



St John's Wood The Gap Parish Bulletin

(encompasses Mater Dei and St Peter Chanel churches united as one community)

Vol 6, Issue 15 26 April 2026



FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: [Acts 2:14,36-41](#)

God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ.

Second Reading: [1 Peter 2:20-25](#)

You had gone astray but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Gospel: [John 10:1-10](#)

I am the gate of the sheepfold.



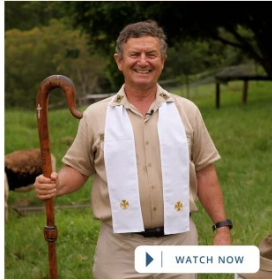
[Readings and Commentaries](#)

PRAYING With CHILDREN
SUNDAY LITURGY

TWO-MINUTE HOMILY

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Dcn Gary Stone



On this Fourth Sunday of Easter, Good Shepherd Sunday, Deacon Gary reflects on what it means to serve with a shepherd's heart. [Watch now.](#)

Deceased

Anniversary

Eileen Cahill

Sick

Pam Healy, Beth Kloza, Lameka Eketi, Peter Maher, Peter Townson, Suzanne Black, Val Bonney, Julie Allen, Philomena (Nellie's mum), Trish Crawshaw, Fiona Russell, Luz Stella Lopez, Carmel Herbert, Christy Murphy, Jim Johnson, 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

Honouring our Anzacs

Anzac Day is one of our most significant national commemorations. Observed on April 25 each year it marks the anniversary of the first major military action fought by the Australian and New Zealand Army during World War I at Gallipoli in 1915.

However, its importance goes far beyond a single battle. Anzac Day is a time to remember, reflect, and honour all those who have served and sacrificed their lives in wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations.



The Gallipoli campaign was marked by extreme hardship, yet the ANZAC troops showed bravery, endurance, and mateship in the face of extreme adversity. These qualities have since become central to our national identity.

By recalling their experiences, we acknowledge the strength of those who fought under difficult and often tragic circumstances.

Another important aspect of Anzac Day is remembrance. Thousands of lives were lost at Gallipoli and in later conflicts. Ceremonies such as dawn services, marches, and the laying of wreaths allow communities to come together to pay their respects.

The phrase "Lest we forget" is a potent reminder of the human cost of war and the importance of honouring those who made the ultimate sacrifice.



Anzac Day also encourages reflection on the impacts of war. It is not only about celebrating bravery, but also about acknowledging the suffering and loss experienced by soldiers, families, and nations. By reflecting on history, people can better understand the consequences of conflict and the value of peace.

Anzac Day also helps to educate younger people. Through stories, ceremonies, and historical accounts, they learn about the past to ensure the ANZACs' legacy continues.

A solemn and meaningful day, Anzac Day unites people in respect and gratitude for those who have served their country.

"Dear Lord, on Anzac Day, we remember the brave souls who made the ultimate sacrifice for peace.

Grant them eternal rest and comfort their loved ones. May their courage inspire us to build a world of harmony and understanding. Amen."



"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."

~ Bible (John 15:13) ~

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 27/04/2026	4th Week of Easter	9am	Mater Dei
Wednesday 29/04/2026	St Catherine of Siena, virgin, doctor	9am	SPC
Thursday 30/04/2026	4th Week of Easter	9am	SPC
Friday 01/05/2026	4th Week of Easter	9am— Anointing Mass	Mater Dei
Saturday 02/05/2026	3rd Week of Easter	5.30pm	Mater Dei
Sunday 03/05/2026	FIFTH SUNDAY of EASTER	8am 10am 5pm	SPC Mater Dei SPC

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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[Mater Dei Primary School](#)

T: 3514 4100

[St Peter Chanel Primary School](#)

T: 3300 1202

Happy 50th Wedding Anniversary

Congratulations to **Christine and Rod Fowler** who celebrated their **50th Wedding anniversary** on the 24th April. As you celebrate this Golden Jubilee, we thank God for the blessings He has poured into your marriage and for the inspiration you continue to be to your family, parish and community. May He continue to strengthen your bond, fill your hearts with peace, and grant you many more years of love and companionship.

God Bless you both

~THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH~

* Monday at SPC

9.30am Meditation

Group

6.30pm Young Adults

Group

Adoration 6-7pm MD

* Wednesday

9am Mass SPC

followed by morning
tea in the parish office

* Thursday

Mahjong 12.30pm

* Friday at MD

6-7pm Adoration

Dates to save:

* **Pot luck dinner and**

YLM will be held on

Sunday 26th April 5pm

SPC

* Confirmation Program commences with Parent Information Evening Wednesday 4th June 7-8pm at SPC

* The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be held from 9th—24th May.

*Next SPC family Mass
Sunday 14th June

*Next MD family Mass
Sunday 24th May



HAPPY 93rd BIRTHDAY

On behalf of the parish we would like to wish Joseph a very happy **93rd** birthday that he celebrates on 25th April. Joseph and the parishioners celebrated his birthday at morning tea after the 9am Mass on Wednesday.

May the Lord bless you abundantly with peace, good health, and continued joy. May His love surround you today and always, and may you feel the deep appreciation and prayers of your parish family.



Invitation to an Anointing Mass

An invitation is extended to the people of the Archdiocese to attend the monthly Anointing Mass at St. Mary Magdalene's Church, 51 Cecil Road, Bardon, Friday, 1st May 2026 at 7.30pm. Fr. Anthony Odionyenfe, PP, St Johns Wood The Gap Parish, will be the celebrant. The Sacrament of Anointing will be administered during the Mass and further prayer ministry will be available after Mass. For more information, contact Len Airey on 0421 977 849 or by email to lenpatairey@gmail.com Sponsored by CCR Bardon.

HOME ROSARY



This week's rosary will be said at the home of Pushpa on Monday 27th April. Contact the parish office for further details.

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



This week's Gospel reflection:

Gently guiding the flock



One of the most memorable moments in the Australian film *Babe* comes when the sheep explain that all border collies and kelpies are wolves. The dogs chase, nip, and intimidate. They move sheep by pressure and fear. Babe, however, learns another way. He listens. He speaks gently. And, astonishingly, the sheep follow him because they recognise that he means them no harm.

In this week's gospel, Jesus insists that "the sheep hear his voice" and follow him because they know it (John 10:3-4). This image does not sit comfortably with Australian experience. On a real property, sheep do not respond to the grazier's voice at all. The spoken commands are for the dog. "Come by!" "Away!" "Lie down!" The sheep move as the dogs circle them, cutting off any avenues of escape, applying constant force, until the mob are moved through the gate. It works; but it is leadership by proxy.

In John 10 there is no border collie, no intermediary barking commands or nipping heels on the shepherd's behalf. The relationship is direct. The sheep follow not because they are herded, but because they recognise who is calling them; and just as importantly, who is not. Strangers, thieves, and brigands do not get a hearing. The sheep run from those voices.

This distinction helps make sense of the other readings. In Acts, Peter's Pentecost sermon does not press its audience. Those listening are "cut to the heart" and ask, freely, "What must we do?" (Acts 2:37). Their response – repentance, baptism, and entry into the community – flows from recognition rather than force. Likewise, the letter of 1 Peter describes people who had "gone astray like sheep" but have now returned to "the shepherd and guardian" of their souls (1 Pet 2:25).

They are not driven back into line. They come back because they have learned where safety and life are found.

There is something quietly confronting here for contemporary Australians. We are rightly suspicious of authority exercised through fear, pressure, or manipulation. The gospel affirms that instinct. Jesus does not ask for blind obedience. Jesus calls for discernment and reason. Not every voice deserves our trust. Some voices do steal, kill, and destroy. Others promise freedom but operate like wolves in disguise.

Jesus, the good shepherd, does not "dog" our heels. He goes ahead of the flock rather than pushing from behind. He opens the gate rather than cornering the sheep. He leads the flock toward open pastures, not enclosed pens. And he promises not just survival, but life "to the full."

Perhaps the humour lies in recognising ourselves in Babe's sheep. We are not stupid, but we are vulnerable. We know pressure when we feel it, and we know when fear is being used to move us along. Easter's good news is that the risen Christ does not manage us like livestock. He calls us by name, invites trust, and teaches us to recognise His voice among all the others clamouring for attention.

Ian J Elmer@Majellan Media 2026

- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Cut off time for the bulletin is 3pm Wednesday.

NEXT YOUTH-LED MASS

This Sunday is our **YOUTH-LED MASS** (last Sunday of month) at SPC 5pm Mass.

Please join us for this month's YLM - high schoolers, young adults and all parishioners alike! If you're a high schooler or young adult, why not **get involved in serving** (music, altar serving, reading, computer, Communion Minister, offertory, collector) - please email Sam at samuel.mead@outlook.com

Following Mass is Potluck Dinner, so stick around! If you would like to bring a plate to share or help please contact :

Michelle @thameads@gmail.com  POTLUCK DINNER

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP UPDATE

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP is off to a great start! Since the beginning of Lent, we've been gathering every Monday night to have dinner, get to know each other more and reflect on the readings from the previous day (Sunday). **Now that Lent is over, we're still gathering every Monday night! Here's what's coming up for the rest of this month:**

- 27 April, 6:00-8pm: Adoration at MD - we're joining Adoration at Mater Dei (6-7pm) and going out for dinner afterwards!

If you have finished high school, we'd love for you to join us whenever you're free (even if you haven't been before). To stay up to date and join our YA group chat, text Lauren on 0487 635 721.

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

26 APRIL GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY



A vocation view: Fourth Sunday of Easter – A (World Day of Prayer for Vocations)

This is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. "The harvest is great, but the labourers are few. Pray to the Lord of the harvest to send more labourers into the Harvest."

Please pray for vocations.

www.vocationbrisbane.com





LET US REMEMBER OUR PATRON SAINT AND PRAY FOR HIM

Quote: It does not matter whether or not I am killed; the religion has taken root on the island; it will not be destroyed by my death, since it comes not from men but from God. ~Saint Peter Chanel” ~

St Peter Chanel is remembered as a patron of Oceania and a model of missionary courage, humility and perseverance. His life reminds us that even quiet witness and faithful service can bear fruit.

Prayer: *Saint Peter, God placed the seed of desire in your heart as a youth to give yourself to His service as a missionary in far-off lands. When that desire came to fruition, you held nothing back, laying your life down sacrificially. Through that sacrifice, your blood nourished the faith of the people you served, and God transformed them into His holy people. Please pray for me, that I will courageously give of myself for God’s glory, no matter the cost.*

Saint Peter Chanel, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.



As we continue to **Ignite Hearts of Caritas**, our children have given joyful expression to this theme through the creation of a beautiful whole-school mural. Working together, each student contributed with care, creativity and compassion, reminding us that when we act as one community, small actions can create something truly powerful. This mural stands as a visual symbol of our shared commitment to love, kindness and service - bringing hope to life through the hands and hearts of our children.



This year, Mater Dei joyfully celebrates its **75th anniversary**, honouring a rich history of faith, learning and community since our beginnings. We give thanks for the generations of students, families and staff who have shaped our beautiful school and continue to keep its spirit alive. If you would like to be involved in this special milestone or have a strong history with our Mater Dei community, we would love to hear from you. Please contact **Leah Herbert** at lherbert@bne.catholic.edu.au.

We are thrilled to celebrate some wonderful news connected to two very special members of our Mater Dei community -our much-loved Prep teacher **Miss Nona** and our dedicated groundsman **Mr Nona**. A member of their family, **Archbishop Amel Shamon Nona**, has been elected as the new Patriarch of the Chaldean Catholic Church, taking the name **His Beatitude Patriarch Mar Paul III Nona** - an extraordinary moment of faith, leadership and service recognised by the global Church. This historic milestone reflects the deep faith, courage and commitment we so deeply value at Mater Dei, and we congratulate the Nona family, holding them close in our prayers as they share in this moment of joy and pride. **Leah APRE**



Looking Ahead with Joy – Term 2 at St Peter Chanel

As we begin **Term 2**, our school community returns refreshed and excited for another term filled with faith, learning and celebration. There is much to look forward to over the coming weeks as we continue to strengthen the connection between **home, school and parish** through prayer and shared celebration.

We begin the term by celebrating our **St Peter Chanel Feast Day** on **Tuesday 28 April**. This special day will commence with a **breakfast BBQ at school**, with all welcome, followed by a **school liturgy in the church at 9:00am** and a day of activities back at school. It is always a joyful opportunity to give thanks for our patron saint and to gather together as one community.

Throughout the term, our students will continue to actively participate in parish life. We warmly invite parishioners to join us at the following celebrations:

- **Thursday 21 May – 9:00am** Year 3 attending Parish Mass and proclaiming the readings
- **Thursday 28 May – 9:00am** Year 2 attending Parish Mass and proclaiming the readings
- **Thursday 28 May – 2:00pm** Year 4/5 Class Liturgy, followed by a celebration of students who have completed the **Sacrament of First Holy Communion**

Sunday 14 June SPC Family Mass

These celebrations provide meaningful opportunities for our students to grow in faith and confidence, and for families and parishioners to pray alongside them as one community.

We are grateful for the ongoing support of our parish and look forward to sharing many joyful moments together this term. Thank you for journeying with us as we continue to celebrate faith, learning and belonging at St Peter Chanel.

Hayley APRE

Something for a laugh

Teacher: "Billy, if there were 10 sheep in a pen and one jumped out, how many would be left?"

Billy: "None."

Teacher: "Billy, you don't know your arithmetic."

Billy: "Teacher, you don't know your sheep. If one goes, they all go!" 😊😊😊😊 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 re-

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