

"Growing in Faith * Building Community * Nurturing Youth"

26th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Ezek 18:25-28

The sinner who decides to turn against sinfulness deserves to live.

Second Reading: Phil 2:1-11

In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus.

Gospel: Matthew 21:28-32

He went out moved by regret. the tax collectors and prostitutes will precede you into the kingdom of God.

TWO-MINUTE HOMILY

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Deacon Adam reflects on Jesus' conversation with the chief priests and elders, highlighting His striking words.

[Watch now.](#)

Deceased

Lorraine Griffiths, Thomas Wakefield, Rena Youhanna, Beverley Brown, Anne Edgar, John Crawley, Bruno Cadet

Anniversary

Eric Evans

Sick

Norelle Marsden, James Diamond, 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

This week's Gospel reflection:

REWARDING THE REPENTANT HEART



This week's Second Reading contains a very early Christian hymn and quotes from the prophet Isaiah, which proclaims that "all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld should bend the knee" to God (Is. 45:23). But St Paul instead writes: "at the name of Jesus."

Here, St Paul attributes eternal and divine kingship to Jesus. He explains that Jesus was divine from the beginning, but "did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave."

Jesus had been claiming this authority since he began his ministry. In the gospel, which follows the cleansing of the money changers from the Temple, Jesus continues to challenge the chief priests over who is best placed to represent God in the world.

The Jewish leaders claimed to be the mouthpieces of God and models of the kind of life that God wanted from his people. But, as Jesus had been demonstrating since he arrived in Jerusalem, the chief priests had become corrupt, abusing their positions. By contrast, as we hear in the Second Reading, Jesus is about to display what the self-sacrificing love of God really looks like by "accepting death, death on a cross."

Jesus' parable – about the father who asks his two sons to work in his vineyard – is significant because it evokes an Old Testament image of Israel as a vineyard lovingly created by God that produces rotten fruit (Isaiah 5). Although Israel, particularly its religious leaders, have been chosen to be an instrument through which God blesses the whole world (see Genesis 12), they have not led lives that reflect who God is. They have signed up to God's service but haven't delivered.

But, as Jesus explains, those with clearly flawed lives are more likely to acknowledge their failings, turn away from how they were living, and be fruitful for God.

Rewarding the repentant heart was God's plan from the start. As God says through the prophet Ezekiel in the First Reading, "When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live."

In comparison to John the Baptist, whom Jesus described as "a pattern of true righteousness," none of us look particularly good. Yet it was the tax collectors and sinners who were more likely to listen and be changed by Jesus than those who seemed blameless.

Let us allow Jesus to challenge us when we, like the second son in the parable, have said "Yes" but have then gone off and done otherwise. Let us hear and respond to God's call and go out and work in the vineyard, as a member of Christ's Body, which he gave up for love of the world.

Let us pray with the Psalm: **"Lord, make me know your ways, Lord, teach me your paths. Make me walk in your truth and teach me: for you are God, my saviour."**

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FUNERAL MASS

Please be advised there will be a funeral Mass for **Lorraine Griffiths** on Friday 2nd October at Mater Dei commencing at 11am.

Please keep the family in your prayers.

Day/Date	Liturgy	Mass Times	Venue
Monday 29/09/2026	Weekday, Ordinary time 26	9am	Mater Dei
Wednesday 30/09/2026	St Jerome, priest, doctor	9am	SPC
Thursday 01/10/2026	St Therese of the Child Jesus, virgin, doctor	9am	SPC
Friday 02/10/2026	The Holy Guardian Angels	9am-Anointing Mass	Mater Dei
Saturday 03/10/2026	Vigil Mass	5.30pm	Mater Dei
Sunday 04/10/2026	27th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME	8am 10am 5pm	SPC Mater Dei SPC

menCONNECT+

Gentlemen, our next Gathering is **6pm Friday 23rd October**. This is our last for 2026. We will hear from **Mark Doyle who is Associate Director, Mission and Ministry, Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Catholic Mission), Australian Catholic University**.

All men of the parish are warmly invited to come along for an evening of faith, fellowship and encouragement.

Mark will declare that a meaningful and rounded life comes from anchoring your identity in faith, pursuing your God-given purpose, investing deeply in loving relationships, and intentionally aligning your daily habits with the life you are called to live.

The Gathering will be in the Parish Hall, 41 Chaprowe Rd, The Gap.

Cost is \$15.00. For catering purposes, please RSVP to Mike by text on 0459 992 228 or email menCONNECTsjwtg@gmail.com before 16th October.

ADVENT RESOURCES

This year we have two resources to choose from:

The Way of the Heart from Archdiocesan ministries or Presence from Woollongong Diocese.

Both books cost \$7.00 and can be purchased from the Parish Office.



Thank you

We sincerely thank a generous parish family for donating a defibrillator (AED) to our parish. This thoughtful gift will help provide greater safety and peace of mind for our parish community. Thank you for your generosity, and may God bless you and your family.



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

~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

10am Happy Patches Craft Group

* **Mahjong will resume on 8th October 12.30pm**

*Friday at MD

6-7pm Adoration



The Columban Calendars have arrived and are available in the Parish Office for \$10

HOME ROSARY

This week's rosary will be said at the home of Pushpa on Monday 28th September.



Contact the parish office for further details.

Please check out our Parish Webpage and Facebook Page for regular updates.





BAPTISM THIS WEEKEND

This weekend our parish rejoices as we welcome Quinn and Ellis children of Ryan and Amy and Thomas son of Daniel and Rachael who will be baptised into the family of God on Sunday at Mater Dei. We ask that you please keep the families in your prayers.

Young Adults Group

This Monday (28 September), we have parishioners Pushpa and Niro running a Sri Lankan cooking class for us at SPC from 6:00-8:30pm! The following Monday (5 October) on the public holiday, we're doing a bushwalk with Scripture reflection. All young adults (18-30) are invited! To RSVP for the cooking class, get more info for the bushwalk and join our YA Group Chat, text Lauren on 0487 635 721.

Youth-Led Mass - 20 September

After last Sunday's Youth-Led Mass (YLM), a small number of high schoolers gathered in the parish hall for our Youth Night. We had a great time getting to know each other better, having pizza, playing games, exploring how we can find God in the still silent moments and spending some time in reflection and prayer. If you're in Grades 7-12, we'd love to see you at our last Youth Night of the year on Sunday 29 November from 6-7:30pm after the November YLM – lock in the date now!

MEMORIAL FOR BISHOP MICHAEL PUTNEY

Since his death in 2014, we have held an annual event to remember Bishop Michael Putney (Auxiliary Brisbane 1995 to 2001 and Townsville 2001 to 2014). Bishop Michael made an enormous contribution, both nationally and internationally, to the advancement of Christian Unity and also Interfaith Relations.

This year's Memorial will be a dinner, including a panel discussion on the topic: Why Christian Unity matters more than ever.

Joining Archbishop Shane Mackinlay on the panel, will be Bishop Bartholomew, Greek Orthodox Bishop of Queensland and PNG, Ms Kym Korbe, Executive Officer of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress and Major Mark Everett, Divisional Leader Queensland, The Salvation Army. Moderator is Rev David Busch from the Uniting Church.

It will be held on **Thursday 8 October from 6pm to 9pm in the Hanly Room, Francis Rush Centre, 196 Charlotte Street, Brisbane (beside the Cathedral).** Parking is available underneath.

WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

Sunday is World Day of Migrants and Refugees when we are asked by the Church to consider the courage, dignity, and contributions of people who leave their homes in search of safety, peace, and better opportunities.

This year's theme, ***Even just one of these children (Matthew 18:10)***, focuses attention on the children and young people affected by migration and forced displacement.

Pope Leo XIV says recognition of fundamental human rights represents one of the most important achievements in human history. The Church contributes to this journey, says the pope, by recalling that dignity arises from the very being of each person.

"Human dignity does not depend on a person's abilities, wealth or position in life, nor on the right or wrong choices made," he says. "Instead, it is a gift that precedes and transcends each person, endowed by God as an expression of his unfailing love."

Pope Leo quoted his encyclical Magnifica Humanitas, stressing that every human being is "planned and willed by God" for communion with him, with others and with creation.

He says this infinite dignity is rooted in humanity's creation in the image of God. Christ reveals the ultimate foundation of this dignity by revealing humanity to itself and making known to us our highest calling, he added. Archbishop Christopher Prowse, Chair of the Bishops Commission for Evangelisation, Laity and Ministry (BCELM) and Bishop Delegate for the ACMRO, said the theme challenges Australians to pay closer attention to a frequently overlooked dimension of migration.

"We frequently hear the voices and experiences of adult migrants and refugees, but we tend to forget the children involved," Archbishop Prowse said.

Resources are available at:

<https://acmro.catholic.org.au/wdmr/2026>

Source: Vatican News and Bishops Commission for Evangelisation, Laity and Ministry



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

Something for a laugh.....

A tribute (sort of) to those who don't play fair in competition ...

A bloke won the local fishing competition with the biggest fish anyone had ever seen.

One of the judges looked closely and said, "Hang on ... there's a supermarket sticker underneath the fish and it's frozen solid!"

The bloke shrugged. "You said the biggest fish wins. Nobody mentioned I couldn't buy it beforehand."

A bloke won the local lawn bowls championship by quietly moving the jack closer to his bowl whenever nobody was watching.

His mate said, "That's not playing fair!"

He shrugged. "Maybe not, but if the goalposts keep moving for everyone else, I thought the jack deserved a turn."

A bloke won the pub trivia night after secretly Googling every answer under the table.

His mate said, "That's cheating—you didn't know any of those answers!"

The bloke held up the trophy and smiled.

"True, but I knew someone who did."

Enjoy your week ahead.....



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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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

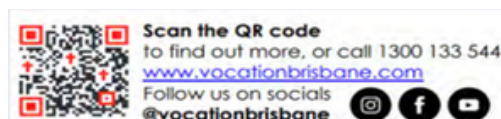
St Peter Chanel Primary School

T: 3300 1202

A vocation view: Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time – A (World Refugees & Migration Day)

We cannot act overly proud just because we have responded to God's call. Responding is our duty and source of happiness; serving God with perseverance and happiness fulfils us.

Please pray for vocations



- " 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.

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!



"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".

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