



St John's Wood The Gap Parish Bulletin

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

Vol 6, Issue 28 26 July 2026



17th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: [1 Kings 3:5,7-12](#)

Your have asked for wisdom.

Second Reading: [Romans 8:28-30](#)

He predestined us to become true images of his Son.

Gospel: [Matthew 13:44-52](#)

He sells everything he owns and buys the field.



[Readings and Reflections](#)

PRAYING WITH CHILDREN
SUNDAY LITURGY

TWO-MINUTE HOMILY

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fr Anthony Mellor



WATCH NOW

Fr Anthony reflects on the parables of the hidden treasure and the pearl of great price, highlighting the joy found in discovering God's presence. [Watch now.](#)

Deceased

Brenda Cahill, Marie Harkin, Antonio Ferrante, Kay Elsdon

Anniversary

Moira Flynn, Patrick Roberts, 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)

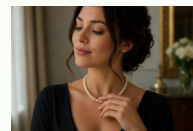
Monday at 9.30am Parish Office.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Mater Dei: Monday & Friday 6 - 7pm

This week's Gospel reflection:

A PEARL OF GREAT PRICE



Much like today, different gods and life philosophies were plentiful in the ancient Roman world. They were like different pearls, available for people to pick and choose which they liked and wanted to keep.

However, say you had come across a pearl greater in its beauty and purity than all of the others you had seen, one so valuable it required you to discard all the rest to obtain it. There's a sense of urgency in the decision too. A pearl this valuable, like treasure found in a field, will not remain available like this for long. Looking at it, you know you must decide quickly while it is still available.

Would it be worth it to you?

When Jesus talks about the 'kingdom of heaven' or the 'kingdom of God' being like a pearl of great price, he's referring to the value of the new way of living available through him.

As St Paul explains in this week's second reading, the kingdom of heaven is not just about eternal life. It is primarily about being shaped to become like Jesus, including in the here and now. We share Jesus' wisdom, his capacity to love others and his relationship with the Father. We live with Christ's life, we become moulded to his ways, and we take on Christ's whole way of being as our own.

The imagery offered by the parables in the gospels describes the right response to finding the kingdom of heaven, which is to give up everything else that has value in order to pursue it. Whether it costs us success, security, pleasure, or the respect of others, the kingdom of heaven is worth the very highest price.

St Matthew understands how the kingdom of heaven can change a person. Not only has he given up everything, including riches and security, for the kingdom of heaven but, in attaining it, he is like the head of a household who can welcome others into the kingdom and give its treasures away.

However, there is no understanding of the kingdom of heaven as Jesus describes it without a life-changing commitment to stay on its course.

As our first reading explains, King Solomon, at the start of his life, found this pearl of great price and placed it at the very centre of his life. Solomon disregarded offers of health, wealth and security and instead prized knowing the heart and mind of God. However, as the books of Kings go on to document, the wealth and life of pleasure drew Solomon's focus away from the wisdom he once prized above everything.

The life on offer from God gives us meaning and joy. It offers us a life where "all things work for good for those who love God." It is worth it to cast everything aside to attain it.

Joseph Doyle © Majellan Media 2026



Happy 10th Ordination Anniversary

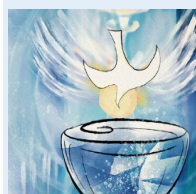
Our parish is blessed to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Father Anthony's ordination. This is a joyful milestone and we give thanks to God for the gift of his priesthood and for the

many ways he has served the Church with faith, dedication, compassion and generosity. As we mark this special occasion, we also give thanks for all he has done for our parish, through his preaching, pastoral care, leadership and faithful presence. He has supported, encouraged, and guided our parish family in countless ways and his ministry has helped many grow in faith, hope and love. This week take time to pray for him and thank him for bringing his special gifts to our parish. **God Bless Father Anthony!**

Day/Date	Liturgy	Mass Times	Venue
Monday 27/07/2026	Weekday, Ordinary Time 17	9am	Mater Dei
Wednesday 29/07/2026	St Martha, Mary and Lazarus	9am	SPC
Thursday 30/07/2026	Weekday, Ordinary Time 17	9am	SPC
Friday 31/07/2026	St Ignatius of Loyola, priest	9am	Mater Dei
Saturday 01/08/2026	Vigil Mass St Alphonsus Liguori, bishop, doctor	5.30pm	Mater Dei
Sunday 02/08/2026	18th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME	8am 10am 5pm	SPC Mater Dei SPC

BAPTISMS THIS WEEKEND

This weekend our parish rejoices as children are baptised into the family of God. **Baptism** is a beautiful beginning of faith, and we give thanks for the gift of new life in Christ and for the families who bring their children to the Church. At Mater Dei church we welcome **Henry**, son of Tayla & James, **Cooper**, son of Emily & Jack and **Jimmy**, son of Lucy & Gareth. Please keep these families in your prayers. God Bless!



75th Anniversary Afternoon Tea

at Mater Dei Catholic Primary School



We warmly invite past students, families, staff and friends of Mater Dei Catholic Primary School to join us for a special 75th Anniversary Afternoon Tea.

3:30pm – Afternoon Tea
McKillop Hall, Mater Dei Catholic Primary School

Come along and enjoy:
 ✨ School photographs and memorabilia from across the decades
 ✨ Delicious afternoon tea
 ✨ Time to celebrate the stories that have shaped our school community

Following the afternoon tea, guests are invited to join us for our 75th Anniversary Mass.

Mass at 5:30pm
Mater Dei Church

We would be delighted to celebrate this milestone with you as we honour our past, cherish our memories and look forward to the future.

Saturday
15 August



Mater Dei Catholic
Primary School
7 Linwood Avenue
Ashgrove West

Scan the QR
to register



~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:

*Mater Dei Family
Mass 26th July

*SPC Family Mass on
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

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

E: thegap@bne.catholic.net.au

Web: 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

PARISH TEAM

Fr Anthony Odionyenfe

Parish Priest

E: odionyenfe@bne.catholic.net.au

P: 0437406047

Silvana Geldenhuys

Parish Secretary

E: poa.thegap@bne.catholic.net.au

Ann Lister

Parish Office Assistant

E: poa2.thegap@bne.catholic.net.au

Local Safeguarding Representative

E: lsr.thegap@bne.catholic.net.au

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 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.



We can't wait
to welcome
you home to
Mater Dei.

EVERY CHILD KNOWN

EVERY POTENTIAL GROWN



A Brisbane Catholic Education School

NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK
6 - 12 September 2026

EVERY CONVERSATION MATTERS

SHIFTING CONVERSATION TO ACTION



Honouring our Grandparents– Celebrating the Gift of faith across Generations

Grandparents are a very special part of our families and our faith community. They share their love, prayers, stories, and wisdom in ways that help children and adults grow in faith and kindness.

As we celebrate Grandparents Day and the Elderly, let us give thanks for the many ways they enrich our lives. Whether they are with us each day or remembered with love from afar, their care and faith leave a beautiful and lasting mark on our families.

This week, take a moment to thank a grandparent, spend time together, listen to their stories, or simply let them know they are loved and appreciated. Let us also pray for all grandparents and the elderly asking God to bless them with good health, joy and peace and to strengthen the bonds of faith within our families.

May we always treasure and honour the precious gift of faith passed down through the generations, and may Grandparents' Day be a joyful time of love, gratitude and togetherness.



Loving God, we thank you for our grandparents and the elderly and for the blessing they are to our families. Please fill them with your peace, health, and joy and help all our families grow together in faith, love and gratitude.

Below are a couple of special stories shared by our parishioners:

Love of a Grandfather—A grandfather's love for his grandchildren is one of life's quiet treasures. It is a love filled with patience and pride, and a lot of wisdom growing deeper with every shared story, laugh and hug. Grandfathers often see in their grandchildren both the promise of the future and the reflection of their own journey through life.

There is a special bond not measured by grand gestures but by simple moments—listening, encouraging, and being present. Through their love, grandfathers can pass on values, memories and family traditions, creating a legacy that lives on in the hearts of their grandchildren. Their affection can provide a sense of belonging and security, reminding each child that they are deeply cherished and never alone. ***Submitted by Lionel***

My gift—The greatest blessing I have gifted my grandchildren (Summer, Marley, Ned, Elsie, Max, Agnes and Otto) is to know, with wonder and awe, God's creation...people, birds, animals, plants and landscapes. They have grown in knowledge and respect the need to heal and preserve our planet for theirs, and future generations. ***Cathy Lawson (MaMa)***

Christian Faith and Grandchildren

Passing on Christian faith to our grandkids has always been one of our hopes, but it has not been easy. We have four GKs all over 19 years of age, and each has followed their own path. One granddaughter embraced faith naturally from an early age. Now, at 24 years, she continues to worship regularly without needing any encouragement. The others....

Perhaps the most effective way to share faith is not through words alone but to pass it on like the flu—through closeness, hugs, and simply spending time together. By remaining present, showing unconditional love, and living a life shaped by Christian values, we hope they will see Christ reflected in us and worth embracing for themselves.

Of course, our prayers are central to this journey, because spiritual acceptance and growth cannot be achieved without the work of the Holy Spirit. It is ultimately God who touches hearts and brings about genuine transformation. Entrusting our children and grandchildren to God through prayer reminds us that their spiritual journey is in His hands, and that He is at work even when we cannot see the results. As we pray faithfully, we place our hope not in our own abilities, but in God's grace and power. ***Alan***

Young Adults Group

Our Parish YA Group will gather on Monday 27 July. 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 this Sunday! 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!

Youth-Led Mass - this Sunday 26 July



The next Parish YLM is on **this Sunday 26 July** at 5pm Mass at St Peter Chanel Church.

If you're a high schooler or young adult from Mater Dei or SPC, ***you're invited to join us at this Mass and to serve too.*** We are still looking for readers, singers, musicians, altar servers, computer operator and people to take up the gifts at the Offertory - ***no experience required for any of these roles, just a willingness to participate!***

If you, or someone you know, want to be involved, contact Sam Mead at samuel.mead@outlook.com or 0491 149 607. ***All parishioners are invited to join too.***

See you there!

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 join in.

"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://thegaparrish.flocknote.com/signup/265092>



**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! ❤️

"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.

Music in the Moonlight

STUDIO 75



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



DIVINE RENOVATION

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: Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – A (World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly)

Finding our vocation in life is like finding a buried treasure. We will do whatever it takes to possess it. Finding the treasure is a gift, possessing it is our vocation.

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 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.'

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

(07)3293 0555

www.holycrossfunerals.com


**Holy Cross
FUNERALS**

