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### St Raphael's Christmas Party and Talent Night

Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> November, 6:30pm  
Cost - \$5 per head  
Bring a plate to share  
BYO - Coffee & Tea Provided

Register with George Saab at [george@cbc.com.au](mailto:george@cbc.com.au) for the Talent Show  
Registration Cost - \$10 per performance  
Prizes given for the best talent

Raffle tickets on sale. Great prizes to be won.

Santa will make a special appearance



# Parishes of Mater Dei Blakehurst St Raphael's South Hurstville

33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

BULLETIN

17 November 2013



#### GOSPEL COMMENTARY

by Fr Peter Hunter OP

'It's not the end of the world.' There are all sorts of ways of using that phrase. It can be a way of telling something that what they've done isn't as bad as it seems. It can also be used lazily, callously-in talking to someone who has lost someone they have loved. Callously, because for someone who really has lost someone close when a relationship comes to an end or through death, their world has come to an end in a significant way.

Human beings live in a physical world and that world of course goes on without notice when these tragedies come upon us. That can seem entirely wrong, scandalous even, because for us, there has been some kind of definitive end. 'Stop all the clocks,' as Auden says in his poem of the same name about the death of a lover. Time, he seems to be saying, shouldn't go on anymore. It's the end of the world.

All this is to say that our human world is shaped of course by the ordinary physical world around us, but our lives are shaped most of all by people, by the relationships we form, by the people we love. They come to be our world, in large part. And if we love God, the love of God (ours for him and even more, his for us) can form - transform - our world to an incalculable extent.

Human love often seems fraught with danger. Loving makes you vulnerable, just because it shapes you in such a dramatic way. We say, 'Better to have loved and lost, than never to have loved at all,' but I suspect that in the moment of loss, most of us feel the opposite: better not to love. Better not to allow anyone too close, because when we do, we open ourselves up to the possibility of being awfully, dreadfully hurt.

Part of the problem is that we have some rather foolish views about love. We use the same word for the intoxicating emotions of loving and for the day-to-day, rather practical, business of acting constantly for the other's happiness. Bertrand Russell records in his diaries that while cycling, he stopped at the traffic light and suddenly realised he didn't love his wife anymore. But whatever love is, it isn't the kind of thing that can pass away in that way. 'Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks, but bears it out even to the edge of doom,' as Shakespeare wrote.

And that's what Jesus is talking about in today's Gospel. The Gospel readings at this time of year can sound rather forbidding, because they are about the end of world, in the sense of the end of time, the last days. But actually, if you listen carefully to what's being said by Jesus today, while he is telling us of dramatic times to come, he is also constantly telling us not to fear them.

'Do not be terrified'. 'Not a hair on your head will be destroyed.' Why should we not be terrified? Jesus is talking about the end of everything that we know. And before that are to come wars and earthquakes, and the prospect of being hauled up in front of kings and governors to explain ourselves. How can that not be terrifying?

Because we have a sure hope that it won't be the end of the world. At least, it won't be the end of our world. I'm not saying that it's foolish to fear the loss of this world because you will have another world, a life in heaven, as if heaven were like another city, only not the rather grotty one we happen to live in. I'm saying that for those who love God, who are secure in the love that God has for us, our world will never end.

Even when we are foolish, and give up on love, even when we do that most horrible thing of hurting the very people who love us most, even then, God is loving us. And, if we return to that love, then because God's love is utterly secure and unchanging, whatever else happens it will never be the end of the world.

**UNITED IN FAITH, GUIDED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT NOURISHED BY THE EUCHARIST, COMMITTED TO PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL. WE STRIVE TO LIVE AS GOD ASKS**  
*"to act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8)*

#### Entrance antiphon:

The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction.

You will call upon me, and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place.

**First Reading: 2 Mal 3:19-20**

*The sun of righteousness will shine on you.*

**Psalm: 97**

**R. The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice.**

Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp with the sound of music.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn acclaim the King, the Lord. R.

Let the sea and all within it, thunder; the world, and all its peoples. Let the rivers clap their hands and the hills ring out their joy at the presence of the Lord. R.

For the Lord comes, he comes to rule the earth.

He will rule the world with justice and the people with fairness. R.

**Second Reading: 2 Thess 3:7-12**

*Do not give anyone food who refuses to work.*

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lift up your heads and see;

your redemption is near at hand. Alleluia!

**Gospel: Luke 21: 5-19**

*Your endurance will win you your life.*

**Communion antiphon:**

To be near God is my happiness, to place my hope in God the Lord.



MASS TIMES this week		
	Mater Dei	St.Raphael's
Saturday	6.15pm	5.00pm
Sunday	10.00am	8.30am
Tuesday	8.00am	
Wednesday	8.00am	
Thursday		9.15am
Friday	8am	9.00am
<b>RECONCILIATION: (also by appointment)</b>		
Saturday		4.30pm
<b>EXPOSITION</b>		
Saturday	from	4.00pm
<b>Legions of Mary</b>		
MD: Meets 10am every Monday morning in the Piety Stall at Mater Dei.		
St R's Rosary and Meeting every Friday at 9:30 am downstairs in the Hall.		
<b>St Vincent de Paul Society</b>		
Meets second Tuesday of each month in the Kennedy Centre at Mater Dei at 7.30 pm.		
<b>HOME ROSARY</b>		
<b>St Raphael's Parish - Mondays 7.30pm</b>		
18 November- Gary & Adele Finlay 2 Loch Maree Cres, Connells Point		
25 November - 2 December- BREAK—no Rosary		
<b>Mater Dei Parish - Tuesdays</b>		
19 November - Cheddar Street Nursing Home: Dining Room 11am		
26 November- Marguerite & Denis Derrig 32 Waratah St., Kyle Bay 8pm		
<b>ALL WELCOME</b>		

**TRUTH JUSTICE HEALING COUNCIL**

Please pray for the work of this Council which has been set up as part of the Church's response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. Please pray especially, too, for the victims of child sexual abuse by clergy, religious and Church employees. A copy of the Commitment statement, is available at the doors of the Church if you would like to take one.

**FEAST DAYS:**  
Thurs Nov 21: **Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
Fri Nov 22: **Cecilia**, virgin, martyr

**Please pray for**  
**Sick:** John Selvaraj, Ann, Margaret Hopkinson, Blaza Kursar, Howard Courtney, Paul Foley, Ann Davies, Joanne McRea, Brigit, Patrick & Sidney Yenson, Matthew Tuffin, Joanne Martin, George & Therese Mir, Jack & Sylvia Wood.

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND		
TYPE	StR	MD
First	399	228
Second: loose	382	336
Envelopes	461	752

Both Churches have a hearing loop installed: switch your hearing aid to "T-coil".

**Mater Dei Parish Morning Tea**  
Don't forget next Sunday's Parish Morning Tea. Antoinette is organising it, Michael will be bringing along his coffee machines again so expect good food and nice coffee.

*Please continue to pray for our parishes' children who are preparing to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist in the next week.*

**CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS**  
Put these dates in your diary!

**Christmas Party and Talent Night**  
(see advertisement on the back) 6.30pm  
Saturday 30 November in St Raphael's Hall.  
**Twilight Mass & Christmas Party Picnic**  
On 8 December Fr Isidore will celebrate a special Family Mass at MD at 5pm which will be followed by a BBQ and carols in the grounds. Families from both Parishes are invited to come along with the kids, their picnic rug, munchies and enthusiasm.

**ORDER OF MALTA LOURDES DAY MASS**  
SUNDAY 7 December at St Mary's Cathedral at 10am. A blessing of the sick and for good health will take place with water brought from the spring at the Shrine of Lourdes. Those receiving the blessing will also be provided with a bottle of Lourdes Water for their personal use. Anyone who expects to attend in a wheelchair is asked to ring 9331 8477 or email info@smom.org.au before 20 November.



Ministry 16 & 17	St Raphael's		Mater Dei	
November	5.00pm V	8.30am	6.15pm V	10.00am
Acolytes / SS	Awan	Earl	Br Michael	Jeff
EMHC	Ida Rosie	Henriette Adele		Marguerite
Readers	Pavia Family	Yenson Family	Cettina	School School
Altar	Jason, Jared, Kudzaishe	Joseph	Adam	Amy
Servers	Isabelle, Thomas, William	Luke	Maxine	Bianca
Music	Michele	Julia	Jan	Youth
Child's Liturgy Leader			Joumana & Grace	

Ministry 23 & 24	St Raphael's THIS WEEKEND		Mater Dei THIS WEEKEND	
November	5.00pm V	8.30am	6.15pm V	10.00am
Acolytes/SS	Greg	Michael	Br Michael	Onsi
EMHC	Shirley Ellen	Kathy, Sophia Henriette		Marguerite
Readers	Shalala Family	Fernandes Family	Fiona	
Altar	Marcus, Nevin,	Brianna, Sienna,	Adam, Maxine	Amy, Bianca
Servers	Eroy, Edward	Melissa, Chrystal	Jasmine	Josh, David
Music	Niko		Jan	Kim
Child's Liturgy	Mary		Joumana	

**RCIA News:**  
This Sunday at 8.30am at St Raphael's we warmly welcome our catechumens will be attending Mass as part of their preparation to become Catholics at the Easter Vigil next year.

**Haiyan Typhoon Appeal**  
This weekend we are collection money for Caritas Australia to provide aid to those affected by what has been identified as the deadliest and most powerful typhoon to hit land in recorded history and 11.8 million people are now in urgent need. There are some envelopes on the seats if you wish to make a tax-deductible donation. There are baskets at the doors of the church for these envelopes and any money you wish to give where a tax-deduction is not required. There are many calls on your wallet these days but every little bit helps.

**CWF Charitable Works Fund**  
Many thanks to those who contributed last weekend to the Charitable Works Fund appeal. \$3133 out of the \$5000 in total we give to the Archdiocese for this was raised which is very helpful.

**iWitness Youth Conference**  
As this year draws to a close hundreds of young people from across Australia are coming together for a weekend of fun, relaxation and enrichment at iWitness 2013. Come along and register for the iWitness Conference. Held in the beautiful South Coast beaches of Stanwell Park!!

iWitness is an annual Conference for young people (18-35), iWitness was created in the spirit of World Youth Day Sydney 2008. It promises a host of exciting activities and an incredible range of speakers including Cardinal Pell, Archbishop Julian Porteous and Dr. Tracey Rowland. This year the Conference theme is 'Benedict & Beyond', leading a focus on Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI's contribution to the Church and exploring how Pope Francis is building on this legacy. For more information go to [www.lifetothefull.com.au](http://www.lifetothefull.com.au)

**Survey on Family Life**  
The Vatican has asked bishops around the world to consult with the laity on questions in relation to family life, issues like divorce, contraception and same-sex marriage. The Survey for Sydney Archdiocese is at [sydneycatholic.org/Survey.shtml](http://sydneycatholic.org/Survey.shtml) and interested people are asked to complete it by 9 December. While the questions are quite dense, Fr Isidore would like as many people to be able to respond to this as possible. If anyone (from either parish) is interested in talking about the questions to help understand and respond to them, a meeting will be held this coming on Friday 22 November at 7.30pm in the Mater Dei Hall. If you would like a paper copy of the survey please contact the Parish Office.



**Catholic Grandparents Association (CGA)**  
*Inaugural Mass Sunday 1 December.*

An Australian Chapter of this association has been established and will be launched at on 1 December with a Mass at the Cathedral at 10.30am, followed by morning tea in the College Hall. Bring along the grandchildren. The CGA has as its mission "to help grandparents pass on the faith and keep prayer in the heart of family life". Flyers at the doors of the churches.



**Christ's Coming in Grace**  
December 13-15 at Mount Carmel Retreat Centre, 247 St Andrews Road Varroville NSW, Cost: \$220 Experience a personal encounter with Christ through contemplation of the writings of the Carmelite saints. Presented by Fr Paul Maunder, OCD. Bookings, phone: 8795 3400.

**The report of the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into the Handling of Child Abuse by Religious and Other Non-Government Organisations** was released during the week. Cardinal Pell says, "As I said to the Committee in evidence, 'I am totally committed to improving the situation; I know the Holy Father is too. I know there are significant persons in the community and in the Church who believe, rightly, that we have failed . . . we have done quite a deal. I commit myself to doing whatever further is required and appropriate so that we can bring a bit more peace'. I repeat these words today and continue to stand by them." A copy of the full Press Release is on the noticeboard.

This weekend we welcome Matilda Avramis into the family of the Catholic Church at St Raphael's. Congratulations to her parents Jillian and George.



*'Forgiveness is the name of love practiced among people who love poorly. The hard truth is that ALL people love poorly. We need to forgive and be forgiven every day, every hour increasingly. That is the great work of love among the fellowship of the weak that is the human family.'*  
Henri Nouwen

**a FUNNY** The car accident had landed me in hospital in pretty bad shape. On the third day my eight-year-old granddaughter arrived with her mother. She looked in awe at the wrist-to-shoulder cast on left arm, then asked to see the rest of the damage. I showed her my broken right ankle, which wasn't in a cast yet; my left leg, bruised knee to thigh; and, pushing back my hair, a raw bump the size of an egg above my eyebrow. Her blue eyes wide, she asked earnestly, 'Grandma, can I take you to school tomorrow for show and tell?'

**Divine Mercy Retreat 2013**  
29 November to 1 December 2013, Mount Carmel Retreat Centre, 247 St Andrews Road Varroville NSW  
Theme: God's Mercy Above Justice  
Bookings: 0468871810 or 96039702  
email: [divinemercylife@hotmail.com](mailto:divinemercylife@hotmail.com)  
Join a retreat from the busy world to relax over the weekend and meditate on God's Divine Justice and Divine Mercy. Find healing, forgiveness, hope and strength in Spiritual Direction and Confession through the Divine Mercy of our Lord Jesus. St Faustina Relic is available for Veneration after each Mass. Booking: \$170 1-Night Accommodation Arrive Saturday 7am or \$270 2-Nights Accommodation arrive Friday 3pm (Inclusive of all meals and Retreat Materials).

**HEALING AFTER ABORTION.** Rachel's Vineyard ministries offers support and spiritual healing through a retreat for all who suffer grief and loss after an abortion. The next retreat is 22 - 24 November. Call the confidential voicemail: 0400 092 555 or go to: [info@rachelvineyard.org.au](mailto:info@rachelvineyard.org.au)

*Advertising in the parish bulletin: If you know a business which might be interested in this opportunity please pass this information on.*

**PARISH DIRECTORY**  
**Parish Priest**  
Fr Isidore Anantharaj  
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Fax: 95472323  
**Mater Dei Church:** 1008 King Georges Rd, Blakehurst,  
**St Raphael's Church:** 84 George St, South Hurstville  
**Parish Coordinator & Secretary:**  
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**Priest in Residence**  
Fr. Jan Chrzczonowicz  
(Chaplain to the French)  
Mobile: 0412786 245  
**SCHOOLS:**  
**Mater Dei Primary** 9546 7298  
Principal: Mrs Jenni Payne  
**St Raphael's Primary** 9546 4898  
Principal: Mrs Jo Stores