



St John's Wood/The Gap Parish Bulletin

Vol 5, Issue 06

16 February 2025



SIXTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: [Jer 17:5-8](#)

A curse on those who trust in humanity; a blessing on those who trust in the Lord.

Second Reading: [1 Cor 15:12, 16-20](#)

If Christ is not raised from the dead, your faith is in vain.

Gospel: [Luke 6:17, 20-26](#)

Happy are the poor. Woe to the rich!



[Readings and Commentaries](#)

PRAYING With CHILDREN
SUNDAY LITURGY

TWO-MINUTE HOMILY

Sixth
Sunday in
Ordinary Time

Fr Stephen Bliss OFM



May you do all you can this week to be motivated by love. Do all you can to be motivated by your heart. Be a person of love. [Watch now.](#)

Recently Deceased

Anniversary

Stefan Golebiowski, Maurice De Silva, Joe Tracey, Ron & Joy Hambleton

Sick

Peter Hadley, Jim Johnson, Mike McAuliffe, Kathleen Cosgrove, Robert Minns, Tim chen chen zuo Zu, Mary Thomas, Antonio Ferrante, Deborah Austin, Lorraine Stevens, Carol Black, Moira De Silva, Juliana Ryman, Lorna McConnachie, Margaret Sullivan, Bernie Knapp, Mary Davidson, Val Bonney, Ryan Ferguson, Linda & Andrea Pisano, Estelle Freney, Toni Bennett, Deiana Martin, Kathy Fraser, Les Grimson

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 BE EVERGREEN WITH GOD

The banksia, unlike many other Australian native plant species, is not destroyed by bushfires. In fact, the fire's extreme heat and smoke helps it regenerate. The heat, as well as the chemicals from the smoke and ash, trigger the opening of the banksia's woody seed cases which releases the seeds within. These seeds are dispersed and subsequently germinate in rich soil.



It is also significant to note that, in addition to its fire-resistant properties, the banksia trees are an important life-nourishing habitat for threatened species, such as black cockatoos, chu ditch and western ringtail possums. The banksia's surprising impetus for growth and regeneration offer valuable insights for our own journeys through life.

A common thread running through this week's readings is God's invitation to us to grow into the fullness of life. In the first reading, the prophet Jeremiah describes those who trust in the Lord as being: "like a tree planted beside the waters that stretches out its roots to the stream ... its leaves stay green." The psalm describes the one whose delight is in the law as being like: "a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season."

The second reading speaks of Jesus' resurrection and the promise of ours. Our gospel reading reminds us that we shall be filled, nourished, satisfied, and brimming with joy, whatever adversities we might face.

While it may be easy to respond positively to continual growth when life is going well, it is often difficult to remain hopeful when we encounter life's crushing experiences. How do we continue to tap into God, the source of our lives, when hope seems lost or destroyed in life's bushfires?

Benedictine mystic Hildegard of Bingen used the term "viriditas," meaning God's greening power, to describe the divine life force. She explained that, deep within nature, there is the innate potential to grow towards the fullness of life, as well as a capacity for healing and wholeness. God invites us to open ourselves to this divine capacity each day. To be closed to growth is to be closed to God, the source of our life.

Jesus reminds us that "the kingdom of God is within you" (Luke 17:21). Our capacity to heal, recover and grow, lies deep within each of us, although sometimes hidden from our eyes. Those who have experienced a major illness or other devastating experiences will appreciate this.

Iconographer Robert Lenz OFM explained that, when we try continually to keep moving towards God, even if we should fall, we fall towards God or even into God. Indeed, we are not defined by our failures and setbacks, but by our capacity for growth and greening, even when we fail.

In ordinary time, the liturgical colour, green, symbolises growth and hope. It reminds us of God's greening power. Amidst the ordinariness, the setbacks and the struggles of our daily lives, let us look towards God and to each other to remind us to continually be open to God. Within him, we are always evergreen.

Sophie Clements © Majellan Media 2025

HAVE YOU TRIED ADORATION BEFORE?



Join us at **Mater Dei church** for **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** which takes place every Monday and Friday evening from 6-7 pm. Feel free to drop in on your way home from work or stay longer to spend some quiet time with the Lord. All are welcome!

Day/Date	Liturgy	Mass Times	Venue
Monday 17/02/2025	Weekday, Ord Time 6	9am	Mater Dei
Wednesday 19/02/2025	Weekday, Ord Time 6	9am—Anointing Mass	SPC
Thursday 20/02/2025	Weekday, Ord Time 6	9am	SPC
Friday 21/02/2025	Weekday, Ord Time 6	9am	Mater Dei
Saturday 22/02/2025	SEVENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME	5.30pm	Mater Dei
Sunday 23/02/2025		8.00am	SPC
		9.30 am	Mater Dei
		5.00pm	SPC

PLEASE NOTE: THERE ARE NO MASSES IN THE PARISH ON TUESDAYS

PLEASE NOTE: Confession times in our parish will be held prior to these weekend Masses as follows:

5:00pm – Saturday Night Mater Dei 4:30pm – Sunday Night SPC

If a parishioner would like confession at any other time, they can speak to Fr Anthony after any mass.

ST PETER CHANEL WHOLE SCHOOL MASS

Last Thursday the school celebrated their first Mass and Leadership Commissioning Ceremony for the year 6 leaders with Father Anthony. Each year presented a Covenant which Father Anthony blessed. The year 6 young people were presented with their badges by family members or teachers.



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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PARISH TEAM

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Majella Deegan

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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



HOME ROSARY

This week's rosary will be said at the home of Gordon on Monday 17th February. Contact the parish office for further details.

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



MATER DEI FAMILY MASS THIS SUNDAY

You are all invited to join with the Mater Dei school for a Family Mass **this Sunday** at Mater Dei commencing at 9.30am. Please come and celebrate with our school community.

menCONNECT

Date claimer

Gentlemen, our “main course” event of 2025 will be a **half-day Gathering on Saturday 22 February**. The speaker will be Fr Ray Chapman, SM, PhD, former Parish Priest, international Renewal Program leader and Spiritual Director and the theme is **“Intimacy: with oneself, with others, and with God.”** [*Intimacy is the ability to be aware of and care about your feelings towards yourself and how to be open in sharing them with others*]

The morning starts at 7am with the traditional cooked breakfast and coffee and concludes at 1pm. The location of the Gathering is the Parish Hall at Saint Peter Chanel, 41 Chaprowe Rd, The Gap. The cost is \$25 and please RSVP Mike on 0459 992 228 before 19 February for catering purposes.



EVER YOUNG GROUP

Our group will be meeting Thursday 27th February at 10:00am. We gather in the SPC church hall for morning tea. There is no age limit! Please contact Lyn Dudgeon if you have any enquiries on 33001951.



SAFEGUARDING

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) in the UK has published a short article to help parents and carers learn more about artificial intelligence (AI) content and tools. The article explains what AI-generated content is and offers six tips to support children to use AI safely. The article can be found [here](#).

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

SOMETHING FOR A LAUGH

The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic primary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The nun made a note, and posted on the apple tray: “Take only ONE. God is watching.”

Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. A child had written a note, “Take all you want. God is watching the apples.” 😊😊😊😊 *Enjoy your week ahead*



♥ A HEART FULL OF LOVE ♥

“Faith makes all things possible.... love makes all things easy.”

~ Dwight L Moody ~

Love is gentle, love is kind,
A feeling that lifts the heart and mind.

In simple acts, it comes alive,
In every gesture, it helps us thrive.

It's not in words, but in the way,
We care for others every day.

A smile, a touch, a listening ear,
Love is present, always near.

So, let's be kind, let's give, let's share,
Let love surround us everywhere.

For in each moment, great or small,
Love is the greatest gift of all.

♥XOX♥XOX♥XOX♥XOX♥

Dear God, may love give us strength in times of doubt, gentleness in times of frustration and wisdom in times of uncertainty. Help us to choose love in every moment and reflect Your goodness in all we do. Amen.

PRAY AND DO PENANCE FOR PEACE

Pope Francis yesterday called on Catholics to pray and do penance for the peaceful resolution of global conflicts, saying people are born into the world to help communities thrive, not to kill. Source: CNS.



“Please let's pray for peace, let's do penance for peace,” he said during his general audience in the Paul VI Audience Hall, launching an appeal for Catholics to ask for a peaceful resolution to the world's conflicts.

Reflecting on the many countries at war, such as Ukraine, Palestine, Israel, Myanmar, North Kivu in Congo and South Sudan, the Pope said, “Let's pray for peace, let's do our all for peace. Don't forget that war is always a defeat.”

“We are not born to kill but to help people thrive. May we find paths of peace, please in your daily prayers, ask for peace,” he said.

The Pope made his appeal for peace himself and read his prepared greetings to Italian visitors as well as the short summary of his catechesis in Spanish, but his breathing sounded laboured and congested. Full story click the link below:

[Pray and do penance for peace: Pope - CathNews](#)

COMMUNIONING MASS FOR CRAIG AND SAM

Last Thursday night NET held the Commissioning Mass at the Twelve Apostles Church for all the missionaries heading off to their Parishes and Diocese for the year. Craig and Sam are so grateful for all of your prayers and financial support for their time of ministry and look forward to updating you throughout the year on the work they are doing. Please keep them both in your prayers as journey through the next year. The parish is blessed to have you both as shining lights for the youth in the church. We look forward to following your story. Bless you both!!!



JUBILEE OF ARTISTS

The Jubilee of Artists rejoices with gratitude at the creative insights artists bring to human life. The service of beauty is a pathway into the divine and helps us

dream of new horizons for the common good. The Jubilee invites artists to contribute to the work of the Church in bringing about a New Creation where people can live in peace and justice.

TEACHING

From Pope John Paul II's Letter to Artists (1999): "4. Society needs artists ... they not only enrich the cultural heritage of each nation and of all humanity, but they also render an exceptional social service in favour of the common good.

[Letter of His Holiness Pope John Paul II to Artists \(April 4, 1999\).](#)



Medieval legend imagined that St Luke painted a portrait of the Virgin Mary. Hence, he is nominated as patron saint of artists. A number of medieval images show St Luke as a painter. Image: Maerten de Vos ([Wikimedia Commons](#)).



ARCHDIOCESE
OF BRISBANE



**PLEASE SIGN UP NOW!
TIME IS RUNNING OUT**
Please register your family on Flocknote so you don't miss any communications from the Parish Office.

If you have any questions, please speak with the Parish office. There is also a template of the registration form that can be printed for those who don't have access to a phone or computer. If you need a paper form you will need to return it to the parish office and these forms will be added to Flocknote.

Parishioners and visitors are invited to use the link or QR code below and sign up and register with the parish.



<https://thegapparish.flocknote.com/register>

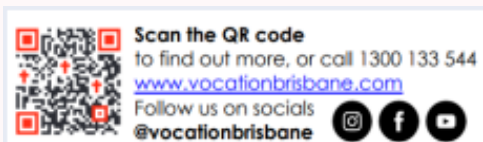
The Archdiocese privacy policy is available here— <https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/privacy-policy.pdf>

SING A NEW SONG: HOW WE MIGHT NAME GOD INTO THE FUTURE

This evening brings together a new setting of the entitled *Mass of the Ascension* with other pieces of music seeking to name God through song in ways that help young people to pray. The intent is to voice God through music that the generations of the future might resonate with. Date: Thursday 29th May, 2025 6-7.30pm St Stephen's Cathedral. Register forms.office.com/r/VQWgYeiiL0

A vocation View Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time – C/1

Christ's resurrection makes our faith fruitful and our lives worthwhile. Be open to Jesus' great gift. (1 Cor 15:12, 16-20) **Pray for vocations.**



ST JAMES COLLEGE, SPRING HILL is a progressive multicultural Catholic Coeducational Secondary College for Years 5 - 12 in the Edmund Rice tradition. The college reintroduced Year 5 and Year 6 in 2023 and welcomes students from all backgrounds and abilities so they can flourish in their learning and realise their potential. **Bursaries available.**



ENROLMENT INFORMATION EVENING on Monday, 17 February from 6:00pm. ENQUIRIES to Maria Young, Enrolments Officer, MYoung@stjamescollege.qld.edu.au, 3230 8600. Register at JTA.link/SJC.



SCAN ME