



# St John's Wood The Gap Parish Bulletin

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

Vol 6, Issue 16 03 May 2026



## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

**First Reading:** [Acts 6:14,1-7](#)

They elected seven men filled with the Spirit and wisdom.

**Second Reading:** [1 Peter 2:4-9](#)

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood.

**Gospel:** [John 14:1-12](#)

I am the way, the truth, and the life.



[Readings and Commentaries](#)

PRAYING With CHILDREN  
SUNDAY LITURGY

TWO-MINUTE HOMILY

Fifth  
Sunday  
of Easter



Fr Joe McKay OFM

WATCH NOW

Fr Joe shares how Jesus makes God's love visible in the world, revealing the Way, the Truth and the Life.

[Watch now.](#)

### Deceased

Janine Stevenson

### Anniversary

Brian Collins, Eileen Cahill

### Sick

Bev Dick, Robert Minns, 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

### This week's Gospel reflection:

## Don't stumble but believe

What's all this about *living stones* and *stumbling stones* and *cornerstones* in the second reading (from the First Letter of St Peter)? Let's take a deep dive.



The entire passage takes up some deep themes in the Old Testament prophet, Isaiah. There's hardly a word of St Peter in these few verses that is not echoing him. (Even Psalm 118, which he quotes in the business about the *cornerstone*, is spliced with a line from Isaiah 8.) So, we need to ponder Isaiah, especially chapters 24 and 8, where the key quotations come from.

The prophet's writing in the 700's BC, a time of great stress for God's people. Isaiah's message is about the impending destruction of much of Israel through the empire of Assyria.

The "flood" of destruction will rise "to the neck," leaving Jerusalem standing among the ruins. In the midst of it, God, he says, is *laying a stone in Zion*—he's going to rebuild out of this diminished remnant that's left; he's going to reboot the covenant, restart the plan to make Israel the epicenter of his conquest of evil, reunification of humanity, defeat of death, and renewal of all things, thereby accomplishing his original, deep purpose for creation.

St Peter sees Isaiah's word as a pattern for his own writing to the churches in Asia Minor. He says that this reboot is finally being accomplished by Jesus (the *cornerstone*) through the Church (the *spiritual house*, *holy priesthood*, *chosen race*...). But the real shock is *how* Isaiah and St Peter say it is realised: by suffering, trial, temptation, defeat, by fidelity through the worst of it. The *rejected stone* becomes the *cornerstone*. That's the Jesus way that Isaiah anticipated. Don't *stumble* over it, he warns, but *believe*.

Like Jesus, the apostles ate, drank, and breathed the Old Testament. Isaiah, the Psalms, Genesis, Exodus, and so on shaped their imaginations, hopes, fears, and intentions so deeply that the divine word became inseparable from their outlook, words, and actions. In this way they forged their creases in the world in concert with God's deep purposes.

The task St Peter gives us in this letter is to *keep faith*, to run along these apostolic creases, making them the track down which our lives run. In this way we are *built up* together into that *spiritual house* as the *living stones* he's talking about. Meditating on his words (and digging down into their Old Testament roots) will give us a much deeper awareness of what is at stake in our faith, what it is we are hoping for, and how to understand the trials and temptations always threatening to derail our path.

Fidelity to that hope despite its apparent failure—perceiving it, through God's faithfulness, as strangely and wonderfully the first moment of victory—is what he means in this passage by *faith*.

W Chris Hackett © Majellan Media 2026

### FUNERAL SERVICE AT MATER DEI



This Saturday morning at 10am we come together to celebrate the life of Janine (Jan) Stevenson at Mater Dei Church.

For those unable to attend, a link to the livestreamed funeral service will be available at <https://holycrossfunerals.com.au/>

Please keep her family and friends in your prayers.

Day/Date	Liturgy	Mass Times	Venue
Monday 04/05/2026	5th Week of Easter	9am	Mater Dei
Wednesday 06/05/2026	5th Week of Easter	9am	SPC
Thursday 07/05/2026	5th Week of Easter	9am	SPC
Friday 08/05/2026	5th Week of Easter	9am	Mater Dei
Saturday 09/05/2026	5th Week of Easter	5.30pm	Mater Dei
Sunday 10/05/2026	<b>SIXTH SUNDAY of EASTER</b>	8am 10am 5pm	SPC Mater Dei SPC



### WELCOMING SUNDAY

**Don't forget this Sunday is welcoming Sunday.** Say hello, it's nice to meet you to someone you may not know or haven't

spoken to in awhile.

Name tags are at the back of the Church.

### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

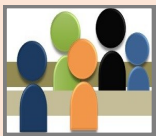


We congratulate the children of our parish who will soon receive their First Holy Communion after their time of preparation. This is a special and sacred milestone in their faith journey, as they come to the table of the Lord for the first time.

We thank their families and our

Sacramental Co-ordinator, Majella for their guidance and support throughout this preparation. Please keep these children in your prayers as they receive the Eucharist, that they may continue to grow in faith, love, and devotion. God bless!!

### ANNUAL MASS COUNT



Our parish will be conducting the Annual Mass Count over the coming weeks. This is a simple headcount

taken during Mass to help the diocese understand attendance patterns and plan for the future. We kindly ask for your cooperation and patience during this time. The count will be carried out discreetly and will not disrupt the Mass. Thank you for your continued support of our parish community.

### CATHOLIC LEADER

We are asking if anyone is interested in buying the Catholic Leader from the Parish again. We require numbers to order them so if you are interested please contact the parish office. Thank you.

### 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

### ~THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH ~

\* *Monday at SPC*

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:*

\* 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 17th May



## 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

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**Web:** [www.stjohnswoodthegap.net.au](http://www.stjohnswoodthegap.net.au)

**Facebook:** [StJohnsWoodTheGapParish](https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsWoodTheGapParish)

**Bulletin:** *Email this address if you require a copy*

[bulletin.thegap@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:bulletin.thegap@bne.catholic.net.au)

### PARISH TEAM

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Parish Priest

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Parish Secretary

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**Ann Lister**

Parish Office Assistant

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**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 Pushpa on Monday 4th May. Contact the parish office for further details.

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



## DOMESTIC & FAMILY VIOLENCE

Prevention Month 2026

### TOGETHER WE CAN—

*Help put an end to Domestic violence*

Wednesday the 6th May is Domestic and Family Violence Remembrance Day, where across Australia candle lit vigils are held at dusk and key buildings and monuments lit up purple to honour those who have died as a result of domestic and family violence. Through the month of May we will continue to pray for an end to domestic and family violence.

As a faith community, we are called to uphold the dignity and safety of every person. Domestic and family violence has no place in our homes, our relationships, or our community. We ask that on May 6 at dusk you light a candle and say a prayer to end domestic and family violence.



We pray for those affected by violence, and we stand with all who are seeking safety, healing, and hope. If you or someone you know is experiencing abuse, please know that support is available and you are not alone.

Confidential help is available through:

- 1800 RESPECT (1800 737 732) \* DV Connect 1800 811 811 or 1800 737 732 \* In an emergency, call 000 May our parish be a place of compassion, support and refuge for all.

## menCONNECT

Last Friday evening, we were honoured to welcome Archbishop



Shane Mackinlay to our menCONNECT Gathering in the SPC church hall. His reflection focused on the theme of Christian hope—why it can sometimes fade, and more importantly, how it can be renewed and strengthened. Woven throughout his message was a clear and consistent insight: hope flourishes in community, through walking together in faith and creating spaces where all feel

genuinely welcomed and supported.

We are sincerely grateful to Archbishop Shane for guiding the 46 men who attended the Gathering. His message has left us with a renewed sense of hope—one we can carry into our daily lives and extend to those around us, keeping hope alive at the heart of our Christian journey.

We also thank all parishioners who supported the Gathering through prayer. Your prayers were truly answered.

- ◆ 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.

## A Prayer To End Domestic and Family Violence

Loving and Just God,

As we cry out for an end to the suffering of the innocent, **You cry with us.**

As we cry out in righteous anger against violence of all kinds, **You cry with us.**

As we cry out in frustration that cultural change is happening far too slowly, **You cry with us.**

While it may feel like it at times, we are not crying out alone, we are not crying out in vain... **Our cries are Your cries too.**

**As You blend Your voice with ours,** lend us Your strength too, so that we may continue to do what it takes to put an end domestic and family violence.

**Lend us Your strength,** so we can continue to challenge harmful behaviours, misuses of power and authority, misconceptions, and misinformation.

**Lend us Your courage,** so we can continue to bring to light the reality of who is impacted, and how widespread domestic and family violence is.

**Our hands are Yours,** so let us not shy away from reaching out to those in need of practical support.

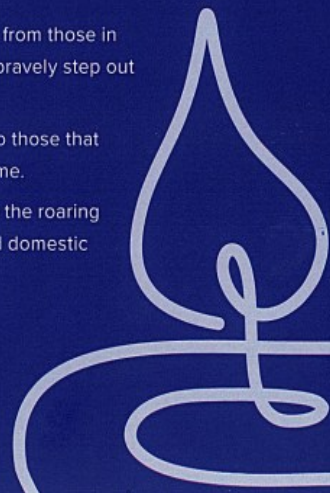
**Our feet are Yours,** so let us not walk away from those in need of community and belonging as they bravely step out of violent relationships.

**Our eyes are Yours,** so let us not be blind to those that try to cover up the abuse out of fear or shame.

**Our ears are Yours,** so let us not be deaf to the roaring cry that enough is enough... it is time to end domestic and family violence once and for all.

We ask this in the name of Christ our Lord,

Amen



Last Sunday we celebrated the Feast of St Peter Chanel at both Masses with a special cake and Father Anthony gathered the children round to bless and cut the cake and of course eat it all up.



### A vocation view: Fifth Sunday of Easter - A

The institution of the Diaconate is mentioned in today's Scripture. [Perhaps the](#) Lord is calling you to assist with the charitable, educational, or liturgical needs of the Lord's people today.

**Please pray for vocations.**



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





## Walk with Jesus Procession

All are invited to this significant and visible celebration of faith on the Feast of Corpus as we honour the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist through a public procession through the streets of Brisbane City.

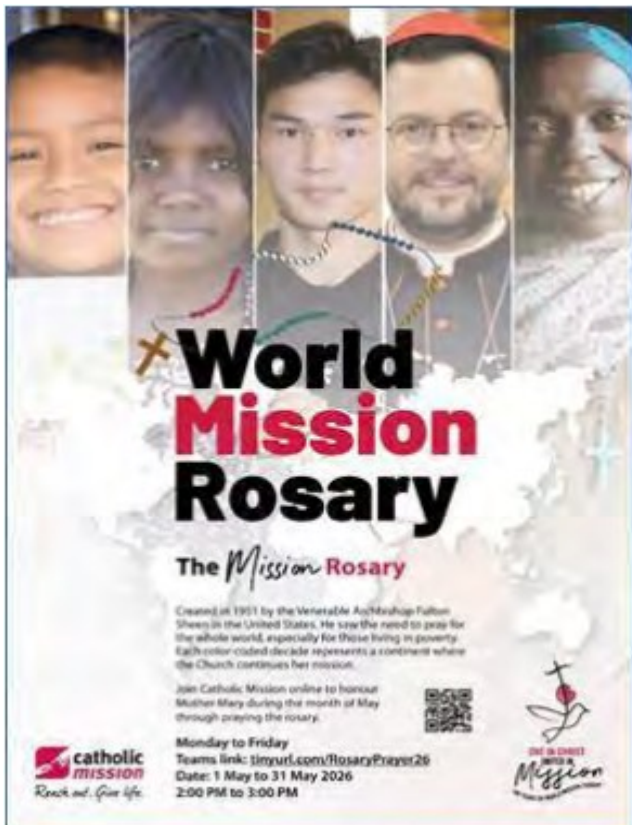
Led by Archbishop Shane Mackinlay, this annual procession brings together thousands of faithful from parishes and communities across the Archdiocese in a vibrant and prayerful witness. Beginning at the Cathedral, we will process through the Brisbane CBD, praying, singing, and honouring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, before returning to the Cathedral for Benediction.

Parishes and communities are encouraged to bring banners representing their parish, community, or patron saints.

**When:** Sunday 7 June | 2pm

**Where:** St Stephen's Cathedral

Find out more and register at [www.corpuschristibrisbane.com](http://www.corpuschristibrisbane.com)



## World Mission May Rosary Prayer sessions

Join Catholic Mission online to honour Mother Mary during the month of May through praying the World Mission rosary.

This beautiful tradition—created in 1951 by the Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen in the United States—was born from his desire to pray for the whole world, especially for those living in poverty. Today, it continues the mission and spirit of our foundress, Blessed Pauline Jaricot.

We are thrilled to invite you to our special Rosary prayer sessions dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Event Details:

**Date:** Monday to Friday, 1 May - 31 May

**Time:** 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

**Location:** Online via Teams link  
[tinyurl.com/RosaryPrayer26](https://tinyurl.com/RosaryPrayer26) - Join here

RSVP by 24th April if you can attend online via  
[Brisbane.admin@catholicmission.org.au](mailto:Brisbane.admin@catholicmission.org.au)

### SOMETHING FOR A LAUGH



A shepherd is walking along a country road when a brand-new BMW pulls up. The driver, a man in a suit, jumps out and says, "If I tell you exactly how many sheep you have in your flock, will you give me one?"

The shepherd looks at his vast flock and says, "Sure." The man plugs his phone into a laptop, scans the field, and says, "You have 1,586 sheep." The shepherd says, "That's correct. Take your pick." The man picks one up and puts it in his car. The shepherd then asks, "If I guess your job, will you give it back?"

The man agrees. The shepherd says, "You are a **management consultant.**" "Wow, that's correct," says the man. "How did you know?"

The shepherd replies, "Three things: You showed up here without being called, you told me something I already knew, and you don't know anything about my business. **Now, give me back my dog.**" 😊😊😊😊 Enjoy your week ahead.....

**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.'**

..... 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".

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