



# St John's Wood/The Gap Parish Bulletin

Vol 6, Issue 06

22 February 2026



## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

**First Reading:** [Gen 2:7-9,3:1-7](#)

Creation of our first parents and sin.

**Second Reading:** [Romans 5:12-19](#)

Where sin increased, there grace abounded all the more.

**Gospel:** [Matthew 4:1-11](#)

Jesus fasted for forty days and nights.



[Readings and Commentaries](#)



TWO-MINUTE HOMILY

First Sunday of Lent



Fr Elie Francis

WATCH NOW

Fr Elie reflects on Jesus emerging from the desert ready for His mission and invites us this Lent to prepare our hearts for renewal. [Watch now.](#)

## Deceased

## Anniversary

Ron & Joy Hambleton

## 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

*This week's Gospel reflection:*

## A NOURSHING DESERT



Vast, bare and silent, the desert is a place of spare and rugged beauty. It is also very confronting: an arid, barren environment with extreme temperatures, searing heat by day and freezing cold by night.

The desert may serve as a metaphor for our experiences of desolation, when we are stripped bare of our confidence and must face our most vulnerable selves. Even though Jesus was the Son of God, there were no doubt moments when he was led into the desert when he experienced desolation, when he thought that God was absent or silent.

When faced with grief, loss, or hardship, we may find it difficult to persist in faith. Even waiting for God may seem like an added – even an unbearable – burden. But, as Simone Weil, in *Waiting for God*, reminds us: “we cannot take a step toward the heavens;” instead, we find that, in God's immense love for our frail humanity, “God crosses the universe and comes to us.” God comes to us!

The three temptations faced by Jesus present examples of situations where we in our own lives may be tempted to rely on ourselves to overcome some very basic human challenges: the need to fill our hunger, the desire to be powerful or influential, and the need to feel safe and secure.

In his responses, Jesus teaches us not to succumb to the temptation to compensate for our human weaknesses by focusing on satisfying our desires. Instead, he invites us to lean ever more closely on God and to let God begin to work within us with great love and tenderness and fashion us every more closely in God's image.

Jesus shows us that, even at our lowest ebb, God fills every hunger and quenches every thirst. He reminds us that any influence we may wield comes not from being powerful but by walking with others in humility, solidarity and love. He reminds us to remain steadfast; for we can rest secure in the trust that God embraces our every vulnerability.

Through God's transforming presence, we can begin to experience the desert not as a place of despair or desolation, but as a place of deep encounter with God and transformation. Stripped bare of everything superfluous to our needs, and utterly dependent on God, we become open to a profound conversion of heart and real growth.

When Anthony, one of the early Desert Fathers, emerged twenty years after his time in the desert, his brothers were surprised to see that he was not haggard, but instead looked well and was radiant with inner peace.

Amidst the suffering of any desert into which we are led, let us pray for the grace to respond as Jesus did – to open ourselves utterly to God. Let us awaken to the divine within and around us and respond to him, to the beauty of his creation, and to each other in an entirely new, grace-filled and life-giving way.

*Sophie Clements© Majellan Media 2026*

## EVER YOUNG GROUP



*Welcome back to the Ever Young Group. This year we hope to grow and we hope you will spread the word to anyone who may like an outing to enjoy some good company and a laugh over a cuppa. The morning commences at 10am in the Parish Hall on Thursday 26th February. So bring your friends and join us for a fun filled morning. You can contact Lyn on 0423 096 654 for more details.*

| Day/Date                | Liturgy                          | Mass Times         | Venue                   |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Monday<br>23/02/2026    | First Week of Lent               | 9am                | Mater Dei               |
| Wednesday<br>25/02/2026 | First Week of Lent               | 9am<br>7pm         | SPC<br>MD               |
| Thursday<br>26/02/2026  | First Week of Lent               | 9am                | SPC                     |
| Friday<br>27/02/2026    | First Week of Lent               | 9am                | Mater Dei               |
| Saturday<br>28/02/2026  | First Week of Lent               | 5.30pm             | Mater Dei               |
| Sunday<br>29/02/2026    | <b>SECOND SUNDAY<br/>OF LENT</b> | 8am<br>10am<br>5pm | SPC<br>Mater Dei<br>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.

## 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



### YOUTH LED MASS

The next Parish YLM is **this Sunday 22 February** at 5pm Mass at St Peter Chanel Church. **If you're a high schooler or young adult** from Mater Dei or SPC, **we'd love for you to join us at this Mass and, if you're able, to serve too.** We need **readers, singers, musicians, altar servers, computer operator** and people to take up the gifts at the **Offertory**. Before the YLM begins, there are practices, so don't be afraid to try something new! If you, or someone you know, want to be involved, please contact Sam Mead at [samuel.mead@outlook.com](mailto:samuel.mead@outlook.com) or 0491 149 607. **All parishioners are invited to join too.**

See you there!



POTLUCK DINNER

### POTLUCK DINNER

The next Parish Potluck Dinner is **this Sunday 22 February** after the 5pm Youth-Led Mass in the Parish Hall. **All are welcome - come to share dinner together** and catch up with friends new and old over a meal. Please bring a main or dessert to share and your own drinks. (Meals can be dropped off at the Hall right before 5pm Mass or when Potluck begins.)

**More helpers** (for setting up beforehand, putting out food and packing up afterwards) **are desperately needed** for Potlucks to continue to run. If you can help, please contact Michelle Mead at [themeads@gmail.com](mailto:themeads@gmail.com). See you there!



### HOME ROSARY

This week's rosary will be said at the home of Pushpa on Monday 23rd February. Contact the parish office for further details.

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



## YOUNG ADULTS LENT GROUP

We're pleased to announce that a Young Adults Lent Group will be launching in the Parish next Monday. Come along to get to know other young Catholics, to explore and reflect on the topics of Lent and to deepen – or explore – your faith. Every night includes dinner! If you're a young adult (finished school and older), you're invited – we want to see you there!

**Mondays during Lent 6:00-7:30pm | Launching 23 February 2026 | St Peter Chanel Church, The Gap**

For more info and to join our new Young Adults WhatsApp group, contact Lauren on 0487 635 721. If you're not a YA but you know a YA who might be interested, pass this invite onto them or pass their details onto Lauren! (Co-ordinated by Lauren Deegan and Sam Mead)



### Can you help with FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS at SPC church?



Our flower ladies are seeking volunteers to help with flower arranging for our weekend Masses and special celebrations throughout the year.

If you enjoy working with flowers-or would simply like to learn-we would love to welcome you to our small, friendly team. No formal experience is necessary, just a willing heart and a love for helping beautify our church.

This is a lovely way to serve the parish community and contribute to the prayerful atmosphere of our liturgies.

If you are interested, please contact Kay Sullivan (0423 186 840 – text or call or email [kaysullivan41@hotmail.com](mailto:kaysullivan41@hotmail.com)).

Thank you for helping us keep our church welcoming and beautiful.



### FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION PROGRAM PARENT INFORMATION EVENING

Communion is the third of our Initiation Sacraments. The Sacramental Policy of the Archdiocese of Brisbane states "in the year when children turn nine (Year Four), they are welcomed to the Lord's Table and receive Holy Communion for the first time".

Children may receive Holy Communion for the first time at any age after this, but they *must be baptised and confirmed before they prepare for and receive their First Communion.*

We are beginning our parish preparation program for the celebration of First Communion with a Parent Information Evening.

**WHEN: Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup> TIME: 7pm**

**WHERE: St Peter Chanel Church**

If you are unable to attend, please contact the Parish Office.

### LENTEN RESOURCES

Our two Lenten resources this year have arrived and are available from the Parish office. **Archdiocese of Brisbane book called "THE JOURNEY HOME"**. Cost \$5

**LENT RESOURCES FOR KIDS** Are you looking for creative, fun and faith-filled ways to invite children into the liturgical season of Lent? Check it out at [tinyurl.com/Lent4Kids](http://tinyurl.com/Lent4Kids)



### BIBLE STUDIES GROUP

Thank you to all those who turned up to the Bible sessions. I am please to announce the next session will be on **Thursday 19th March** from 6-7pm in the Parish Hall. Please bring a bible with you.

We joined with our SPC school community and their families to celebrate Ash Wednesday Mass marking the beginning of the season of Lent. It is such a joy to share these special liturgies with our parish family.



### First Sunday of Lent 21-22 February 2026

Project Compassion 2026 shares four stories from around the world. We'll meet Sisilia from Tanzania, Monoranjon from Bangladesh, Manaini from Fiji and Ahmad from Gaza.

Each of this year's stories highlights unique challenges, yet they are united by the determination to rise above adversity and to build brighter, more hopeful futures for themselves, their families and their communities.



**UNITE  AGAINST POVERTY**  
this Lent

**Please donate today.**

You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code.

**Or online at:** [www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate](http://www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate)

**Or by calling:** 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent.*



### CHILDREN'S LITURGY LEADERS HELP NEEDED

Children's Liturgy is offered at the 10am Mass on the first Sunday of each month. We need to hear from another 1-2 more people who can volunteer as either as a session leader or assistant to ensure it is possible to continue.

All volunteers need to complete the parish safeguarding requirements prior to commencing. Support is available to learn how it all works, including shadowing an existing session leader. Easy to follow materials are provided through the Archdiocese for each Sunday. Please contact the parish office, or Donna Lynn at [donna.lynn@live.com.au](mailto:donna.lynn@live.com.au) if you are interested in finding out more.

•••• Safe People, Places & Practices. ••••

Creating activities, ministries and services free from abuse, exploitation and harm.

If you think it's wrong ..... report it.



**21 MARCH 2026**  
SANTA TERESA SPIRITUALITY CENTRE  
**9AM – 3PM**

Join Fr Paul Chandler for  
**POWERHOUSE OF PRAYER**

Scan to register before 13/3/26



**LEARN AND PRACTICE THE ART OF PRAYER**



**RECO RALLY**

**FRIDAY, 27 MARCH 2026 6 - 8:30PM**

**LOURDES HILL RECONCILIATION, COLLEGE SPEAKER, GAMES, PRAISE AND WORSHIP**

**CATHOLIC Collective** Find out more at [catholiccollective.org.au/reco-rally](http://catholiccollective.org.au/reco-rally)

**A vocation view: First Sunday in Lent – A/2**

Lent is a season of renewal, of spiritual growth. These forty penitential days invite us to strive for our true calling.



Scan the QR code to find out more, or call 1300 133 544

[www.vocationbrisbane.com](http://www.vocationbrisbane.com)



- ◆ 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.

**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**

**SOMETHING FOR A LAUGH**



A physician, an engineer, and a politician were discussing who among them belonged to the oldest of the three professions. The physician said, "Remember, on the sixth day God took a rib from Adam and fashioned Eve, making him the first surgeon. Therefore, medicine is the oldest profession."

The engineer replied, "But, before that, God created the heavens and earth from chaos and confusion, and thus he was the first engineer. Therefore, engineering is an older profession than medicine." Then, the politician spoke up. "Yes," he said, "But who do you think created all of the chaos and confusion?"



Do you know the oldest computer was owned by Adam and Eve?

It was an apple, with very limited memory, one byte and everything crashed!

Did Adam and Eve have a date together? No, they had an apple.

It's never worth getting into an argument about creationist Adam and Eve versus evolution. You're just comparing apples and origins.

😊😊😊😊 Enjoy your week ahead.....

**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

"Our parish would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of this land, the Turrbal and Jagera people, and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge their continued connection to the land, water and community".



Guiding you through your time of need with compassion, dignity and affordability.

(07)3293 0555

[www.holycrossfunerals.com](http://www.holycrossfunerals.com)

