



# St John's Wood The Gap Parish Bulletin

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

Vol 6, Issue 18 17 May 2026



## The ASCENSION of the LORD

### First Reading: [Acts 1:1-11](#)

Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.

### Second Reading: [Eph 1:17-23](#)

He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.

### Gospel: [Matthew 28:16-20](#)

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

## This week's Gospel reflection:

### Aligning our vision with Christ

I once watched Andrew Manchini, an Australian who appeared on the TEDx Talk at Hobart High School when he discussed the significance of aligning one's corporate vision with one's personal vision.



He explains that effective vision statements will guide our decision-making, strategy, and alignment in business. He connects this concept to storytelling and encourages people to create their own vision statements to live impactful and meaningful lives.

As I reflect on this week's gospel, I was taken to that particular TEDx Talk. Jesus invited his disciples to see if they had a vision in their lives. He invited them not just to participate in Jesus' vision but to create their own vision, and to align it with his vision to make disciples of all nations.

Having a personal vision is important. A personal vision is crucial because it provides clarity, direction, and motivation to align actions with the long-term goals, meanings, and values. If we align our vision statement with Christ's vision, and together act on our vision statement effectively, everything in our communities and institutions becomes aligned, leading to a more cohesive and purpose-driven environment that reflects our shared values and goals.

Our vision helps inform the decisions we are making every day. We all know that it is not enough for us to take Christ to heart. We are called to action. We have to be another Christ for others. This is why we are called to be clear in our vision of life, align it with Christ, and share it with others. In moments when we say the creed or express our prayers to Christ, we actually accept Christ in our lives, his love, values, hopes, dreams, and expectations.

When Jesus said to the disciples to go and baptise people in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Jesus actually asked his disciples to share with people worldwide.

And he wants his disciples to share with the world that he never comes alone, but as one of the Trinity. This perfect communal relationship of the Son with the Father and the Spirit is visionary and empowering for him and for his disciples to spread the good news of the kingdom of God.

As we celebrate the ascension of Jesus, we remember that he remains with us in the Spirit. It is in this spirit of Jesus that we are called to make the world a flourishing community centered in the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

We pray that we may always find ways to align our vision and mission in life with the vision and mission of Christ, a vision that is Trinitarian and community-oriented. In whatever we do, may we remember Jesus, and he will show us the right way. Amen  
Sam Kono CSsR © Majellan Media 2026



## Readings and Commentaries



TWO-MINUTE HOMILY

### The Ascension of The Lord

Fr Nadeem Daniel OMI



Fr Daniel reflects on the Ascension of the Lord, the moment when the risen Christ returns to the Father in glory. [Watch now.](#)

## Deceased

Janine Stevenson

## Anniversary

Robert Murphy, Jill Beaton, Rita & Jim Kirwan

## Sick

Bev Dick, Richard King, 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

## DOMESTIC & FAMILY VIOLENCE Prevention Month 2026

### TOGETHER WE CAN— Help put an end to Domestic 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.



Day/Date	Liturgy	Mass Times	Venue
Monday 18/05/2026	7th Week of Easter	9am	Mater Dei
Wednesday 20/05/2026	7th Week of Easter	9am-Anointing Mass	SPC
Thursday 21/05/2026	7th Week of Easter	9am	SPC
Friday 22/05/2026	7th Week of Easter	9am	Mater Dei
Saturday 23/05/2026	7th Week of Easter	5.30pm	Mater Dei
Sunday 24/05/2026	<b>PENTECOST SUNDAY</b>	8am 10am 5pm	SPC Mater Dei SPC



### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

This weekend through the Sacrament of Holy Communion we welcome at SPC: Winter, Ayaan, Aanya, Kai, Vincent, Samuel, Phoebe, Angus, Lily, Sebastian, Zoe, Lucy and at MD:

Theodore, Sebastian and Eva. 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 and their families in your prayers. God bless!

### ~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:*

\* Happy Patches craft group meet Thursday 21st May at 9.30am in the Parish hall.

\* 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



## ST JOHN'S WOOD THE GAP PARISH

### Office Hours

Mon, Wed, Fri:- 8:30am - 3:30pm

Tue, Thurs: - 8:30am - 12:30pm

### Contact

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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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**Silvana Geldenhuys**

Parish Secretary

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**Majella Deegan**

Sacramental Program Coordinator

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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

### HOME ROSARY



This week's rosary will be said at the home of Anton & Ann on Monday 18th May.

Contact the parish office for further details.

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



### 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.

**LAUDATO SI' WEEK** is a celebration held annually from 17 to 24 May to mark the anniversary of Pope Francis's landmark encyclical on caring for our common home. Sponsored by the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, this global celebration unites Catholics to listen and respond together to the cry of creation, rejoice in the progress we have made in bringing Laudato Si' to life, and intensify our efforts through the Laudato Si' Action Platform as well as other opportunities for education and action. The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference committed to celebrating Laudato Si' Week annually in their Social Justice Statement (2021-22): Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor. 2026

### Theme: From Hope to Action

Laudato Si' Week 2026 invites us to move from hope to action. Hope is not passive; it is lived and shared through daily decisions, community life, prayer and concrete acts of care. This commemorative year reminds us that ecological conversion grows step by step, through restored relationships, protected creation, and strengthened communities. The next chapter of Laudato Si' begins with us, wherever we are. *Source: Laudato Si Week*

The feast of the Ascension is a call for us to take responsibility for our world. Jesus' friends probably would have liked him to stay with them for more than forty days. That was not the plan. He returned to the Father and left us to be his hands and feet on Earth. Of course, he promised to be with us to the end of the time and to send the Holy Spirit. But there is no escaping the image of the disciples looking longingly into the sky. The angels tell them to get their heads out of the clouds. There is work to be done. There is a world to be loved, nurtured and cared for. Hope needs to become action. Pope Leo XIV wrote last year that 'when the earth suffers, the poor suffer the most.' He urged Catholic Education to 'combine social justice and environmental justice.' Jesus is our teacher. He tells us to look less at the heavens and more at the earth as we learn from its fragility. *Reflections written by Michael McGirr, Mission Facilitator at Caritas Australia*

**PRAYER** (This prayer by Pope Francis appeared at the end of his 2015 encyclical Laudato Si'.)

All powerful God, you are present in the universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with your peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle, for justice, love and peace. **Amen**

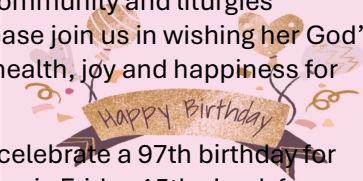


### Happy Birthday Jan!

This week at morning tea after 9am Mass we warmly celebrated our much-valued sacristan Jan's birthday. We thank her for the faithful service, dedication and care

she gives to our parish community and liturgies throughout the year. Please join us in wishing her God's richest blessings, good health, joy and happiness for the year ahead.

Join us next week as we celebrate a 97th birthday for Terry Foley whose birthday is Friday 15th. Look forward to seeing you there!!



**The Happy Patchers craft ladies** gather in the Parish Hall from 9.30am -12pm on the **1st and 3rd Thursdays** of each month. There is also a Thursday night group on the **2nd and**

**4th Thursdays** from 7-9pm. It is not just a sewing group. The Ladies, sew, knit, crochet, some just pop in for a chat or a cuppa.

The quilts and other items we make are distributed to victims of domestic violence. (Hand made quilts, knitted teddy bears, carry bags. You name it we do it) So far we have donated over 1000 items to different DV charities. If you or someone you know would like to be a part of this wonderful group please contact Von on 0400 304 828



### YOUTH LED MASS

This month's Parish Youth-Led Mass is on **Sunday 31 May** (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 Sam at [samuel.mead@outlook.com](mailto:samuel.mead@outlook.com). Spread this invite to anyone who you think 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, Sam and Ben). It will include dinner, games, a chance to get to know each other more and a time of prayer. Are you in high school? You are? Then we'll see you there!

### Young Adults Group - what's coming up?

- **18 May, 6-8:30pm:** This Monday night, we're joining **Adoration** at Mater Dei (6-7pm) and going out for **dinner** afterwards (7-8:30pm)!

**27 May, 7-10pm:** Next week, we're moving YA Group to Wednesday night to watch the **State of Origin** together in the Parish Hall on the big screen. We've invited the young adults from neighbouring Grovely Parish and we'll start with dinner together - it'll be a great opportunity to invite your friends or any young adults you know!

If you have finished high school (18-30), 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.





### SOMETHING FOR A LAUGH

A husband and wife who work for the circus go to an adoption agency looking to adopt a child, but the social workers have doubts about their suitability. So the couple produce photos of their 25-metre motorhome, which is clean and well maintained and equipped with a beautiful nursery.

The social workers are satisfied but then raise concerns about the kind of education a child would receive while in the couple's care.

The husband puts their mind at ease, saying, "We've arranged for a full-time tutor who will teach the child all the usual subjects along with French, Mandarin, and computer skills."

Next though, the social workers express concern about a child being raised in a circus environment.

This time the wife explains, "Our nanny is a certified expert in paediatric care, welfare, and diet."

The social workers are finally satisfied and ask the couple, "What age child are you hoping to adopt?"

The husband says, "It doesn't really matter ... as long as the kid fits in the cannon."

😊😊😊😊 Enjoy your week ahead.....

### GUIDING AND PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN

**A safe and caring environment is something every child deserves. Children should be able to grow up feeling protected, respected and loved, without fear of harm or neglect.**

**It is the responsibility of all adults – parents, teachers, relatives, neighbours and the wider community, to help provide this sense of security.**

Caring for children means paying attention to their needs, listening when they speak and responding with patience and understanding. It also means standing up for them when they are vulnerable and making sure they know they are not alone. Words of encouragement, comfort during difficult times and ongoing support can have a lasting influence on a child's life. A key part of this is helping them make responsible choices and understand that their actions have consequences.

**Protecting our children is not just about keeping them safe from harm, it's about helping them reach their potential. Children learn from the adults around them. When they are surrounded by kindness, encouragement and respect, they are more likely to become confident and compassionate individuals.**

Creating an environment where children feel secure and valued is one of the most important duties we share. By working together as families and communities, we can help every child grow with hope, confidence and a sense of belonging.

*Dear God, please watch over every child and keep them safe in Your care. Help us to treat them with kindness, patience and understanding, and to be a positive example in their lives.*

*Amen.*



### A vocation view: Ascension of the Lord – A (World Day of Prayer for Christian Unity)

Through His death, resurrection and ascension, Christ showed us the path to eternal life. Know that the Lord is with you always, through your struggles and triumphs, and that he will hear your prayers.

**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



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 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.

"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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