



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

Twenty-First Sunday in
Ordinary time Year A

Bulletin

27th Aug 2023

Entrance Antiphon : Cf Psalm 85:1-3

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

First Reading: Isaiah 22:19-23

I place the key of the House of David upon his shoulder.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 137:1-3. 6. 8. R. v.8

(R.) Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart, you have heard the words of my mouth. Before the angels I will bless you. I will adore before your holy temple. (R.)
2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love which excel all we ever knew of you. On the day I called, you answered; you increased the strength of my soul. (R.)
3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly and the haughty he knows from afar. Your love, O Lord, is eternal, discard not the work of your hands. (R.)

Second Reading: Romans 11:33-36

From him, through him, and in him are all things.

Gospel Acclamation Matthew 16:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church; the gates of hell will not hold out against it. Alleluia!

Gospel : Matthew 16:13-20

You are Peter, to you I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

Communion Antiphon: Cf Psalm 103:13-15

The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

Like last week's gospel, this week's story takes place in a region that was outside predominantly Jewish territory. Caesarea Philippi (north of Galilee and in the region of modern day Syria) had long been a centre of pagan worship. It was used originally by the Canaanites as a site of worship; the Greeks built a temple to one of their gods there; in 20 BCE Herod the Great built a temple to Caesar Augustus; and after his death, Herod's son, Phillip, renamed the city Caesarea Philippi after Tiberius Caesar and himself. It is intriguing that Matthew's gospel chooses such a site as the location for such a significant revelation of faith.

Jesus asks the disciples who people say he is. They report that people associate Jesus with one of the great prophets of Jewish tradition. By people identifying Jesus with other great prophets they were projecting Jesus into the same mould as that prophet. What they were saying was that Jesus will be a great leader in the style of John the Baptist, or Elijah or even Jeremiah. The expectation of a messiah was running very high at the time of Jesus and everyone had their own idea about what that messiah would be like – usually aligned with some previous leader. They didn't seem to understand that Jesus was breaking the mould and was not going to fit in with any of those expectations. To see him as one of the great prophets come again is always going to be an inadequate understanding of Jesus as messiah.

When Jesus pushes the disciples for their own ideas, it is Simon Peter who speaks up and identifies Jesus as being the Son of the living God. Making a play on Peter's name (in Greek, petros = Peter and petra = rock), Jesus states that hereafter, Simon Peter will be known as Peter and upon the rock of his profession of faith the church will be built.

Have you thought? What's in a name?

On many occasions in the Bible a character is given, or takes on, a new name when they take on a new role or move to a new level in their faith and relationship with God. Abram became Abraham; Sarai became Sarah; Jacob became Israel; and Saul became Paul. In all of these circumstances the person took on a new name to reflect their new relationship with God. This tradition has continued right to this day. Men and women entering religious life have traditionally taken on a new name to indicate the new life they are entering. When Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger became pope he took on the name Benedict to indicate the new role and the new life he was beginning.

Living the Gospel ... Who do YOU say I am?

The question that Jesus asks the disciples is a question he asks of all of us. How we answer that question reflects our relationship with Jesus. But more importantly, how we answer that question reflects the way we live our life in response to who we believe Jesus to be. If we truly say that we believe in Jesus as the son of God, then how do we live our lives in such a way that we act on that belief? The gospel shows us that an inadequate answer to that question leads to missing the point of all that Jesus is.



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/>



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 (see program)
Friday	7:30pm Adoration	There is no 9:15am Mass as Fr has a funeral to attend.
Sat	4:30pm Reconciliation 5:00pm Vigil Mass	6:15pm mass only on 1st and 3rd Sat. (Next Vigil mass is on 2nd September)
Sunday	8:00am Mass	10:00am Mass

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 31 Hour of Power Fr Hugh Thomas

26th/27th Aug (4th Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5:00pm	8:00am		10:00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Michael F	No Vigil Mass	Volunteer
EMOHC	Gail Dawson	Florence Y		Volunteer
Readers	Volunteers	Lappen Family		Lucy M Phil M
2nd / 3rd Sept (1st Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5:00pm	8:00am	6:15pm	10:00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Gary / Max	Tony Oscuro	Paul Watson
EMOHC	Susi	Annie M		Volunteer
Readers	Pavia Family	JP Moral Ronnie C	Fran Oscuro	Gail Abbott Luisa Galea

Painting of Mater Dei Church

Painting work has been completed. Week day masses will resume. However there is no 9:15am mass on First Friday 1st Sept as Fr Jan has to attend a funeral service.

Mater Dei Church

Christmas Party/Fundraiser event 2023

Date: Sat 2nd December 2023 at 7pm
Venue: Mater Dei Michael Kennedy Centre
Contact : Michael Fernandes 0437 517 758 or Vilma 0405 046 655 for information.

Check out the flyer on the website or church

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY - 27 AUGUST

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Social Justice Statement 2023-24, *Listen, Learn, Love: A New Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples* was launched on August 17 by Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv, chair of the Bishops Commission for Social Justice, Mission and Service.

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council invite members of the Church to walk with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in this year of great possibility. They hope for an end to the pain, hurt and injustice that has burdened the First Peoples of the land for far too long.

More information: ACBC Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace, www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au or Tel (02) 6201 9845

Death Anniversary: Antonius Widjaja

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

Pray for the deceased: Meri Beljo, Mary Toohey, Briege Robson, Monica O'Brien, Jeffrey Bishop, Fr Isidore, Holy Souls in purgatory.

There will be morning tea at Mater Dei Church on Sun 27th August after the 10am mass.



Father's Day
Appeal 3rd
Sept 2023

PRIESTS' RETIREMENT FOUNDATION

ROSARY	
St Raphael's Church	Mater Dei Church
Every Monday at 7:30pm with Blessed Sacrament	Every Sunday 9:30am before the 10am mass

Date	Mater Dei & St Raphael Parish Calendar 2023	
26/27th Aug	Sacrament of First Eucharist	St Raphael's
29th Aug	First Reconciliation Parent info evening	Mater Dei
9th Sept	Sacrament of First Eucharist	St Raphael's

Mater Dei Home Rosary		
29-8-2023	Nives Care 33 Church Street Blakehurst	11-00 AM
5-9-2023	Nives Care 33 Church Street Blakehurst	11-00 AM
All are welcome		

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	385.00	310.80
Second: loose	418.75	496.75
Envelopes	295.00	380.00

THE MAP

A father wanted to read a magazine but was being bothered by His little girl, Shelby. She wanted to know what Australia looked Like. Finally, he tore a sheet out of his new magazine on which was printed the map of the country. Tearing it into small pieces, he gave it To Shelby and said, "Go into the other room and see if you can put this together. This will show you our whole country today." After a few minutes, Shelby returned and handed him the map, correctly fitted and taped together. The father was surprised and asked how she had finished so quickly. "Oh," she said, "on the other side of the paper is a picture of Jesus, when I got all of Jesus back where He Belonged, then our country just came together."



PARISH DIRECTORY

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Thomas Alukka

M: 0469 236 118 E: tomyalukka@gmail.com

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