



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

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A *Bulletin* 12th Feb 2023

## **Entrance Antiphon:** Cf. Ps 30:3-4

Be my protector, O God,  
a mighty stronghold to save me.  
For you are my rock, my stronghold!  
Lead me, guide me, for the sake of  
your name.

## **First Reading:** Sir 15:15-20

He never commanded anyone to be  
godless.

## **Responsorial Psalm :** Ps 118:1-2. 4-5. 17-18. 33-34. R. v.1

(R.) Happy are they who follow the  
law of the Lord!

1. They are happy whose life is  
blameless, who follow God's  
law! They are happy those who  
do his will, seeking him with all  
their hearts. (R.)
2. You have laid down your pre-  
cepts to be obeyed with care.  
May my footsteps be firm to  
obey your statutes. (R.)
3. Bless your servant and I shall  
live and obey your word. Open  
my eyes that I may consider the  
wonders of your law. (R.)
4. Teach me the demands of your  
statutes and I will keep them to  
the end. Train me to observe  
your law, to keep it with my  
heart. (R.)

## **Second Reading:** 1 Cor 2:6-10

God in his wisdom predestined our  
glory before the ages began.

## **Gospel Acclamation:** See Mt 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Blessed are you, Father, Lord of  
heaven and earth; you have re-  
vealed to little ones the mysteries of  
the kingdom.  
Alleluia!

## **Gospel :** Mt 5:17-37

Such was said to your ancestors;  
but I am speaking to you.

## **Communion Antiphon:** Cf. Ps 77:29-30

They ate and had their fill,  
and what they craved the Lord gave  
them; they were not disappointed in  
what they craved.

## **REFLECTION by Greg Sunter**

Today's First Reading, Psalm and Gospel all relate to the way in which we are called to live in right relationship with God and with one another. What is referred to as the 'Law' is generally used as shorthand for the Torah – the first five books of the Bible – which first of all establishes the history of relationship between God and humanity through the books of Genesis and Exodus and then provides detailed instructions about how that relationship should be honoured and observed. When Jesus speaks about the Law and the Prophets, he is deliberately including the extensive collection of prophetic writings that interpret the Law in terms of justice and right relationships with others as being a reflection of the right relationship with God.

By declaring that he has come not to abolish the Law and the Prophets, but to complete – or fulfil – them, Jesus is making it perfectly clear that his ministry and teaching is in alignment with and in accordance with the historical tradition and he is not setting out to overthrow the Jewish tradition. Rather, throughout his ministry, Jesus repeatedly calls the people to be true to the teachings of old and to live them with integrity and dedication. His constant complaint is against those who live by the letter of the Law and ignore what we would call the spirit or intention of the Law. This is the root of his swipe at the shallow virtue of the scribes and Pharisees in today's gospel. The criticism that Jesus levelled at these two groups was that their adherence to the Law made no room for the compassionate heart that the writings of the Prophets demanded.

### **Historical Context – But I now say to you...**

There is a distinct pattern to the teaching examples Jesus provides: 'You have heard it said ...'; 'but I now say to you...'. This was a common method of teaching in Jesus' day and is often used as an example to suggest that Jesus was regarded as a Rabbi in his day. It is a typical rabbinical method of interpreting scripture. The rabbi quotes the teaching (you have heard it said...) and then offers an interpretation or reinterpretation of that teaching (but I now say to you). While it is an unfamiliar teaching style for us today, it would have been common in Jesus' time.

### **Have you thought? – Teaching examples**

Jesus cites several examples of the Law to demonstrate the way in which he has come to fulfil those teachings, rather than to abolish them. He reinterprets the teachings on killing, adultery, divorce and oath-breaking. When there is an attitude of observing the very literal meaning of law, there is a tendency to look for loopholes wherever possible. This attitude had become the norm in Jesus' day. His reinterpretations are designed to challenge people to think about the law in a broader context and to take the law into their heart rather than looking for ways to get around it.

### **Living the Gospel – Interpretation**

Jesus demonstrates the crucial nature of interpretation. It is easy for us today to look at something like the Ten Commandments or the Beatitudes and dismiss them as irrelevant. Taken literally, they may seem to have fairly limited application to our modern lives. However, interpreted in a broader context and within the context of our own lives, such ancient codes of behaviour can take on new significance. Jesus points us towards the importance of looking beyond the surface and searching out the truth of such statements. Interpretation of scripture for our modern lives and modern world is vital to living life to the fullest.

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)

**St. Scholastica** is the patron saint of nuns and her feast day is February tenth. She was a very religious women who started a monastery in Plombariola. She was the twin sister of St. Benedict. Around the time St. Scholastica knew she was going to die her brother was visiting her for their yearly visit. St. Benedict was ready to leave and St. Scholastica pleaded him not to go because she was very sick, but St. Benedict refused to spend a night out of his monastery. St. Scholastica decided that since her brother wouldn't stay with her she would pray that he would. She said, "I asked you for a favour and you would not listen, so I asked God and He did listen." After she prayed a violent storm erupted so that St. Benedict had no choice but to stay with her.

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	Next Vigil /Family Mass is on 18th Feb 2023.
Sunday	8:00am Mass 6:00pm Croatian Mass	10:00am Mass

Lent 2023
Ash Wed: 22 <sup>nd</sup> February
Palm Sunday: 2 <sup>nd</sup> April
Easter Sunday: 9 <sup>th</sup> April
Please contact Michael Fernandes if you are interested in the Lenten program.

Year 5 and Kindergarten Family Mass  
Saturday 18th February 6:15pm

Please bring a plate after Mass to share with the community in the hall.

See you there



**Pray for recently deceased:** Margaret Ratcliffe

**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:** Joseph Flores Manlucu, Jeffrey Bishop, Jeanette McGloin, Shirley McGrath, Antonius Widjaja, Fr Isidore. Souls in purgatory.

**Cardinal George Pell funeral photo gallery**

Cardinal George Pell funeral photo gallery ([catholicweekly.com.au](http://catholicweekly.com.au))

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

**Baptisms this week at Mater Dei Church**

 *Levi Pacetta, Ellie and Heidi Collison*  
Congratulations to the families!

**6:15pm Vigil Mass at Mater Dei**  
Next Vigil mass will be on 18th Feb 2023. (There is no mass on Sat 11th Feb 2023).

 **MARIST CATHOLIC COLLEGE**  
PENSHURST

**OPEN DAY**  
Wednesday 8 March, 2:30pm-6pm BOTH CAMPUSES  
Thursday 9 March, 2:30pm-6pm SOUTH HURSTVILLE

All are welcome to join a tour of our College.  
Registration details are provided on the College website.

11th/12th Feb (2nd Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.00am	6:15pm	10.00am
<b>Acolytes</b>	Greg Driver	Michael B	No Vigil Mass	Volunteer
<b>Readers</b>	Barry L Volunteer	Rounds Family		Joan Hanson Jean Dorahy
18th/19th Feb (3rd Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.00am	6:15pm	10.00am
<b>Acolytes</b>	Greg Driver	Earl, Carl	Ray Low	Volunteer
<b>Readers</b>	Volunteers	Florence JP Moral	Family Mass	Jolly Jose Wendy E

**The Catholic Weekly PULPIT POINTS 12th Feb 2023**

- Cardinal Pell Funeral
- Sr Nathalie Becquart, the Pope and the Synod
- From Grief to Grace
- God's chosen people
- Project Compassion

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**  
GEORGE CARDINAL PELL AC  
Pick up a copy of our Special Tribute Magazine to Cardinal George Pell

**Mater Dei & St Raphael's Parish**

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 Blessed Sacrament	Every Sunday 9:30am before the 10am mass

**COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND**

TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	345.30	165.00
Second: loose	389.35	244.80
Envelopes	373.00	410.00

**PARISH DIRECTORY**

**PARISH PRIEST:** Fr Thomas Alukka  
M: 0469 236 118 E: [tomyalukka@gmail.com](mailto: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/>

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

**Pastoral Ministry Coordinator:** Br. Ben Krupowicz  
Phone: 02 95462544 Email: [strsh@outlook.com](mailto:strsh@outlook.com)

**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

**Mater Dei Home Rosary**

14-2-2023 Nives Care  
33 Church Street Blakehurst 11-00 AM

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

**Abraham's Computer**

Abraham bought himself a fancy new computer. He was showing it to Isaac one day, and describing it. "Look at all the wonderful programs it has on it. And look at all the neat things it can do..."

Isaac was impressed, but also a little concerned.....

"But Dad, I don't think your computer has enough memory."

Abraham replied: "Don't worry son; the Lord will provide the RAM."

