



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

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A *Bulletin* 22nd Jan 2023

## **Entrance Antiphon:** Cf. Ps 95:1,6

O sing a new song to the Lord;  
sing to the Lord, all the earth.  
In his presence are majesty and  
splendour, strength and honour in  
his holy place.

## **First Reading:** Is 8:23 – 9:3

In the Galilean country, the people  
have seen a great light.

## **Responsorial Psalm :** Ps 26:1. 4. 13-14. R. v.1

(R.) The Lord is my light and my  
salvation.

1. The Lord is my light and my help;  
whom shall I fear? The Lord is  
the stronghold of my life; Before  
whom shall I shrink? (R.)
2. There is one thing I ask of the  
Lord, for this I long, to live in the  
house of the Lord, all the days of  
my life, to savour the sweetness  
of the Lord, to behold his temple.  
(R.)
3. I am sure I shall see the Lord's  
goodness in the land of the  
living. Hope in him, hold firm and  
take heart. Hope in the Lord! (R.)

## **Second Reading:** 1 Cor 1:10-13, 17

I appeal to you, my brothers and  
sisters, make up the differences be-  
tween you.

## **Gospel Acclamation:** Mt 4:23

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Jesus preached the Good News of  
the kingdom  
and healed all who were sick.  
Alleluia!

## **Gospel :** Mt 4:12-23

He went to Capernaum, that the  
prophecy of Isaiah be fulfilled.

## **Communion Antiphon:** Cf. Ps 33:6

Look toward the Lord and be radi-  
ant; let your faces not be abashed.

## **REFLECTION by Greg Sunter**

In today's gospel passage we see the importance that the gospel of Matthew gives to portraying Jesus as the fulfilment of scripture. Throughout this gospel, the author is at pains to demonstrate that Jesus fulfils prophecy. The purpose in doing this was not only to tie Jesus into the prophecies of the Messiah but to demonstrate that Jesus was part of God's plan all along. This gospel was written at a time when there were growing tensions between early Christian communities and mainstream Jews. By highlighting the fulfilment of scripture, the author attempts to firstly reassure the Christian community in the face of aggression and resentment from the mainstream Jews and secondly, challenge those who oppose the Christian sect to see this movement as just another thread in the ancient story of their people.

Having established the credentials of Jesus, the gospel writer then provides a summary of the teaching that will be played out in the gospel, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' Repent had a far more powerful meaning than what we tend to ascribe to it today. Much more than simply being sorry, repent carried with it a sense of turning one's life around; making amends for past failures; and choosing a whole new direction for one's life. Literally, it meant a 'change of mind'. To demonstrate the urgency and strength of this teaching, Jesus calls his first four disciples who immediately drop what they are doing and set out on a new life with him. These disciples are the first of many to 'repent' and turn their lives around.

### **Historical Context – Repent**

Throughout the Old Testament, the people of Israel repeated a cycle of behaviour. When their relationship with God was strong, they upheld the covenant and they prospered. They would forget that their prosperity lay in being in right relationship with one another and with God and so they would neglect those relationships. They would turn so far away that some tragedy or oppression would befall them. Out of their despair they would recognise their need for God and they would 'repent' and re-establish their relationship with God. Jesus' call to repent is a call to looking at the relationship with God in a whole new way.

### **Have you thought? People in darkness**

The passage from Isaiah that is quoted in the gospel, speaks of the people who dwell in darkness. The passage is addressed to the Jewish tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali – two of the twelve tribes. These two tribes lived in the northernmost part of Palestine and their lands were surrounded by Gentiles. Any non-Jew was regarded as living in darkness because they did not have the light of 'truth', but these two tribes also dwelt in darkness because they were surrounded by it. Regardless, the passage asserts that all who dwell in darkness (Gentile and Jew alike) will receive a great light.

### **From the perspective of ... The first called**

What must it have been like for those first four disciples Jesus called? The fact that they were fishing means that they had not been chosen to continue studying the Torah beyond childhood and had not been chosen by a rabbi to be his followers. Even as young men, these four were has-beens and had no hope of a rabbi asking them to be his disciples. Suddenly, Jesus appears and calls them to follow him. A life that had passed them by suddenly opened up before them! Of course they dropped everything and followed.

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)

There's no possibility for vitality in the church without fidelity to the gospels. If you look at the Churches throughout the world, throughout the Western world, where radical reform has been attempted, the Church has collapsed and almost disappeared. The vitality in the Church, the young people who are here in their tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands possibly, young people who belong, who adhere strongly to the central tradition of Christ and the Church. - *Cardinal George Pell*

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

**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.

21st/22nd Jan (4th Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.00am		10.00am
<b>Acolytes</b>	Greg Driver	Norman	No Vigil Mass until 4th Feb 23	Volunteer
<b>Readers</b>	Volunteers	Volunteers		Lucy Mistry Phil M
28th/29th Jan (5th Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.00am		10.00am
<b>Acolytes</b>	Greg Driver	Volunteer	No Vigil Mass until 4th Feb 23	Volunteer
<b>Readers</b>	Volunteers	Volunteers		Nina Milazzo

**Fr Isidore's 2nd Death Anniversary (20/1/2023)**  
The saddest moment is when the person who gave us the best memories becomes a memory. We will never forget you, our precious Fr. Izzy....

*In Loving Memory of*



**Fr. Isidore Anantharaj**  
04.02.1951 - 20.01.2021

*Blessed are those who die in the Lord... for they will rest from their hard work; for their good deeds follow them! (Revelation 14:13)*

**Those who touch our lives stay in our hearts forever....**

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND		
TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	268.75	165.95
Second: loose	375.80	196.25
Envelopes	285.00	440.00

**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. It will be live streamed via [This Link](#)

**Parish Ministries Required**

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

If you have on your heart to serve in one of the following ministries: Acolyte, Children's ministry or Musician, please contact Fr Thomas Alukka or Michael Fernandes

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

**Vinnies Christmas Appeal—Thank you**



The Mater Dei / St Raphael's Vinnies Christmas appeal was again a wonderful success. Generous Hampers from both parishes and a combined total of \$2384.00 was also donated. Also a special thank you goes to Mini Vinnies for the marvellous organisation and generosity from so many contributors. Thank you to everyone.

**Parish Secretary - Positions Available**

**The Parish of St Joseph's, Riverwood**  
Send application to stjosephriverwood@outlook.com. Phone 0490 754 963.

**The Parish of St Catherine Laboure, GyMEA**  
Send your Resume/Application to the PP: Gregory.morgan1987@sydneycatholic.org

**Charles reached the Pearly Gates and was confronted by Saint Peter**

Welcome my dear, what's your name so I can check on the list?  
Charles gave him his name and Saint Peter looked it over and said "I'm sorry to inform you, but you are not on my list."  
Charles started to sweat and tried to argue:  
"But I was good, I did a lot of good deeds while I was alive!! Remember that time when a woman was being chased by a bunch of thugs and I stopped my car to help her? I exited my car screaming at them to leave her alone or they would have to deal with me!!"  
Saint Peter looked at his list again, this time taking a little longer, and said:  
"I'm sorry, I can't find it in here. When did that happened?"  
Well, about 2 minutes ago.

*© FUNNY*

**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.materdei-straphael.org.au/](https://www.materdei-straphael.org.au/)

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

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

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

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