



# St John's Wood/The Gap Parish Bulletin

Vol 6, Issue 01

18 January 2026

## 2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**First Reading:** [Is 49:3,5-6](#)

I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.

**Second Reading:** [1 Cor 1:1-3](#)

The grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**Gospel:** [John 1:29-34](#)

This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.



[Readings and Commentaries](#)



Two-Minute Homily by Fr Sang Duc Bui for the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time 2026, Year A. [Watch](#)

### Deceased

Anthony Mahoney, Mike Newman, Eileen Enright, Pat Lavin

### Anniversary

Howard Hall, Rosario & Caterina Merenda, Christian YR Vanathas, Nathan Vanathas

### Sick

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, Kathy Cameron

**WCCM (Christian Meditation)**

Monday at 9.30am Parish Office.

Will resume early February.

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

Mater Dei: Monday & Friday 6 - 7pm

### This week's Gospel reflection:

#### THE LAMB OF GOD IS HERE

"Behold, the Lamb of God!," he cried out when he saw Jesus. But that wasn't enough. He needed to explain. He made a point of telling anyone who would listen, "This is the one I was telling you about! He's here!"

With that, the Gospel this Sunday serves as a bracing wake-up call as we return once more into Ordinary Time. For some of us, the holidays can't end soon enough; for others, it seems, they're ending much too soon.

Reality sets in. After the merriment of Christmas — packages and parties, carols and cooking, broken toys and broken diets — we get down to the hard work of ordinary life. There are lights to unplug, tinsel to toss. We need to get back to work. That includes our challenge to put the message of Christmas into practice — to carry a proclamation of joy and hope into the world and to dwell, for at least a little longer, in a sense of possibility and peace.

We also need to hear once more the Baptist's cry in the wilderness. Keep your eyes open, he tells us. The Lamb of God is here. Pay attention!

Do we realize what he is asking? It sounds so simple. Recognize the Lord. Look for him. Listen to him. But there's more we need to do.

I'm reminded of something Pope Francis told the deacons of the Diocese of Rome a few years ago.

"I expect you to be sentinels," he said, "not only to know how to spot the poor and the distant — this is not so difficult — but to help the Christian community to recognize Jesus in the poor and the distant, as he knocks on our doors through them...Whatever the need, see the Lord. So, you, too: recognize the Lord when, in so many of his smaller brothers and sisters, he asks to be fed, to be welcomed and loved."

How are we doing with that?

When John pointed out Jesus to those around him, he was not only telling them that the one they had been waiting for had arrived; he also signalled that the great work was now beginning.

Things were about to change. It was time to live, pray and love differently.

In the same way, all of us these days need to refocus our energies after the frenzy of the holidays. Most of us are probably ready to move beyond the fruitcake and the fa-la-la-la-la.

But behold! The Lord is here. How will we make that matter?

For starters, we need to keep the message of the season going, cherishing the reminder we got just a couple weeks ago that God is with us. Our world is different because of that. We need to realize that the Incarnation was not a one-time event; Christ continues to be born, to live among us, as long as we seek him and help make him visible ourselves.

Do we recognize Christ when he approaches us? Do we acknowledge him in the way we live our lives? Do we see him in those around us? Do we live in a way that tells the world we are his followers?

"Behold the Lamb of God!" John said those words with awe and with love — and, undoubtedly, with joy, the same joy that caused him to leap in his mother's womb when the unborn saviour entered his life.

Let it be our prayer to experience that awe and love and joy daily — and to behold the Lamb of God the same way in those around us.

Taken from the Catholic Courier article by Deacon Greg Kandra is an award-winning author and journalist, and creator of the blog "The Deacon's Bench."



Day/Date	Liturgy	Mass Times	Venue
Monday 19/01/2026	Weekday Ordinary Time 2	9am	Mater Dei
Wednesday 21/01/2026	St Agnes, virgin, martyr	9am	SPC
Thursday 22/01/2026	Weekday Ordinary Time 2	9am	SPC
Friday 23/01/2026	Weekday Ordinary Time 2	9am	Mater Dei
Saturday 24/01/2026	St Francis de Sales, bishop, doctor	5.30pm	Mater Dei
Sunday 25/01/2026	<b>3rd SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME</b>	8am 10am 5pm	SPC Mater Dei SPC

## Welcome back

We trust you had a safe and happy holiday season and we look forward to sharing this wonderful new year ahead with you. This year we hope that our Youth group will continue to grow with Sam and Lauren leading the way. We welcome back our Pot Luck Dinners and all our active groups in the Parish. Please remember if you need any assistance we are here to help. Best wishes for an exciting 2026!

### Parish Youth-Led Mass & Youth Night - next Sunday!

The first Parish YLM for 2026 is on **Sunday 25 January at 5pm Mass at St Peter Chanel Church - all are invited.**

We're also very pleased to announce that the **first ever Youth Night will occur after Mass** from 6-7:15pm. These nights will be **just for high-schoolers** in Grades 7-12 and will include dinner, games and a chance to get to know each other. If you're in high school, we want to see you there!

**As usual, help at the YLMs is needed** – all young people are invited to be readers, singers, musicians, altar servers, computer operator and to take up the gifts at the Offertory. Before the Youth-Led Mass begins, there are practices for the various ministries, so don't stress if you haven't done it before. If you, or someone you know, would like to be involved, **please contact Lauren Deegan** at [ldeegan39428@gmail.com](mailto:ldeegan39428@gmail.com) or 0487635721.



## 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.



## 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:** [odionyenfea@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:odionyenfea@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 Chris & Ron on Monday 19th January. Contact the parish office for further details.

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



## WELCOME BACK TO OUR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS FOR 2026

As you kick-start another wonderful academic journey this year 2026, I would like to extend to you the Parish Community's excitement, wishes, prayers and hopes for you our wonderful school community; Saint Peter Chanel Primary School and Mater Dei Primary school. It's good to have you back dear students, teachers, parents/ grandparents, care givers and friends.

We want you to know as always that you have our support and prayers, and collaboration when you need it. Our hope is to continue to create a welcoming community and a nurturing environment that is safe, where everyone matters and where everyone's talent can thrive. It's a teamwork and we believe we can achieve that together. So once again, well come back. **Father Anthony**

### 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*



#### PLEASE NOTE:

On Monday 26th January, Australia Day Mass will be celebrated at Mater Dei Church commencing at 9am. Let us come together to celebrate our great nation with love and peace.

#### 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*

- ◆ The Editor retains the right to edit any items that are submitted to the Bulletin.
- ◆ Some items in the bulletin are sourced from Majellan Media.
- ◆ The cut off for the Parish Bulletin is Wednesday 3pm. If you have any queries please contact the Parish Office.

## 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. 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.



### SOMETHING FOR A LAUGH



A small town had three churches: Presbyterian, Methodist, and Catholic. All three had a serious problem with squirrels in the church building and each, in its own fashion, had a meeting to deal with the problem.

The Presbyterians decided that it was predestined that squirrels be in the church and that they would just have to live with them.

The Methodists decided they should deal with the squirrels lovingly in the style of Charles Wesley. They humanely trapped them and released them in a park at the edge of town. Within 3 days, they were all back in the church.

The Catholics had the best solution. They baptized and confirmed the squirrels. Now they only see them at Christmas and Easter.

Enjoy your week ahead.....

## Safeguarding & Workplace Health and Safety

The Safeguarding Commitment for the Archdiocese of Brisbane and St John's Wood/The Gap Catholic Parish is: Zero tolerance for all forms of abuse and strives to safeguard all who interact with its ministries & services. Special priority is given to the safety & wellbeing of children & adults at risk.

In an emergency, please call the Police on 000 or information can be provided to STOpline anonymously.

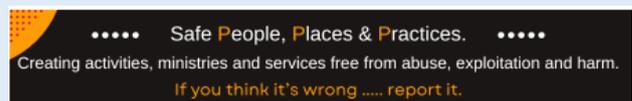
Phone: 1300 304 550 Email: [AOB@stoline.com.au](mailto:AOB@stoline.com.au)

Online: [www.bnecatholic.stoplinereport.com](http://www.bnecatholic.stoplinereport.com)

Our Local Safeguarding Officer

Ann Lister-[poa2.thegap@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:poa2.thegap@bne.catholic.net.au)

Phone: 33006099 or Brisbane: 07 3324 3752



**'Creating protective environments and activities for children and adults-at-risk.'**



flocknote +



ARCHDIOCESE OF BRISBANE

**Are you new to our Parish? PLEASE SIGN UP NOW!** Thank you to all the families that have signed up for Flocknote. We invite all of you and visitors to sign-up to Flocknote, our communication and engagement tool. Our Parish (and the Archdiocese of Brisbane) has officially adopted Flocknote for all parishes, as a safe, new, and improved way of communicating in parishes. Flocknote is free for parishioners to use, and there is no need to download anything. Your info is kept secure and private. It only takes a couple minutes to sign up to receive emails from the parish. You are even able to reply directly back to those emails so we can get feedback and hear from you.

As part of our transition period, we would like to invite our parishioners to register on our new database.

If you have any questions, please speak with the Parish office.

There is also a template of the registration form that can be printed for those who don't have access to a phone or computer. If you need a paper form you will need to return it to the parish office and these forms will be added to Flocknote.

Parishioners and visitors are invited to use the link or QR code below and signup and register with the parish.

<https://thegapparish.flocknote.com/register>

The Archdiocese privacy policy is available here— <https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/privacy-policy.pdf>

## REGISTER TODAY

- 1 Follow the URL (or scan the QR code) for your parish and enter your email address.
- 2 Flocknote will email you a secure 4-digit code to verify your email address. Enter this code to begin the registration process. If you are already registered, you can update the information we already have.
- 3 Register yourself, and your family much like a parish census form. You can enter as much or as little information as you want.

Your information is secure, and we will never share your information with anyone else. For more information, please refer to our Privacy Policy. <https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/privacy-policy/>



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## 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



## A vocation view: 2nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

God's Spirit is given to each person for the common good. What are your gifts? Are you willing to share them for the good of others?

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




**Home, heart & soul**  
Flourishing in later life

Please join us for free practical advice and conversations to help you navigate your later years with confidence.

**FREE SEMINAR**

Date: **Thursday, 26 February 2026** Time: **10am - 2pm**  
Venue: **St Brigid's Catholic Church, 78 Musgrave Road, Red Hill Qld 4059**  
Morning tea and lunch will be provided free of charge.  
To register your attendance at the event please email [jubilee@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:jubilee@bne.catholic.net.au) or call **07 3324 3632** or **07 3324 3200** and you will be sent an RSVP form. Please RSVP on or before Monday, 23 February 2026

### AGENDA

10:00am	Welcome by Parish Priest	Fr Gerry Kalinowski, Jubilee Parish
10:15am	Legal and estate planning	Vicky Martin, Thynne & Mccartney Lawyers
10:45am	Charitable gifts in wills	Raushen Perera, Archdiocese of Brisbane
11:15am	Morning tea	
11:45am	Financial and retirement planning	Cheynee Stiller, Shaoforth Financial Services
12:15pm	In-home support	Kylee Sheehy, Centacare
12:45pm	Pre-planning funerals	Jennie McIntosh, K M Smith Funerals
1:15pm	Lunch and fellowship	
2:00pm	Finish	



Vicky Martin



Raushen Perera



Cheynee Stiller



Kylee Sheehy



Jennie McIntosh



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