



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

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary time Year A

Bulletin

20th Aug 2023

Entrance Antiphon : Psalm 83:10-11

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of your anointed one; one day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

First Reading: Isaiah 56:1.6-7

I will lead the foreigners to my holy mountain.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 66:2-3 5-6. 8. R. v.4

(R.) O God, let all the nations praise you!

1. O God, be gracious and bless us and let your face shed its light upon us. So will your ways be known upon earth and all nations learn your saving help.

(R.)

2. Let the nations be glad and exult for you rule the world with justice. With fairness you rule the peoples, you guide the nations on earth. (R.)

3. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. May God still give us his blessing till the ends of the earth revere him. (R.)

Second Reading: Romans 11:13-15. 29-32

The gifts and call of God are irrevocable.

Gospel Acclamation Matthew 4:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

Gospel : Matthew 15:21-28

Woman, you have great faith.

Communion Antiphon: Psalm 129:7

With the Lord there is mercy; in him is plentiful redemption.

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

This week's gospel provides a fascinating illustration of Jesus' response to those in need. Jesus has travelled to the area of Tyre and Sidon – part of modern day Lebanon. He was physically removing himself from the place of his very active ministry and taking a break. When the Canaanite woman approaches Jesus and his disciples, she is an interruption; a nuisance. Jesus is very abrupt with her. He tells her simply that his ministry is to the house of Israel – the Jews – and is not for her. But the woman is persistent and again asks Jesus to help her. Jesus is even more abrupt and tells her that it is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs. Through this use of metaphor, Jesus refers to the children of Israel (the Jews) and to the gentiles and pagans – sometimes referred to as 'dogs' to reflect their lowly status in the eyes of the Jewish tradition. Still the woman persists and turns Jesus' metaphor back on him, saying that even the dogs get to eat the scraps that fall from the table.

The woman's persistence and faith pay off. Jesus is moved by her faith and through that faith heals the woman's daughter. Despite his initial abruptness and reluctance, Jesus responds with compassion to the woman's request. It is as though she needed to demonstrate that she was really serious and that she did in fact believe that Jesus could make a difference in her life and the life of her daughter. This is an important story in Matthew's gospel. This gospel was written predominantly for Jewish Christians but this story reveals that the ministry of Jesus and the reign of God is open to anyone who believes.

From the perspective of ... A disciple.

As we passed through a little village near Sidon this Canaanite woman suddenly started calling on the master to help her daughter. We all expected the master to help her out as usual but he really put her in her place! He told her that his ministry was not for pagans like her. That should have stopped her, but she kept on and on, even turning the master's words back on him! She was so rude. We were about to push her out of the way so that the master could move on when he suddenly told her that her faith was great and that her daughter was better. Great faith? A Canaanite? He never ceases to surprise us!

Historical Context ... Who were the Canaanites?

When Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt, the 'Promised Land' they sought was the land of Canaan (approximately the area of modern Israel, TransJordan, Syria and Lebanon). Here they were commanded to utterly destroy the Canaanites and to subdue the land. (Exodus 23:23-24) The Israelites never successfully removed all the Canaanites from the Palestine region. By the time of Jesus, the Israelites had established themselves in the region between Judea in the south and Galilee in the north, while the original inhabitants of the area had been 'squeezed out' – predominantly to the north. The Canaanites were dispossessed of their land by the Israelites and it is easy to see why there was tension between them.

Special Religious Educators Required: Special Religious Education (SRE) is the time set aside in Government Schools for Catechists (also called Scripture Teachers) from the local Catholic Church to teach Catholic children about Jesus and his message of salvation. Please contact the Parish Office, if you're able to join our Catechists' team for Public Schools. All support and training is provided. Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) provides 3 levels of training Courses.

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		No Mass (Painting Church)
Wed		No Mass (Painting Church)
Thurs	9:15am Mass	<u>Will be held in Church Hall</u> 6:30pm Rosary 7:00pm Praise and worship 7:30pm Talk (see program)
Friday	7:30pm Adoration	No Mass (Painting Church)
Sat	4:30pm Reconciliation 5:00pm Vigil Mass	1st and 3rd Sat 6:15pm only. (Next Vigil mass is on 19th August)
Sunday	8:00am Mass	10:00am Mass

19th/20th Aug (3rd Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5:00pm	8:00am	6:15pm	10:00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Earl Lappen	Ray Low	Volunteer
EMOHC	Susi Fabbro	Henrietta	Volunteer	Volunteer
Readers	Karen L Volunteer	Yenson Family	Family Mass	Jolly Jose Wendy E

26th/27th Aug (4th Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5:00pm	8:00am		10:00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Norman Y		Volunteer
EMOHC	Gail Dawson	Florence Y	No Vigil Mass	Volunteer
Readers	Volunteers	Lappen Family		Lucy M Phil M

Recently deceased: Meri Beljo

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

Pray for the deceased: Mary Toohey, Briege Robson, 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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

To run Children's liturgy at St Raphael's and Mater Dei Church at weekend masses. Resources are provided. If you are interested Please contact Michael Fernandes 0437 517 758

Mater Dei Home Rosary

22-8-2023 Nives Care
33 Church Street Blakehurst 11-00 AM

29-8-2023 Nives Care
33 Church Street Blakehurst 11-00 AM

All are welcome

God's eye on you

There were 2 boys playing one day when they got bored. Little Johnny turned to little Billy and said, "I'm bored: let's go to the corner store and steal some candy."

Little Billy says: "Oh no! I can't do that! God is watching me!"

Little Johnny replies: "You mean to tell me that you believe there is a God up there watching everything you do, so that one day he can punish you?"

Little Billy says: "No, I am telling you that I believe there is a God up there that loves me s-o-o-o much, He can't take his eyes off me!"

BUMNY

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



(Service will be held in the Parish Hall while the church is painted)

DATES TO REMEMBER:

August 24 Putting on the armour of God Ron Maldigri

Painting of Mater Dei Church

There will be no week day masses at Mater Dei Church this week due to painting of the church.

However there is 6:15pm mass this Sat 19th August and 10am mass on Sun 20th August 2023

The Catholic Weekly

20th Aug 2023 Pulpit points

<https://www.catholicweekly.com.au/>

- The false claims of the No Voice campaign
- Keeping the WYD fire burning for our pilgrims
- How do Aussie Catholics rate their bishops' leadership?
- Marian devotion through Maronite Hymns
- Past, present and future— Homily by Archbishop Fisher at Fatima, Portugal.

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	333.75	237.90
Second: loose	291.70	359.15
Envelopes	445.00	255.00

Safeguarding Policy is displayed in the Churches' foyers.

Mater Dei & St Raphael Parish Renewal Workshop

Date: Sat 23rd Sept 2023 at 10:00am

Venue: Mater Dei Michael Kennedy Centre

RSVP: Michael Fernandes 0437 517 758

Mater Dei and St Raphael Parish Pilgrimage to Holy Land, Rome, Assisi and Florence

13 day tour commencing 8th April 2024.

Please contact Michael Fernandes for any queries: 0437 517 758

Here is a link to Rome pilgrimages: <https://www.ourfaithourworks.org/rome-pilgrimages/>



PRIESTS' RETIREMENT FOUNDATION

Father's Day Appeal
3rd September 2023

CWF
CHARITABLE WORKS FUND
Your local charity

Thank you for your generous donations



Congratulations to our First Communicants 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 Chrzczonec : Phone: 0412 786 245