



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

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A *Bulletin* 19th Feb 2023

Entrance Antiphon: Ps 12:6

O Lord, I trust in your merciful love. My heart will rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.

First Reading: Lv 19:1-2. 17-18

Love your neighbour as yourself.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 102:1-4. 8. 10. 12-13. R. v.8

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name. My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. **(R.)**

2. It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. **(R.)**

3. The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy. He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults. **(R.)**

4. As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins. As a father has compassion on his sons, the Lord has pity on those who fear him. **(R.)**

Second Reading : 1 Cor 3:16-23

What is wise with the world, is absurd with God.

Gospel Acclamation : 1 Jn 2:5

Alleluia, alleluia! Whoever keeps the word of Christ, grows perfect in the love of God. Alleluia!

Gospel : Mt 5:38-48

Turn the other cheek.

Communion Antiphon: Ps 9:2-3

I will recount all your wonders, I will rejoice in you and be glad, and sing psalms to your name, O Most High.

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

The first part of today's gospel passage is perhaps one of the most misunderstood of Jesus' teachings. The notion of turning the other cheek usually brings up notions of non-violence, submission, or even sometimes a victim mentality. It seems an odd teaching to tell someone who is being hit to simply stand there and present the other cheek to also be hit. It's odd because we generally fail to understand the cultural context that is the setting for this teaching.

In the first century, a master would discipline a slave or servant by striking them with the back of his hand. Assuming the master is right handed, a back-handed strike would be delivered to the right cheek of the person he faced. If the servant were to then present his left cheek to the master, it becomes impossible for the master to strike with the back of his hand and forces him into using an open-hand slap or a closed-fist punch to the left cheek. Not much of an improvement, you might think. However, servants were disciplined with the back of the hand and only equals fought in such a way that would deliver blows to the left side.

What Jesus is saying to those who are oppressed is to offer no resistance but at the same time stand up for yourself and make your oppressor recognise you and treat you as an equal, not an inferior. It is extremely dangerous advice! Its aim is to shame the oppressor.

The other two examples, surrendering your cloak when sued for your tunic and walking two miles when required to walk one are also examples of seeking to shame the one who would use their power and strength against you. That's not being a submissive wimp; that's staring the bully in the eye!

Historical Context – Walk two miles

Roman soldiers were allowed by their own military laws to require any person to carry the soldier's pack along the road from one milestone marker to another. That is, they could order a man to walk one mile with their pack. If they made someone carry their pack for more than one mile, the soldier himself was subject to discipline and punishment. Jesus says, 'If anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him.' Like turning the other cheek, it is turning the tables on the one who would oppress you and bringing shame upon them.

Historical Context – Let him have your cloak as well

This one is a little stranger to our modern cultural norms. In Jesus' time, it was not shameful or embarrassing for a person to be naked but it was shameful for the person who caused them to be naked. By law, if you were unable to repay a debt, the person to whom you owed money could literally take your clothes as payment of the debt. What Jesus says is, if someone demands your tunic as payment of a debt, give them everything you're wearing to shame them for making you naked to collect their debt.

Living the Gospel – Love your enemy

Jesus tells us that it's easy to love those who love us – anyone can do that. The test of Christian love is to love those who seem unlovable or even seek to make themselves appear unlovable. It's easy to stop saying hello to the person who never returns your greeting. It's easy to avoid the person whose disability makes you uncomfortable. It's easy to hate the person who's nasty to you. But Jesus says that it's these people who we must love. If we are only polite, pleasant and hospitable to our friends then we are failing to follow the footsteps of Jesus.

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)



The Stations of the Cross commencing Fri 24th February

St Raphael Church: Friday 7:00 PM followed by adoration
Mater Dei Church: After the 9:15 AM mass on Fridays

Ash Wednesday Mass timings

22nd February 2023

06:30 AM St Raphael Church
09:15 AM Mater Dei Church
11:30 AM St Raphael Church
07:00 PM Mater Dei Church

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	6:15pm (18/2/2023)
Sunday	8:00am Mass 6:00pm Croatian Mass	10:00am Mass

Lent 2023

Ash Wed: 22nd February

Palm Sunday: 2nd April

Easter Sunday: 9th April

Please contact Michael Fernandes if you are interested in the Lenten program.

Family Mass Mater Dei Church Sat 18th Feb 6:15pm

Please bring a plate after mass to share with the community in the hall. See you there.

Children' Liturgy

at Mater Dei Church during 10:00am Mass every 4th Sunday of the month (26th Feb).
Contact: Michael Fernandes 0437 517758

6:15pm Vigil Mass at Mater Dei

Vigil mass is back again on 1st and 3rd Sat of the month starting this weekend

The Catholic Weekly

PULPIT POINTS 19th Feb 2023

- Religious Education changes. Faiths confront Attorney General.
- Renovation that's Divine. Sydney conference a big success.
- Archbishop Fisher OP Homily: Education for Life.
- University Chaplaincies are key.
- Love overcomes time. Remarkable nursing home experiment.
- Maronites mark 50 years.

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	486.95	202.25
Second: loose	522.55	265.70
Envelopes	235.00	380.00

Sunday Services Weddings

A minister was planning a wedding at the close of the Sunday morning service. After the benediction he had planned to call the couple down to be married for a brief ceremony before the congregation. For the life of him, he couldn't think of the names of those who were to be married. "Will those wanting to get married please come to the front?" he requested. Immediately, nine single ladies, three widows, four widowers, and six single men stepped to the front.

funny

Turkey-Syria Earthquake Disaster

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



We have arranged a third collection at the weekend masses.

Lenten program 2023.



We will be running a Lenten program via Zoom starting on Thursday 23rd Feb 2023, 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

With Sympathy

We sadly announce the passing away of our long time parishioner, **Vivian Sorial** (wife of Onsi Sorial). The funeral is at 10:30am on Wednesday 22nd Feb at Mater Dei Church, Blakehurst.

May Vivian find eternal peace and rest with the Lord. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family.

PARISH DIRECTORY

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Thomas Alukka
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MATER DEI CATHOLIC CHURCH
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ST. RAPHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
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Website: <https://www.materdeistraphael.org.au/>

Parish Secretary: Juliana Widjaja
Office hours: Tues & Wed 9:30am - 2:30pm
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Parish Ministry Coordinator & Safeguarding Officer Michael Fernandes
Office hours: Tues, Wed & Fri 10am - 2:30pm
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Pastoral Ministry Coordinator: Br. Ben Krupowicz
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Fr. Jan Chrzczonowicz : Phone: 0412 786 245

Mater Dei Primary School: (02) 9546 7298
Principal: Ms Melanie Headley

St. Raphael Primary School: (02) 9546 4898
Principal: Mrs Annette McKenzie

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.



Baptisms at Mater Dei Church
Bailey and Eden Chan
(children of Jermy Pang and Klay Chan)
Congratulations to the family.

18th/19th Feb (3rd Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.00am	6:15pm	10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Earl, Carl	Ray Low	Volunteer
Readers	Volunteers	Florence JP Moral	Family Mass	Jolly Jose Wendy E
25th/26th Feb (4th Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.00am	6:15pm	10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Michael F	Volunteer	Volunteer
Readers	Volunteers	Lappen Family	Volunteers	Lucy M Phil M

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

21-2-2023 Nives Care
33 Church Street Blakehurst 11-00 AM
28-2-2023 Nives Care
33 Church Street Blakehurst 11-00 AM
All are welcome