



# St John's Wood/The Gap Parish Bulletin

Vol 6, Issue 08

08 March 2026



## THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

**First Reading:** [Ex 17:3-7](#)

Give us water to drink.

**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:** [John 4:5-42](#)

The water that I shall give will turn into a spring of eternal life.



[Readings and Commentaries](#)



TWO-MINUTE HOMILY

Third Sunday of Lent

Fr David Pascoe



Fr David reflects on Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well, inviting us to see how this moment may mirror our own Lenten journeys. [Watch now.](#)

### Deceased

Sr Gabriel Ryan, Tony Sherwood, Carmel Foster

### Anniversary

Beatrice & Kevin McMahan, 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.

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**  
Mater Dei: Monday & Friday 6 - 7pm

*This week's Gospel reflection:*

### JESUS SHOWS US HOW TO CARE

The readings for this Sunday the Third Sunday of Lent revolve around a powerful and recurring human experience: **thirst**—not only for water, but for meaning, trust, and life itself.

Across Exodus, the Psalm, Paul's letter to the Romans, and the Gospel of John, God meets human longing with patient, life-giving grace.

In the first reading, the Israelites quarrel with Moses in the wilderness, consumed by fear and frustration. Their physical thirst quickly becomes spiritual doubt: **"Is the LORD in our midst or not?"** Despite their testing and complaints, God responds not with punishment but with provision. Water flows from the rock, revealing a God who remains faithful even when faith wavers. This moment exposes a truth about the human heart—we often struggle to trust God when life becomes uncomfortable, yet God continues to meet us with mercy.

The Psalm echoes this tension, urging us to listen to God's voice and not harden our hearts as the Israelites did at Massah and Meribah. The psalm invites reflection: Lent is not simply about external practices, but about cultivating an interior openness to God. Worship becomes authentic when our hearts remain receptive rather than resistant.

In the second reading, Paul deepens this theme by reminding us that our relationship with God is grounded **not in our perfection, but in grace.** While we were still weak and sinful, Christ died for us. Hope does not disappoint because God's love has already been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. Our thirst for peace, belonging, and meaning is answered not by our own efforts, but by God's initiative.

The Gospel brings these themes to their fullness in Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well. Jesus crosses social, religious, and personal barriers to meet her where she is. He names her truth without condemnation and offers her **"living water"** that leads to eternal life. What begins as a private conversation becomes a moment of transformation—not only for the woman, but for her entire community. Having encountered Christ, she leaves her water jar behind, a powerful sign that her deepest thirst has been satisfied.

*Written by Lionel from the Men's Journaling Group*



Dear Parishioners,

When the Holy Spirit descended at Pentecost, the disciples didn't stay in the upper room—they went out into the streets to share the Good News.

As we begin our **Divine Renovation** journey at our parish, we are asking the same Holy Spirit to stir within us. This mission isn't just about new programs; it's about a **"renewal of the heart."** We want to be a **parish that doesn't just exist for itself, but exists to bring the light of Christ to our neighbours, our families, and our community.**

This prayer below is our first step together. I invite you to pray it daily. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to guide our Parish Pastoral Council, our leadership, and every one of us as we move forward in faith.

The best is yet to come! **Father Anthony**

*Dear Jesus,*

You have called us to lead your people. Give us courage to choose mission over comfort. Unite us in purpose. Help us to lead with humility, clarity, and trust. May our parish become a place of encounter and transformation.

**Amen**



Day/Date	Liturgy	Mass Times	Venue
Monday 09/03/2026	Third Week of Lent	9am	Mater Dei
Wednesday 11/03/2026	Third Week of Lent	9am	SPC
Thursday 12/03/2026	Third Week of Lent	9am (Year 1 attending)	SPC
Friday 13/03/2026	Third Week of Lent	9am	Mater Dei
Saturday 14/03/2026	Third Week of Lent	5.30pm	Mater Dei
Sunday 15/03/2026	<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT</b>	8am 10am 5pm	SPC Mater Dei SPC

### Social Trivia - Wednesday 8 April

Come and join us for some screen-free fun for the whole family!



Details:

- Blind Tiger (at the Gap Village) on Wednesday 8 April
- Tables are booked from 6pm, with trivia starting at 7pm
- Food and drinks can be purchased across the night, or you might prefer to eat before you leave home

It is free to participate. Optional participation in the Jackpot prize with gold coin entry.

**RSVP by 3 April** - 20 people maximum. Please contact Donna Lynn to RSVP [donna.lynn@live.com.au](mailto:donna.lynn@live.com.au)



### BIBLE STUDIES GROUP— PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE

Thank you to all those who turned up to the Bible sessions. Due to other commitments I have had to reschedule the next session which will be on **Wednesday 18th March** from 6-7pm in the Parish Hall. Please bring a bible with you.

Father Anthony



### 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.

### ~THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH ~

\* **Monday at SPC**

9.30am Meditation

Group

6.30pm Young Adults  
Lenten Group

Adoration 6-7pm MD

\* **Wednesday**

9am Mass SPC

followed by morning  
tea in the parish office

\* **Thursday 12.30pm**

Mahjong group

\* **Friday at MD**

6-7pm Adoration

7.30pm Stations of the  
Cross

◆ **Sunday 8am SPC**  
*RCIA Candidates*  
*first Scrutiny*

**Dates to save:**

**Thursday March 26th** –  
7pm at MD 2nd Rite of  
Reconciliation

**Thursday 2 April MD**

7:00pm - Holy Thursday

**Good Friday 3rd April**

10.30am MD Stations  
of the Cross  
3pm SPC The LORD'S  
PASSION

**Saturday 4th April 7pm**

Easter Vigil at SPC

**EASTER Sunday 5th**

**April** - 8am Mass SPC  
10am Mass at MD  
**NO 5pm Mass**

## 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 Odionyene

Parish Priest

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

**P:** 0437406047

#### Silvana Geldenhuis

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 Carmel on Monday 9th March. Contact the parish office for further details.

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





### Can you help with FLOWER ARRANGMENTS 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.

### YOUNG ADULTS LENTEN GROUP

Monday nights is very special for our young adults as they gather to explore and reflect on the Lenten topics.



If you know anyone who would like to join them they meet in the SPC church from 6.30 –7.30pm.

If you would like to support them by way of making a meal for them to share before hand please contact Lauren on 0487635721. Your support is greatly appreciated.

### menCONNECT

Each February menCONNECT offers a half-day event for men to gather with other men of the parish. Some men also came from other parishes to socialise and listen to a guest speaker leading them through matters of importance to men.

This year we had **Padre Gary Stone** as our guest presenter. Gary is a man of substance, a man of integrity and action. On this occasion Gary presented new material to us but familiar to him. He selected the theme from the words in John 10:10, ***'I have come that you may have life, life to the full.'***

Through a series of workshops, Gary lead us to explore and stocktake for our individual life planning: a stocktake on our relationships with ourself and others, and a stocktake on our relationship with God.

The feedback on the day from attendees overwhelmingly appreciated the incites Gary imparted to the group. Well done to the men of our Parish and may God bless you all and keep you strong. *God bless!*



*Thank you*

The menCONNECT planning team extends heartfelt thanks for the prayers and support that surrounded our recent Gathering. Your encouragement truly made a difference.

We were grateful to welcome 42 men from our parish and beyond. Throughout the day, we shared openly, reflected on our lives, and identified meaningful ways to grow into the fuller life we're called to live. The sense of connection, honesty, and renewed purpose made the Gathering a genuinely uplifting and successful experience.

### A vocation view: Third Sunday of Lent - Year A

Third Sunday of Lent - Year A Only the Lord can give true living water, the fullness of life. Our body cannot survive without water; our spirit cannot survive without living water. Now is the time to renew our lives in the waters and Spirit of Baptism.

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



Follow us on socials





**PROJECT  
COMPASSION**

### Third Sunday of Lent

7-8 March 2026

**Monoranjon** lives in a village in Bangladesh close to the sea, where floods and storms often damage his crops and his home. With support from Project Compassion, he learnt climate-resilient farming techniques and new ways to diversify his income, helping his family survive and build a safer, more sustainable future.



#### 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.*

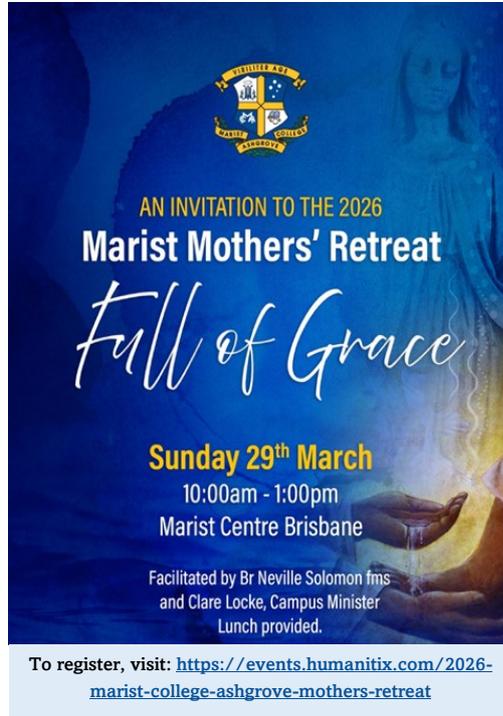
#### St Laurence's Old Boys Association – A Call for Information

The St Laurence's College Old Boys Association is compiling a record of past students who served in the Australian Defence Forces or Allied military services in any war or conflict dating from the Second Boer War. This request includes Old Boys of St. Kilian's College, the forerunner of St. Laurence's College.

We warmly invite parishioners, families, and friends within the Catholic community to share any information, stories, photographs, or records relating to St Laurence's College Old Boys who served their country. Your contribution will help preserve their legacy of service and ensure their sacrifice is properly recognised.

Please contact the St Laurence's Old Boys Association

at: [slcoldboys@slc.qld.edu.au](mailto:slcoldboys@slc.qld.edu.au)

**AN INVITATION TO THE 2026  
Marist Mothers' Retreat**  
*Full of Grace*

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March**  
10:00am - 1:00pm  
Marist Centre Brisbane

Facilitated by Br Neville Solomon fms  
and Clare Locke, Campus Minister  
Lunch provided.

To register, visit: <https://events.humanitix.com/2026-marist-college-ashgrove-mothers-retreat>



**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)

THE CATHOLIC LEADER

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or call (07) 3324 3555



Archbishop Shane Mackinlay  
invites you to the annual  
**CHRISM MASS**  
Thursday 26th March 2026  
7:00pm  
Cathedral of St Stephen  
249 Elizabeth Street, Brisbane  
A celebration for the entire Archdiocese  
All Welcome  
The undercover carpark will be available  
from 6:00pm

**SOMETHING FOR A LAUGH**

A crook stuck a gun in the man's ribs and said: "Hand over your phone and your money."  
The man replied: "You can't do this. I'm a Senator in Canberra."  
The crook replied: "In that case, give me my money."

Teacher: "Which book has helped you the most in your life?"  
Student: "My father's check book."

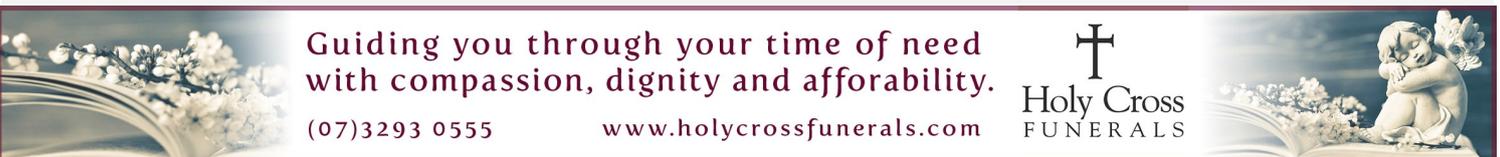
Math Teacher: "If I have 5 bottles in one hand and 6 in the other hand, what do I have?"  
Student: "A drinking problem."

😊😊😊😊 Enjoy your week ahead.....

..... Safe People, Places & Practices. ....  
Creating activities, ministries and services free from abuse, exploitation and harm.  
If you think it's wrong ..... report it.

**The protection and wellbeing of children and adults-at-risk is at the core of Church mission and setting the right approach to safeguarding is important.**  
**'Creating protective environments and activities for children and adults-at-risk.'**

"The Parish of St John's Wood/The Gap 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".



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