



St John's Wood/The Gap Parish Bulletin

Vol 6, Issue 09

15 March 2026



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading: 1 Sam 16:1,6-7,10-13

In the presence of the Lord God, they anointed David king of Israel.

Second Reading: Eph 5:8-14

Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

Gospel: John 9:1-41

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



[Readings and Commentaries](#)



TWO-MINUTE HOMILY

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Fr Isaac Falzon



Fr Isaac reflects on how stripping away the unnecessary and unhealthy parts of our lives enables us to journey freely to our destination, which is Easter. [Watch](#)

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:

AN UNCOMFORTABLE TRUTH: HOW FREE ARE WE?

What a feast of readings this Sunday!

First, we hear how the prophet Samuel has trouble seeing as God sees, but God guides him to persist and eventually recognise and anoint David. The familiar psalm 22 expands on the shepherd theme and on God's loving guidance, even when we walk in the valley of darkness.

In Ephesians, we hear of Christ's light (like Christ's love and truth), contrasting with the darkness in us (like selfishness and the bad things we do). Paul is bold and sure that we should "be like children of light, for the effects of light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth". I certainly don't have complete goodness and truth in my life, and so often I have to battle my selfish desires to try to free myself to do what God wants of me. I prefer not to speak the truth if it causes people to criticise me. I prefer not to suffer or do uncomfortable things. But Paul exhorts us all not to lose heart, "Try to discover what the Lord wants of you...The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated, and anything illuminated turns into light". If we can be honest and humble in a personal relationship with God, He can change us, so we become more like Him.

John's gospel tells of the blind man who Jesus heals so he can finally see. Yet instead of a return to full community, the man encounters the rigidity and jealousy of the Pharisees. The man tells them the truth, but it costs him their approval, and he is driven away. He can see, but at a painful cost. Jesus heard that they had driven him away, and he goes to him. The man has yet another honest conversation, but this time it is a tender conversation with his Saviour. The healing was a miracle, but that conversation changes everything for him, and he becomes a disciple who is authentically free to love.

What are the uncomfortable truths in your life? How can you have honest, tender conversations about these with others, and with God?

Written by Luke from one of the parish Journaling Groups



PRAYING FOR PEACE

"Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding."

~ Albert Einstein ~

In times when the world feels unsettled and divided, the simple act of praying for peace can draw people together in a powerful way. Prayer reminds us that beyond our differences, we all hope for a world where respect, kindness and understanding guide our choices. It encourages us to pause, reflect and consider how our own actions can contribute to a more peaceful world.

Peace is not only something we hope for among nations; it begins within each of us. When we choose patience over anger, compassion over judgement and dialogue over conflict, we help create the kind of world we long to see. Every thoughtful word and caring action can bring a little more calm and goodwill into our communities.

May we recognise the dignity and worth of every person we encounter.

When we commit ourselves to living with generosity and respect, we take meaningful steps toward a future where people can live safely and flourish together.

Dear God, fill our hearts with patience, kindness and understanding. Guide us to be people who bring calm where there is tension and hope where there is fear.

Help us choose peace in our words and actions each day. Amen.

Please continue to pray daily for the Holy Spirit to guide our Parish Pastoral Council, our leadership, and every one of us as we move forward in faith.

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 16/03/2026	Fourth Week of Lent	9am	Mater Dei
Wednesday 18/03/2026	Fourth Week of Lent	9am - Anointing Mass	SPC
Thursday 19/03/2026	Fourth Week of Lent	9am (Year 1 attending)	SPC
Friday 20/03/2026	Fourth Week of Lent	9am	Mater Dei
Saturday 21/03/2026	Fourth Week of Lent	5.30pm	Mater Dei
Sunday 22/03/2026	FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT	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

~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 & 10am Mater Dei RCIA Candidate second Scrutiny**

Dates to save:

Friday March 27th - 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

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PARISH TEAM

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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



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 this **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 if you are interested in finding out more.



HOME ROSARY

This week's rosary will be said at the home of Donna & Brendan on Monday 16th March. Contact the parish office for further details.

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



NEXT YOUTH-LED MASS & YOUTH NIGHT - 29 MARCH

This month's Parish Youth-Led Mass is on **Sunday 29 March (last Sunday of the month)** at SPC 5pm Mass. If you are in high school or you're a young adult, we'd love to see you there! If you want to **get involved in serving** (music, altar serving, reading, computer, Communion Minister, offertory, collector), please email: samuel.mead@outlook.com.

Spread this invite to anyone who you reckon might be interested! All parishioners are invited to join too.

Straight after the YLM, we will have a **Youth Night** from 6-7:15pm in the parish hall - a night just for **highschoolers** in Grades 7-12 (and run by Izzy, Lauren and Sam). It will include dinner, games, a chance to get to know each other more and a time of prayer. Are you in high school? Yes? See you there!



Family Mass

Thank you to our parish community for so warmly welcoming the Mater Dei Family Mass. It was a beautiful celebration of faith and community, and we are deeply grateful for the opportunity to gather together in worship. Sharing this Mass alongside the Marist boarders made the celebration even more special, reminding us of the strength of our wider Catholic family and the joy that comes from praying together. We truly appreciate your hospitality and ongoing support of our school community.

Igniting hearts of Caritas

At Mater Dei, our 2026 theme *Igniting Hearts of Caritas* is coming to life each day as our students learn what it means to care compassionately for others in our classrooms, across our school, and within the wider community. Through prayer, reflection and action, children are being encouraged to act with kind hearts that notice the needs of others and respond with love. This commitment is beautifully expressed through our involvement in Project Compassion, where students are putting faith into action by standing in solidarity with those in need and learning that even small acts of generosity can make a meaningful difference.

75 Year celebrations

2026 marks a very special milestone as Mater Dei celebrates 75 years of faith, learning and community. Throughout the year, we look forward to honouring the many stories, memories and people who have shaped our school across generations. Please watch this space for a range of celebrations later in the year, including opportunities in August for past families and students to reconnect, share memories for a special gallery, and join a newly created alumni Facebook group where stories and reflections can be shared. We can't wait to celebrate this significant journey together. **Leah APRE**

- ◆ 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.

RECO RALLY - 27 MARCH



This Lent, be a part of hundreds of young people coming together in faith and drawing closer to God through music and the Sacrament of Reconciliation! Rally Rally, an annual FREE event for high school students and young adults run by the Archdiocese's Youth & Young Adults Team, is on **Friday 27 March, 6:00-8:30pm** at Lourdes Hill College.

Come for a night of live praise and worship music from Emmanuel Worship, all-in games, an inspiring speaker, powerful prayer and the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This is a night to reset, refocus and reignite your faith. Come as you are, leave transformed!

ST PATRICK'S DAY MASS 2026

The Annual St Patrick's Day Mass, organised by the St Patrick's Day Parade Association, will be celebrated again this year in the Cathedral of St Stephen, Elizabeth Street at 10.00am on Tuesday 17 March 2025.

All are invited to attend. And, for those who may be unable to do so, the Mass will be live-streamed on this link - [Mass live stream - Archdiocese of Brisbane](#) You may wish to pass the link on to someone overseas. And we invite you also to join your fellow attendees for morning tea afterwards in the Hanly Room.



Our school community continues to be enriched by opportunities to gather in prayer and celebration with our parish. We look forward to continuing to celebrate our faith together and warmly invite parishioners to join us at upcoming St Peter Chanel Masses:

Sunday 22 March – 8:00am | SPC Family Mass

Thursday 19 March – 9:00am | Year 1 attending Parish Mass

Thursday 26 March – 9:00am | Prep and Year 4/5 attending Parish Mass

These celebrations provide meaningful moments for our students and families to pray alongside the wider parish community, nurturing shared faith, belonging and connection.

During Lent, our students are also working hard to support Caritas Australia's Project Compassion. Through initiatives such as our pancake morning, purchasing a \$2 water drop this week, and another fundraiser planned before the end of term, we are learning the importance of generosity and standing in solidarity with those in need.

Thank you to our parish community for your continued support of these efforts as we journey together through Lent.

Hayley APRE

A vocation view: Fourth Sunday of Lent - Year A

God welcomes us home with extravagant love. Let the call to holiness draw you home into a deeper relationship with God. (Luke 15:1-3, 11-32)

Scan the QR code to find out more, or call 1300 133 544 www.vocationbrisbane.com

Follow us on socials





**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

Fourth Sunday of Lent 14–15 March 2026

Life was hard for **Manaini** and her children living in rural Fiji. With the support from Caritas Australia's partner, FRIEND, she learnt food processing and gardening skills, improving nutrition and creating new income opportunities to support her children's education.



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

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

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

2026

Theology of the Body

ONE DAY IMMERSION

Join us for an introductory TOB program exploring the fullness of love, life and purpose through a day of fun and formation.

**St. Francis Hall,
West End
Good Shepherd Parish.**

2nd May 2026. \$30 incl. meals.
For 14-19 yr olds

To register or any queries:
hannah@realtalkaustralia.com

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

"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".



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 nun, a priest, and a lawyer arrive at the gates of heaven and St. Peter greeted them. "Welcome to Heaven. We have simplified the process of admission, and all you need to do to get into Heaven is pass a simple test. Are you ready?"

The Nun said, "I've prepared for this moment for 73 years."

"Okay," said St. Peter, "spell 'God'."

"G-O-D."

"Very good, Sister, enter your eternal reward."

"That was easier than I thought it would be," the priest said, "I'll take my test now."

"Okay," said St. Peter, "spell 'love'."

"L-O-V-E."

"Excellent, Pale', enter your eternal reward."

The third person, a lawyer, said, "Boy, is this is gonna be a snap. Give me my test."

"Okay," said St. Peter, "spell 'prorhipidoglossomorpha'."

😊😊😊😊 Enjoy your week ahead.....



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).

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

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.'

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

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