



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

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary

time - Year A

Bulletin

25th June 2023

**Entrance Antiphon :** Cf. Ps 27:8-9

The Lord is the strength of his people, a saving refuge for the one he has anointed. Save your people, Lord, and bless your heritage, and govern them for ever.

**First Reading:** Jer 20:10-13

He has delivered the soul of the needy from the hands of those who are evil.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 68:8-10. 14. 17. 33-35. R. v.14

(R.) Lord, in your great love, answer me.

1. It is for you that I suffer taunts, that shame covers my face, that I have become a stranger to my brothers, an alien to my own mother's sons. I burn with zeal for your house and taunts against you fall on me. (R.)
2. This is my prayer to you, my prayer for your favour. In your great love, answer me, O God, with your help that never fails: Lord, answer, for your love is kind; in your compassion, turn towards me. (R.)
3. The poor when they see it will be glad and God-seeking hearts will revive; for the Lord listens to the needy and does not spurn his servants in their chains. Let the heavens and the earth give him praise, the sea and all its living creatures. (R.)

**Second Reading:** Rom 5:12-15

God's gift to us is nothing like our sin against him.

**Gospel Acclamation** Jn 15:26. 27

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of Truth will bear witness to me, says the Lord, and you also will be my witnesses.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel :** Mt 10:26-33

Do not fear those who can kill the body.

**Communion Antiphon:** Ps 144:15

The eyes of all look to you, Lord, and you give them their food in due season.

## REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

'Do not be afraid' is one of the most commonly repeated sentences in the Bible. In one form or another, the command to 'be not afraid' or 'fear not' appears several hundred times throughout the Old and New Testaments. Today's gospel passage is part of the sending out of the Twelve that occupies all of Chapter 10 in the gospel. It follows a little later in the chapter from last week's reading in which Jesus called the Twelve and sent them out as Apostles. The remainder of the chapter provides an extended teaching on what it means and what it costs to take the message of Jesus out into the world. Jesus teaches the Twelve that the message they bear will not always be well received and there will be those who will seek to silence the Apostles through violent means. But then the teaching comes to the section of today's passage and Jesus commands the Twelve, 'Do not be afraid'.

The message to not be afraid is as much for the original intended audience of the gospel as it was for the apostles. The community for whom this gospel was written were on the verge of being 'squeezed out' and forced into secret. The passage reminds them to have courage and to have the courage of their convictions; to shout from the house-tops their message, not whisper it in darkness. It is a reminder of the abundant love of God who cares for them and sees all their efforts to continue to live out the message and ministry of Jesus.

It is equally a message for us, today. We are called to continue the spread of the gospel message; continuing the work of those early Christian communities, the Twelve and Jesus himself.

### Gospel Focus – Fear

When scripture uses the term fear, it tends to fall into one of two meanings. When used in the context of 'do not be afraid' or 'fear not', it is a command to not be daunted by the woes and trials that the world imposes. The other use tends to be a command that we should fear God. In this context, the word does not mean to be frightened of God but rather to show proper reverence. To fear God is to stand in wonder and awe rather than to cower and hide. So, fear God, but do not be afraid!

### Living the Gospel – From the house-tops

One of the messages of Jesus to his disciples and, through him, of Matthew to the original community, is to have courage and to have pride in their belief. No matter what threat or persecution they are to endure, the command is to proclaim the message of Jesus from the house-tops. They are to be proud of what they believe and be prepared to share it with others. In a world today that is not always open to the message of Jesus, we too are called to be proud of what we believe and not whisper it in the darkness.

### Scriptural context – The Q source

This gospel passage that appears at Mt 10:26-33 is virtually reproduced in the gospel of Luke (12:2-12) but does not appear in the gospel of Mark. Both the gospels of Matthew and Luke draw extensively on the gospel of Mark as a source for their writing but scholars have also deduced that they shared another unknown source. The content of this lost source can only be deduced by the identification of parallel passages such as this one that appear in Matthew and Luke but not Mark. The undiscovered document is known as the 'Q source' after the German word, *Quelle* (source).

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 God" (Micah 6:8)

MASS TIMES		
	St Raphael Church	Mater Dei Church
Tues		9:15am Mass
Wed		8:45am Rosary, Novena 9:15am Mass
Thurs	9:15am Mass	
Friday	7:30pm Adoration	8:45am Adoration 9:15am Mass
Sat	4:30pm Reconciliation 5:00pm Vigil Mass	No 6pm Vigil mass during school holidays. <b>The next mass is a First Eucharist mass on 29th July</b>
Sunday	8:00am Mass 6:00pm Croatian Mass	10:00am Mass

Dear Friends,  
A short note of thanks for the prayers and support we are receiving this tax-time from our generous community. If you have still to donate, a reminder to respond to our email below and make a gift this tax-time. Please take a moment to donate by 30 June.

The annual **Walk With Christ** on 11 June 2023 drew more than 10,000 for witness, prayer and adoration on the steps of St Mary's Cathedral. The *fervorino* by Archbishop Anthony Fisher ignited the **flame of hope** in our hearts and minds. I am delighted to share it with you [here](#).

Every blessing for you and your family.

David Armstrong, **Director, Development and Fundraising Office**



**OUR FAITH, OUR WORKS**

24th/25th Jun (4th Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5:00pm	8.00am		10.00am
<b>Acolytes</b>	Greg Driver	Michael F Norman Y	No Vigil Mass	Volunteer
<b>Readers</b>	Volunteers	Lappen Family		Lucy M Phil M
1st/2nd July (1st Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5:00pm	8.00am	6:15pm	10.00am
<b>Acolytes</b>	Greg Driver	Gary C Max M	Tony Oscuro	Paul Watson
<b>Readers</b>	Pavia Family	Maria C Ronnie C	Frances Volunteer	Gail Abbott Luisa Galea

**Pray for good health of :** David Derrig, Anne Lo, Sunga Family, Adele Shehata, Anna Liza Torres Zapa-

**Pray for the deceased:** Mary Toohey, Briega Robson, Eric Fox, Monica O'Brien, Jeffrey Bishop, 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**

27-6-2023 Josephine & Tony Ledonne  
61 Castle Street Blakehurst 7-00 PM  
All are welcome

**PRAYER FOR THE DAY**

Dear God, so far today, I've done all right. I haven't gossiped, and I haven't lost my temper. I haven't been grumpy, nasty or selfish, and I'm really glad of that! But in a few minutes, God, I'm going to get out of bed, and from then on, I'm probably going to need a lot of help. Thank you! Amen.



**Mater Dei Church and St Raphael Church Parish Renewal**

We are in the process of forming a leadership team for the combined parishes. Tania Rimac and Helen Wagner from Parish Renewal team, Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney paid us a visit again to help us with this. There will be more news in due course.

**Introducing**

**St Michael's Charismatic Prayer Group  
At Mater Dei Church from 13th July 2023  
Every Thursday night.**

**Rosary: 6:30pm  
Praise and Worship: 7:00 pm  
Talk or Healing Mass: 7:30 pm**

**Diary Dates:**

**July 13 Healing Mass Fr George from Divine Centre  
July 20 Understanding Healing Ron Maldigri  
July 27 Hour of Power / Eucharistic Adoration**

One of the major works of *Aid to the Church in Need* is providing transport to priests, sisters, and catechists to reach the faithful, who are often at great distances and must go through difficult terrain. In 2022, ACN provided 1,253 pastoral vehicles. This included 564 cars, 406 bicycles, 252 motorcycles, 16 boats, 11 buses, and 4 trucks for the pastoral work of the Church – particularly in Latin America and Africa. Can you help us supply transport to priests and religious again in 2023? Visit [www.aidtochurch.org/transport](http://www.aidtochurch.org/transport) or scan the QR code to make an offering and learn more.



**Thank You**

We would like to thank Angela D'Angelo and Br Ben for preparing the children for the Sacrament of Confirmation this year at Mater Dei and St Raphael's Parishes.

**Mater Dei Parish Office Auditing needed**

If you are an accountant, we would appreciate your assistance in auditing our parish office for the last financial year. Please contact Michael Fernandes 0437 517 758

**The Catholic Weekly  
25 June 2023 PULPIT POINTS**

- Catholic Cemeteries CEO Peter O'Meara laid to rest after life of service
- Sydney's trending saints: 2023's popular confirmation names revealed
- Migrant and refugee Sunday Intercultural Mass shows Australian spirit
- Philippa Martyr: Why do Australia's young mass going Catholics keep coming?
- Monica Doumit: Has gender ideology reached its turning point?
- Hunter Valley bush crash: Bishop Kennedy on the community's response

The Parish of **St Joseph Riverwood** is seeking a **part-time Parish Secretary** 2 - 3 days a week, 6 hours per day. The duties include, but not limited to managing the parish office including correspondence, emails, telephone calls and maintaining records; liaising with parish groups and volunteers, and welcoming visitors and guests. A sound level of computer literacy, including Microsoft Office, and administrative skills are essential requirements for this position. Experience with databases is desirable. Applications close Friday 30 June. Please send resume/1 page cover letter to [stjosephriverwood@outlook.com](mailto:stjosephriverwood@outlook.com)

**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

**COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND**

TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	326.25	280.75
Second: loose	308.30	476.80
Envelopes	335.00	785.00