



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

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary time - Year A

Bulletin

23rd July 2023

Entrance Antiphon : Psalm 53:6,8

See, I have God for my help.
The Lord sustains my soul.
I will sacrifice to you with willing heart, and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

First Reading: Wisdom 12:13.16-19

In the place of sin, you give repentance.

Responsorial Psalm:

Ps 85:5-6. 9-10. 15-16. R. v.5

(R.) Lord, you are good and forgiving.

1. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of love to all who call. Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer and attend to the sound of my voice. (R.)
2. All the nations shall come to adore you and glorify your name, O Lord: for you are great and do marvellous deeds, you who alone are God. (R.)
3. But you, God of mercy and compassion, slow to anger, O Lord, abounding in love and truth, turn and take pity on me. (R.)

Second Reading: Romans 8:26-27

The Spirit himself pleads for us in a way that could never be put into words.

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 13:24-43

Let them grow together until the harvest.

Communion Antiphon: Psalm 110:4-5

The Lord, the gracious, the merciful, has made a memorial of his wonders; he gives food to those who fear him.

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

Today's reading features three parables about the kingdom: the weeds in the field; the mustard seed; and yeast in the flour. They are three fascinating parables about something undesirable or unwanted being mixed in with something that is apparently good – and Jesus presents them as descriptions of what the kingdom of heaven is like.

Let's look at the imagery of these parables. Darnel is a weed that looks exactly like wheat while it is growing. Only once the ears have formed can it be distinguished from the wheat. It is a malicious prank to sow darnel among wheat.

The mustard seed grows into such a large tree that birds come and nest in it. Why would any farmer want to deliberately plant a tree in the middle of his fields that attracts birds that will destroy his crops?

Three measures of flour is an enormous amount of flour; enough to make 50 or 60 loaves of bread! Yeast begins to ferment the dough mixture and if not baked the dough goes mouldy and goes bad. To leaven that much dough at one time is somewhat foolish. The Hebrew word used for leavening in scripture is *Chametz*, it literally means 'sour'. It is that essence by which things decay. Leavening is a fermentation process – a process of breaking down or corruption.

To describe the kingdom of God in these ways may seem a bit odd. Can the kingdom of God be a 'corrupting' or 'souring' or 'irritating' influence? The kingdom message of Jesus can be seen as a corrupting force in that it set about corrupting and destroying what was a flawed system. The parables also demonstrate that it only takes a tiny amount of this 'corrupting' influence to have a dramatic effect.

Scriptural context – Matthew's explanation

In the gospel passage, following the presentation of the three parables, Jesus explains the parable of the wheat and darnel to his disciples. It is explained in terms of a final judgment. (Compare it with Matthew 25: 31-46.) The parable of the weeds, or darnel, and its explanation only appear in the gospel of Matthew – although the parable does occur in the non-canonical gospel of Thomas. The interpretation belongs to Matthew more than it belongs to Jesus. It is an unapologetic direction to his community that living a righteous life in the midst of wickedness will be rewarded.

Have you thought? – Leaven

The parable of the woman placing leaven in three measures of flour is an intriguing one. In some translations, the text reads, 'The kingdom of heaven is like leaven which a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened.' Whilst you might initially hide yeast in some dough, it doesn't take very long for the yeast to become apparent as it makes the dough rise. Such a large quantity of flour suggests the bread is being prepared for a festival – perhaps Passover when only unleavened bread was used? That would put a different spin on the woman's action!

Pilgrimage to Holy Land and Rome (2024)

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



Meeting details:

Date: Wed 26th July 2023 at 7:00pm

Venue: Michael Kennedy Hall, Mater Dei
Those who are interested in the pilgrimage can attend.



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	No 6pm Vigil mass on 2nd & 4th Sat. Next mass is First Eucharist mass on 29th July
Sunday	8:00am Mass	10:00am Mass

ST MICHAEL'S CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

Every Thursday night

MATER DEI CATHOLIC CHURCH

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



Diary Dates:

July 27 Hour of Power / Eucharistic Adoration

World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, 23 July 2023

"From the elderly, we received the gift of belonging to God's holy people" – Pope Francis
The upcoming World Day for Grandparents and Elderly will take place on Sun, the 23rd of July. Pope Francis has provided an exhortation on the invaluable presence that our grandparents and elderly provide in the life of the Church. [Download the PDF booklet.](#)

22nd/23rd July (4th Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5:00pm	8:00am		10:00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Norman Yenson	No Vigil Mass	Volunteer
EMOHC	Gail	Florence		Lucy Mitry Phil Monaghan
Readers	Karen Volunteer	Lappen Family		
29th/30th July (5th Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5:00pm	8:00am		10:00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Norman Y	Volunteer	Volunteer
EMOHC	Volunteer	Volunteer		Volunteer
Readers	Pavia Family	Annie JP Moral	FHC	Nina Milazzo Matt PejkoVIC



There will be morning tea after the 10am mass on 30th July at Mater Dei

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

Classroom Music Teachers Wanted

Sydney Catholic Schools (SCS) is looking for specialist Instrumental tutors in Brass, Woodwind and Strings and Classroom Music Teachers to work in our primary and secondary schools, from one to five days per week. Tutors will commence in Term 1, 2024 and to start applying, you can view the live advert on our Sydney Catholic Schools website [here](#). All Classroom Music Teacher positions will be advertised from Monday, 24 July. Could we also ask you kindly post the attached flyer on your bulletin boards to assist us in spreading the word. For further information, please contact the SCS' Recruitment team at: talentacquisition@syd.catholic.edu.au.

Recently Deceased: Shirley Farrell

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.

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



Jacob Henry-Jack Roberts & Isaac Charlie-John Roberts
Congratulations to the family!

The Catholic Weekly

23rd July 2023 PULPIT POINTS

- World Youth Day pilgrims go with haste! p1-2
- Natalia Matar hears God's call for WYD p3
- Sound of Freedom review: Caviezel is the master of expression p21
- Welcome, maestro! New director of music for St Mary's Cathedral p6
- Faith on the racetrack: jockey Jack Waterhouse's near-death conversion p12-13
- Fr Gerald Gleeson on George Weigel, synodality and Vatican II

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.

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

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

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

Mater Dei Home Rosary

25-7-2023 Marguerite & Denis Derrig
32 Waratah St Kyle Bay 7-00 PM
1-8-2023 Nives Care
33 Church Street Blakehurst 11-00 AM
All are welcome

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	399.10	243.20
Second: loose	357.05	447.80
Envelopes	454.00	220.00

FORGOT ABOUT THE GIFT

My friend Garrick had the solution to forgetting his wife's birthday and their wedding anniversary: He opened an account with a local florist and provided it with both dates as well as instructions to send flowers and a card signed "Your loving husband, Garrick." For a few years, it worked. Then one day, Garrick came home on their wedding anniversary. He saw the flowers on the dining room table and said, "What nice flowers. Where did you get them?"

