

*Parishes of Mater Dei Blakehurst &
St Raphael's South Hurstville*
Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary time - Year A *Bulletin* *2nd July 2023*



Entrance Antiphon : Ps 46:2

All peoples, clap your hands.
Cry to God with shouts of joy!

First Reading: 2 Kgs 4:8-11. 14-16

That is the holy man of God, let him remain there.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 88:2-3. 16-19.
R. v.2

(R.) Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth. Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever, that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. (R.)
2. Happy the people who acclaim such a king, who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face, who find their joy every day in your name, who make your justice the source of their bliss. (R.)
3. For it is you, O Lord, who are the glory of their strength; it is by your favour that our might is exalted: for our ruler is in the keeping of the Lord; our king in the keeping of the Holy One of Israel. (R.)

Second Reading: Rom 6:3-4. 8-11

Having been buried with him through baptism, we shall walk in a new life.

Gospel Acclamation 1 Pt 2:9

Alleluia, alleluia!
You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy people. Praise God who called you out of darkness and into his marvellous light. Alleluia!

Gospel : Mt 10:37-42

Anyone who does not accept his cross is not worthy of me. Anyone who welcomes you, welcomes me.

Communion Antiphon: Cf. Ps 102:1

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all within me, his holy name.

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

The gospel for today can be a difficult one to hear. It calls us to place our discipleship before our loyalty to family and even before our own life. It is important to place this passage in the broader context of not only the chapter in which it sits, but also within the gospel as a whole.

Today's passage appears at the conclusion of Chapter 10 in the Gospel of Matthew. The entire chapter deals with the commissioning and sending out of the disciples to 'proclaim the gospel, heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy and drive out demons.' (Mt 10:8) The previous chapter concludes with the words, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.' (Mt 9:37-38) Chapter 10 is a response to this call. Jesus sends the disciples to 'work the harvest' through proclamation, healing and exorcism.

At the end of the chapter, having spelt out all the difficulties a disciple must face, Jesus assures them that even the smallest act of welcoming the disciple will be rewarded.

It's also important to understand that the Jewish audience of the Gospel of Matthew found themselves under increasing persecution and there was often division within families between those holding to orthodox Jewish beliefs and those following the new Christian way. For some early Christians, there was the very real choice to be made between following their faith and remaining loyal to family. The Gospel of Matthew repeatedly affirms Jesus as the promised Jewish messiah; as the fulfilment of Jewish prophecy. For early followers of the Christian way, this difficult message about being a follower was in the context of an affirmation that the message of Jesus was deeply grounded in their Jewish faith.

From the perspective of ...

What must it have been like to be one of those disciples of Jesus? Having followed their Rabbi, or teacher, for some time, he sends them out to 'have a go' at doing what he has been doing: preaching; proclaiming the good news; healing; curing lepers and casting out demons. The focus of a disciple is to be like their Rabbi. This is their first real test of being a disciple ... seeking to go out into the world without Jesus and do the things that they've seen their Rabbi do; to be like their Rabbi!

Historical Context – A cup of cold water

Jesus says, 'If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water' to a disciple spreading the gospel, then their ultimate reward is assured. To give 'a cup of cold water' or 'a cold drink' to another person was the most basic act of hospitality or service. It is a metaphor for doing the absolute least service to another. Jesus is saying that even the most trivial act of service that recognises the work of the disciple will be welcomed and acknowledged. It suggests that 'practical loving kindness' is both the test and the result of discipleship.

Gospel Focus – Anyone who welcomes

Having spelled out the difficulties of discipleship throughout Ch 10, the gospel writer has Jesus reassuring the disciples that anyone who welcomes them welcomes him. There are echoes here of other parts of the Gospel of Matthew: the Beatitudes, with its blessings on the poor and humble of heart; the welcome of children, the 'little ones' of the kingdom; and the Last Judgment (Mt 24), that reminds us that whatever we do for the least in the world we do for Jesus. Jesus even describes the disciples as 'little ones' – a reminder both to them and to those who welcome them.

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

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 blank 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.

1st/2nd July (1st Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5:00pm	8.00am		10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Gary C Max M	No Vigil Mass. School Holidays	Paul Watson
Readers	Pavia Family	Maria C Ronnie C		Gail Abbott Luisa Galea
8th/9th July (2nd Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5:00pm	8.00am		10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Carl Pavia	No Vigil Mass. School Holidays	Volunteer
Readers	Volunteers	Siena, Zac, Yenson Fam		Joan Hanson Jean Dorahy

Recently deceased: Shirley Farrell (deceased 16th June 2023. Service at SR on 21st July 12noon)

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

THE ATHEIST AND THE BELIEVER

There's a little old Christian lady living next door to an atheist. Every morning the lady comes out onto her front porch and shouts "Praise the Lord!". The atheist yells back, "There is no God". She does this every morning with the same result. As time goes on the lady runs into financial difficulties and has trouble buying food. She goes out onto the porch and asks God for help with groceries, then says "Praise the Lord". The next morning she goes out onto the porch and there's the groceries she's asked for, of course she says "Praise the Lord". The atheist jumps out from behind a bush and says, "Ha, I bought those groceries - there is no God". The lady looks at him and smiles, she shouts "Praise the Lord --- not only did you provide for me Lord, you made Satan pay for the groceries!"

BY FUNNY

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

ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER SUNDAY

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land where our Parish stands - the Bidjigal people of the Eora Nation.

Every year, on the first Sunday in July, Catholics come together across Australia to acknowledge and celebrate the unique gifts and contributions of Australia's First Peoples in the Catholic Church.

This year's theme, "A New Life in Christ" reflects the hope and promise of a brighter future, grounded in unity and a shared commitment to positive change. Click [here](#) for *Jesus the Living Water* artwork by Troy Mardigan (Daly River).



HOLY FATHER'S APPEAL 2023

Our parish will hold the annual Holy Father's Appeal this weekend, for which we ask your support. Through your gift, you can help Pope Francis bring hope, faith, and the spirit of Christ to our less fortunate brothers and sisters around the world.

Donate online [here](#), phone 1800 753 959 or in the envelopes available in the church. For details, click [here](#).

The Catholic Weekly

2nd July 2023 PULPIT POINTS

- The Chosen disciple: George Xanthis on his role as St John
- Wheeling with Christ: Teresa Trujillo's faith hits Sydney's streets
- Calvary Hospital 'steps away' from ACT palliative care hospice
- Cemeteries stand-off resolved
- Synod on Synodality working document released
- Monica Doumit: Winter is coming, thanks Alex Greenwich

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	408.80	243.20
Second: loose	334.00	443.00
Envelopes	1305.00	355.00

This week's baptisms:

Mater Dei Church, Blakehurst

Sebastian Garrido

St Raphael's Church, South Hurstville



**Rachel Helen-Rose Croker
Nathaniel Bagtas Lo
James Declan Lo
Everly Jean Tran**

Baptism

Congratulations to the families!

PARISH DIRECTORY

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