



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

Our Lord Jesus Christ,

King of the Universe-Year B

Bulletin

21st Nov 2021

## **Entrance Antiphon:** Rv 5:12; 1:6

How worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and divinity, and wisdom and strength and honour. To him belong glory and power for ever and ever.

## **First Reading:** Dn 7:13-14

His sovereignty is eternal.

## **Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 92:1-2. 5. R.v.1

(R.) The Lord is king;  
he is robed in majesty.

1. The Lord is king, with majesty enrobed; the Lord has robed himself with might, he has girded himself with power. (R.)
2. The world you made firm, not to be moved; your throne has stood firm from of old. From all eternity, O Lord, you are. (R.)
3. Truly your decrees are to be trusted. Holiness is fitting to your house, O Lord, until the end of time. (R.)

## **Second Reading:** Rv 1:5-8

The ruler of the kings of the earth ... made us a line of kings, priests to serve his God.

## **Gospel Acclamation :** Mk 11:9, 10

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed is he who inherits the kingdom of David our Father;  
blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Alleluia!

## **Gospel :** Jn 18:33-37

You say that I am a King.

## **Communion Antiphon:** Ps 28:10-11

The Lord sits as King for ever. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

## **REFLECTION** by Greg Sunter

This week marks the end of the liturgical year. Next week, with the first week of Advent, we begin the new liturgical cycle. It is fitting that the Church concludes the liturgical year with the celebration of Christ the King. The conversation between Jesus and Pilate displays a lot of word play on the part of Jesus and quite a lot of confusion on the part of Pilate. The confusion stems from different perceptions of what it means to be a king. For Pilate, part of the most powerful political and military rule in the ancient world, the idea of a king was a threat. Claiming kingship was claiming authority and power that would inevitably lead to challenging the authority and power of Rome and, more directly, its representative in Palestine – Pilate. Jesus, of course, had a completely different idea about ushering in a kingdom. He does indeed declare that he is a king and that is what leads us to today's feast of Christ the King. However, his intention is not to claim a position of power and authority. When we think back to Jesus' teachings about the kingdom of God, we recall that he declares the people of highest status – the first – in the kingdom to be the lowliest of this world. It is the poor, the sick, the outcast, the children and the widows who will hold the highest places in the kingdom of God. In a kingdom like that, what does it mean to declare oneself king? The confusion about what it means to be a king that is captured in this interaction between Jesus and Pilate is the same confusion that we saw among the disciples as they came to terms with exactly what it means to be the Messiah.

### **Gospel Focus – Truth**

Jesus says to Pilate that he came into the world 'to bear witness to the truth; and all who are on the side of truth listen to my voice.' That is where today's gospel passage finishes but as the gospel continues on, Pilate famously asks Jesus 'What is truth?' and the question is left dangling; unanswered. The truth Jesus has borne witness to is the truth of his whole life – the revelation of God's love for humanity. It is for proclaiming this truth that Jesus is placed on trial and is brought before Pilate.

### **Historical Context – Christ the King**

Unfortunately, political and military images of kingship have played a dominating role in the Church since very early in its history. The very earliest Christians, or followers of the Way, did not conform to social and political hierarchies of their day. But when Emperor Constantine declared Christianity to be the official religion of the Roman Empire the structure of the Church quickly adopted the political and social structures of the empire. At times in history the Pope has adopted a regal status and led huge armies into battle. Many of these structures persist today and we sometimes struggle to recapture Jesus' intention when he declared himself a king.

### **COVID—Easing of restrictions**

#### **STAGE THREE – AS 90% ARE FULLY VACCINATED – FROM 8th NOV 2021**

Churches will be opened to "mixed" congregations (fully vaccinated, partially vaccinated and as yet unvaccinated); the 2 sqm rule will apply, and masks must be worn indoors.

**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 our God" (Micah 6:8)*

For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant; later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. - Paul the Apostle

**MASS TIMES**

	St Raphael Church	Mater Dei Church
Tuesday		9:15am Mass
Wednesday		8:45am Rosary, Novena 9:15am Mass
Thursday	9:15am Mass is only for school children. Due to Covid regulations parishioners cannot mix with school children	
Friday	7:30pm Adoration	8:45am Adoration 9:15am Mass
Saturday	Reconciliation 4:30pm 5:00pm Vigil Mass	6:15pm Vigil Mass
Sunday	8:30am Mass 6:00pm Croatian Mass	10:00am Mass



**Parish Appeal 2021** Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to support the CWF's ministries Charitable Works Fund Appeal this weekend. Your donation will assist those suffering with mental illness, mothers facing homelessness, and members of our deaf and disabled community during these difficult times.

Envelopes will be available in the church. To donate online, please click the donate link below, select the donation amount and enter your Parish name.

[Donate Here](#)

Or A special message (click on link below) from Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP emphasizes the importance of this appeal, and invites you to support our "Gospel message of love, and its fruits in ministries of mercy".

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N5HVjM3YJ3g>

Ministry 20th/21st Nov (3rd Sun)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.30am	6.15pm V	10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Earl, Carl	Michael B	Volunteer
Readers	Rosie Gould Volunteer	Sophie JP	Br Michael Nina Milazzo	Jolly Jose Wendy E
Ministry 27th/28th Nov (4th Sun)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.30am	6.15pm V	10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Norman Michael F	Bro Michael	Volunteer
Readers	Fernandes Family	Lappen Family	Volunteers	Lucy M Phil M

Please arrange for a replacement if you are unable to serve - Michael Fernandes 0437 517 758

**Ecumenical Remembering Service**



Each year we have an opportunity to gather with our friends at St Mark's South Hurstville to give thanks, light a candle, and remember those we have loved and lost. This year the Remembering Service will be held at St Raphael Church on Sunday 5 December at 2.30pm. Afternoon tea will follow. All are welcome.

Contact: Michael Fernandes 0437 517 758

**November Mass Envelopes**

If you'd like to offer Mass for the Holy Souls of your loved ones during November, you may pick the envelope kept in the foyer of the Church. Do write names clearly. The names appear in the *Book of Remembrance*

**Rosary before Mass**



Rosary will be recited at 9:30am before the Sunday 10am Mass at Mater Dei Church. All are welcome.

**The Catholic Church welcomes** following children into it's community.  
**Mater Dei Church:** Braxton & Dexter Kiang, and Aria Wong.  
**St Raphael's Church:** Maritess Lo and James Alim.  
**Congratulations to the parents!**



**Blessed**—Daily Advent and Christmas Reflections 2021

Books available in the Foyer

\$5:00

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND		
TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	358.65	382.75
Second: loose	311.35	345.85
Envelopes	632.50	865.00

**Pray for good health of :** Giselle Oscuro, John and Shirley Wakefield, Yin Kwan Tsang.

**Mass Offered:** Fr Isidore Anantharaj, Elias Haddad, Jeffrey Bishop

**Also pray for:** Holy Souls in Purgatory

**Wed 24th Nov, 2021 7:30PM**  
**RCIA** Topic: Why the Bible is the Word of God.  
 Meet in St Raphael's Harmony Hall.  
 Any queries please contact Graeme Dorahy on 0421 420 497.  
 All are welcome.

**Christmas Get together**  
**Mater Dei Church:** Sun 5th Dec 2021 after the 10am mass  
**St Raphael Church:** Sat 11th Dec 2021 after the vigil mass

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**FUNNY HEAVEN ON EARTH?**  
 A young lady came home from a date rather sad. She told her mother, "Anthony proposed to me an hour ago."  
 "Then why are you so sad?" her mother asked. "Because he also told me he is an atheist. Mom, he doesn't even believe there's a Hell." Her mother replied, "Marry him anyway. Between the two of us, We'll show him how wrong he is."