St Peter Chanel
Primary School
Phone: 3300 1202

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: [StJohnsWoodTheGapCatholicChurch@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



SUNDAY 19th March 2017 - Third Sunday in Lent



Well, Well, Well

Well and health go hand in hand. When we are well we enjoy life and even a cup of water and when a cup of water is tasteless we are not well. The story of the Samaritan woman who was drawing water at a village well for her daily consumption was surprised when Jesus asked for water to drink. The conversation between her and Jesus moved to several stages. It began with a surprise and cold response. *What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan for a drink?* The conversation went on and got a bit warmer when she told Jesus *'You have no bucket sir and the well is deep'*. The Samaritan showed some respect when she called Jesus *'Sir'* and *'the prophet'* and finally the woman confessed her faith in Jesus that *'you are the Christ'* and she went on her mission to tell other villagers. Others came to believe in Jesus when they confessed that *'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us, we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the Saviour of the world'* v.42.

Drawing everlasting water by listening to the teaching of Jesus and accepting him as our Saviour. The more the woman listened to Jesus the more she was drawn into his teaching and that reflected through her announcement to the village that *'he told me all I have ever done'*. Both Jesus and the woman talk about water but each understood differently. The woman talked about the natural water drawn from the well, the water which came from outside to quench our thirst. Jesus talked about the water that came from inside, from the depth of a person's heart. It is the everlasting source of goodness and love God had implanted deep in the heart of a person. When goodness and love flow from our heart it becomes the source of joy and comfort for others. It is the source of water Jesus was talking about and it was possible when we welcome God's word into our lives and the Spirit of God will activate that wellspring from our heart to flow.

The story had overcome several barriers which were seen as taboo by society of that time. First, men don't talk to women in public and would not ask for help from a stranger woman. Further the Jews would not talk to pagans whom they regarded as idolatry worshippers. The Samaritan woman was well known for her deviant behaviour in her village and any man who talked to her would be looked down upon by other villagers. The woman demonstrated that she had some knowledge of faith handed down to her by her ancestors- *"our father Jacob who gave us this well... our fathers worshipped on this mountain"*- It looked like the Samaritan was thirsting for some kind of spiritual nourishment and has not yet found it until she met Jesus. She went astray from the true faith because personal sin would cover our spiritual eyes to see the truth. Jesus won her back to the true faith of her ancestors and she accepted his teaching.

Vudinh Tuong

Next Week's Readings:
4th Sunday of Lent
Ordinary Time
First Reading
1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13
Second Reading
Ephesians 5:8-14
Gospel
John 9:1-41

Prayers for the Sick
 Eamonn O'Dwyer
 John Perks (Nellie's husband)
 Robert Wirth

Recently Deceased
 Michael Sgroi
 Fr. Tom Sheran
 Robert Dunlop (Steve Dunlop's brother)

Anniversaries
 Ima Russell
 Len Chetham
 Patrick O'Shannessy
 Georgina Timmins
 Brian Schmidt
 Marie McSweeney
 Andrew Kung
 Gabe Daly

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: 0409 894 904

Rosary

Rosary will be held at 7:30pm on Monday 20th March 2017 at Michael O'Connor's house, The Gap



Rosary

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

First Reading: Exodus 17:3-7
 Give us water to drink.

Responsorial Psalm:
 If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Second Reading: Romans 5:1-2, 5-8
 The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us.

Gospel Acclamation:
 Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
 Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world; give me living water, that I may never thirst again.
 Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel Reading: John 4:5-42
 The water that I shall give will turn into a spring of eternal life.



Stations of the Cross

For many years a number of Parishioners gather at Mater Dei on Friday nights at 7.30pm during Lent to pray the Stations of the Cross. This tradition of the Stations of the Cross has been going on for centuries. Attending the Stations marks for us a way of understanding our struggles in the light of Christ. Please come and join those in our Parish who see this way of prayer as a source of joy, and follow Christ's Passion, as he walks with us in our own journey.



Community Pantry

As part of our Lenten program the Parish is supporting the Community Pantry. Community's Food Relief Pantry relies on donations to support the urgent need for food in our local community. Instead of giving up chocolate or something else you like this Lent, why not bring some non-perishable items in to the donation boxes at each church so those in need can benefit. Items like cereals, tins of fruit, pasta, rice, tinned ham, tin salmon or tuna, are all very much appreciated.

Thank you for helping out others in need.



We have received positive feedback from those who attended the Alpha Workshop last weekend.

Thank you to all those who attended.



Bible Group
 Meets every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. Next meeting Wednesday evening 22nd March at SPC Parish Office at 7:30pm to 9pm. Anyone interested please contact Luisa Ph: 0422 919 887



Everyyoung Club

Next meeting is Thursday 23rd March 2017 at 10:00am in the Parish hall.

All welcome to come and enjoy a cuppa and get together.



Penance for Children in the Sacramental Program for First Holy Communion

Just a reminder that the children who are enrolled in the sacramental program for First Holy Communion are to attend their nominated Penance session this week or next week. If you cannot remember which session you picked for your child, please contact the parish office.





Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Mater Dei Church
Monday 7pm-8pm
Friday 6pm-10pm
 (During Lent Station of the Cross start at 7:30pm on Fridays)

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.

CHRISM MASS
APRIL 6, 2017

Archbishop Mark Coleridge invites you to the Annual Chrism Mass to be held in the Cathedral of St Stephen on Thursday 6 April 2017 commencing at 7.00pm. This is a celebration for the entire Archdiocese and all are welcome.

PARISH BUS TRIP

On Tuesday 4th April we head down the Rous Valley into the picturesque Tweed Valley to the rural villages of Chillingham and Tyalgum. Lunch at the Tyalgum Hotel. Travel back through Murwillumbah with a visit to the information centre. Departure time is 8.30am from St. Finbarrs (parking available at the church). Cost \$40. For bookings please phone Margaret on 3366 4114.

Wilderness Walks

Thanks to those who followed up on our invitation to walk in the wilderness at our doorstep. We since discovered a Facebook site, 'The Gap Bushwalkers' and have now taken 12 Guided Walks into this beautiful area advertising through the Events Section of this Facebook site. We take these walks either on Wednesday or Thursday mornings, starting about 6.45am at Walkabout Creek. Some walks take 4 hours others 1 or 2 hours. Please feel free to join this Facebook Group, see the collection of photos already amassed and join us on any of the guided walks. Peter McMahon 0437674062.

Family Pizza Night

The St John's Wood/The Gap Family Group are having their next get together next Sunday 26th March 2017 after 5pm mass for a pizza night in the SPC Parish Hall. For catering purposes, please let Fiona Taylor know or RSVP on their Facebook site of St John's Wood / The Gap Family Group if you can come.

Contact Joe if you are interested in joining their Facebook page.

Contact **Joe Sutton** M: 0403 240 664
 E: joe_sutton@optusnet.com.au
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1973201506237309/>

Parish History – 1987 to 2017

Dear Parish Group leaders,

Over the next few days, you will be contacted by phone by a member of the Parish History Committee. I have asked them to seek your help by contributing a page of information as follows.

- a brief history of your group, when was it formed and how;
- a description on what you do;
- the number of current members;
- a brief comment about your group from members;
- a photo of current members and one showing the work of the group.

This information will be used to compile a photographic history of the parish. This history will be added to previous historical works including the work of the Marist Fathers and as well will show recent new improvements to parish facilities.

Thank you for your participation. Material can be left at the parish office or you can give it directly to committee members by arrangement.



Vudinh Tuong



Understanding Police Check Requirements within Parishes.

Volunteers engaging with Vulnerable Adults as part of their ministry are required by legislation to hold a current Police Certificate.

There are lots of questions around Police Check requirements, so we have tried to address a number of these here. If you have any additional questions about Police Checks as a volunteer, please contact the Archdiocesan Safeguarding Officer, Troy Tornabene-tornabenet@bne.catholic.net.au or 3324 3752.

Due to the complexity, all new volunteer engagement is to be managed through the Parish Office and not through individual ministries. All forms are to be collected from the Parish Office.

Police Checks – Protection of Vulnerable Adults

- Checks volunteer's suitability to work with vulnerable adults.
- Under The Age Care Act (Police Certificate Guidelines 2014) volunteers engaged in Nursing Homes/Aged care facilities visits are required to hold a current Police Certificate.
- The Archdiocesan Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy apply the same requirements to those volunteers visiting vulnerable adults in their homes. This includes extraordinary ministers of Communion to the Sick, Care and Concern (if visiting homes), etc.
- **If you have been in your ministry for years and asked to complete a Police Check - Please don't take a request as a personal attack on your integrity – these changes apply as our compliance with various legislation and the Archdiocese risk controls for the protection of vulnerable adults.**
- Volunteers are to **ONLY** use Police Check forms provided by the Archdiocese.

Feast Day of St Joseph

There is an extra mass on Monday 20th March at 9:00am at St Peter Chanel Church

for the feast day of St Joseph.



MASS TIMES	MATER DEI	ST PETER CHANEL	FEAST DAYS/NOTES
Monday 20/03		9:00am	Saint Joseph
Tuesday 21/03	9:00am		
Wednesday 22/03		9:00am	
Thursday 23/03		9:00am	
Friday 24/03	9:00am		
Saturday 25/03	5:30pm		The Annunciation of the Lord
Sunday 26/03	9:30am	8:00am 5:00pm	

Mass of Reconciliation

Wednesday 12th April
at 7:00pm
Mater Dei Church



Birthdays for this week in March
Jill Bruhwiler



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

Mater Dei School News

With only two weeks left of the School Term the children, staff and families of Mater Dei are in full swing for the Easter Season. Caritas Australia's annual Lenten fundraising and awareness-raising appeal is an extraordinary, ongoing demonstration of the faith, love and generosity of the Catholic community and caring supporters throughout Australia to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity.

In true Mater Dei School tradition, our Mini Vinnie's group have organised for next Thursday 23rd March a Rice Lunch Challenge \$2 for a bowl of rice. All children will be invited to share in the experience of what it is like to have very little food or choice of food for a meal. A difficult concept for many adults and children to know of in our community.

On the last day of term, we invite all school families, parishioners and friends to our Holy Week Liturgy which will commence at 9a.m. on the school stage. The students of Mater Dei will also partake in the 'Caritas Ks' fundraiser where they will be challenged to run in a relay carrying water around the oval. We are raising awareness and funds for the thousands of children, women and men around the world who cover many kilometres each day to access necessities like food, water, education and healthcare.

It is our hope that the Mater Dei Communities fundraising events make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate than ourselves.

Peace and blessings to all.

Madonna Sleba
Principal Mater Dei Catholic Primary School



TUESDAY MORNING PLAYGROUP

Please come and enjoy a cup of coffee and cake with other parents from The Gap Community. It's an informal gathering to chat and meet other parents while our children play and get messy with craft.

When: Tuesday mornings at 9am (after school drop off).

Where: St John's Wood/The Gap Parish Hall.

What to bring: A gold coin donation (in order to keep the coffee pot full and the kids entertained).

Check out their Facebook page [Tuesday Playgroup @ St Johns Wood Parish Hall](#)



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