



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

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A *Bulletin* 15th Jan 2023

## **Entrance Antiphon:** Ps 65:4

All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!

## **First Reading:** Is 49:3. 5-6

I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.

## **Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 39:2. 4. 7-10. R. vv.8. 9.

(R.) Here I am, Lord;  
I come to do your will.

1. I waited, I waited for the Lord and he stooped down to me; he heard my cry. He put a new song into my mouth, praise of our God. (R.)
2. You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings, but an open ear. You do not ask for holocaust and victim. Instead, here am I. (R.)
3. In the scroll of the book it stands written that I should do your will. My God, I delight in your law in the depth of my heart. (R.)
4. Your justice I have proclaimed in the great assembly.  
My lips I have not sealed;  
you know it, O Lord.

## **Second Reading:** 1 Cor 1:1-3

The grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

## **Gospel Acclamation:** Jn 1:14. 12

Alleluia, alleluia!  
The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us. He enabled those who accepted him to become the children of God.  
Alleluia!

## **Gospel:** Jn 1:29-34

This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

## **Communion Antiphon:** Cf. Ps 22:5

You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.

## **REFLECTION by Greg Sunter**

Strangely, despite being in Ordinary Time again, the lectionary temporarily departs from the gospel of Matthew and today's reading is from the gospel of John. Given that last week's reading was the Matthean account of the baptism of Christ we must assume that there is a deliberate purpose in the choice of reading for today. Indeed, the three readings for today give a very specific slant to the baptism and mission of Jesus. The readings from Isaiah and Paul's letter to the Corinthians emphasise that God's salvation is for all the world, not just the people of Israel. We find this also in the gospel when John the Baptist declares, 'there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world'. It is the sin 'of the world' that Jesus takes away; that is, all humankind. This was a tough concept for the Jews whose relationship with God was grounded in the concept of being the 'chosen people'; a people set apart. It continues to be a difficult concept for many Christian people today who struggle with the notion that God's love and mercy are so extravagant that they are poured out for absolutely anyone and everyone. Some Christians like to maintain an 'us and them' approach to their faith and think that if you're not one of 'us' then salvation will be denied by God.

The role of John the Baptist in this passage is to be a witness; to point to Jesus and say 'He is the one!' Lots of us need the affirmation and direction provided by another person before we are ready to commit to a new direction in our lives. John gives the crowd confidence and effectively hands over to Jesus the authority that the crowd had perceived in him.

### **Living the Gospel – Pointing the way**

John the Baptist fills the role of 'pointing the way' to Jesus. In our own lives we also have the ability to 'point the way' towards Jesus. It doesn't need to be as blatant as John's 'Look, there he is!' However, the way we choose to live our life can point the way just as powerfully as John did. More often than not, our actions speak much more powerfully than any words we might utter. Consistently treating others with respect, maintaining prayer as a central part of life and working for justice in the world will make an impression on others and point the way to Jesus.

### **Scriptural context – Baptism of Jesus**

Each of the three synoptic gospels (Mark, Luke and Matthew) presents an account of the baptism of Jesus. All three versions record the Spirit descending in the form of a dove. In the fourth gospel, it is interesting that the gospel writer does not actually give an account of the baptism as by the time of this gospel's writing the story is well entrenched in the Christian culture. Instead of a baptism account, John the Baptist appears to recall the event. Rather than needing to describe the event, this gospel writer treats it as a given and simply refers to it.

### **Gospel Focus – Ranking**

There is an odd line in today's passage. John reminds the crowd that he had said 'A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me.' In Jewish tradition, the prophets and patriarchs who came earlier in their history ranked higher than those who came later. They believed that the history of salvation was at its pinnacle with God's self-revelation to Abraham. Successive episodes and characters were regarded as lesser. But John affirms that Jesus ranks before himself because Jesus existed before John. He is saying that Jesus is more than simply the latest in a long line of prophets.

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)

*"It is theologically and anthropologically important for woman to be at the centre of Christianity. Through Mary, and the other holy women, the feminine element stands at the heart of the Christian religion."*  
 — Pope Benedict XVI

MASS TIMES		
	St Raphael Church	Mater Dei Church
Tuesday		9:15am Mass
Wednesday		8:45am Rosary, Novena 9:15am Mass
Thursday	Mass will be at Mater Dei instead of St Raphael in January 2023	9:15am Mass
Friday	Adoration will recommence on 27th January	8:45am Adoration 9:15am Mass
Saturday	4:30pm Reconciliation 5:00pm Vigil Mass	<b>No Vigil Mass in January 2023.</b>
Sunday	8:00am Mass 6:00pm Croatian Mass	10:00am Mass

**Cardinal George Pell:** On 10 January 2023, at the age of 81, Pell died of cardiac arrest following hip surgery at the Salvator Mundi hospital in Rome, having attended the funeral of Pope Benedict XVI a few days earlier.

Archbishop mourns Cardinal Pell, our 'most prominent ever churchman'  
[Read More](#)

### Pope Benedict XVI

Future doctor of the church? Benedict XVI scholars say German professor-pope stands the test of time [Read More](#)

### Jesuit & Ignatian Spirituality Australia

Retreats for 2023: Please click on this link [Jesuit & Ignatian Retreats](#)

### Musician Required

We are looking for a musician who are willing to play at Mass either at Mater Dei or St Raphael. Please contact Michael Fernandes 037 517 758

### Children's Ministry leader Required

We are looking for a person to lead the children's Ministry during the weekend Mass. Please contact Michael 037 517 758 if you can help.

**Recently Deceased:** Cardinal George Pell

**Death Anniversary:** Fr Isidore Anantharaj (2nd Anniversary, 20th Jan), Sr Benedicta Deraup Masf, P Teddy Aer MSF

**Pray for good health of :** 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.

14th/15th Jan (3rd Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.00am		10.00am
<b>Acolytes</b>	Greg Driver	Earl, Carl	No Vigil Mass until 4th Feb 23	Volunteer
<b>Readers</b>	Volunteers	Volunteers		Jolly Jose Wendy
21st/22nd Jan (4th Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.00am		10.00am
<b>Acolytes</b>	Greg Driver	Michael F Norman	No Vigil Mass until 4th Feb 23	Volunteer
<b>Readers</b>	Volunteers	Volunteers		Lucy Mitry Phil M

St Raphael Monday evening rosary will continue every Monday in January at 7:30pm with Exposition.

St Raphael Church Friday evening Adoration will recommence on 27th January 2023

### Weekday 9:15am Mass:

There will be 9:15am mass at Mater Dei on Tue, Wed, **Thurs** and Friday and no mass at SR from 3rd Jan until the school reopens.

### Theology of the Body – Made for More Events in Sydney

The Made for More events in Sydney will be held at 2 locations on the following dates:  
 Fri 20th Jan 2023 St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney  
 Sat 21st Jan 2023 All Saints Liverpool  
<https://www.sydneycatholic.org/TOB/>

### COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	687.50	159.20
Second: loose	875.35	256.20
Envelopes	715.00	480.00

### Mater Dei & St Raphael's Parish Calendar 2023

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	MD Church
28-02-23	SR Council Meeting 7:00pm	SR Church

### PARISH DIRECTORY

**PARISH PRIEST:** Fr Thomas Alukka  
 M: 0469 236 118 E: tomyalukka@gmail.com

**MATER DEI CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
 1008 King Georges Road, Blakehurst 2221, NSW

**ST. RAPHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
 84 George Street, South Hurstville  
[Website: https://www.materdeistraphael.org.au/](https://www.materdeistraphael.org.au/)

**Parish Secretary:** Juliana Widjaja  
 Office hours: Tues & Wed 9:30am - 2:30pm  
 Phone: 02 9546 2605  
 Email: admin@materdeistraphael.org.au

**Parish Ministry Coordinator & Safeguarding Officer** Michael Fernandes  
 Office hours: Tues, Wed & Fri 10am - 2:30pm  
 M: 0437 517 758 E: mc@materdeistraphael.org.au

**Pastoral Ministry Coordinator:** Br. Ben Krupowicz  
 Phone: 02 95462544 Email: strsh@outlook.com

**Fr. Jan Chrzczonowicz** : Phone: 0412 786 245

### Divine Renovations Conference

The conference will feature talks and workshops from speakers including Fr. James Mallon, Fr. Chris Ryan MGL and Daniel Ang among many others, on the topics of evangelisation and creating an invitational and missionary church. This is also an opportunity to connect with other parish leaders and hear inspiring stories of parishes that have seen transformation by prioritising mission.

**Date:** 10-12 February 2023

**Location:** St Declan's Parish Penshurst and Marist Catholic College Penshurst

**Register:** online via [this link](#)

### Mrs. Watson

During her sermon on Jesus's teaching that we should love our enemies, the pastor asked the congregation to raise their hands if they had enemies. Everyone did so except for Mrs. Watson in the front row, who had just turned 95. "Mrs. Watson," the pastor asked, "how could you possibly live for 95 years and have no enemies?" "That's easy," the senior citizen replied, "I just outlived them!"

