



PARISH OF ST JOHNS WOOD THE GAP

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

Vol 6, Issue 39

18 October 2026

“Growing in Faith * Building Community * Nurturing Youth

29th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Is 45:1,4-6

I have taken the hand of Cyrus to subdue nations before his countenance.

Second Reading: 1 Thes 1:1-5

I We are mindful of your faith, hope and love.

Gospel: Matthew 22:15-21

Give to Caesar the things that belong to Caesar and to God the things that are God's

TWO-MINUTE HOMILY

Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dcn Martin Lewis



Deacon Martin invites us to reflect on Jesus' words: "Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God." [Watch now.](#)

Deceased

Denise McGill, Lorraine Griffiths, Margaret Garonne, Jan Everingham

Anniversary

Heiko Ertel, Neal Mooney, Murray Dick

Sick

Norelle Marsen, Kathleen Cosgrove, 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, Mary Thomas, Carol Black, Moira De Silva, Margaret Sullivan, Ryan Ferguson, Toni Bennett, Lorraine Stevens, Olivia Muller Farias.

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:

EXPERIENCING EXILE

The Jewish people experienced two major periods of exile.

The first was the Assyrian Exile beginning in the eighth century BCE when the ten northern tribes were forced into exile in Assyria. The second, the Babylonian Exile, involved the southern kingdom of Judah, primarily consisting of the two tribes of Judah and Benjamin. It occurred in the sixth century BCE when Nebuchadnezzar, the King of Babylon, twice attacked Jerusalem and, on the second occasion, destroyed the city. In the Assyrian Exile, tens of thousands of Israelites were scattered across the Assyrian empire and, rather than returning, the deportees were gradually assimilated into the local populations, disappearing from history, and leading to the historical concept of the Ten Lost Tribes of Israel.

The Babylonian Exile lasted almost seventy years until Cyrus, the King of Persia, defeated the Babylonians and issued an edict that the Jewish people could return to their homeland. Gradually, over time a large group of exiles returned to Jerusalem and began to rebuild their shattered city.

In this week's first reading, the prophet Isaiah refers to Cyrus as the "anointed" of the Lord, a title usually ascribed to the Davidic king. Furthermore, this Persian king's hand is grasped by God, which signifies the conferral of royal authority. Though Cyrus is a non-believer, God's plan unfolds through him.

The experience of exile must have been devastating because, after being led out of Egypt to the "promised land," the Israelites were once again captive, in foreign lands, and subject to non-believers. It meant the loss of freedom, the loss of a beloved city, leaving home, being deported, and forced displacement. It meant grief and physical, emotional and spiritual suffering.

We too, for a wide range of reasons, can experience what feel like periods of exile in our lives. It might happen when we suffer separation from family and friends, a severed relationship, the loss of employment, a serious health issue or trauma, or mental illness. In those times, our faith and trust in God can be sorely tested. We can really struggle in our search for ways to endure the grief, suffering and displacement, physically, psychologically and spiritually.

Spiritually, at core those experiences challenge us to deepen our relationship with the Lord and to trust that God does not desert us. Painful though they are, in fact they prompt us to grow. Indeed, as we look back on our lives, we can see that the pain points in our lives are in fact growth points in our development. The challenge is to let those pain points – those times of displacement, grief and suffering – become growth points. It is to let them soften whatever hardness of heart has set in and to let those pain points open us up to new life, new understanding, and new compassion for those around us and the world and its needs.

Michael A Kelly CSSR @ Majellan Media 2026

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of **Jan Everingham**. We keep the family in our prayers during this difficult time, giving thanks for her life and the part she played in our parish community.

May the Lord welcome Jan into His eternal peace, and may the comfort of His love surround all who mourn her loss.

Funeral details will be available next week.



Day/Date	Liturgy	Mass Times	Venue
Monday 19/10/2026	Weekday, Ordinary Time 29	9am	Mater Dei
Wednesday 21/10/2026	Weekday, Ordinary Time 29	9am	SPC
Thursday 22/10/2026	Weekday, Ordinary Time 29	9am	SPC
Friday 23/10/2026	Weekday, Ordinary Time 29	9am	Mater Dei
Saturday 24/10/2026	Vigil Mass	5.30pm	Mater Dei
Sunday 25/10/2026	30th 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. All men of the parish are warmly invited to come along for an evening of faith, fellowship and encouragement.

We will hear from Mark Doyle who is Associate Director, Mission and Ministry, Australian Catholic University.

Mark's focus will be **The Good Life** - A Christian vision for meaning, purpose and fulfilment. It is built on is built through **FARM**: Faith, Alignment, Relationships, and Mission.

Faith anchors identity in something bigger than yourself

Alignment means living intentionally: clarify your vision, turn it into goals and habits.

Relationships give life significance; investing in family, friends, and community helps people experience that they matter.

Mission means discovering and passionately pursuing your unique purpose.

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.

HAVE YOUR SAY- PARISH VISION AND MISSION SURVEY

Don't forget to fill out our parish survey. We would like to hear your thoughts on how we can continue to grow in faith, support our young people and strengthen our parish community. **Your voice matters!**

THE SURVEY WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE PARISH WEBSITE, VIA THIS LINK [HTTPS://FORMS.CLOUD.MICROSOFT/R/0HHCYDVFAG](https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/0HHCYDVFAG) AND PAPER COPIES ARE AVAILABLE AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH. PLEASE RETURN YOUR SURVEY TO THE BOX AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH BY SUNDAY 18TH OCTOBER.

Together, we can help build a vibrant, welcoming and missionary parish where everyone feels valued and encouraged to grow in their faith.

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts and be part of our parish journey.

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

Please find below the link to view Pope Leo's video message for World Mission Sunday
[Watch now](#)

~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

12.30pm Mahjong
7-9pm Happy Patchers group (Parish office)

*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 Donna & Brendan on Monday 19 October. Contact the parish office for further details.



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



MISSIONARIES OF HOPE

among all peoples



For women like Sharon, who must choose between feeding their children or selling their crops to survive, and Grace, who risked her life traveling 160km for safe childbirth, hope comes through Sr Jane and Kayula. Through sustainable farming, Sr Jane helps women provide for their families. At the Chilonga Mission Hospital, Kayula ensures mothers and babies receive the dignity and care they deserve.

This World Mission Month, we invite you to extend your generosity to help enhance the vital work of the Church. Your support can make a significant difference to the lives of many, offering hope to the people of Zambia.



Freecall: 1800 257 296
catholicmission.org.au/mission



This weekend we welcome Jason Chan from Catholic Mission who will speak at all Masses on how we can support the wonderful work that Catholic Mission continues to do throughout the world.

Children's Liturgy Leaders - Help Needed

Children's Liturgy is offered at the 10am Mass on the first Sunday of each month. This important ministry is urgently seeking expressions of interest from 1-2 more volunteers willing to either lead or assist with delivery of these sessions. This is necessary so we can continue to provide certainty for the monthly sessions, working around the normal schedule challenges all our volunteers operate around in this busy world.



All volunteers need to complete the parish safeguarding requirements prior to commencing. Support is available to learn how it all works, including shadowing an existing session leader. Easy to follow materials are provided through the Archdiocese for each Sunday.

Please contact the parish office, or Donna Lynn at donna.lynn@live.com.au if you are interested in finding out more.

CATHOLIC MISSION PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION

Catholic Mission is celebrating 100 years of World Mission Sunday with a photographic exhibition titled 'Hope' starting on Thursday week.

The exhibition will "capture moments of encounter, faith, care and connection in communities around the world". Hope will offer a glimpse into the people and experiences that have shaped Catholic Mission's story.

It has been organised to mark the centenary of World Mission Sunday and will showcase photographs of people in various locations including Africa and Asia.

The photographic exhibition will be hosted by Australian Catholic University (ACU) in Sydney but can also be watched online. Hope can be viewed at: www.catholicmission.org.au/exhibition

Potluck Dinner - 25 October

The next Parish Potluck Dinner is next Sunday 25 October at 6pm in the Parish Hall (after the 5pm Youth-Led Mass). All are welcome – come to share dinner together and catch up with friends new and old over a meal. Please bring a main or dessert to share and your own drinks. Meals can be dropped off at the Hall right before 5pm Mass or when Potluck begins. Help is needed for setting up before-hand, putting out food and packing up. If you can lend a hand, please contact Michelle Mead at themeads@gmail.com. See you there!



Youth-Led Mass - 25 October

High schoolers, young adults and all parishioners alike are encouraged to join us for this month's Parish Youth-Led Mass next Sunday 25 October at 5pm Mass at St Peter Chanel Church! If you're a high schooler or young adult, why not also get involved in serving (music, altar serving, reading, computer, Communion Minister, tory, collector) – please email Sam at samuel.mead@outlook.com if you can help out. Hope to see you there!



Young Adults Group

This Monday (19 October) for Young Adults Group, Lauren will give a talk on faith and reason; next Monday (26 October) we'll have a Rosary and prayer night, seeing as October is the month of the Rosary! Both of these nights will be at SPC from 6:30-8pm and will include dinner. All young adults (18-30) are invited! For more info and to join our YA Group Chat, text Lauren on 0487 635 721.

ADVENT RESOURCES

"Advent invites us to listen again to the quiet movements of the heart. 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.



Something for a laugh....

St Peter asked a couple how they'd managed fifty years of marriage.

"Patience, forgiveness and separate bathrooms."

"Ah," said Peter. "Two virtues and a miracle."

St Francis loved every creature on earth.

Clearly, he'd never had a possum in his roof at three in the morning.

Enjoy your week ahead.....



Pastoral care in hospitals – Centacare is seeking people interested in volunteering once each week to provide pastoral and spiritual care to Catholic patients in our public hospitals in our strongly established teams. The people we are seeking must have a qualification or significant background in a human service discipline with some level of formal theological training. If you are retired, or semi-retired from such a career, in very good health and have one morning per week available for a most rewarding volunteer role in the spirit of the Gospel, please talk further with me with no obligation.

E: judy.norris@bne.centacare.net.au Mob: 0428 669 572

Safeguarding Notice

We kindly remind all parish volunteers to ensure that their safeguarding requirements are up to date, including any required training, Blue Card and volunteer registration.

Keeping these requirements current helps us maintain compliance with Archdiocesan policies and most importantly, ensures that our parish remains a safe and welcoming place for everyone.

We sincerely thank all our volunteers for your time, dedication and commitment to the life of our parish. Your co-operation and support in fulfilling these important responsibilities are greatly appreciated.

Thank you for help us keep our parish community safe.



Collaborative leadership FOR THE FUTURE

A renewed leadership model will strengthen relationships among Catholic organisations and elevate our combined capacity to serve the mission of the Church in south-east Queensland.

The Archdiocese of Brisbane is introducing a new Council of Vicars made up of skilled and knowledgeable leaders across the areas of Health, Social Services, Education, Pastoral Mission, Clergy, Religious and Administration who will coordinate and encourage collaboration, advocacy and stewardship with Catholic agencies in their respective fields. The aim is to strengthen how we serve together.



Scan the QR code for more detail.

Recruitment of Vicars

Recruitment is underway for the following part-time, executive-level Vicar roles that will serve as principal advisors to the Archbishop:

Vicar for Education (3 days/week)

Vicar for Social Services (2 days/week)

Vicar for Health (1 day/week).

We are seeking people with expertise in their fields, a grounding in Catholic teaching, a commitment to the Church's mission, and an ability for respectful listening and collaborative discernment.

For further information or to apply for a role, contact Ruth Buchanan on vicarrecruitment@bne.catholic.net.au or 0448 241 521.



The Archdiocese of Brisbane



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".

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: odionyenfea@bne.catholic.net.au

P: 0437406047

Silvana Geldenhuys

Parish Secretary

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

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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

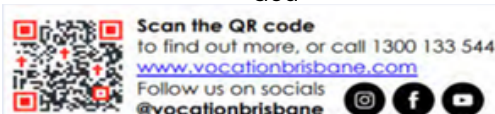
T: 3514 4100

St Peter Chanel Primary School

T: 3300 1202

A vocation view: Twenty- Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

We do not choose a vocation completely on our own. We must prayerfully reflect on how we can best give to God what is God's and then live as though everything depends on God



- " 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.



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www.holycrossfunerals.com

