



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

Seventeenth Sunday in
Ordinary time - Year A

Bulletin

30th July 2023

Entrance Antiphon : Cf Psalm 67:6-7,36

God is in his holy place, God who unites those who dwell in his house; he himself gives might and strength to his people.

First Reading: 1 Kings 3:5.7-12

You have asked for wisdom.

Responsorial Psalm:

Ps 118:57. 72. 76-77. 127-130. R. v.97

(R.) Lord, I love your commands.

1. My part, I have resolved, O Lord, is to obey your word. The law from your mouth means more to me than silver and gold. (R.)
2. Let your love be ready to console me by your promise to your servant. Let your love come to me and I shall live for your law is my delight. (R.)
3. That is why I love your commands more than finest gold. That is why I rule my life by your precepts: I hate false ways. (R.)
4. Your will is wonderful indeed; therefore I obey it. The unfolding of your word gives light and teaches the simple. (R.)

Second Reading: Romans 8:28-30

He predestined us to become true images of his Son.

Gospel Acclamation See Matthew 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!

Gospel : Matthew 13:44-52

He sells everything he owns and buys the field.

Communion Antiphon: Psalm 102:2

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and never forget all his benefits.

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

The twin parables of today's gospel – the treasure in the field and the pearl of great value – reveal a paradoxical truth about the kingdom of Heaven. Throughout the gospels, Jesus presents the kingdom as 'now but not yet'; as 'present but future'. This paradox is captured in these twin parables. In both cases, the kingdom is likened to something of great value that is discovered but cannot be immediately grasped. In both parables, the finder must go away and sell everything so that they can eventually come to possess the treasure they have discovered.

By comparing this experience with the kingdom of Heaven, Jesus suggests that most of us can only ever catch glimpses of what it means to live in the kingdom. For most of us, only in the future reality of heaven will we ever fully come to understand the kingdom. However, those glimpses that we catch – those moments of inspiration and connection with God and with one another – are like the treasures of the parables. They are enough to inspire us to do what it takes to make sure that we will one day enter into that kingdom reality.

The third parable of this gospel passage reveals yet another truth about the kingdom. The dragnet thrown into the sea is like the message of Jesus – it is flung far and wide and does not discriminate about where it falls or on whom it falls. This parable rounds out the chapter that began with the parable of the sower and the image of casting the net is a neat parallel to the indiscriminate casting of seed. It is not up to the one who casts the net, the seed or the Word. Rather it is up to each individual to determine how they will respond to receiving the Word.

Gospel Focus – The Kingdom is like...

Throughout the gospels, Jesus consistently uses the figures of speech of simile and metaphor to describe the kingdom. He never directly describes the kingdom. It is always described as being like some situation or person or as if... This figurative use of language means that we have no single clear picture of what the kingdom is like but we do have a multitude of metaphors and descriptions. This style of description adds to the paradoxical nature of the kingdom – it is like many things yet we don't really know what it is like at all.

Scriptural context – Matthew Ch 13

Over the last few weeks we have now heard Matthew Chapter 13 almost in its entirety. We heard first the parable of the sower then last week three short parables about weeds amongst the wheat, the mustard seed growing into a great tree and leaven in the flour. Finally, today we have had these additional pithy parables. The entire chapter seeks to paint metaphoric images of the kingdom. Woven through these images is a suggestion that the kingdom is open to all – all are presented with the invitation – but not everyone will accept that invitation or respond to it in the same way.

Have you thought? Interpretation

In today's passage the gospel writer appears to describe himself: 'every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.' It is a fantastic description of what it means to be an interpreter of the gospel. To interpret scripture, one must draw on what is old; applying understandings of the text in its original context and its original audience. But one must also draw on what is new; making connections between that original setting and the context in which it is being read today.

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	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	6:15pm Vigil Mass (First Eucharist mass on 29th July)
Sunday	8:00am Mass	10:00am Mass

29th/30th July (5th Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5:00pm	8:00am		10:00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer
EMOHC	Volunteer	Volunteer		Volunteer
Readers	Pavia Family	Annie JP Moral	First Eucharist Mass	First Eucharist Mass
5th/6th Aug (1st Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5:00pm	8:00am	6:15am	10:00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Gary/Max	Tony Oscuro	Paul Watson
EMOHC	Volunteer	Volunteer	Susi F.	Annie M
Readers	Fernandes Family	Rose T Maria C	Fran Oscuro	Gail Abbott Volunteer

Recently Deceased: Shirley Farrell

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

Pray for the deceased: Mary Toohey, Briegie 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



Scarlett Rose Rodrigues

Congratulations to the family!

Mater Dei Home Rosary		
1-8-2023	Nives Care 33 Church Street Blakehurst	11-00 AM
8-8-2023	Nives Care 33 Church Street Blakehurst	11-00 AM
All are welcome		

A great gnashing of teeth

A preacher of the old school was describing the events of Judgment Day and, of course, he used Biblical phrases whenever he could.

"Oh, my friends," he shouted, "imagine the suffering of the sinners as they find themselves cast into the outer darkness, removed from the presence of the Lord and given to eternal flames. My friends, at such a time there will be weeping, wailing and a great gnashing of teeth!"

At this point, one of the elders of the congregation interrupted.

"But Reverend," he said, "what if one of those hopeless sinners has no teeth?"

The preacher crashed his fist on the pulpit, "My friends, the Lord is not put out by details. Rest assured ... teeth will be provided!"

ST MICHAEL'S CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

Every Thursday night **MATER DEI CATHOLIC CHURCH**

6:30 pm Rosary

7:00 pm Praise & Worship, (Reconciliation)

7:30 pm Talk, Mass or Adoration



DATES TO REMEMBER:

August 3 Time of waiting

Wira Peiris

August 10 HEALING MASS

Fr George Gorzkowski

August 17 If anyone is in Christ he is a new creation - Abraham George

August 24 Putting on the armour of God Ron Maldigri

PILGRIMS COMMISSIONED FOR LIFE-CHANGING JOURNEY TO LISBON

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP has commissioned Sydney's World Youth Day pilgrims for their expedition to Lisbon, Portugal, with the promise of transformation and an encounter with the Risen Christ.



Please pray that there is an out pouring of the Holy spirit during WYD, and the lives of the young people will be transformed and that it will lead up to strong marriages and priestly vocations.



Donate to the Charitable Works Fund August 2023 Appeal

5th & 6th August 2023 is our parish appeal.

Help keep alive vital ministries of the Church in service to those who need it most. In hospitals, churches, schools, communities and families, your donation is making our world a loving, caring and compassionate place.

Give generously. Your tax-deductible gift changes lives. Thank you!

Donate at www.ourfaithourworks/give-to-cwf
Or complete the parish envelope.

Scan to Give



Morning Tea at Mater Dei Church

There will be morning tea after the 10:00am mass



2022-2023 Tax Receipts

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.

Please pray for the children receiving their **First Holy Communion** at Mater Dei Church on 29th / 30th July 2023. Please note: There will be vigil mass on Sat 29th July 2023.

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	380.40	243.65
Second: loose	331.80	432.30
Envelopes	335.00	555.00

PARISH DIRECTORY

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Thomas Alukka

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MATER DEI CATHOLIC CHURCH

1008 King Georges Road, Blakehurst 2221, NSW

ST. RAPHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Website: <https://www.materdei-straphael.org.au/>

Parish Secretary: Juliana Widjaja

Office hours: Tues & Wed 9:30am - 2:30pm

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Parish Ministry Coordinator & Safeguarding Officer **Michael Fernandes**

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