

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

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

SUNDAY 24th December 2017 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Your Will or Mine

Most people would prefer to do their own will rather than to do the will of someone else. Doing the will of others means to journey into the unknown territory with greater risks involved and lack of control. Doing your own will also involve risks but one has some control of the matter when it goes wrong. They can make a choice whether they would like to take the risk and pursue further or to withdraw to a safe territory.

The saying 'yes' to the messenger of God at the Annunciation to Mary was the story of a human taking a risk involved in the life of a woman. Both she and later on her Son, Jesus, would submit themselves to do God's will rather than to pursue their own. Mary after clarification with God's messenger, without fully understand what would be involved and unfold throughout her life, she boldly replied to the messenger:

"Let it happen to me as you have said." Lk 1,38.

Jesus, her Son, was doing even more. He had never questioned God's will for him or sought clarification of what would be involved in doing God's will. During his public ministry on earth there were numerous times he publicly confirmed that:

"I have come from heaven, not to do my own will, but to do the will of him who sent me." Jn 6,38.

We know that on the cross he cried out in agony:

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me." Mt 27,46.

This is not understood as a sign of refusal to accept God's will but it is a confirmation that God exists. When a person has experienced extreme pain and agony the anguish feelings take control over the feeling that God is near.

God's will is carried out by human hands and human hands often lack mercy and compassion and that makes life a misery for many.

To be born into this world is a blessing in a sense that we have the opportunity, first to do the will of God and second to enjoy the goodness of the earth. To do God's will by sharing God's love for others through acts of charity, to praise God and with others to give thanks to God. To do God's will we are not doing it alone but with God's grace and love and guidance and when we fail God comes to our rescue; to follow one's own will we do it alone and when it fails no one come to our assistance. We can withdraw to a safe territory but whether we have the courage to do it is entirely another matter.

To serve the parish is to do the will of God. We are grateful for your contribution to enrich the life of the parish in numerous ways. Somethings are known and others hidden from our eyes but God knows it all and it is God who awards you in his own way and time. Christmas is approaching fast and we the Parish Office Staff wish you a holy Christmas, that all parishioners will be filled with abundant God's blessings and grace and a peaceful heart throughout the year 2018.

Vudinh Tuong

Next Week's Readings:

The Holy Family

First Reading

Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3

Second Reading

Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

Gospel

Luke 2:22-40

Prayers for the Sick

Stefan Golebiowski
Carolyn Webster
Andrew Dudgeon
Michele Henselien
Bernard O'Shannessy
Pat Hutchison

Recently Deceased

Keith White
Raul Abello (Riza Ryan's brother)

Anniversaries

Daphne Trudgian
Jim MacPherson
Michael Marnane
Jack O'Shannessy
Lawrence O'Shannessy
Arnold Amabile
Glence Graham
Frank Guest
Michael Ridley
Maureen White

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

Rosary

Rosary will be held at 7:30pm on Monday 18th December 2017 at Bruce & Val Bonney'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: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

The kingdom of David will be established for ever in the sight of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm:

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

The mystery kept secret for endless ages is now revealed.

Gospel Acclamation:

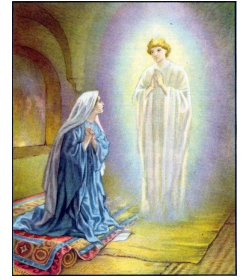
Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done.

Alleluia!

Gospel Reading: Luke 1:26-38

You will conceive and bear a son.



The last Parish Bulletin for the year will be printed for the weekend Masses of December 23/24 and will recommence for the weekend January 13/14.

As we all know Fr Tuong will say his last Mass as our Parish Priest at Mater Dei on Sunday December 31 at 9.30am. For the week beginning January 1st, there will be Mass on Monday at Mater Dei and then Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion on Tuesday to Friday. The following week there will be Liturgy of Word and Holy Communion on Tuesday and Wednesday and Mass on Thursday and Friday. More information will come out in our first bulletin for the year.

All weekend Masses will remain the same.

Sr Kari will be on deck as of January 1st and can be contacted either via the office phone, mobile or email. Her contact details are: mobile -0413 302825 email - hathereilk@bne.catholic.net.au

Preparing for this Christmas has certainly had its challenges but at the same time it has given me the opportunity to reflect on not only the past year but the past six years while Fr Tuong has been with us. For me I have learnt much from him and I will always look at him as one of my greatest teachers in my life's journey and I am grateful that I have had the opportunity to have this time with him.

At the same time I am looking forward to the new challenges and learning that I know I will enjoy and embrace. Our community has always made those men and women who have served in ministry with us feel at home and we have made a place in our hearts for them, and that won't change. These people will always come and go, and they will have an impact on us but it is the people of our Parish that makes our home special. It is us –the Parish that at the same time remains the constant but forever changing as our journey changes.

I hope your Christmas is peaceful and full of love as we remember the promise of hope and joy that is manifested in the birth of the Christ.

Richard James
Parish Manager

Congratulations and Thanks

The heat was intense during the day but when it came to the Christmas Festival in the afternoons, cool breezes took place and carried the BBQ's aroma to the surrounding areas. It was so inviting and a sense of jealousy for those who were unable to come to the Festival.

Congratulations and thanks to those who were involved in various ways that made those who came to the Festival feel welcome and well look after before they enjoyed the Christmas carols. Thank you to Gary and Julie from Meat U @ Home Butchers, Michael and Kate from Blooms Chemist and Zaid from Fresco Fruit Market and Seafood at the Gap Village for providing food and raffle contributions. Thanks also for those who looked after the children and gave them good times with movies, entertainment and face painting that would make their holiday a memorable one.

Without the contribution of different choirs each night the Christmas Festival would be similar to its original settings and atmosphere. The music makes the Christmas carols to be a community celebration, otherwise it would be an individual Christmas light viewing. Thanks for making the difference.

May the blessings of Christmas sanctify your mind and bring peace to your heart and endow your family with the true love Jesus offers with much good things throughout the year.

Congratulations and thanks.

Tuong

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.

Did you know the Parish of St John's Wood/The Gap has a Facebook page?

Please like our Facebook page. It is a great way to keep informed of our Parish activities and be involved in our Parish community.

Facebook page: StJohnsWoodTheGapCatholicChurch@St John's Wood / The Gap Parish



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.

Vacant Position
All Saints Parish, Albany Creek

Youth Ministry Coordinator - part time (20 hrs/wk)

A position description is available upon request. Please contact the parish office on 3264 8283 or via email at albanyck@bne.catholic.net.au to request a copy.

Commencement Date: 01 February 2018

Applications Close: 15 January 2018

Applications should be submitted with a current resume and a covering letter outlining your suitability for the position to Fr Ron Mollison Parish Priest via email at

albanyck@bne.catholic.net.au.

Applications should include at least two references, with one from a Parish Priest.

Do you enjoy meeting people?
Do you love your Cathedral?
Do you revel in good art and juicy history?
Do we have an opportunity for you!

You are invited to talk with us about becoming a volunteer welcomer and guide at the Cathedral of St. Stephen.

Join us for an information session to be held in the Hanly Room of the Francis Rush Centre **1 February 2018** from 10.30am-12.30pm.

For more information, contact Carmel Devery at the Cathedral office on 3324 3030 e-mail deveryc@bne.catholic.net.au by 25 January 2018.



*“Hail, full of grace,
 the Lord is with you!”*

LUKE 1:28

Faith is a gift from God. Take time in silence and thank Him for all the gifts He has given you. Try to set aside any anger or resentment you have and really open your heart to receive the gift of God's mercy and forgiveness. We can't give what we don't have. We need to receive God's mercy and forgiveness first before we can give it to others.

*“Prepare the way of
 the Lord...”*

MARK 1:3

(Accessed on 12 December 2017 from <http://archstl.org/stewardship/page/bulletin-inserts>)

A message from the Archbishop regarding the Royal Commission is located at the back of each church. Please take one.

menCONNECT

Date Claimer

Our first Gathering is on 10th February 2018

The focus will be **“Mind, Body, Soul, Relationships, Meaning & Purpose”** with **Gary Stone** presenting.

Gary is well known to the men of St John's Wood / The Gap and beyond.

He has a great message for men of all ages. Come along in February 2018.

Put this date in your diary. As in past years this is a half day event.

Time = 7 am to 1 pm



The St. Vincent de Paul depot is short of furniture and has exhausted emergency funds to purchase furniture. They particularly need beds, wardrobes, lounge suites and chests of drawers. If you can help then please call 1800 846 643. They will collect from your place. Many thanks for your continued support.

**YEAR OF
 YOUTH
 2018**



MASS TIMES	MATER DEI	ST PETER CHANEL	FEAST DAYS/NOTES
Monday 25/12	9:30am	8:00am	The Nativity of the Lord No SPC 5pm mass
Tuesday 26/12		9:30am	Please note no 9am mass at MD Instead mass at SPC at 9:30am
Wednesday 27/12		9:00am	Saint John
Thursday 28/12		9:00am	The Holy Innocents
Friday 29/12	9:00am		
Saturday 30/12	5:30pm mass		
Sunday 31/12	9:30am	8:00am	The Holy Family
Monday 01/01	9:00am		Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

**Upcoming
Birthday's in
December**

Denise Parker

**Upcoming
Birthday's in
January**

**Judy Golebiowski
Margaret Sharpe
Joe Mead
Michelle Mead**



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

Christmas in our Parish 2017

Thank you to everyone who came along to our parish festival this year. It was great having two performances each night.



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