



24th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: [Sirach 27:30-28:7](#)

Forgive your neighbor's faults and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.

Second Reading: [Rom 14:7-9](#)

The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.

Gospel: [Matthew 18:21-35](#)

I tell you that you forgive not seven times but seventy times seven.



Readings and Reflections



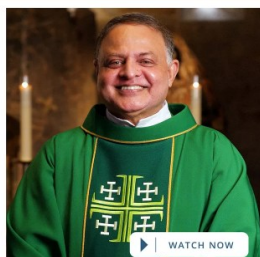
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TWO-MINUTE HOMILY

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fr Stephen Kulathumkara



Fr Stephen reflects on the wicked servant, reminding us of our debt to God and the forgiveness we receive through Jesus. [Watch now.](#)

Deceased

Thomas Wakefield, Rena Youhanna, Beverley Brown, Anne Edgar

Anniversary

Fr Brian Murray, James Barnaville, Des O'Neill, Eileen & Phil Hyde, Pat Page

Sick

James Diamond, Bronny Hensley, Jane McEnvoy, Robert Minns, Bev Dick, 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



Safeguarding Sunday 2026

The Catholic Church in Australia marks Safeguarding Sunday (formerly Child Protection Sunday) on the second Sunday of September each year – at the conclusion of National Child Protection Week.

On Safeguarding Sunday, we pray for those who have been abused, their families and supporters. We recognise and apologise for the harm done by anyone in Church settings and acknowledge the vulnerability of some within our parishes and communities.

We recommit to practices that support survivors and make the Catholic Church and its ministries the safest possible place for children and people at risk. Rebuilding trust and confidence in the Church requires constant work and vigilance.

This year the theme is **Love Protects** and the readings show us that real love is not passive goodwill. Rather it actively shields the vulnerable, tells the truth, and never lets silence stand in for safety.

We are very pleased to share a new video featuring Archbishop Shane Mackinlay introducing our new Archdiocesan Safeguarding Charter. The Safeguarding Charter sets out our shared vision, values and commitment to creating a safe and respectful environment for everyone. It is also a clear demonstration of strong leadership and support for safeguarding across our Archdiocese.

Please take a moment to watch the video here: <https://youtu.be/G0rzf4aUjiY>

Safeguarding—A Heartfelt thank you

As our parish safeguarding representative, I would like to sincerely thank all our wonderful volunteers for your time, dedication and commitment to our parish community.

Your willingness to complete safeguarding training and support our safeguarding practices demonstrates the care and responsibility you have for one another. Safeguarding is about creating a parish where everyone feels **safe, respected, welcomed and valued**, especially children and vulnerable people. It is something we all share responsibility for and is an important part of living our Christian mission.

Our parish is truly blessed by the generosity of our volunteers who give their time and talents so willingly. Thank you for all that you do and for helping us build a parish community where **care, respect, dignity and safety** are at the heart of all we do.

May God bless you abundantly for your generous service, and may the Holy Spirit continue to guide and strengthen you in all that you do for our parish.

With heartfelt gratitude, *Ann Lister, Parish Safeguarding Representative*

This week's Gospel reflection: FORGIVENESS

Today's Gospel speaks to us about one of the most difficult challenges of Christian life: **forgiveness**.

Peter asks Jesus, "Lord, how often must I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? As many as seven times?" Peter probably thought seven times was already generous. But Jesus responds, "Not seven times, but seventy-seven times." Jesus is not asking us to keep a record of how many times we have forgiven. He is teaching us that forgiveness should not have a limit.

Jesus then tells the parable of the servant who owed an enormous debt. That master has compassion on him and forgives the entire debt. Yet when that same servant encounters someone who owes him a much smaller amount, he refuses to show mercy.



...../cont

Day/Date	Liturgy	Mass Times	Venue
Monday 14/09/2026	The Exaltation of the Holy Cross	9am	Mater Dei
Wednesday 16/09/2026	Sts Cornelius, pope, martyr, Cyprian, bishop, martyr	9am	SPC
Thursday 17/09/2026	Weekday, Ordinary Time 24	9am	SPC
Friday 18/09/2026	Weekday, Ordinary Time 24	9am	Mater Dei
Saturday 19/09/2026	Vigil Mass	5.30pm	Mater Dei
Sunday 20/09/2026	25th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME	8am 10am 5pm	SPC Mater Dei SPC

The message is very clear. ***We are people who have received God's mercy, and therefore we are called to become people who show mercy.***

Sometimes forgiveness can be very difficult. We may carry hurts from words that were spoken, actions that wounded us, misunderstandings or disappointments. Jesus does not tell us that these things do not matter. Forgiveness means **choosing** not to allow anger, resentment or hurt to have the final word. It is often a journey, where we bring our hurts to God and ask Him to help us let go.

As a parish community, we are called to be a community where people experience compassion, welcome and reconciliation.

Let us ask the Holy Spirit to soften our hearts, give us the grace to forgive others, and remind us each day of the great mercy God has shown to us.



Thank you from Tricia Wogan

I am lost for words. I just want to thank Father Anthony and the Parish of St John's Wood/ The Gap for the very kind words of thanks, the lovely flowers and the Plaque with the lovely message and the words of blessing as I retire as Coordinator of the Mater Dei Liturgy Committee.

Thank you to the Liturgy committee - Peter Hyde, Cathy Kruip, Sue Hartfiel and the Sacristan Coordinators Myolene Carrick and Charyn Hall for all the help. Thank you to Helen Mahoney who has been part of the Liturgy committee for many years doing the Ministries roster for 5.30pm mass and looking after the Liturgy for 5.30pm mass. There are many people who help make our Liturgies the best we can for God and the congregation. Thank you to Cathy Kruip who has kindly offered to be the Mater Dei Liturgy Coordinator. There is always room for more people to help plan our Liturgies.

Please talk to Cathy if you have the "call" to help. Cathy also trains the altar servers. Sue Hartfiel is the Mater Dei Music Coordinator who organizes the music along with Geraldine Knapp, Deborah Longmore and Peter Hyde and Sue does the roster for the wonderful Musicians, the Cantors and the Choir. Annie Kirwan is the Mater Dei Ministries Roster Coordinator for 5.30pm mass and 10am mass. Myolene and Charyn, the Sacristan Coordinators, attend to the sacristan duties and have a roster for the sacristans who set up for our masses and the sacristan duties. Laurel Turnbull uses her gift to arrange the flowers for our Liturgies. We thank all these people who give their time so generously. Thanks to my husband, Dennis, for his support and help over the years.

I thank God for the "call" to help in this way. Thank you all. **Tricia**

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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Facebook: [StJohnsWoodTheGapParish](https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsWoodTheGapParish)

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bulletin.thegap@bne.catholic.net.au

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Majella Deegan

Sacramental Program Coordinator

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CHURCHES

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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 14th September. Contact the parish office for further details.

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.

A Special Celebration of Faith!



What a wonderful time it was for our Year 3 students to celebrate many of their classmates who have recently received the Sacrament of Confirmation. Their class liturgy was a beautiful opportunity to recognise this special milestone in their spiritual lives and celebrate together as a faith community. A heartfelt thank you to our parents, grandparents and Fr Anthony for joining us and making this celebration so meaningful. And, of course, we finished with a delicious Confirmation cupcake!



Hayley APRE

Welcome Sister Clare Nolan



Recently, the staff of Mater Dei were privileged to welcome Sister Clare Nolan for a rich and inspiring formation experience with Father

Anthony. Sr Clare shared her personal story and reflected on the remarkable history of the Sisters of Charity in our local area, bringing to life the courage, faith and commitment of those who dedicated their lives to serving others. Through her storytelling, she reminded us of the deep meaning of *Caritas* and the Sisters' enduring charism of "love having no bounds" – a love that reaches out with compassion, dignity and hope to all people. Her message encouraged us to continue living the Gospel through our words and actions, ensuring that the spirit of *Caritas* remains at the heart of our school and parish communities. We thank Sr Clare for sharing her wisdom, faith and witness with us.



YOUNG ADULTS GROUP

This Monday (14 September) for YA Group, we're going to Adoration at Mater Dei from 6-7pm before going out for dinner. Next Monday (21 September), we'll be back at SPC from 6:30-8pm for dinner and a talk on Trusting In God. 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 - 20 September

This month's Parish YLM is on **next Sunday 20 September** at 5pm Mass at St Peter Chanel Church. **If you're a high schooler or young adult** from Mater Dei or SPC, **we'd love for you to join us at this Mass and, if you're able, to serve too.** We need **readers, singers, Eucharistic ministers, musicians, altar servers, computer operator** and people to take up the gifts at the **Offertory**. Before the YLM begins, there are practices, so don't be afraid to try something new! 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! *(As advertised, this YLM is one week earlier than normal because Ignite Conference is on the last weekend of this month.)*



Straight after next Sunday's Youth-Led Mass, we will have a **Youth Night** from 6-7:30pm in the parish hall – a night just for **high schoolers** in Grades 7-12. It will include dinner, games, a short talk, a time of prayer and a chance to get to know each other more.

If you're in high school, we can't wait to see you there! RSVP is greatly appreciated (but not crucial). To RSVP or ask any questions, contact Sam Mead at

samuel.mead@outlook.com or 0491 149 607.

Come, connect, pray and celebrate your faith with us.

Your faith - Your voice - Your community

Come along, bring a friend and be part of it!

FINDING DAILY STRENGTH AND POSITIVITY DURING ILLNESS

"What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us." ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson ~

Finding hope in difficult times, especially when facing illness can be challenging, but here are some ways to nurture and sustain it:

Take Small Steps: Break down your challenges into manageable parts and celebrate each small achievement.

Seek Support: Connect with friends, family or support groups to share your feelings and gain encouragement.

Practice Gratitude: Each day, reflect on what you're thankful for to shift your focus toward the positive aspects of your life.

Find Meaning: Look for lessons or personal growth opportunities in your experiences to create a sense of purpose.

Engage in Acts of Kindness: Helping others, even in small ways, can lift your spirits and provide a sense of fulfillment.

Visualise a Brighter Future: Imagine and focus on positive outcomes to inspire hope and motivation.

Take Care of Yourself: Engage in activities that bring you peace, joy or comfort – whether it's nature, art, music or meditation.

Read Inspiring Stories: Find strength and hope in the experiences of others who have faced similar challenges.

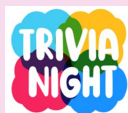
Stay Present: Focus on the here and now rather than worrying about the past or future. Mindfulness can help you find peace.

Believe in Your Resilience: Remind yourself of past challenges you've overcome and trust in your ability to navigate current difficulties.



Dear God, in our time of need, grant us strength and peace. Ease our suffering and surround us with Your comfort. Help us hold onto hope and find courage in every moment. May Your love and healing be our guide through this journey. Amen.

TRIVIA NIGHT



Everyone welcome. Come and join us for a relaxed night with plenty of laughter and learning. Our booking is split across 2-3 tables located closely together. You can sit on any table - no need to line up a crew beforehand. Numbers need to be finalised with the venue in advance, so please make sure you RSVP.

Details: The Gap Tavern

Tuesday 22 September

(please note change of venue **)**

Tables are booked from 6pm, with trivia starting at 7pm. It is free to participate in the Trivia. Optional to purchase food and drinks at the venue, or you might prefer to eat before you leave home RSVP by 20 September to

donna.lynn@live.com.au



Your gift today can help support safer pregnancies, safer births and healthier futures for mothers and babies. Learn more or

donate today at www.caritas.org.au/wftw

In Keeping with the Season of Creation, Pope Leo XIV has released the 'Pray with the Pope' video accompanying his prayer intention for September – For the care of water.

In the video, the pope prays that water may be a "source of fruitfulness, freshness, and hope" and recognises that water is "a right without borders".

Christians around the world celebrate the Season of Creation until October 4, the Feast of St Francis of Assisi. The theme for this year's event is *Living Water*, recalling the increasing scarcity of fresh water.

Click here for the [Pope's September prayer intention: 'For the care of water'](#)

(By Devin Watkins, *Vatican News*)

Click here for Common Home TV story on the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation: <https://www.commonhome.tv/2026/08/31/world-day-of-prayer-for-the-care-of-creation-2026/>

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



Something for a laugh



Pope Leo XIV has asked people to take shorter showers to help sustain the environment. Here is a joke about taking a shower.

A bloke bought an elaborate new "smart shower" that could remember his preferred temperature, play music and respond to voice commands.

The first morning, he stepped in and said, "Warm water, please."

The shower replied, "Certainly. Would you like me to start your usual playlist?"

"Yes—and make it relaxing."

Soft music began courtesy of Enya and 'Orinoco Flow', the water quickly warmed up, and he said to himself, "Technology is brilliant!"

Then his wife shouted through the door, "Have you cleaned the shower yet?"

The smart shower at once turned icy cold and announced, "Here's a new playlist: 'Bridge over Troubled Water' by Simon and Garfunkel."

Shower thought: Friendship is like soap—sometimes slippery but always cleaning up the mess



Enjoy your week ahead.....



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: Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time – A (Safeguarding Sunday)

"Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." Make a stand for mercy, empathy, forgiveness, and selflessness!

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 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".

~THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH~

*** Monday**

9.30am Meditation Group SPC

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

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

..... 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.'

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