



St John's Wood The Gap Parish Bulletin

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

Vol 6, Issue 32 23 August 2026



21st 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

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fr Chinua Okeke CSSp



WATCH NOW

Fr Chinua unpacks St Peter's confession of Jesus as the Christ and the gift of the "Keys of the Kingdom of heaven". [Watch now.](#)

Deceased

Anniversary

Martin Eastwood, Estelle Freney, Alma Brady

Sick

Jane McEnvoy, 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

This week's Gospel reflection: To rule is to serve

Throughout history the question of who shall rule tribe, people or nation has been highly contested. It remains an issue today even in so-called democratic countries where people vote for their leaders and representatives.

Of course, winning elections – whether or not they are judged to be free and fair – is one thing; holding onto power in the face of opposition and possible violence another. So often we see military coups enforcing the abdication of elected leaders; we also hear of unquestionably rigged elections in various countries.

Commentators point to a worrying trend in today's global politics that favours authoritarian regimes that deny freedom and human rights. If we are tempted to look back in nostalgia to past regimes, a word of caution is in order. Even the great Davidic kingdom of Israel, which reached its heights under King Solomon, soon fell into a state of constant change of rulers.

In this week's first reading, Isaiah speaks on behalf of the Lord to dismiss Shebna from high office to replace him with Eliakim. Isaiah has high hopes for Eliakim's rule – "he will be like a father to his people". Yet, Eliakim soon lost popularity and was replaced in turn by his two brothers, Jehoiakim and Jehoahaz. It is all reminiscent of Australia's time of high turnovers of prime ministers!

Then we come to the gospel where Jesus questions the disciples about his identity. The disciples cite rumours that Jesus is a reincarnated prophet, namely John the Baptist, Elijah or Jeremiah. It is Simon Peter who recognises Jesus' true identity: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

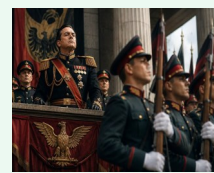
Jesus responds by appointing Peter 'the rock' on which the church is to be built. As Eliakim was given keys of the house of David, so Peter is given keys to the kingdom of heaven!

By the time the gospels are being written – some thirty to seventy years after Jesus' death and resurrection – it is clear to Christians that Jesus had officially commissioned Peter to be the leader of the church, and Peter effectively took on this role for some thirty years, prior to being martyred in Rome in 64 CE under Nero.

Some people like playing around with Jesus' use of the word 'rock' to nominate Peter's role in the infant church. Does it mean Jesus thought Peter was a bit thick in line with Marullus in Shakespeare's Julius Caesar: "You blocks, you stones, you worse than senseless things"? Clearly this is not Jesus' reasoning, as he will have been quite aware that the Psalms praise God as my 'rock', 'fortress', 'shield' and 'my place of safety' (Ps. 18:2).

Despite Peter's weaknesses – denying Christ three times and running away from Jesus' crucifixion – God gave him the grace to be dependable, committed and a support for others with their different gifts. Peter's rule was not one of craving or hanging onto power, but the rule of one who eventually learnt from his master that to rule is to serve.

Gerard Hall SM© Majellan Media 2026



PLEASE NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO 8AM OR 5PM MASSES AT ST PETER CHANEL THIS SUNDAY BECAUSE OF THE MULTICULTURAL MASS AT 10AM

Day/Date	Liturgy	Mass Times	Venue
Monday 24/08/2026	St Bartholomew, apostle	9am	Mater Dei
Wednesday 26/08/2026	Weekday, Ordinary Time 21	9am	SPC
Thursday 27/08/2026	St Monica	9am	SPC
Friday 28/08/2026	St Augustine, bishop, doctor	9am	Mater Dei
Saturday 29/08/2026	MUSIC IN THE MOONLIGHT	NO 5.30pm	Mater Dei
Sunday 30/08/2026	22nd SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME	8am 10am 5pm	SPC Mater Dei SPC

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!



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.

Ever Young Group



The ever young group will meet on Thursday 27th August commencing at 10am in the Parish Hall.

If you would like to join them please come along and bring a friend for a chat, a laugh and a cuppa. All welcome! We would love to see you there.

~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

This weekend—

***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 8am or 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

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 Chris & Ron on Monday 24th August. Contact the parish office for further details.

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



Calling All New Altar Servers



Have you recently received the Sacrament of Confirmation? Why not take the next step in your faith journey and become an Altar Server?

Altar serving is a wonderful way for our young people to actively participate in the celebration of the Mass and grow closer to Jesus. By serving at the altar, you help the priest and the whole parish community to pray and **celebrate the liturgy with reverence and joy.**

It is a wonderful opportunity to build confidence, make new friends and discover that every person has an important role to play in our parish community.

If you have received Confirmation and would like to become an Altar Server, we would love to hear from you!

Parents are also encouraged to support their children in taking up the special ministry.

Come and serve Jesus at the altar—your parish needs you! Please contact Cathy Kruip at Mater Dei ckruip@bigpond.net.au or the parish office if you are interested.

CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN 2026

This year has brought its own set of challenges and rewards, reminding us of the strength and resilience found through our faith. We have much to be thankful for as a parish. Out of all the things to be grateful for, I am most grateful for your continued support which makes a significant impact on the work that we do as one Church.

Today, we will hear an especially prepared homily from Archbishop Shane Mackinlay, to share the importance of the Annual Catholic Campaign and how we can continue to be blessed and bless others in our daily lives.

The Annual Catholic Campaign reminds us that we are part of the larger Church. Our parishes work together to support vital ministries and services. Funds raised will support ministries that directly impact

this parish, such as:

- training future priests
- caring for elderly priests when they become frail and unwell
- helping struggling families access a Catholic education
- caring for those suffering physically and emotionally in our local community
- supporting community-driven ministries that make a profound impact in our own parish and immediate social groups.

I encourage you to support the Annual Catholic Campaign as there are many who need our care, and this campaign reaches out to those who

need our support most.

When making your gift, please put your donation inside the envelope so it remains separate from the parish collection. If you add your details to the envelope, you will receive a tax receipt in the mail. Of course, if you prefer, you can also give online by scanning the QR code on the envelope, or going to: www.catholiccampaign.com.au Over the past years, our parish has given generously and together we have made a lasting impact on the lives of so many people in our community.

Thank you for your faithful generosity and for making sure our Church continues to be a source of hope, compassion, and service for those who need it most.



Year 2 families on Parish morning tea



A sincere thank you to our Year 2 families for their generous support

of the Parish Morning Tea last week. Your contributions of delicious treats and your willingness to assist created a warm and welcoming environment for our parish community. We are grateful for your time, kindness and commitment to strengthening the connection between our school and parish. Your support is greatly appreciated.

75th Celebrations

We were so excited to celebrate Mater Dei's 75th Anniversary with our Afternoon Tea and Parish Family Mass last Saturday evening. It was a wonderful opportunity to come together as a community, reflect on our rich history, and give thanks for the many people who have shaped our school over the past 75 years. We were especially thrilled to welcome Sister Deidre, Sister Maureen and Sister Clare from the Sisters of Charity, whose presence will make this milestone celebration even more special.



HAPPENINGS FROM OUR YOUTH GROUP

This Sunday is our **Parish Multicultural Mass & Lunch!** Mass is at **10am at St Peter Chanel Church**, with lunch to follow in the Parish Hall - everyone is invited to both. You're also invited to dress in your national costume, bring along a dish/plate to share (savory or sweet) from your nation/culture of origin for the lunch. Several of us from the YLM band are involved in the music too, so come along!

AUGUST YOUTH-LED MASS-NEXT SUNDAY



As usual, we have our Parish YLM on the last Sunday of this month at SPC 5pm Mass. **We'd love for you to be there! We'd also love for you to serve** through reading, singing/instruments, altar serving, computer operating or taking up the gifts at the Offertory. If you would like to get involved, please reply to this email:

samuel.mead@outlook.com

(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.)

Also, as initially advertised, next month's YLM will be **one week earlier than usual - 20 September** (the second-last Sunday) - because Ignite Conference is on the last Sunday of the month.

There will also be a Youth Night for all high schoolers after this Mass, so save the date now!

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP

As always, our Parish YA Group is on every Monday night and this week (24 August) we're going bowling! Next week (31 August) we'll be back at SPC from 6:30-8pm. 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 (and RSVP for bowling), join our YA Group Chat by texting Lauren on 0487 635 721.

IGNITE CONFERENCE

Ignite Conference is a Catholic gathering for people of all ages, featuring inspiring speakers, powerful praise and worship, elective workshops, engaging Sacraments and opportunities to encounter Jesus in a new way. This Conference has been running every year in Brisbane for 25 years and brings together over 1500 people—high schoolers, young adults, children, older adults and clergy. No matter your age, whether you're exploring faith for the first time, want to be renewed or want to go deeper, Ignite Conference has something for everyone. If you haven't been before, why not go this year?

When: 4pm Thursday 24 to 1pm Sunday 27 September (middle weekend of the September school holidays) Where: St Laurence's College, South Brisbane (in the city)

Cost: There are also several ticket options available priced differently (e.g. whole Conference tickets, single-day tickets or night-only tickets) to suit your availability.

More info and to register: igniteconference.com.au



**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

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!

Do you enjoy tennis?

Social men and women tennis players wanted to play at the Gap Fitness Club on Tuesdays 8.30 am until 10.30.

Please contact Carmel on 0416292054 if you are interested.

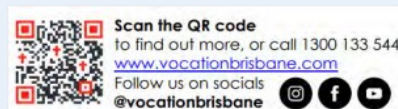
- ◆ The Editor retains the right to edit any items that are submitted to the Bulletin.
- ◆ Some items in the bulletin are sourced from @Majellan Media.
- ◆ Cut off time for the bulletin is 3pm Wednesday.

Protecting children is **EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS**

A vocation view: Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time – A

Many of us fear people in authority, as authority can be used for good or for ill. As Christians, we are called to see power as service. We shall all be judged on love.

Please pray for vocations



"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

**Holy Cross
FUNERALS**