



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

Bulletin

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
YEAR A

12th March 2023

Entrance Antiphon: Cf. Ps 24:15-16

My eyes are always on the Lord,
for he rescues my feet from the
snare. Turn to me and have mercy
on me, for I am alone and poor.

First Reading: Ex 17:3-7

Give us water to drink.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 94:1-2. 6-9. R. v.8

(R.) If today you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.

1. Come, ring out our joy to the
Lord; hail the rock who saves
us. Let us come before him, giv-
ing thanks, with songs let us
hail the Lord. (R.)
2. Come in; let us bow and bend
low; let us kneel before the God
who made us for he is our God
and we the people who belong
to his pasture, the flock that is
led by his hand. (R.)
3. O that today you would listen to
his voice! 'Harden not your
hearts as at Meribah, as on that
day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the
test; when they tried me, though
they saw my work.' (R.)

Second Reading : Rom 5:1-2. 5-8

The love of God has been poured
into our hearts by the Holy Spirit
which has been given to us.

Gospel Acclamation : See Jn 4:42. 15

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord
Jesus Christ! Lord, you are truly the
Saviour of the world; give me living
water, that I may never thirst again.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord
Jesus Christ!

Gospel : Jn 4:5-42

The water that I shall give will turn
into a spring of eternal life.

Communion Antiphon: Jn 4:13-14

For anyone who drinks it, says the
Lord, the water I shall give will be-
come in him a spring welling up to
eternal life.

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

The encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well is rich in historical and cultural nuance that enhances our understanding and interpretation of this passage. When he asks the woman for a drink, Jesus breaks two cultural taboos: firstly, for a man to speak directly to an unchaperoned woman was somewhat scandalous; secondly, as the woman points out, Jesus is a Jew and directly addresses a Samaritan – another scandal. Jesus successfully gains the woman's attention by ignoring these social taboos but she fails to fully understand his reference to 'living water'.

The reference to the woman's five husbands has often been construed to suggest that she was either a prostitute or a serial widow. However, it may in fact be a reference to the Samaritans binding themselves (wedding themselves) to the five books of the Torah and ignoring the writings of the prophets and other later writings. This reference is followed by another fact that set Jews and Samaritans apart: the Samaritans worshipped God on a local mountain, Mt Gerazim, whilst the Jews held that true worship could only take place in Jerusalem. Jesus dismisses this major difference between Jews and Samaritans by declaring that soon 'true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth'. He is indicating the much more personal relationship with God that he models; not bound up by ritual, place and law.

Having set the scene for breaking down the walls between Jews and Samaritans, Jesus then reveals to the woman unequivocally that he is the promised Messiah. The woman rushes back to the town to spread the good news about Jesus. She becomes a missionary for him; and a remarkably effective one. The people are convinced by her testimony and flock to Jesus where they have their own personal faith encounter with him.

Historical Context – Jews and Samaritans

Samaritans descended from one of the tribes of Israel. They held faithful to Mt Gerazim as the first place for the worship of God even when the prophet Elijah declared a new place for worship. In the 7th and 8th Centuries BCE, the Assyrians descended on the Northern and Southern Kingdoms of Israel. The Samaritans in the north assimilated with the Assyrians, whilst the Jews were taken into exile in Babylon. When the Jews returned from exile, the Samaritans offered to assist in the reconstruction of the Temple. This infuriated the Jews and led to centuries of distrust and animosity.

Gospel Focus – Transformation

The woman has obviously come to the well to draw water for herself. Her encounter with Jesus is a moment of transformation for her. At first, she fails to comprehend his reference to 'living water' and never being thirsty again. However, in the end 'the woman put down her water jar and hurried back to the town.' Leaving her water jar behind was a sign of the transformation that had taken place within her. She had indeed drunk of the living water of Jesus and no longer paid attention to the need for water that had brought her to the well.

Living the Gospel – Personal encounter

The Samaritan woman's personal encounter with Jesus compels her to start spreading the good news about the amazing man she has met. She meets Jesus face to face and feels compelled to act on what she has felt. Lent is a time for each of us to again – or for the first time – seek out a face to face encounter with Jesus. Through prayer, contemplation on scripture or reflection on encountering Jesus in the face of others, we build a one to one relationship with Jesus. When we acknowledge this relationship, like the Samaritan woman, we are compelled to act on it.

The Samaritan woman at the well, whom Jesus asks for a drink, does not understand what he means when he says that he can offer her "living water" (Jn 4:10). Naturally, she thinks that he is referring to material water, but Jesus is speaking of the Holy Spirit whom he will give in abundance through the paschal mystery, bestowing a hope that does not disappoint.
- Pope Francis

HOLY WEEK MASS TIMING 2023

Date and Time	Mater Dei Church	St Raphael's Church
Holy Thursday 6-04-2023	7:00 PM	
Good Friday 7-04-2023	Stations of the Cross 10:00 AM	
	The Lord's Passion 3:00 PM	The Lord's Passion 3:00 PM
Holy Saturday 8-04-2023	6:00 PM (RCIA Confirmations)	8:00 PM
Easter Sunday 9-04-2023	10:00 AM	8:00 AM
Holy Week Reconciliation	Holy Sat 4pm-5:30pm	Every Saturday 4:30PM - 5:00PM

Sacrament of Confirmation

Mater Dei: 30th and 31st May. Parent/Info night Tue 14th March 2023 6pm

St Raphael: 9th June. Info night Wed 3rd May 2023 5:30pm

Pray for recently deceased: Rosemary Soong

Death Anniversary: Anna Pelosi, Edmond Vahanian

Pray for good health of : Monica O'Brien, 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.

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

14-3-2023	Nives Care 33 Church Street Blakehurst 11-00 AM
21-3-2023	Marguerite and Denis Derrig 32 Waratah Street Kyle Bay. 7-00 PM All are welcome

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	No Vigil mass on 11th March
Sunday	8:00am Mass 6:00pm Croatian Mass	10:00am Mass

11th/12th Mar (2nd Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.00am		10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Michael B		Volunteer
Readers	Volunteer	Yenson Family		Joan Hanson Jean Dorahy
18th/19th Mar (3rd Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.00am	6:15pm	10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Earl, Carl	Ray Low	Volunteer
Readers	Pavia Family	Fernandes Family	Br Michael Nina M	Jolly Jose Wendy E

The Stations of the Cross on Friday

St Raphael Church: 7:00pm followed by Holy hour
Mater Dei Church: After 9:15am Mass



This week we warmly welcome at Mater Dei church



Amelia Chan

Congratulations to the family

The Catholic Weekly

PULPIT POINTS 12th March 2023

- Humility is pride's antidote
- Faith-based schools inquiry under fire
- Teaching kids how to handle money
- New scholarships program targets Catholic School graduates
- Stations of the cross community art for Lent

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	309.30	274.70
Second: loose	382.25	232.75
Envelopes	397.00	525.00

Mater Dei & St Raphael's Parish Calendar 2023

14-03-23	MD Confirmation enrolment night 6pm	Mater Dei
28-03-23	SR Council Meeting 7:00pm	St Raphael
03-05-23	SR Confirmation enrolment night	St Raphael

RCIA

Wednesday 15th March 2023 at 7:30PM

St Raphael's Church Hall, South Hurstville.
Any queries please contact Graeme Dorahy on 0421 420 497

PARISH DIRECTORY

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Parish Secretary: Juliana Widjaja
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Parish Ministry Coordinator & Safeguarding Officer Michael Fernandes

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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

Afraid of the Dark

A little boy was afraid of the dark. One night his mother told him to go out to the back porch and bring her the broom. The little boy turned to his mother and said, "Mama, I don't want to go out there. It's dark." The mother smiled reassuringly at her son. "You don't have to be afraid of the dark," she explained. "Jesus is out there. He'll look after you and protect you." The little boy looked at his mother real hard and asked, "Are you sure he's out there?" "Yes, I'm sure. He is everywhere, and he is always ready to help you when you need him," she said. The little boy thought about that for a minute and then went to the back door and cracked it a little. Peering out into the darkness, he called, "Jesus? If you're out there, would you please hand me the broom?"

RUNNY