



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

Fourteenth Sunday in
Ordinary time - Year A

Bulletin

9th July 2023

Entrance Antiphon : Cf. Ps 47:10-11

Your merciful love, O God,
we have received in the midst of
your temple. Your praise, O God,
like your name, reaches the ends of
the earth; your right hand is filled
with saving justice.

First Reading: Zec 9:9-10

See how humbly your king comes to
you!

Responsorial Psalm:

(R.) I will praise your name for ever,
my king and my God.

1. I will give you glory, O God my
King, I will bless your name for
ever. I will bless you day after
day and praise your name for
ever. (R.)
2. The Lord is kind and full of com-
passion, slow to anger, abound-
ing in love. How good is the Lord
to all, compassionate to all his
creatures. (R.)
3. All your creatures shall thank
you, O Lord, and your friends
shall repeat their blessing. They
shall speak of the glory of your
reign and declare your might, O
God. (R.)
4. The Lord is faithful in all his
words and loving in all his
deeds. The Lord supports all
who fall and raises all who are
bowed down. (R.)

Second Reading: Rom 8:9.11-13

If by the Spirit you put an end to the
misdeeds of the body, you will live.

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 11:25-30

I am gentle and humble of heart.

Communion Antiphon: Ps 33:9

Taste and see that the Lord is good;
blessed the man who seeks refuge
in him.

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

When we hear the term, *yoke*, we tend to think about the yoke that is used to harness oxen together or the yoke that someone might carry on their shoulder to balance a heavy load. This yoke across the shoulder was adopted into tailoring and so the shoulder piece set into a shirt is also called a yoke. However, in the Jewish tradition there is a completely different meaning to the term. The yoke of a rabbi was his particular interpretation of Torah (the Law); his particular teaching. Disciples who followed a particular rabbi sought to take on his yoke; his particular interpretation. The yoke of any rabbi was best identified by asking him, 'Which is the greatest commandment?' A rabbi's answer to this question revealed his interpretation of Torah. When Jesus is asked that question, he answers, 'Love God and love your neighbour,' and goes on to say that all of the rest of the Law and the prophets flows on from these two commandments. This is the yoke – the interpretation of Torah – that Jesus taught.

In today's gospel, Jesus calls to him all those who labour and are overburdened. It is the Pharisaic interpretation of the Law that burdens these people. Trying to maintain the Law was burdensome and complicated for the everyday person. Jesus says, 'Shoulder *my* yoke and learn from me ... my yoke is easy.' The yoke of Jesus was easy: Love God and love your neighbour. Compared to the 613 *mitzvot* (commands) set out in the Torah and strictly maintained by the Pharisees, the yoke of Jesus was incredibly easy to understand and adopt. So simple, in fact, that it required a child-like simplicity to accept this yoke.

Historical Context – Jewish education

Education in Galilee at the time of Jesus was highly valued. From the age of five, all boys and girls studied to memorise in totality the five books of the Torah (the first five books of the Bible). This period of study was called *Beth Sefer*. From about 10-14 they continued studying and memorising the remaining books of scripture (*Beth Talmud*). From about 14 or 15, only the very best students would enter *Beth Midrash* and apply to a rabbi to become his *talmid* – disciple – and seek to take on that rabbi's yoke.

Living the Gospel – Shoulder my yoke

Jesus invites us to shoulder his yoke and learn from him for he is gentle and humble in heart. The yoke he invites us to shoulder is the deceptively simple teaching: love God and love your neighbour. To love God is to consciously make a place in our lives for God. The busy spin that tends to be characteristic of so many people's lives today does not allow room for God; does not allow room for prayer and quiet; does not allow room for compassionate response to others. To love God and love our neighbour we must first make room for them.

Have you thought? Thank God!

Jesus' quite intimate words to the Father in today's passage carry with them an enormous amount of relief and perhaps released frustration. It is almost a cry of 'Thank God!' for his disciples have finally 'got it'. Jesus blesses the Father for revealing the truth to these simple men whom Jesus had chosen to follow him. The men Jesus chose as disciples were not following another rabbi and so had not been the very best students from their village. They had the education of most children but nothing more – otherwise they would have been following someone else!

**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)**

MASS TIMES		
	St Raphael Church	Mater Dei Church
Tues		9:15am Mass
Wed		8:45am Rosary, Novena 9:15am Mass
Thurs	No Mass. School Holidays	
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

8th/9th July (2nd Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5:00pm	8:00am		10:00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Carl Pavia	No Vigil Mass during School Holidays	Volunteer
EMOHC	Gail D	Ronnie C		
Readers	Volunteers	Siena, Zac, Yenson Fam		Joan Hanson Jean Dorahy
15th/16th July (3rd Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5:00pm	8:00am		10:00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Earl Lappen	No Vigil Mass during School Holidays	Volunteer
EMOHC	Susi Fabbro	Henrietta		
Readers	Volunteers	Rounds Fam		Jolly Jose Wendy E


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

Pray for the deceased: Mary Toohey, Briege 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

This week the Catholic Church of Mater Dei, Blakehurst warmly welcomes

Izayah Manihera
(s/o Bianca and Poroa Oti)
Congratulations to the family!



Mater Dei Home Rosary		
11-7-2023	Nives Care 33 Church Street Blakehurst	11-00 AM
18-7-2023	Nives Care 33 Church Street Blakehurst	11-00 AM
All are welcome		

THE PREACHER AND THE GHOST

There was a new preacher who wanted to rent a house in the country. The only house available was rumoured to be haunted. Since the preacher didn't believe in such things, he rented it. It wasn't long before the ghost made its appearance. The preacher told his friends about the ghost, but they didn't believe him. They told him the only way they would believe was if he would take a picture of the ghost. The preacher went home and called for the ghost. When it appeared, the preacher explained the situation and asked the ghost if it would mind having its picture taken. The ghost agreed. When the picture was developed, the ghost wasn't visible. Feeling very disappointed, the preacher called again for the ghost. When it appeared, the preacher showed it the picture and wanted to know why the ghost wasn't in it. The ghost thought a minute and replied, "Well, I guess the spirit was willing, but the flash was weak."

BY FUNNY

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

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

- You can use previous year's envelopes by indicating your envelope number only. The dates are not necessary.
- 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.
- New members can apply for a new Giving number by completing the application form placed next to the envelopes.
- Alternatively, you may set up a Recurring Payment by Credit card.

2022/2023 Tax Receipts
Are now available at the back of the church and some will be sent via email. If you would like yours emailed please send request to Michael Fernandes

The Catholic Weekly
9th July 2023 PULPIT POINTS

- Lisbon, here we come! Pilgrims prepare for World Youth Day 2023
- Cross taken down from Calvary as hospital acquisition D-Day arrives
- Professor Patrick McArdle: Calvary Takeover shows narrowing space for faith
- Grit, family and faith puts Sienna back on court
- Classical education seminar keeps small fires burning
- The Covenant review: war flick shows the power of promises

Annual Catechist Area Mass
This year the Southern Area Mass will be celebrated at Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish, MIRANDA on Tuesday 11th July at 10.30 am. All MD and SR catechists are invited to attend.

The Area Mass will be an important opportunity to:

- Bring the Southern Area CCD community together
- Recognize the commitment of catechists
- Give thanks to God for the many gifts he has given us

Please pray that WYD 2023 will touch the hearts of the young people all over the world, especially in LISBON 26th—31st July 2023



COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND		
TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	416.00	181.40
Second: loose	378.05	466.60
Envelopes	1296.00	135.00

PARISH DIRECTORY

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Parish Ministry Coordinator & Safeguarding Officer Michael Fernandes
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