

St John's Wood The Gap Parish Bulletin

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

Vol 6, Issue 26 12 July 2026

15h SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: [Is 55:10-11](#)

The rain makes the earth fruitful.

Second Reading: [Romans 8:18-23](#)

All creation is waiting for the revelation of the children of God.

Gospel: [Matthew 13:1-23](#)

A sower went out to sow.



[Readings and Reflections](#)

PRAYING with CHILDREN
SUNDAY LITURGY

TWO-MINUTE HOMILY

Fifteenth
Sunday in
Ordinary Time

Fr Francis Belcina OSA



WATCH NOW

Fr Francis reminds us that worries and judgments can act like thorns, preventing the Word of God from taking root and bearing fruit in our lives. [Watch now.](#)

Deceased

Brenda Cahill, Marie Harkin, Antonio Ferrante, Kay Elsdon, Valma O'Brien

Anniversary

Damien Robertson, Peter Cleary, Barry Sullivan

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:

CREATION IS LONGING



It is often said that Australians have elevated the art of waiting into something approaching a national discipline. We queue with philosophical calm for our morning flat whites. We endure the seemingly endless roller-coaster ride of the season's footy matches with the resigned optimism of people who have been disappointed before and fully expect to be disappointed again.

We are a patient mob, albeit in a rather flat-footed, arms-folded, "she'll-be-right" kind of way.

This is precisely why Paul's extraordinary vision of a cosmos in waiting in this week's second reading (Romans 8:18-23) should catch us off-guard. Paul does not describe patient waiting. He describes something far more electric. The Greek word he uses, *apokaradokia*, is one of the great untranslatable treasures of the New Testament. It means something like straining forward on tiptoe with breathless, neck-craning expectation. Think less "she'll be right" and more a border collie at the back door when it hears the word "Walk!" whispered in a distant part of the house. Who is doing this extraordinary craning-forward? Paul would argue that it is neither the faithful in the pews, nor the Church alone, but the whole of creation. Every gum tree, every reef, every dusty red plain from Longreach to Launceston, from Melbourne to Marble Bar: all of it, Paul insists, is caught up in an urgent, aching longing.

This is a remarkable claim which we need to reflect upon. Paul is not offering a romantic nature poem about rainbows and sunsets. He is making a serious theological argument: that the created order has been subjected to a kind of frustration, not because it is evil or abandoned, but because it is caught in a tension between what is and what is not yet. Creation, he says, "groans in labour pains" (v.22), straining toward a future liberation that has been promised but not yet fully delivered.

What is it waiting for? Here Paul is startlingly specific: the revelation of the children of God (v.19). Not a cosmic reset. Not the annihilation of the material world. But the moment when human beings finally become fully what God always intended us to be: people who live by the spirit, freed from the limitations of disease, decay and death.

We often speak of caring for the environment, as though creation is a passive recipient of our stewardship. Paul suggests something rather more humbling: that the fate of the natural world is, in some sense, bound up with our own destiny. Its healing and ours are intertwined.

We too, Paul says, groan inwardly, carrying within us "the first fruits of the Spirit," awaiting the full harvest when all will be freed of the limitations of mortality. Today, as we celebrate our eucharist together, we should allow this vision of cosmic redemption and transformation to inspire us to adopt the attitude of the border collie at the back door, "straining forward on tiptoe with breathless, neck-craning expectation."

Ian J Elmer © Majellan Media 2026

Funeral Mass - Brenda Cahill



Please keep the family and friends of our beloved parishioner, Brenda, in your prayers as we prepare to celebrate her Funeral Mass. Brenda was a much-loved member of our parish community who generously shared her time, talents, and faith over many years. Her quiet dedication, kindness, and willingness to serve enriched the life of our parish and she will be deeply missed by all who knew her. Brenda's funeral will be held at **Mater Dei on Friday 17th July, commencing at 11am.**

Day/Date	Liturgy	Mass Times	Venue
Monday 13/07/2026	Weekday, Ordinary Time 15	9am	Mater Dei
Wednesday 15/07/2026	St Bonaventure, bishop, doctor	9am-Anointing Mass	SPC
Thursday 16/07/2026	Weekday, Ordinary Time 15	9am	SPC
Friday 17/07/2026	Weekday, Ordinary Time 15	9am	Mater Dei
Saturday 18/07/2026	Vigil Mass	5.30pm	Mater Dei
Sunday 19/07/2026	16th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME	8am 10am 5pm	SPC Mater Dei SPC

menCONNECT

Gentlemen, the inspiration for the talk at our next gathering, on 24 July, comes from Acts 4:20: "We cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard." (4:20 sits in a larger scene where Jesus' followers are arrested for teaching and are threatened to stop - yet they respond they can't stop because their message is grounded in what they personally witnessed.)

We will hear from Mark Lysaght, Executive Director, NET Ministries Australia & New Zealand and three young men from our parish who are involved with NET Ministries. Together, they will share how NET forms and sends young Catholic missionaries to parishes to inspire young people to follow Jesus and find a home in the Church. (NET= National Evangelisation Teams)

All men of the parish are warmly invited to come along for an evening of faith, fellowship and encouragement as we reflect on what it means to speak of what we have "seen and heard" in our own lives, families and parish community.

The Gathering, which begins with pizza and a drink at 6pm and ends at 8pm, will be in the Parish Hall, 41 Chaprowe Rd, The Gap.

Cost is \$10.00 for new attendees, otherwise \$15.00.

For catering purposes, **please RSVP** to Mike by text on 0459 992 228 or email menCONNECTsjwtg@gmail.com before 21st July.

Happy Birthday



Warmest congratulations and best wishes to our wonderful Sofie Quinlivan who celebrated her 93rd birthday last week. May God continue to bless you with good health, peace, joy and the love of family and friends. Thank you for being a valued member of our parish community. May the Lord's abundant blessings be with you today and throughout the year ahead.

~THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH ~

** Monday at SPC*
9.30am Meditation Group

Adoration 6-7pm MD

** Wednesday*

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

** Thursday SPC hall*

** Mahjong 12.30pm*

** Friday at MD*

6-7pm Adoration

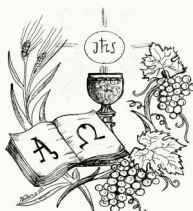
Dates to save:

** Mater Dei Family Mass 26th July*

** 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*



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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Bulletin: Email this address if you require a copy bulletin.thegap@bne.catholic.net.au

PARISH TEAM

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Majella Deegan

Sacramental Program Coordinator

E: 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 13th July. Contact the parish office for further details.

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





MATER DEI CELEBRATES 75 YEARS

We warmly invite you to be part of this group and celebrate 75 years of Mater Dei together ON August 15th. Your stories and memories are an important part of our journey, and we would love you to share them as we honour this significant milestone. You can find the link to the group on our School Facebook page. Join us under the stars for **Music in the Moonlight**, a joyful evening of community, music and celebration as we mark 75 wonderful years of Mater Dei.

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE- MULTICULTURAL MASS

Our parish is blessed with people from many cultures and backgrounds. As we prepare for our upcoming Multicultural Mass, **we invite parishioners to participate by reading the prayers of the Faithful, in their own language.**

This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the rich diversity of our parish community and to experience the universal nature of the Church, united in one faith and one Spirit.

If you would like to **take part either in the Mass or bringing a meal from your country to share** please contact the parish office. We warmly encourage people of all ages and cultural backgrounds to be invited.

"There are different gifts, but the same Spirit."

(1 Corinthians 12:4)

Let us come together to celebrate the many languages and cultures that enrich our parish family.

Below is the link if you would like to sign up

<https://thegapparish.flocknote.com/signup/265092>

Young Adults Group

Our Parish YA Group will take a one-week break this Monday (13 July) but we'll be back on Monday 20 July for Eucharistic Adoration (6-7pm at Mater Dei Church) and dinner out together afterwards. If you've finished high school (18-30), we'd love to meet you! **To join our YA Group Chat** or for more info, text Lauren on 0487 635 721.

Youth Night (Grades 7-12) - Sunday 26 July

The next Parish Youth Night is coming up! It's on Sunday 26 July from 6-7:30pm in the Parish Hall (straight after the 5pm Youth-Led Mass at St Peter Chanel Church).

This night will be a chance for anyone and everyone in our Parish in Grades 7-12 to gather, get to know each other more (or meet for the first time), play a game, have dinner, listen to one of the leaders give a short talk about our faith and have a time of prayer and reflection.

If you're interested in coming or have any questions, email Sam at samuel.mead@outlook.com. We hope to see all high schoolers there!



World day for Grandparents and the elderly- 2026

Grandparents hold a special place in our families and in the life of the Church. Through their prayers, wisdom, love and example, they help pass on the precious gift of faith from one generation to the next.

Our parish warmly invites everyone to join us for a special celebration of grandparents under the theme:

"Honouring Our Grandparents – Celebrating the Gift of Faith Across Generations."

We especially encourage grandparents to invite their children and grandchildren to attend Mass with them as we gather to give thanks for the blessings of family, faith and community.

Together, we will celebrate the important role grandparents play in nurturing faith and strengthening family bonds across generations. Come and share in this joyful celebration as we honour our grandparents and pray for all families.

NB: we invite a grandparent to write a short story of faith that we can share in the bulletin for that weekend. This can be sent to poa2.thegap@bne.catholic.net.au by Wednesday 22nd July. Thank you

Australian Catholics are encouraged to reflect on the lives and experiences of mariners this Sunday. National director of Stella Maris Australia, Fr Tony Cox SSC, said Sea Sunday which is being celebrated this weekend highlights the lonely life of mariners.

"One visiting seafarer said to me: 'People do not see us and because of our invisibility they think we are not human. They do not see what we do and forget that we too have needs'," Fr Tony said.

He said the experience of the COVID pandemic, when seafarers were unable to set foot on dry land for a year and a half, and now the war-torn seas of the Straits of Hormuz highlight the dangers. "It is a lonely life and when away from family and friends this adds to the isolation they may experience," Fr Tony said.

"Enduring treacherous seas is a reality we can easily gloss over too." Stella Maris had its humble beginnings through the St Vincent de Paul Society more than 100 years ago in Scotland. Formerly known as the Apostleship of the Sea, the official maritime welfare agency of the Catholic Church operates in over 300 ports around the world. "Sea Sunday is a time when we reflect on the lives and the work of all the seafarers of our world," Fr Tony said.

"Through helping and supporting their spiritual and material needs, advocating for their dignity and human rights and also championing strengthened international relations, Stella Maris continues to serve our human family no matter the nationality, creed or background." Noting the Gospel reading for Sea Sunday, Fr Tony said Jesus spoke of seeds being sown generously.

"The work of Stella Maris is like sowing seeds," he said. Donations can be made to The Apostleship of the Sea

Current Account: <https://stellamarisaustralia.org/>



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




A heartfelt thank you to our wonderful electrician, Chris who is always just a phone call away whenever we need help. Your generosity, reliability, and willingness to assist at a moment's notice are deeply appreciated.

We would also like to thank the Scuderi



Services who look after the gardens at Mater Dei and offer to do small jobs around the parish. Thank you for the many ways you quietly support our parish-we are truly grateful for your kindness and service.

MEDITATIO' (Latin: meditation/contemplation)

A mini silent retreat for women Hosted by Jo Hayes

WHERE: Carmelite Monastery of the Holy Spirit - Ormiston, Qld.

WHEN: Saturday 25 July, 2026; 2-5pm

COST: \$25pp - strictly limited availability - bookings essential - Details and registration at johayes.com.au/retreats



AN AFTERNOON RETREAT FOR WOMEN



GUIDED IN THE WHAT/WHY/HOW OF CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

THE CARMELITE SISTERS
invite you to celebrate with them

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel

SUNDAY 19 JULY
10.00 am Mass

Celebrant: Archbishop Shane Mackinlay

Stay for a picnic lunch - tea, coffee, sandwiches on sale.
Piety stall, Sisters' craft works on sale. Spend time in quiet prayer.

2.00 pm Evening Prayer - Benediction - Scapular enrolments

Carmelite Monastery, 287 Wellington St Ormiston 4160
www.carmeliteormiston.com



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

"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.



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: Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – A (Apostleship of the Sea)

The seed of a vocation seeks fertile surroundings. Sometimes it gets stepped on, sometimes it gets choked, and sometimes it lacks depth. But other times, it is nourished by loving and caring friends.

Please pray for vocations



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

www.vocationbrisbane.com

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- ◆ 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 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.'

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