



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

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT  
YEAR A

Bulletin

5th March 2023

**Entrance Antiphon:** Cf. Ps 26:8-9

Of you my heart has spoken, Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

**First Reading:** Gen 12:1-4

Abram leaves home receiving promises from the Lord.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 32:4-5. 18-20.  
22. R. v.22

(R.) Lord, let your mercy be on us,  
as we place our trust in you.

1. The word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love.  
(R.)
2. The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine. (R.)
3. Our soul is waiting for the Lord. The Lord is our help and our shield. May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you. (R.)

**Second Reading :** 2 Tm 1:8-10

Following the Gospel entails some hardship.

**Gospel Acclamation :** Mt 17:5

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

**Gospel :** Mt 17:1-9

Jesus is transfigured before Peter, James, and John.

**Communion Antiphon:** Mt 17:5

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.

## REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

In all three versions of this Transfiguration event that appear in the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, the context in which the event occurs is identical. That's a little unusual with these three gospel writers who like to put their own spin on events and often play with the chronology or settings of events. However, in this case, all three writers report the Transfiguration event as taking place immediately after a particular sequence of events. Jesus has asked the disciples who they think he is and Peter has made his confession of faith by declaring that Jesus is the Messiah. This declaration is followed by Jesus teaching about the demands of discipleship and then the account of the Transfiguration. Furthermore, all three versions are directly followed by an account of a man who brings his possessed son to Jesus for healing after the disciples have tried and failed to cast out the demon.

When all three of the synoptic gospels use the same story with little variation and all three retain the same context around the event then there are some pretty clear signals that this was a commonly accepted sequence of events and their sequence holds significance. The core message of this sequence of stories is about the faith of the disciples. Whilst Peter declares Jesus to be the Messiah, he and the others don't really yet know what this means. In the Transfiguration, they are given the clearest possible indication of Jesus' identity and yet they're confused and scared by what they witness. The following failure by the disciples to cast out a demon shows that they still haven't understood fully who and what Jesus is.

During this Lenten season, like the disciples, we are called to consider who Jesus is and what role he plays in our lives.

### Scriptural context – Gospel parallels

The account of the Transfiguration appears in all three synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke). The word, synoptic, means 'seen together' and these three gospels can be seen together because they have so much material in common. It is now accepted that the gospel of Mark was the first written as so much of it appears in the other two, while the gospels of Matthew and Luke both seem to have also drawn on another source of Jesus material (known as the 'Q' source). Despite the parallels, each writer uses the same story to convey the particular message of that gospel.

### Living the Gospel – 'Listen to him!'

God's voice from the cloud claims Jesus as his Son, the Chosen One, and then goes on to instruct those present – and we, the readers – to 'Listen to him!' For the disciples, this was a message not to get carried away with their own ideas about the Messiah but to listen to what Jesus was saying about the suffering he must endure and to what he was saying about true discipleship. Jesus tells us that to be a follower of his involves sacrifice, hardship and often unpopularity. It is this message we must listen to as much as the promise of salvation

### Gospel focus – A new vision

Peter sees the appearance of Elijah and Moses as a confirmation that Jesus has come to continue the work of the great prophets of the past. Rather than placing Jesus in the old tradition of the prophets, the appearance of Elijah and Moses, together with the voice of God, is to endorse the new direction that Jesus' ministry is taking. Jesus' new vision for the world is informed by the relationships forged between God and the prophets of the past, but it is a vision of a completely different way of relating to God: a much more personal relationship that calls us to respond from the heart to those around us.


“Lent is the right time to make room for the Word of God. It is the time to turn off the television and open the Bible. It is the time to disconnect from your cell phone and connect to the Gospel,”  
-Pope Francis

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	Family Mass 6:15pm 4th March
Sunday	8:00am Mass 6:00pm Croatian Mass	10:00am Mass

**Pray for recently deceased:** Wang Zhao ( Father of Maggie Wang)  
**Death Anniversary:** Franco Turiano, Anna Maria Turiano, Mario Turiano and Johnny Santelli.  
**Pray for good health of :** Anne Lo, Sunga Family, Adele Shehata, Anna Liza Torres Zapata, Yin Kwan Tsang.  
**Pray for the deceased:** Vivian Sorial, Margaret Ratcliffe, Joseph Flores Manlucu, Jeffrey Bishop, Jeanette McGloin, Fr Isidore, Antonius Widjaja, Holy Souls in purgatory.

4th/5th Mar (1st Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.00am	6:15pm	10.00am
<b>Acolytes</b>	Greg Driver	Gary, Max	Tony Oscuro	Paul Watson
<b>Readers</b>	Pavia Family	Rose Annie	Fran Oscuro	Gail Abbott Luisa Galea
11th/12th Mar (2nd Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.00am		10.00am
<b>Acolytes</b>	Greg Driver	Michael B		Volunteer
<b>Readers</b>	Volunteer	Yenson Family		Joan Hanson Jean Dorahy

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

**Mater Dei Home Rosary**  
 07-3-2023 Nives Care  
 33 Church Street Blakehurst 11-00 AM  
 14-3-2023 Nives Care  
 33 Church Street Blakehurst 11-00 AM  
 All are welcome

**Sacrament of Confirmation**  
**Mater Dei:** 30th and 31st May. Info night Tue 14th March 2023 6pm  
**St Raphael:** 9th June. Info night Wed 3rd May 2023 5:30pm

**International Women's Day (Mater Dei School)**  
 Special Tea with Marvelous women on **Wed 8th March at 9am** in Mater Dei Hall for a SPaR, coffee and chat. All welcome! Please bring a plate. Tea and Coffee provided.  
 Click on following link:

[International womens day](#)

**World Storytelling Day**  
 An invitation to read to Mater Dei school children in class on **Mon 20th March at 9am.**


Click on following link:  
[World Storytelling Day](#)



**The Catholic Weekly PULPIT POINTS 5th Mar 2023**

- Migration rules will separate Catholic family
- 'Existential threat' to religious schools
- Museum to honour sisters' service during HIV epidemic
- NSW won't ban prayer says Perrottet, Minns
- A doctors call to discernment
- Hundreds of RCIA candidates to become Catholic

**COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND**

TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	339.40	231.40
Second: loose	348.05	428.80
Envelopes	1170.00	575.00

**? Evolution or Creation ? Mum versus Dad—Hmmm**  
 A little girl asked her father, "How did the human race appear?" The father answered, "God made Adam and Eve and they had children and so was all mankind made". Two days later the girl asked her mother the same question. The mother answered, "Many years ago there were monkeys from which the human race evolved". The confused girl returned to her father and said, "Dad, how is it possible that you told me the human race was created by God, and Mama said they developed from monkeys?"  
 The father answered, "Well, dear, it is very simple. I told you about my side of the family and your Mama told you about hers."  


REMEMBER CELEBRATE IMAGINE

Enrolments are still open for Semester 1 at Catholic Theological College.

We have many areas of study that may be of interest such as **John Henry Newman and the Church in the Nineteenth Century, Pastoral Leadership for a Safe Church and many online options**

For more information contact: [registrar@ctc.edu.au](mailto:registrar@ctc.edu.au) or visit [ctc.edu.au](http://ctc.edu.au)




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](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion), or by calling 1800 024 413.

**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/>

**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

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

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