



# St John's Wood The Gap Parish Bulletin

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

Vol 6, Issue 31 16 August 2026



## 20th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: [Is 56:1,6-7](#)

I will lead the foreigners to my holy mountain.

Second Reading: [Rom 11:13-15,29-32](#)

The gifts and call of God are irrevocable.

Gospel: [Matthew 15:21-28](#)

Woman, you have great faith.



[Readings and Reflections](#)

**PRAYING with CHILDREN**  
SUNDAY LITURGY

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

TWO-MINUTE HOMILY

Twentieth  
Sunday in  
Ordinary Time

Dcn Ivan Ortiz



Deacon Ivan reminds us not to lose heart in God's silence as it is not His absence and to approach Jesus with humility and trust. [Watch now.](#)

## Deceased

Brenda Cahill

## Anniversary

Mike McAuliffe, Estelle Freeney

## Sick

Robert Minns, 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

ST JOHN'S WOOD - THE GAP PARISH

# MULTICULTURAL MASS + LUNCH

SUNDAY 23 AUGUST 2026  
ST PETER CHANEL CHURCH  
MASS @ 10AM, LUNCH TO FOLLOW

ALL ARE INVITED

## NEXT SUNDAY – YOU'RE INVITED

Our Parish's Multicultural Mass and Lunch is next Sunday and you – and absolutely everybody – are invited to this special Mass and to the shared lunch in the Parish Hall immediately after! As a Parish community, we are blessed and enriched with people from many nations, cultures and languages. Next Sunday will be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate this rich diversity and to appreciate the universal nature of our Faith and our Church, which stretches to all peoples across the earth and within which our differences are united and we are made one – “all the members of the body, though many, are one body” (1 Cor. 12:12).

**Date: Sunday 23 August**

**Time: Mass at 10am, lunch to follow**

**Where: St Peter Chanel Church, The Gap**

As this is a combined Parish celebration bringing all of us together, there will be **NO 8AM MASS AT SPC, 10AM MASS AT MATER DEI OR 5PM MASS AT SPC** on Sunday 23 August, however 5:30pm Mass at Mater Dei on Saturday 22 August will be celebrated as usual.

There are many ways to get involved in this celebration:

If you speak a language besides English, we'd love to have you involved in the **Prayer of the Faithful** by reading an intercession in your language – email the Parish Office on [thegap@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:thegap@bne.catholic.net.au) to get involved.

Everyone is encouraged to **bring along a dish/plate to share** (savoury or sweet) from your nation/culture of origin for the lunch. These can be dropped off in the hall before Mass starts.

Come dressed up in **cultural dress**!

The choir and band leading **music for this Mass** is a combination of Mater Dei and SPC singers and musicians, including the 8am Mass guitar group and the Youth-Led Mass band. If you would like to join, come to the 7pm rehearsal at SPC on Wednesday 19 August and again at 9am on 23 August. Lots of work has gone into the music for this Mass and we are very excited for it!

Lastly, the invite for this Mass has been extended to the broader community, through the primary school newsletters and local papers. Local representatives are also planning on joining us. Let's each make sure to be welcoming to all visitors and to make this a community that they want to regularly come back to!

| Day/Date                | Liturgy                                 | Mass Times         | Venue                   |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Monday<br>17/08/2026    | Weekday,<br>Ordinary Time 20            | 9am                | Mater Dei               |
| Wednesday<br>19/08/2026 | Weekday,<br>Ordinary Time 20            | 9am                | SPC                     |
| Thursday<br>20/08/2026  | St Bernard, abbot, doctor               | 9am                | SPC                     |
| Friday<br>21/08/2026    | St Pius X, pope                         | 9am                | Mater Dei               |
| Saturday<br>22/08/2026  | Vigil Mass                              | 5.30pm             | Mater Dei               |
| Sunday<br>23/08/2026    | <b>21st SUNDAY in<br/>ORDINARY TIME</b> | 8am<br>10am<br>5pm | SPC<br>Mater Dei<br>SPC |

## Happy Anniversary

Today we give thanks to God for the beautiful gift of 70 years of marriage for Neil and Pat Duncalfe.

Your marriage is a wonderful witness to the enduring power of love, faithfulness, patience and forgiveness. Your life together has touched not only your family and friends, but also our parish community, where you have been such a valued and loved presence.

May God continue to bless you both with good health, peace and many more precious moments together. May you always find comfort in your shared faith, joy in the memories you have created over these 70 wonderful years.

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May He continue to shine His light upon your journey together, and may His love surround you always. God Bless!

## Celebration of Confirmation

*Come, Holy Spirit, Come!*

Next Wednesday 26th at SPC 7pm and Thursday 27th August at MD 5pm we joyfully welcome the children of our parish who will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. Let us come together as a parish community to celebrate this special moment in their faith journey and most importantly **pray for them** as they receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Please keep our children, their families and sponsors in your prayers as they prepare for this beautiful sacrament.

*Come, Holy Spirit, Come!*



## ~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:

**\* 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

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

**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

**Fr Anthony Odionyenfe**

Parish Priest

**E:** [odionyenfe@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:odionyenfe@bne.catholic.net.au)

**P:** 0437406047

**Silvana Geldenhuys**

Parish Secretary

**E:** [poa.thegap@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:poa.thegap@bne.catholic.net.au)

**Ann Lister**

Parish Office Assistant

**E:** [poa2.thegap@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:poa2.thegap@bne.catholic.net.au)

**Local Safeguarding Representative**

**E:** [lsr.thegap@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:lsr.thegap@bne.catholic.net.au)

**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 Angela on Monday 17th August. Contact the parish office for further details.

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





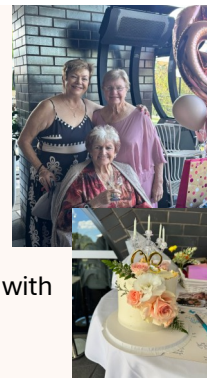
## Happy 90th Birthday Val Bonney

Our parish community send its heartfelt birthday wishes to Val as she celebrates her wonderful 90th birthday this week.

Val has been a much-loved and long-standing member of our parish family and we are very grateful for the many years of her friendship, faith and presence among us.

Although Val is now living in a nursing home, she remains very much a part of our parish family and is fondly remembered by so many of us. May God bless Val abundantly on her 90th birthday, surround her with love and peace, and bring her much joy as she celebrates this wonderful milestone.

Happy 90th Birthday Val! God bless from your parish family.



### CONGRATULATIONS ON 20 YEARS ~HAPPY PATCHES GROUP~

**Congratulations to our wonderful Happy Patches group, who are celebrating 20 years of creativity, friendship and generosity!**

Since its inception 20 years ago Happy Patchers have provided in excess of 1000 handmade patchwork and crocheted quilts and various items knitted, crocheted and sewn to those in the community needing support.

- \* Various Flood and Fire appeals,
- \* Pregnancy crisis groups
- \* Victims of Domestic Violence,
- \* Other needy causes as the call for assistance arises.

They meet in the SPC Parish Hall/Office

**MORNING GATHERING** 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month in St Peter Chanel Parish Hall 9.30am – 2.30pm **(if there are 5 Thursdays in the month the day group meets again as above).**

**EVENING GATHERING** 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month in Office Board Room at SPC from 7pm- 9pm **The evening group only meets twice a month.**

We thank every member, past and present, for sharing their time, talents and generous hearts. Your dedication and kindness have made a lasting difference to so many lives.

Congratulations, Happy Patches, on 20 wonderful years! May your needles, hooks and creative hands continue to bring warmth and joy for many years to come.

God bless!

### JOURNEY WITH AN RCIA CANDIDATE



Our RCIA candidate is preparing to receive the Sacraments and become a full member of the Catholic Church.

We are looking for a person or persons to volunteer to accompany a candidate on her RCIA journey beginning in September leading up to Easter 2027. It involves weekly meeting usually between 60 or 90 minutes duration probably in the evening or it may also be during the day - we are not sure yet. We supply a beautiful booklet about the Faith Journey.

For further information you can contact Graham Lawson 0431275668.

### YOUNG ADULTS GROUP

Our Parish YA Group is on every Monday night and this week (17 August), we're excited to have Fr Anthony sharing a talk with us (after having dinner together) at SPC from 6.430-98pm! Next week, 24th August is our monthly social and this time we're going bowling. 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**.



### YOUTH LED MASS 30 AUGUST

The next Parish YLM is in two weeks on **Sunday 30 August at 5pm Mass at St Peter Chanel Church** and everyone is invited. Calling all young people from

Mater Dei and SPC: you are encouraged to get involved – we are looking for readers, singers, musicians, altar servers, computer operator and people to take up the gifts at the Offertory.

Before the YLM begins, there are practices for the various ministries.

If you, or someone you know, want to be involved, **please contact Sam Mead** at [samuel.mead@outlook.com](mailto:samuel.mead@outlook.com) or 0491 149 607.

Contrary to what is advertised on the YLM posters, there will not be Potluck Dinner after this YLM because of the Multicultural Lunch only one week before.)

### ***This week's Gospel reflection: A WOMEN OF GREAT FAITH***



Boundaries – geographical, cultural, religious and gender – are crossed in today's gospel. In fact, it's one of the few stories in Matthew's Gospel that takes place outside Jewish territory. Matthew understands the ministry of Jesus being directed firstly to the house of Israel. Only when the good news of the Kingdom of God has been offered to them, will it be offered to "all nations". (Matt 28:19)

Jesus enters the pagan regions of Tyre and Sidon. Both towns were located on the coast north of Israel, and were historically hostile to the Israelites. It's here, in foreign territory, that Jesus is boldly confronted by a Canaanite woman; a descendant of one of Israel's ancient enemies. She symbolises all those who are regarded as 'unclean' by Jesus' own people.

As a mother, she is 'beside herself' with worry and fear for her precious daughter, whom she says is "tormented by a demon". There is no doubt that they would have been subjected to exclusion, suspicion and rejection, based on the false understanding of the time, that such an affliction was a result of sin.

Despite the fact that she is a woman, and an 'outsider', out of desperation and driven by a strong and unrelenting mother's love for her child in need, she calls out to Jesus, declaring him to be, "Lord, Son of David" – a remarkable confession of faith for a non-Jew.

Perhaps surprisingly to us, Jesus initially remains silent; seemingly ignoring the woman and excluding her from his ministry. The disciples are impatient and don't want to get involved with her, and they ask Jesus to "send her away".

By way of a further rebuke, Jesus declares that his mission is only to "the house of Israel". But the woman is not deterred. Her daughter's life is at stake, and she draws on deep courage and raw nerve to plead with Jesus a second time: "Lord, help me". Jesus' reply seems insensitive: "It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs".

This seeming harsh 'put down' of the woman, strengthens her resolve further, and she seizes her opportunity with both hands to challenge Jesus on 'who' are to be the recipients of his ministry. Pet dogs are allowed to eat the crumbs that fall from table, and she is simply asking for one such crumb for her daughter and herself.

The Canaanite woman's single-mindedness, tenacity and persistence, lead Jesus to praise her great faith, and heal her daughter. In doing so, Jesus moves into new territory of understanding himself and his mission. He demonstrates who he really is – the Saviour; and he acknowledges their rightful place among the saved.

The encounter between Jesus and the Canaanite woman reveals the unconditional and unrestricted mercy of Jesus, the power of faith and the promise of salvation for all who believe.

David J Hore CSsR© Majellan Media 2026



**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.**



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



KEEPING OUR  
COMMUNITY  
SAFE



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!

#### **Do you enjoy tennis?**

Social Ladies Tennis players wanted to play at the Gap Tennis & Squash centre on Tuesdays commencing at 8.30 am until 10.30. Please contact Carmel on 0416292054 if you are interested.



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: Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A**

It is so easy to push people out of our lives. But the Lord knows no boundaries, races, or colours. Spread the Good News that we are all God's people.

**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

"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.

(07)3293 0555

[www.holycrossfunerals.com](http://www.holycrossfunerals.com)

  
**Holy Cross  
FUNERALS**

