



St John's Wood The Gap Parish Bulletin

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

Vol 6, Issue 29 2 August 2026



18th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: [Is 55:1-3](#)

The hand of the Lord feeds us:
he answers all our needs.

Second Reading: [Romans 8:35,37-39](#)

No creature can separate us from the
love of God, which is in Christ.

Gospel: [Matthew 14:13-21](#)

They all ate and were satisfied.



Readings and Reflections

PRAYING with CHILDREN
SUNDAY LITURGY

<https://majellan.media/childrens-bulletin/>

TWO-MINUTE HOMILY

**Eighteenth
Sunday in
Ordinary Time**

Fr Bradley Davies



Fr Bradley reflects on the moment Jesus feeds the 5000, shortly after withdrawing in grief upon hearing of His cousin John the Baptist's death. [Watch now.](#)

Deceased

Brenda Cahill

Anniversary

Moira Flynn, John Perks

Sick

Bev Dick, Frank Moloney, Bruno Cadet,
Shane Abrams, Richard King, Beth Kloza,
Peter Maher, Peter Townsen, Val
Bonney, Julie Allen, Philomena (Nellie's
mum), Trish Crawshaw, Carmel Herbert,
Christy Murphy, Jim Johnson, Mary
Thomas, Carol Black, Moira De Silva,
Margaret Sullivan, Ryan Ferguson, Toni
Bennett, 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:

PAUL'S PURPLE PASSAGES

The widely acclaimed Jesuit Scripture scholar, Nicholas King, has produced a wonderful translation of the scriptures, striving to present the message in a form of colloquial English, designed to reflect the way the authors would have spoken in their own time.



For example, Archbishop Desmond Tutu described "a splendid piece of work" that "hits you between the eyes." Nicholas also adds his own commentary and, when I glanced to see what he said about the readings for the 18th Sunday of the Year, I was fascinated to find the following comments. He spoke of "this lovely passage" from Isaiah, of Paul's "purple passage" and of "this charming story" in Matthew.

The fact that many scripture passages become very familiar may mean that, in time, we fail to notice just what "lovely" or "purple" passages they are and therefore fail to be "charmed" or moved by the message they are conveying. Like all the prophets, Isaiah often feels the need to warn us of the dangers that can lead us astray, but by the same token, he also sees beyond, to how God always wants the best for us and that the best is accessible.

The "lovely" picture of God wanting to quench our thirst and satisfy our hunger is part of that unfolding narrative in the scriptures which sees the Kingdom of God in terms of a great banquet. It links us to the underlying message of this week's gospel – the 'Feeding of the Five Thousand' – which, in turn, points us to that banquet which we have in the gift of the Eucharist. And notice how Jesus uses the occasion of the feeding as a lesson for the apostles and for us, that we are called to be the providers.

The instinct of the apostles was that this was all too much for them and that the people should be sent away to find food for themselves, but, of course, the Eucharist will become the ultimate sign and reminder that this is how we are to look after one another and be united through Christ with our Father in Heaven. Finally, notice how Paul presents us with one of his many purple passages. There are times when Paul seems to be a very hard taskmaster. Often, he seems to be weighed down with his struggles and even irritated with the lack of response from some of the early Christian communities.

In chapter eight of his letter to the Romans he does indeed wrestle with the huge challenge of a disordered world, but has no problem in concluding that ultimately Christ will triumph over every problem that presents itself: "neither death nor life, nor angels or rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

May we have the confidence and the courage to go forth and proclaim that message to our troubled world.

Timothy Buckley CSSR© Majellan Media 2026

PLEASE NOTE: The parish office will be closed on **Wednesday 12th August** for the Exhibition holiday. Mass will be held at 9am however, there will be NO morning tea after.

Day/Date	Liturgy	Mass Times	Venue
Monday 03/08/2026	St Dominic, priest	9am	Mater Dei
Wednesday 05/08/2026	Weekday, Ordinary Time 18	9am	SPC
Thursday 06/08/2026	The Transfiguration of the Lord	9am	SPC
Friday 07/08/2026	Weekday, Ordinary Time 18	9am	Mater Dei
Saturday 08/08/2026	Vigil Mass St Mary of the Cross, virgin	5.30pm	Mater Dei
Sunday 09/08/2026	19th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME	8am 10am 5pm	SPC Mater Dei SPC

UPDATE FROM THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL - DIVINE RENOVATION

Our parish Pastoral Council is currently undertaking a Divine Renovation course, an important milestone in our parish renewal journey.

Through this formation, we have been reflecting on how God is calling our parish to become an even more welcoming, missionary and Spirit-led community, where people encounter Jesus Christ, grow in discipleship, and are inspired to share their faith with others.

This is not the end of the journey but the beginning of a renewed focus on listening to the Holy Spirit and discerning the next steps for our parish. We ask you to keep our Parish Pastoral Council and our entire parish community in your prayers as, together, we continue to embrace God's vision for our future.

"Unless the Lord builds the house,
the builders labour in vain" Psalm 127:1

~THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH~

*** Monday at SPC**
9.30am Meditation Group

Adoration 6-7pm MD
6.30pm Young Adults Group SPC

*** Wednesday**
9am Mass SPC followed by morning tea in the parish office

*** Thursday SPC hall**
* Mahjong 12.30pm

*** Friday at MD**
6-7pm Adoration

Dates to save:

*** SPC 8am Family Mass this Sunday 2nd August**

*** August 15th Mater Dei 75th Anniversary**

*** Multicultural Mass August 23rd at 10am. This is the only Mass on that day. There will be 5.30pm Mass at Mater Dei on Saturday but NO mass at 5pm Sunday SPC.**

*** Music in the Moonlight Saturday 29th August PLEASE NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO 5.30PM MASS ON THIS SATURDAY NIGHT 29TH AUGUST.**

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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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 27th July. Contact the parish office for further details.

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



Celebrating GRANDPARENTS & ELDERLY

We are so blessed in our parish!

What a beautiful weekend of celebration as we gave thanks for the wonderful grandparents and elderly members of our community.

A heartfelt thank you to our two parish schools for the beautiful handmade cards created by the children. Their thoughtful messages, colourful artwork and loving words brought so many smiles and were a wonderful reminder of the special bond between generations.

It was a joy to share these precious gifts, along with cupcakes and fellowship, with our parishioners as we celebrated the invaluable contribution our grandparents and elderly make to our families, our parish and our community.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this celebration so special, and to our students and teachers for sharing your creativity, kindness and love. Your generosity touched many hearts.

Thank you! ❤️

"Rise in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God."
— Leviticus 19:32

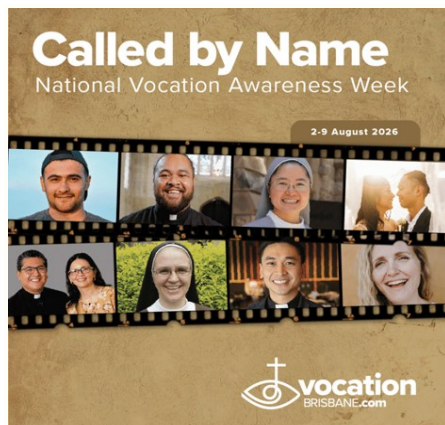
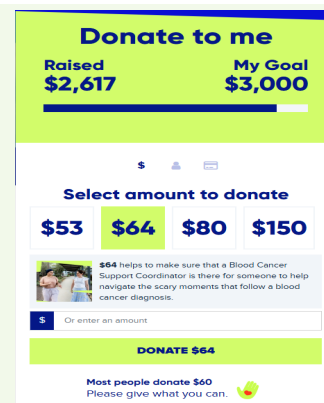


CAN YOU PLEASE SUPPORT ME?

One of our young parishioners Julian is taking on a very special challenge by shaving his hair to raise funds for cancer research and support. This generous act is a wonderful example of compassion, courage and service to others. We encourage our parish community to support him if you are able and to keep him, and all those affected by cancer in your prayers.

Thank you helping to make a difference through your kindness and generosity.

PLEASE CLICK ON THE LINK TO DONATE: <https://www.worldsgreatestshave.com/fundraisers/juliangeldenhuy/2026>

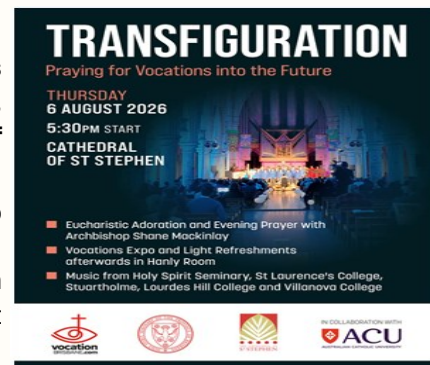


NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK 2nd - 9th August

During National Vocation Awareness Week, we are called to promote vocations and support those discerning God's purpose for their lives. Every parish and community has a role to play in nurturing a culture where God's call can be heard. Resources have been distributed to all Parishes to assist vocational discernment and promotion. Please join with us in praying for those discerning their future.

This year, to celebrate national vocations awareness week, we are hosting Transfiguration, an **evening prayer for vocations on the 6th of August in the Cathedral of St Stephen.**

Presented in collaboration with Holy Spirit Seminary and ACU, we invite you to intentionally pray for vocations in our archdiocese. Alongside Eucharistic Adoration and Vespers celebrated by Archbishop Shane, there will be various choirs from Brisbane colleges, and a Vocations Expo in the Hanly Room afterwards with light refreshments. Join us for a night of prayer for vocations. [Details & RSVP](#)



menCONNECT

Many people make lifelong decisions about their faith during their teenage years, making youth ministry one of the most important investments the Church can make. This is especially true as the cultural gap between the Christian faith and much of contemporary Australian society continues to widen. Nurturing young people in their faith is vital not only for their spiritual growth but also for the future of the Church.

Our menCONNECT group was delighted and proud to welcome to our Gathering last Friday evening three young men from The Gap who are members of the NET Ministries team—Sam Mead, Ben Mead and Craig Joyce. They shared an inspiring overview of their ministry among young people, explaining how they encourage and challenge teenagers to encounter Christ and deepen their relationship with Jesus. Their enthusiasm, commitment and witness were both encouraging and uplifting, and they are a tremendous blessing to our parish and the wider Church.

NET missionaries are largely self-funded, relying on the generosity of supporters to raise approximately \$7,000 each year to participate in this important ministry. If you would like to partner with Craig Joyce in this work, please visit www.netministries.com.au, select **NET Missionaries**, then **MX Mission Cairns**, and follow the prompts to support Craig.

Young Adults Group

Our Parish YA Group is on every Monday night and this week (3 August) we're gathering for dinner and Scripture reflection at SPC from 6:30-8pm. (Next week, 10 August, we'll be at Mater Dei from 6-7pm for Adoration before going out for dinner.) If you've finished high school (18-30), we'd love to meet you! To get connected and stay up-to-date with what's on, join our YA Group Chat by texting Lauren on [0487 635 721](tel:0487635721).

Youth Night follow up (Grades 7-12)

Thanks to those high schoolers who joined us for our Parish Youth Night last Sunday after the Youth-Led Mass! In amongst games and dinner, we learnt more about placing our identity in God, not in our talents or skills or what others say about us, and reflected on who God says we are. These nights happen after every second YLM. If you're in high school, we'd love to see you at the next one on 20 September (one week earlier than usual because the last Sunday of September is during Ignite Conference)! *Lauren & Sam*

Music in the Moonlight

STUDIO 75

Celebrating 75 Years of Mater Dei Catholic Primary School - Ashgrove

Saturday 29 August 2026

An evening of music, dancing and celebration

Your \$75 Ticket includes:

- Welcome Drink
- Delicious food
- Music & Dancing
- Lucky door prize entry

Time: 5:00pm - 10:30pm
Venue: Mater Dei Catholic Primary School
7 Lynwood Crescent, Ashgrove
Dress: Disco Glam
Adults Only Event (18+)

BOOK NOW!
www.trybooking.com/DNCAI
Tickets Close Monday 24 August 2026



All proceeds support the Mater Dei Parent Advisory Group

75th Anniversary Afternoon Tea

at Mater Dei Catholic Primary School



75th Anniversary Afternoon Tea
Saturday 15 August 3:30pm
McKillop Hall, Mater Dei Catholic Primary School
7 Linwood Avenue, Ashgrove West

Enjoy an afternoon of:

- * Historical photographs and school memorabilia
- * Delicious afternoon tea
- * Reconnecting with past and present members of the Mater Dei family
- * Sharing memories and celebrating our rich community history

75th Anniversary Mass

Following the Afternoon Tea, all guests are invited to attend our:

Anniversary Mass 5:30pm Mater Dei Church

As we give thanks for 75 years of Catholic education, we look forward to gathering with generations of families, staff, students and parishioners who have helped shape the Mater Dei story.

Click to [Register Here](#)

St John's Wood The Gap Parish

RAFFLE!

WIN THIS beautiful quilt!

Brisbane City Council generously awarded us a grant to pay for **ONE DEFIBRILLATOR**, and we are trying to raise funds for the **SECOND ONE**.

KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE

A BEAUTIFUL GIFT TO OUR COMMUNITY - THANK YOU HAPPY PATCHERS!

Great News! Our first raffle for the BBQ raised an amazing **\$800.00!** However, we still need a further **\$1400.00**

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR PARISH COMMUNITY BY BUYING A TICKET FOR THE RAFFLE.

TICKETS AVAILABLE at each Mass

TICKETS COST Just \$2 each or 3 for \$5

RAFFLE DRAWN in September!

Thank you for supporting our parish!



As the parish journeys towards Divine Renovation we invite you to ask the Holy Spirit to help you discern what you can do to help our parish go from Maintenance to a Missionary church. We all have talents make yours count!

A vocation view: Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A (National Vocation Awareness Week) When we give the Lord what we have, no matter how meagre, He will multiply it beyond belief. In this National Vocations Awareness Week, how might you offer the bread and fish of your life for Jesus to transform and multiply?

Please pray for vocations

Scan the QR code to find out more, or call 1300 133 544

www.vocationbrisbane.com

Follow us on socials @vocationbrisbane






"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".

..... 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.'

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

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