



# St John's Wood/The Gap Parish Bulletin

Vol 6, Issue 03

01 February 2026



## 4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**First Reading:** [Zeph 2:3;3:12-13](#)

In your midst I will leave a humble and a lowly people.

**Second Reading:** [1 Cor 1:26-31](#)

God has chosen what is weak by human reckoning.

**Gospel:** [Matthew 5:1-12](#)

Happy are the poor in spirit.

*This week's Gospel reflection:*

### **JESUS SHOWS US THE WAY TO CARE**

In this liturgical year, Year A, we focus on readings from Matthew's Gospel. Matthew writes towards the end of the first century AD, for a Christian community comprised of Jewish converts. In his gospel, he strives to demonstrate for them how Jesus is the fulfilment of the faith, hopes and promises of their Jewish faith, the fulfilment of all that is in "the law and the prophets" (Mt 5:17).



The reading from Matthew's Gospel is arguably the most famous and oft-quoted of all passages in the New Testament. It is known as The Sermon on the Mount or The Beatitudes (Blessed are they ...). It is Matthew's masterful summary of Jesus' teachings.

The passage follows not long after Matthew's account of Jesus' early public life and the call of the first disciples. Matthew gives a brief description of Jesus' activity: "He went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people" (Mt 4:23).

In this one verse, Matthew effectively summarises the ministry of Jesus: teaching and healing. Jesus teaches with extraordinary authority, interpreting the Torah for his Jewish followers, and he heals the sick and afflicted, lifting the burden of suffering. These two dimensions of his ministry – teaching and healing – are inextricably linked and intertwined. His teaching offers healing and his healing expresses his teaching.

Matthew tells us that, on this occasion, Jesus goes up the mountain, draws his disciples to him, and sits down (as Rabbis do) and teaches them. His going up the mountain reminds us of Moses who went up the mountain of Mount Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments. This teaching is as important as that!

"Blessed (i.e., happy, fortunate) are they who . . ." Jesus repeats nine times, each time noting the God-given blessing that is the corresponding reward for those who act in that way. With these Beatitudes, Jesus effectively instructs his disciples on the nature of true holiness and the promise of true happiness. The Beatitudes reflect the merciful and compassionate character of God as revealed by Jesus (and as expressed in the Psalm). And they articulate the attitudes, values and spirit of the way of life we are to live and the way we are to act as Jesus' disciples in our care and concern for each other, our fellow human beings, and indeed all creation.

The list of Beatitudes is not like the list of the Ten Commandments, a definitive list of commands (Thou shalt not . . .). Rather, they are commendations for a way of living, of being in the world, of caring for others, especially the sick, powerless, poor and afflicted.

Our gospel reading challenges us to reflect on our attitudes and values in the light of Jesus' teaching and his compassion for all those in need of healing.

*Anne Hunt © Majellan Media 2026*



[Readings and Commentaries](#)

**PRAYING WITH CHILDREN**  
SUNDAY LITURGY

TWO-MINUTE HOMILY

**Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**



Fr Neil Muir

[WATCH NOW](#)

Fr Neil reminds us to recognise in our own lives the life of grace that has been gifted to us and how we use those gifts to live our life of faith for others. [Watch now.](#)

### **Deceased**

Anthony Mahoney, Mike Newman, Eileen Enright, Pat Lavin

### **Anniversary**

Maurice De Silva

### **Sick**

Beth Kloza, Lameka Eketi, Peter Maher, Peter Townson, Suzanne Black, Val Bonney, Carmel Foster, Baby Paddy Marquart, Julie Allen, Philomena (Nellie's mum), Trish Crawshaw, Fiona Russell, Luz Stella Lopez, Carmel Herbert, Christy Murphy, Jim Johnson, Robert Minns, Tim chen chen zuo Zu, Mary Thomas, Antonio Ferrante, Carol Black, Moira De Silva, Margaret Sullivan, Ryan Ferguson, Toni Bennett, Deiana Martin, Lorraine Stevens

**WCCM (Christian Meditation)**

Monday at 9.30am Parish Office.

Will resume early February.

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

Mater Dei: Monday & Friday 6 - 7pm

### **HAPPY ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY FATHER ELIE**



Loving God, we thank you for the gift of priesthood and especially for Father Elie who has generously stepped in to serve our parish. As we mark his ordination anniversary, we give thanks for his faithfulness, his willingness to serve and the care he has shown to this community. Bless him with strength, peace and joy in his vocation.

Renew his spirit, deepen his love for You and continue to guide him in all he does. May he know our gratitude and always feel supported by Your grace. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

Day/Date	Liturgy	Mass Times	Venue
Monday 02/02/2026	The Presentation of the Lord	9am	Mater Dei
Wednesday 04/02/2026	Weekday Ordinary Time 4	9am	SPC
Thursday 05/02/2026	St Agatha, virgin, martyr	9am	SPC
Friday 06/02/2026	St Paul Miki and companions, martyrs	9am	Mater Dei
Saturday 07/02/2026	Weekday Ordinary Time 4	5.30pm	Mater Dei
Sunday 08/02/2026	<b>5th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME</b>	8am 10am 5pm	SPC Mater Dei SPC

## menCONNECT

Gentlemen, our “main course” event of 2026 will be a **half-day Gathering** on Saturday 28 February. The speaker will be **Deacon Gary Stone, OAM**, who is returning to facilitate reflections and discussions on **Living life to the full** (John 10:10).

Gary will provide three inputs which we will then discuss in turn and workshop for our **individual life planning**: a stocktake on my relationships with **myself and others**, a stocktake on my relationship with **God** and writing an **aspirational eulogy**- how I would like to be remembered.

The morning starts at 7am with the traditional cooked breakfast and coffee and concludes at 1pm.

The location of the Gathering is the Parish Hall at St Peter Chanel, 41 Chaprowe Rd, The Gap.

The cost is \$25 and please **RSVP Mike** on 0459 992 228 before 25 February for catering purposes.



### Australia Day Celebrations at Mater Dei



*What's Australia Day without sharing a cuppa and a lamington.*

*The parish celebrated Australia Day at Mater Dei Church this year with*

*a big thanks to those who organised it and supplied morning tea.*

*We also celebrated Collette's 92nd birthday and wish her all the blessings for the future.*

### BRINGING THE EUCHARIST TO YOU

Are you or a loved one unable to attend Mass due to illness, infirmity, or age? Our Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are dedicated to bringing the Blessed Sacrament to those who are sick or housebound.

If you would like to receive Holy Communion at home, or if you know a parishioner who would appreciate a visit, please register your details so we can arrange a convenient time.

#### How to Request a Visit:

Call the Parish Office: 33006099

Email us: [thegap@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:thegap@bne.catholic.net.au)

**“I was sick and you visited me.” — Matthew 25:36**

## ST JOHN'S WOOD / THE GAP PARISH

### Office Hours

Mon, Wed, Fri:- 8:30am - 3:30pm

Tue, Thurs: - 8:30am - 12:30pm

### Contact

**A:** 41 Chaprowe Road, The Gap

**P:** PO Box 408, The Gap Qld 4061

**T:** 07 3300 6099

**E:** [thegap@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:thegap@bne.catholic.net.au)

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

**Facebook:** [StJohnsWood/TheGapParish](https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsWood/TheGapParish)

**Bulletin:** *Email this address if you require a copy*

[bulletin.thegap@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:bulletin.thegap@bne.catholic.net.au)

### PARISH TEAM

#### Fr Anthony Odionyenfe

Parish Priest

**E:** [odionyenfe@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:odionyenfe@bne.catholic.net.au)

**P:** 0437406047

#### Silvana Geldenhuys

Parish Secretary

**E:** [poa.thegap@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:poa.thegap@bne.catholic.net.au)

#### Ann Lister

Local Safeguarding Representative & Parish Office Assistant

**E:** [poa2.thegap@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:poa2.thegap@bne.catholic.net.au)

#### Majella Deegan

Sacramental Program Coordinator

**E:** [spco.thegap@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:spco.thegap@bne.catholic.net.au)

### CHURCHES

#### Mater Dei

16 Philomene Drive, Ashgrove, 4060

#### St. Peter Chanel

41 Chaprowe Road, The Gap, 4061

### SCHOOLS

#### [Mater Dei Primary School](#)

**T:** 3514 4100

#### [St Peter Chanel Primary School](#)

**T:** 3300 1202



### HOME ROSARY

This week's rosary will be said at the home of Gordon on Monday 2nd February. Contact the parish office for further details.

Please check out our [Parish Webpage](#) and [Facebook Page](#) for regular updates.



## Milestone Birthday Celebrations

On Wednesday at morning tea after 9am Mass we celebrated Kathleen Cosgrove's 90th birthday and Collette Eastwood's 92nd birthday.

We were joined by Father John Madden who has been filling in for Father Anthony. Father John thought we may have a Guinness World record for the number of people over ninety to attend weekday Mass, which was 9 in total.

It was a wonderful morning with singing and lots of stories. Kathleen said, "her parish community makes her feel uplifted". We wish you both a healthy and happy year ahead and may God bless you and keep you safe.



## PARISH WOMEN'S GROUP

We have a Parish Women's Group who meet fortnightly on Wednesday mornings at 9.30am at the home of Robyn Locke.

Our aim is to look at the Sunday mass readings for discussion, prayer and reflection with a view to deepening our understanding of the Sunday scripture readings and thus enriching our Sunday worship. We will be re-commencing for 2026 on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February and are currently welcoming new members.

During Lent, we do the Lenten program and so meet weekly from Ash Wednesday until Easter. If any ladies would like to join with us to do the Lenten program, they would be very welcome. If you interested or would like further information, please contact Robyn Locke at [robyn@opuscons.com.au](mailto:robyn@opuscons.com.au).

## PARISH FUNDRAISING RAFFLE



This year we have been gifted a wonderful prize of a Weber BBQ (Baby Q) to raffle to raise funds for Defibrillators for both churches and the parish hall.

There will be a second prize of a lovely hamper. Tickets will be on sale from this weekend at both Churches at the cost of \$5 per ticket or 5 for \$20. Tickets close on Thursday 12th and the raffle will be drawn by Father Anthony on the 13th February. Please support this parish initiative. If you have any questions please contact the parish office on 33006099.

## ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

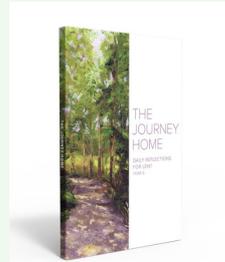
A single middle aged working male, non-smoking, no pets, is seeking a granny flat or similar or willing to share with one or two people.

References available—

Please contact Kevin on 0435275728

## LENTEN RESOURCES

Our two Lenten resources this year are from: **Archdiocese of Wollongong**



called "**COM PASSIO**". Cost \$10

Or

**Archdiocese of Brisbane book called "THE JOURNEY HOME". Cost \$5**  
Please order through the Parish office.



## SOMETHING FOR A LAUGH

A Texan rancher travels to Australia for a holiday. There he meets an Aussie farmer.



The Aussie shows off his big wheat field and the Texan says, "Oh! We have wheat fields that are at least twice as large."

Then they walk around the station, and the Aussie shows off his herd of cattle.

The Texan immediately says, "We have longhorns that are at least twice as large as your cows."

The conversation almost dies when the Texan sees a mob of kangaroos hopping through a paddock.

He asks, "And what are those?"

Incredulously, the Aussie replies, "Don't you have grasshoppers in Texas?"

😊😊😊😊 Enjoy your week ahead.....

## DISCERE 2026



You are invited to attend Discere — a free, one-day retreat to start the new year with prayer and discernment about where God is calling you in 2026 and beyond. Discere is an opportunity for young single Catholic's (18–35 years) to intentionally pause and ask the question, "Where is God calling me?" in a peaceful, supportive and safe environment.

There will be time for prayer, reflection and group sharing, and opportunities to hear from priests, religious and married spouses about their discernment journeys. If you have any questions about Discere 2026, please reach out to our Vocation Brisbane team on 3324 3003 or email [vocation@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:vocation@bne.catholic.net.au).

More information, including guest speakers and the session schedule, will be announced closer to the time.

### Event Details

**Date:** Sunday, 22nd February 2026 **Time:** 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

**Location:** Brisbane City and St Stephen's Cathedral precinct, more details to come

**Cost:** Free (morning tea and lunch included)

**A vocation view:** Presentation of the Lord – C/1

Like Simeon, we should listen to God's call and allow the Holy Spirit to guide us as we serve with faith and purpose.

Scan the QR code to find out more, or call 1300 133 544 [www.vocationbrisbane.com](http://www.vocationbrisbane.com)



Follow us on socials  
[@vocationbrisbane](https://www.facebook.com/vocationbrisbane)





## Tickets are NOW LIVE for the 2026 Moogerah Passion Play!

This Easter, join us at the beautiful **Lake Moogerah** as the Easter story is brought to life in a powerful outdoor setting. Performed right in front of you, the Passion Play is a meaningful way to reflect, gather, and share the Easter weekend with family and friends. Our team are so excited to see you at the Lake Theatre at Easter this year!

Enjoy the Moogerah Passion Play alongside an array of Market Stalls, Vendors, Catering and Merchandise.

**Book your FREE tickets today!**

# + LIVING + PRAYER

RHYTHMS OF PRAYER IN LENT

## A 3 Day Lenten Retreat

27 Feb - 1 March

Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre

Scan for Info and Registration



SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT

## CATHOLIC JUSTICE AND PEACE COMMISSION INVITES YOU TO

Brisbane launch of the **Australian Catholic Bishops Conference 2026 Social Justice Statement**. Launched by **Archbishop Shane Mackinlay** with a reflection from **Trish McMahon**, State President for St Vincent de Paul Society.

**GOLD COIN DONATION** for Vinnies

THE COST OF OUR LIVING: ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL JUSTICE FOR THE COMMON GOOD.

10 FEB | 7PM | ST JAMES PARISH HALL

92 Kirkland Avenue Coorparoo (Off-street parking available)



Register your seat or connection through this link.



Hosted by the **St James Catholic Parish Social Justice Group** and the **Brisbane Catholic Justice and Peace Commission**

- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Some items in the bulletin are sourced from Majellan Media.

OUR LADY OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS  
Catholic Parish Greater Springfield

## We're hiring Evangelisation Pastoral Associate

OLSC are seeking a passionate and faith-filled Evangelisation Pastoral Associate to play a key leadership role in the growth and development of discipleship within our parish community.

**Location:**  
Our Lady of the Southern Cross Parish Springfield, QLD

**Hours:**  
Part-time  
30 hours per week

### The YES prayer

*Today and every day, I say "yes" to you, O Lord. In the same way that Mary said "yes" to your invitation, I say "yes" to your Son's presence in my life. May my "yes," by the power of your Holy Spirit, allow you to use all the talents, skills and gifts you have given me for the purpose of building up your Body in our community. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*