



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

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A *Bulletin* 29th Jan 2023

Entrance Antiphon: Ps 105:47

Save us, O Lord our God!
And gather us from the nations,
to give thanks to your holy name,
and make it our glory to praise you.

First Reading: Zep 2:3; 3:12-13

In your midst I will leave a humble
and a lowly people.

Responsorial Psalm : Ps 145:7-10. R. Mt 5:3

(R.) Happy the poor in spirit;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith forever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. (R.)
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan. (R.)
3. It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. (R.)

Second Reading: 1 Cor 1:26-31

God has chosen what is weak by
human reckoning.

Gospel Acclamation: Mt 5:12

Alleluia, alleluia!
Rejoice and be glad;
Your reward will be great in heaven.
Alleluia!

Gospel : Mt 5:1-12

Happy are the poor in spirit.

Communion Antiphon: Cf. Ps 30:17-18

Let your face shine on your servant.
Save me in your merciful love.
O Lord, let me never be put to
shame, for I call on you.

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

The gospel of Matthew is keen to cast Jesus in the role of the 'new Moses'. Moses was revered in Jewish history not only as the one who led the people out of Egypt, but even more importantly as the one who received the Ten Commandments from God. The first five books of the Bible, known to Jews as the Torah, or the Law, were accredited to Moses for a very long time. So Moses was seen as the one who received the Commandments from God and who also wrote down the Law of the people, the Torah. He was the Law-Giver for the Jewish people. When the gospel of Matthew portrays Jesus as the new Moses it emphasises the way in which Jesus sought to bring the Law of Moses to fulfilment and bring about a new understanding and appreciation of both the Law and God. Jesus introduced a new way of perceiving God; as a God of compassion and mercy, rather than the jealous, vengeful God that is often expressed in the Old Testament.

The Sermon on the Mount that begins with the Beatitudes comes out of this historical context. Jesus is trying to present a new interpretation of the right way to be in relationship with God; one that is not dominated by rules and regulations. The text is so familiar to us today that it is almost bland. However, at the time it must have been incredibly confronting. The attitudes and states of being that Jesus blesses were not the characteristics that were valued in the society of his time. Poverty, gentleness and mourning were not considered strong, desirable qualities. So, the picture Jesus paints of how to be in right relationship with God and others was confronting the standards and expectations of the time.

Historical Context – Purity

Purity and impurity was a major issue in 1st Century Jewish society. The Priests and Pharisees maintained that only pure adherence to the Law could make a person acceptable in God's eyes. Impurity came to be associated with physical disease and injury. Those with severe disease or disability were regarded as sinful and punished by God. Jesus' statement, 'Happy are the pure of heart', would have scandalised those who maintained that purity came through strict observance of Law. Jesus suggests that purity (and impurity) comes from within a person rather than from the outside – regardless of their observance of the Law.

Living the Gospel – Be-attitudes

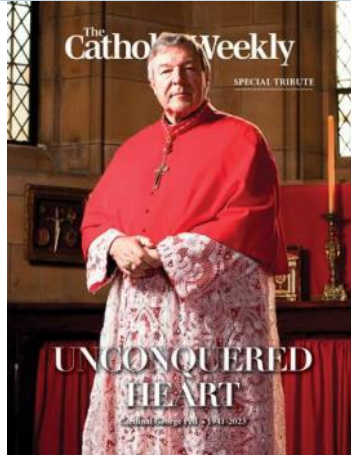
One way to read the Beatitudes is that Jesus was commending and blessing the various people who found themselves in those sorts of conditions. Another, is as a list of qualities that all people should strive to exhibit. It's not just some people who happen to be economically poor who are blessed. Rather, we must all have a poverty of spirit – a humility about our need for God's merciful action in our lives. All are called to hunger and thirst for justice and all are called to be merciful. The Beatitudes are not a menu to select from, but rather an essential list of ingredients.

Gospel Focus – Covenant

The structure of the Beatitudes can be seen as yet another attempt by God to re-establish a covenant between Godself and the people. Throughout Jewish history, God called the people back into relationship and re-established God's covenant with them. Like all the previous versions of the covenant, the Beatitudes contain both a series of demands and a series of promises. It is a two-way deal. The first part of each Beatitude is a statement of what the people are called to do and the second part is God's promise of how they will be rewarded for their right action.

I ask you to "abide" in the adoration of Christ, truly present in the Eucharist. I ask you to enter into conversation with him, to bring before him your questions and to listen to his voice.—Pope Benedict XVI

MASS TIMES		
	St Raphael Church	Mater Dei Church
Tuesday		9:15am Mass
Wednesday		8:45am Rosary, Novena 9:15am Mass
Thursday	9:15am School and Parish Mass	
Friday	7:30pm Adoration	8:45am Adoration 9:15am Mass
Saturday	4:30pm Reconciliation 5:00pm Vigil Mass	No Vigil Mass on 4th Feb 2023.
Sunday	8:00am Mass 6:00pm Croatian Mass	10:00am Mass



Cardinal George Pell's Funeral

The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney has announced a Pontifical Requiem Mass for Cardinal George Pell AC will be held at St Mary's Cathedral on Thursday 2 February at 11:00am. Cardinal Pell passed away on 10 January in Rome. He was 81. The funeral mass will be live streamed via [This Link](#)

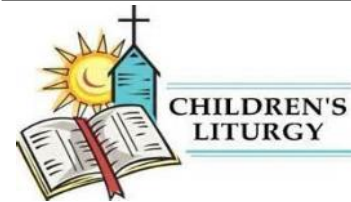
Death Anniversary:
Pray for good health of : Therese Chan, Anne Lo, Sunga Family, Adele Shehata, Anna Liza Torres Zapata, Yin Kwan Tsang.
Pray for the deceased: Joseph Flores Manlucu, Jeffrey Bishop, Jeanette McGloin, Shirley McGrath, Antonius Widjaja, Souls in purgatory.

6:15pm Vigil Mass at Mater Dei
 Will commence on Sat 11th Feb 2023.
 No Mass on Sat 4th Feb 23

Parish Ministries Required

1 Peter 4:10-11. ¹⁰ Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. ¹¹ If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ.

Baptism this week at Mater Dei Church
 Isaac Julian
 (child of Anne and David Julian)
 Congratulations to the family!



We need Acolytes, Children's ministry coordinators & Musicians.

2023 Courses are available for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Acolytes and Readers. Please contact any Acolyte or Fr Thomas if you are interested.

28th/29th Jan (5th Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.00am		10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Volunteer	No Vigil Mass	Volunteer
Readers	Volunteers	Volunteers		Nina Milazzo
4th/5th Feb (1st Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.00am	6:15am	10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Gary, Max	No Vigil Mass	Volunteer
Readers	Pavia Family	Maria C Ronnie C		Gail, Luisa

Children' Liturgy at Mater Dei Church 10:00am Mass every 4th Sunday of the month. Contact: Michael Fernandes 0437517758

The Catholic Weekly PULPIT POINTS 29th Jan 2023

- On Fire for Love. Christopher West visits Sydney
- Thousands expected. Preparations underway for Cardinal Pell's Funeral
- Cardiologist examines Jesus
- Face of Mystery. Author to unpack Riddles of the Shroud
- Ben Conolly: No faith for wimps
- Philippa Martyr: Aussie faith by the numbers

Mater Dei & St Raphael's Parish		
30-01-23	Schools re-open	MD & SR
30-01-23	Combined Parishes Catechist Meeting	MD & SR
21-02-23	MD Council Meeting 7:00pm	Mater Dei
28-02-23	SR Council Meeting 7:00pm	St Raphael

ROSARY	
St Raphael's Church	Mater Dei Church
Every Monday at 7:30pm with Exposition of the	Every Sunday 9:30am before the 10am mass

Mater Dei Home Rosary	
31-1-2023	Nives Care 33 Church Street Blakehurst 11-00 AM
7-2-2023	Nives Care 33 Church Street Blakehurst 11-00 AM
All are welcome	

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND		
TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	413.40	192.45
Second: loose	403.25	185.15
Envelopes	320.00	265.00

After the Honeymoon
 Rupert and Elaine, a young couple, got married and went happily on their honeymoon. When they got back, Elaine immediately 'phoned her mother and her mother obviously asked, 'How was the honeymoon, dearest?' 'Oh, Ma,' she replied, 'the honeymoon was wonderful. So romantic...'
 Then Elaine burst out crying. 'But, Ma, as soon as we returned home Rupert started using the most ghastly language... saying things I've never heard before! I mean, all these awful 4-letter words! You've got to come get me and take me home.... Please Ma.' 'Calm down, Elaine!,' said her mother, 'Tell me, what could be so awful? What 4-letter words?'
 Still sobbing, Elaine whispered, 'Oh, Ma...words like dust, wash, cook, and iron.'

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