



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

First Sunday of Lent Year A *Bulletin* 26th Feb 2023

Entrance Antiphon: Cf. Ps 90:15-16

When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.

First Reading: Gen 2:7-9; 3:1-7

Creation of our first parents, and sin.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 50:3-6. 12-14.

17. R. see v.3

(R.) Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. In your compassion blot out my offence. O wash me more and more from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin.

(R.)

2. My offences truly I know them; my sin is always before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned; what is evil in your sight I have done. (R.)

3. A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit. (R.)

4. Give me again the joy of your help; with a spirit of fervour sustain me. O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall declare your praise. (R.)

Second Reading : Rom 5:12-19

Where sin increased, there grace abounded all the more.

Gospel Acclamation : Mt 4:4

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel : Mt 4:1-11

Jesus fasted for forty days and nights.

Communion Antiphon: Mt 4:4

One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

Sin and temptation are the dominant themes of the readings for this first week of Lent. Indeed, they are regular themes in the season of Lent. However, the scripture passages throughout this season allow us the opportunity to think again about these themes and perhaps reconsider some traditional understandings of them.

Today's first reading and gospel give us two different takes on the notion of temptation. In the passage from Genesis, humanity is tempted to ignore the will of God and, when they succumb, they lose their innocence and become embarrassed by their nakedness. The temptation they are offered is to believe themselves above and beyond the will of God; to believe that they can judge as well as God; and to rise to an equal level of power and authority with God. Their action breaks the trusting, loving relationship between themselves and God. In the Gospel, Jesus too is confronted with similar temptations. Ultimately, the temptation that faces Jesus relates to his purpose and ministry – will he trust to God's vision of the suffering servant who will bring about a change of heart in the people, or will he be the sort of Messiah that the people hoped for: a triumphant, glorious victor over all who stood in his way. He is tempted to break his self-imposed fasting, to test God's promise of nurture and security, and to seek glory and personal power. Whilst Adam and Eve surrender to temptation, Jesus holds fast to God's vision.

The second reading from Paul ties the Genesis and Gospel readings together and injects the notion of sin into the equation. However, Paul makes it perfectly clear that the sin of Adam, though carrying great ramifications, pales in comparison to the extraordinary abundance of God's love that is expressed through Jesus Christ.

Scriptural context – Trusting God

The testing and temptation of Jesus echoes the plight of the people of Israel as they wandered in the desert for forty years. They relied on God to provide them with food and protection and ultimately lead them into the land that was promised to them. They had to trust that God would deliver these things in God's own time and way. Jesus is tempted to ignore God's time and ways by seizing for himself food, protection and ownership of the land. The temptations of Jesus and the people of Israel are all about trusting God.

Historical Context – Sin

The Greek word translated as 'sin' in the New Testament literally means 'miss the mark'. Its origin may lie in archery where the object was always to hit the mark; to miss the mark was to not achieve at one's best. Jesus set about trying to redefine the Jewish notion of sin from being a transgression against God that deserves punishment to the more compassionate idea that sin is a wandering off course that can be rectified – a missing of the mark. When he encountered someone who was missing the mark, Jesus called them back into right relationship.

Have you thought? – An invitation

Lent is a season of invitation. It is an invitation to step into the desert with Jesus; to confront our own purpose and ministry and to renew our trust in God's vision for the world and for us individually. Seen in this light, Lent is so much more than fasting from meat and giving up ice cream for a few weeks. The whole idea of fasting and sacrifice is an attempt to simplify our lives. Through simplifying our life and removing some of the daily distractions, we can share in the desert experience of Jesus and then truly celebrate the hope reborn in the Easter season.

"Lent is like a long 'retreat' during which we can turn back into ourselves and listen to the voice of God, in order to defeat the temptations of the Evil One...In this way we will be able to celebrate Easter in truth, ready to renew the promises of our baptism." *Pope Benedict XVI*

MASS TIMES		
	St Raphael Church	Mater Dei Church
Tues		9:15am Mass
Wed		8:45am Rosary, Novena 9:15am Mass
Thurs	9:15am School and Parish Mass	
Friday	7pm Stations of the Cross 7:30pm Adoration	8:45am Adoration 9:15am Mass and Stations of the Cross
Sat	4:30pm Reconciliation 5:00pm Vigil Mass	No Vigil Mass on 25th Feb 2023
Sunday	8:00am Mass 6:00pm Croatian Mass	10:00am Mass

Pray for recently deceased: Vivian Sorial

Pray for good health of : Wang Zhao (Fr of Maggie Wang), Anne Lo, Sunga Family, Adele Shehata, Anna Liza Torres Zapata, Yin Kwan Tsang.


Pray for the deceased: Margaret Ratcliffe, Joseph Flores Manlucu, Jeffrey Bishop, Jeanette McGloin, Fr Isidore, Antonius Widjaja, Souls in purgatory.

25th/26th Feb (4th Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.00am		10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Michael F Norman Y		Volunteer
Readers	Volunteers	Lappen Family		Lucy M Phil M
4th/5th Mar (1st Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.00am	6:15pm	10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Gary, Max	Tony Oscuro	Paul Watson
Readers	Pavia Family	Rose Annie	Fran Oscuro	Gail Abbott Luisa Galea

The Stations of the Cross on Friday

St Raphael Church: 7:00pm followed by Holy hour

Mater Dei Church: After 9:15am Mass



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

Mater Dei Home Rosary	
28-2-2023	Nives Care 33 Church Street Blakehurst 11-00 AM
07-3-2023	Nives Care 33 Church Street Blakehurst 11-00 AM All are welcome

Interesting Story About A Knock At The Door

A new pastor was visiting the homes of his parishioners. At one house it seemed obvious that someone was at home, but no answer came to his repeated knocks at the door. Therefore, he took out a card and wrote "Revelation 3:20" on the back of it and stuck it in the door.

When the offering was processed the following Sunday, he found that his card had been returned. Added to it was this cryptic message, Genesis 3:10." Reaching for his Bible to check out the citation, he broke up in gales of laughter. Revelation 3:20 begins "Behold, I stand at the door and knock." Genesis 3:10 reads, "I heard your voice in the garden and I was afraid, for I was naked."

Open Day


Marist College Penshurst
Wed 8 March: 2:30pm -6pm
Both Campuses
Thurs 9 March: 2:30pm -6pm
South Hurstville

Bethany College Hurstville
Wed 1 March: 3:30—6:30pm

Marist College Kogarah
Wed 15 March: 3:00—6:00pm

St Ursulla's College Kingsgrove
Wed 8 March: 3:30—6pm

St Declan's Primary
Wed 8 March: 9:30—12:30pm



Children' Liturgy

Mater Dei Church during 10:00am Mass every 4th Sunday of the month.

The Catholic Weekly

PULPIT POINTS 26th Feb 2023

- Bumper Year: Seventeen enter Sydneys' Seminary
- SPECIAL FEATURE: Neighbours in need: Project Compassion in East Timor
- Misunderstanding the rise of the Nones
- The false God of Gluttony
- Welcome to Australia. New pathway for refugees
- In a dark hour. Bishops who inspire.

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	287.10	310.40
Second: loose	351.05	342.70
Envelopes	345.00	375.00

Turkey-Syria Earthquake Disaster

Visit: www.caritas.org.au/syria-turkey or call 1800 024 413 toll free to donate now.




Lenten program 2023.

Log in via Zoom on Thursdays 7:30pm-8:30pm. Just click on this link to join the meeting: [Lenten Program Thurs 7:30pm](#) Resource will be shared on-line. Contact Michael Fernandes 0437 517 758



Chris Nolan from Caritas Australia will be giving a talk at the St Raphael 8am Mass and Mater Dei 10am mass on **Sunday 5th March 2023.**

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available in the church, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or by calling 1800 024 413.

PARISH DIRECTORY

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