



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

Fifteenth Sunday in  
Ordinary time - Year A

Bulletin

16th July 2023

## **Entrance Antiphon :** Cf. Ps 16:15

As for me, in justice I shall behold your face; I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

## **First Reading:** Is 55:10-11

The rain makes the earth fruitful.

## **Responsorial Psalm:**

Ps 64:10-14. R. Lk 8:8

(R.) The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

1. You care for the earth, give it water, you fill it with riches. Your river in heaven brims over to provide its grain. (R.)
2. And thus you provide for the earth; you drench its furrows, you level it, soften it with showers, you bless its growth. (R.)
3. You crown the year with your goodness. Abundance flows in your steps, in the pastures of the wilderness it flows. (R.)
4. The hills are girded with joy, the meadows covered with flocks, the valleys are decked with wheat. They shout for joy, yes, they sing. (R.)

## **Second Reading:** Rom 8:18-23

All creation is waiting for the revelation of the children of God.

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

Alleluia, alleluia!

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; all who come to him will live for ever.

Alleluia!

## **Gospel :** Mt 13:1-23

A sower went out to sow.

## **Communion Antiphon:** Cf. Ps 83:4-5

The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young: by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.

## **REFLECTION by Greg Sunter**

The teaching of Jesus is grounded firmly in the Jewish world of the 1st Century. For most of his listeners, that world was an agricultural one and so the stories Jesus told were about the everyday realities of peoples' lives. He told stories about vineyards, wheat fields, building houses, planting seeds and reaping harvests. The imagery he used was drawn from the lived experience of those he taught. Jesus used a style of storytelling that was popular at the time: parable. A parable is a story with a moral or a lesson. A parable usually involves an extended metaphor and, at its heart, is teaching the listener about how to live or how to behave.

Another feature of parables is that they can be understood at different levels. At one level, there is the literal meaning of a parable – what it says is what it is about. In today's gospel, the parable of the sower can be read or heard as a literal story about sowing seed and the lesson one might take from it is to be careful where you throw the seed when sowing. At another level, parables have a metaphoric meaning. In this instance, Jesus actually explains the symbolism of the parable to his disciples. There is a further, interpretive level of a parable where a modern reader asks, 'What has that story got to say to me here and now?'

In his conversation with the disciples, Jesus makes clear that only some people are open to understanding the depth of the message contained within his parables. Some people will only ever hear the story and never hear the message. Mind you, he still has to explain the parable to the disciples! He has just chastised those who fail to understand and yet walks the disciples through the parable step by step!

### **Historical Context – Matthew's community**

The gospel of Matthew is written at a time and particular context in which the community audience were feeling the effects of having been ostracised from the Jewish community. They were confounded by the fact that other Jews could not accept the reality of the Jesus message as they had. This parable, and the accompanying conversation with the disciples in which they are blessed for their understanding, would have been a comfort for the Matthew community. Although they were frustrated, they were being told through this story that not everyone is ready to hear the message that they had heard and accepted.

### **Scriptural context – A Parable Chapter**

The gospel of Matthew is nothing if not a well-crafted and highly structured piece of writing. Throughout the gospel there are five major 'discourses' or teachings. Chapter 13, which consists entirely of a collection of parables, is the central discourse of the five. It is the pivotal point of the entire gospel. The nature of the parables indicates that the message of Jesus has not been universally accepted and the parables present metaphors about the consequences for those who do and do not accept the message of Jesus about the reign of God.

### **Living the Gospel – Scatter that seed!**

The teaching of the parable of the sower is as true for us today as it was in its original context. The word of the kingdom continues to fall on people who are at various stages of readiness to receive it. What Jesus suggests to his disciples – and to us – is that the 'good soil' can't always be predicted. Jesus doesn't tell his disciples to only sow the word in people who are receptive. Rather, he wants them – and us – to scatter the word everywhere and to rejoice when it does find good soil and yields a rich harvest.

Here is a link to Sunday's homily from Fr Geoffrey Plant:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W4jIClPKXE&ab\\_channel=GeoffreyPlant](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W4jIClPKXE&ab_channel=GeoffreyPlant)

MASS TIMES		
	St Raphael Church	Mater Dei Church
Tues		9:15am Mass
Wed		8:45am Rosary, Novena 9:15am Mass
Thurs	No Mass during school Holidays	6:30pm Rosary 7:00pm Praise and worship 7:30pm Talk or healing 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. The next mass is a First Eucharist mass on 29th July
Sunday	8:00am Mass 6:00pm Croatian Mass	10:00am Mass

**St Michael's Charismatic Prayer Group (Thursday night)**  
**At Mater Dei Church from 20th July 2023**  
**Rosary: 6:30pm, Praise and Worship: 7:00 pm**  
**Talk: 7:30 pm Understanding Healing—Ron Maldigri**

**Planned Giving envelopes 2023/2024**  
 New Planned Giving envelopes are available in the church.

1. You can use previous year's envelopes by indicating your envelope number only. The dates are not necessary.
2. If you run out of envelopes, please pick new blanks ones from the back of the church and write your giving number on each envelope before placing it in the collection basket.
3. New members can apply for a new Giving number by completing the application form placed next to the envelopes.
4. Alternatively, you may set up a Recurring Payment by Credit card.

15th/16th July (3rd Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5:00pm	8.00am		10.00am
<b>Acolytes</b>	Greg Driver	Earl Lappen	No Vigil Mass during School Holidays	Volunteer
<b>EMOHC</b>	Susi Fabbro	Henrietta		
<b>Readers</b>	Volunteers	Rounds Family		Alan Mathew Wendy Eather
22nd/23rd July (4th Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5:00pm	8.00am		10.00am
<b>Acolytes</b>	Greg Driver	Norman Yenson	No Vigil Mass during School Holidays	Volunteer
<b>EMOHC</b>				
<b>Readers</b>	Karen Volunteer	Lappen Family		Lucy Mity Phil Monaghan

**2022-2023 Tax Receipts** have been emailed and some hard copies are kept at the back of the church.  
 Contact: Michael Fernandes 0437 517 758 for any queries.

**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

**Recently Deceased:** Maria Gioffre

**Pray for good health of :** Graeme Dorahy, David Derrig, Anne Lo, Sunga Family, Adele Shehata, Anna Liza Torres Zapata, Yin Kwan Tsang.

**Pray for the deceased:** Mary Toohey, Briega Robson, Eric Fox, Monica O'Brien, Jeffrey Bishop, Fr Isidore, Antonius Widjaja, Holy Souls in purgatory.



**Pilgrimage to Holy Land and Rome**

Our parish priest, Fr Thomas will be leading a pilgrimage, for Mater Dei and St Raphael parishes, to the Holy Land and Rome. A pilgrimage director from the Archdiocese has been invited to help us plan this pilgrimage.

Date: Wednesday 26th July 2023 at 7:00pm  
 Venue: Michael Kennedy Centre, Mater Dei.

Those who are interested are welcome to attend.

ROSARY	
St Raphael's Church	Mater Dei Church
Every Monday at 7:30pm with Blessed Sacrament	Every Sunday 9:30am before the 10am mass

**The Catholic Weekly**  
 16th July 2023 PULPIT POINTS

- Bread from Heaven: the charity feeding Sydney (p12-13)
- Synod on Synodality delegates announced (p1)
- PNG Cardinal Ribat visits Sydney (4-5)
- Fr Chris de Sousa: How I found my vocation at WYD (p6)
- Monica Doumit: Tasmanian education woes (p17)
- Catholic Schools NSW CEO: COVID lockdowns held kids back (p9)

Watch **Walk with Christ** pictures here  
[https://www.catholicweekly.com.au/gio-portelli-behind-the-lens-at-walk-with-christ-2023/?utm\\_source=rss&utm\\_medium=rss&utm\\_campaign=gio-portelli-behind-the-lens-at-walk-with-christ-2023](https://www.catholicweekly.com.au/gio-portelli-behind-the-lens-at-walk-with-christ-2023/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=gio-portelli-behind-the-lens-at-walk-with-christ-2023)

This week the Catholic Church of St Raphael's, South Hurstville warmly welcomes

**Leo Basil Vuysile Colborne**  
 Congratulations to the family!

There will be Children's liturgy next Sunday during 10am Mass at Mater Dei Church

**Mater Dei Home Rosary**

18-7-2023	Nives Care 33 Church Street Blakehurst	11-00 AM
25-7-2023	Nives Care 33 Church Street Blakehurst	11-00 AM

All are welcome

**COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND**

TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	359.65	225.60
Second: loose	248.00	230.00
Envelopes	455.00	386.60

**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

**THE HISTORICAL FLIGHT**

Terri asked her Sunday School class to draw pictures of their favorite Bible stories. She was puzzled by Kyle's picture, which showed four people on an airplane, so she asked him which story it was meant to represent.

"The flight to Egypt," said Kyle.

"I see . . . And that must be Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus," Ms. Terri said.

"But who's the fourth person?"

"Oh, that's Pontius - the Pilot."

**BY FUNNY**