



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

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in  
Ordinary time Year A

Bulletin

24th Sep 2023

## Entrance Antiphon :

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

## First Reading: Isaiah 55:6-9

My thoughts are not your thoughts.

## Responsorial Psalm: Ps 144:2-3. 8-9. 17-18. R. v.18

(R.) The Lord is near to all who call him.

1. I will bless you day after day and praise your name for ever. the Lord is great, highly to be praised, his greatness cannot be measured. (R.)
2. The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in love. How good is the Lord to all, compassionate to all his creatures. (R.)
3. The Lord is just in all his ways and loving in all his deeds. He is close to all who call him, who call on him from their hearts. (R.)

## Second Reading: Philippians 1:20-24. 27

For me to live is Christ.

## Gospel Acclamation See Acts of the Apostles 16:14

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Open our hearts, O Lord,  
to listen to the words of your Son.  
Alleluia!

## Gospel : Matthew 20:1-16

Why are you jealous because I am generous?

## Communion Antiphon: Psalm 118:4-5

You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.

## REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

On a first reading of this gospel story, the reader is probably struck by the unfairness of the situation. The landowner has employed day labourers at different times throughout the day to work in his vineyard. However, come the end of the day, the landowner pays all the day labourers the same amount. Not surprisingly, the labourers employed at daybreak to work the whole day are upset that those who have only worked the last hour of the day are paid the same amount. The landowner reminds them that he is paying them what they agreed at the start of the day, and yet the reader is left uncomfortable about the whole arrangement.

Of course, this is the purpose of Jesus' story! The key to the story is in the introduction. Most of the kingdom parables told by Jesus begin with a formulaic statement, 'The kingdom is like ...' and this one is no different. What follows is almost always a description of an everyday event that is turned on its head. In all of the kingdom parables recorded in the gospels, Jesus describes a world order in which people respond in unexpected and sometimes confusing ways. His message is that the kingdom, or reign, of God turns expectations upside down. In the kingdom, people who are treated badly in this world are held in great esteem; the balance of power is turned upside down; and the usual order of things is challenged. The landowner's final comment in the parable, 'the last will be first, and the first, last', is a perfect example of the challenging nature of Jesus' kingdom parables. In the kingdom, those who hold themselves to be first in this world will be brought down, and those who are treated as least in this world will be exalted.

## Historical Context – Labourers for hire

Jesus' parable describes a situation that would have been very familiar to his audience. At the time, there were many quite wealthy landowners who controlled large vineyards, orchards and crop fields. They would have employed a certain number of permanent workers but come harvest time there was a need for more workers and, much like today, they sought to employ part time workers for a short period of time until the rush was over. Men looking for work would gather in the marketplace of a village and landowners would select workers and send them to their property to work.

## Scriptural context – Kingdom parables

A feature of the kingdom parables that Jesus used is a challenging 'shift' to the unexpected. Jesus only ever uses parables to describe what the kingdom is like, and never says exactly what it is or isn't. In each parable he compares the kingdom of God to something that would be familiar to a 1st century audience but then he twists the familiar and makes the challenging shift by making the familiar, unfamiliar. (This 'shift' is sometimes called a 'discombobulating shift'.) Jesus tells us that the kingdom of God disrupts our normal way of thinking, it turns our expectations upside down and it completely challenges our 'normal' relationships.

## 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	St Michael's Charismatic prayer group (see program)
Friday	7:30pm Adoration	9:15am Mass
Sat	4:30pm Reconciliation 5:00pm Vigil Mass	No Mass during School holidays. Next mass TBC.
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 and Worship and Reconciliation, 7:30 pm Talk or Mass or Adoration**  
**Dates to Remember**

**Sept 28 Hour of Power**      **Members of St Michael's Charismatic Prayer Group**



23th /24th Sept (4th Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5:00pm	8:00am	6:15pm	10:00am
<b>Acolytes</b>	Greg Driver	Norman Y	No Vigil Mass	Volunteer
<b>EMOHC</b>	Gail	Florence		
<b>Readers</b>	Karen Volunteer	Maria C Annie M		Lucy M Phil M
30th /1st Oct (1st Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5:00pm	8:00am	6:15pm	10:00am
<b>Acolytes</b>	Greg Driver	Max, Gary	Tony Oscuro	Paul Watson
<b>EMOHC</b>	Susi Fabbro	Annie M		
<b>Readers</b>	Volunteer	Rose T J P Moral	Volunteer Frances O	Gail Abbott Luisa Galea

**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 .  
*Plenty of food, raffle prizes and games for the children.*  
 Check out the flyer on the website or in church

*Save the Date*

There will be morning tea at Mater Dei Church on Sun 24th Sept after the 10am mass.




Children's Liturgy at Mater Dei Church 10am mass this Sunday.

**Congratulations** to the children who received First Eucharist at Mater Dei Church.



**EMERGENCY APPEALS**  
 Morocco Earthquake and Libya Floods  
[www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au)




**Pray for good health of :** Mark Green, Rihanna Choi, Gisselle Clark (Oscuro), Joan Rounds, Graeme Dorahy, Anne Lo, Sunga Family, Adele Shehata, Anna

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

**CARITAS AUSTRALIA'S EMERGENCY APPEALS - Morocco / Libya**

Caritas Australia needs your support to respond to the devastating earthquake in Morocco and floods in Libya. Thousands of people have died and others have been injured. Communities need shelter, food, water and medical assistance. Please support **Caritas Australia's emergency appeals**.  
 Donate at [www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au)

The **Catholic Weekly** news go to <https://www.catholicweekly.com.au/category/news/> or pick one for \$2.00 from church foyer

Date	Mater Dei & St Raphael Parish Calendar 2023	
11th Oct	SR Pastoral Council Meeting	St Raphael
13th Oct	One Parish One School Mass (SR + MD)	Mater Dei
14th Oct	AEC Voting for Referendum 2023	SR Hall
16th Oct	MD Pastoral Council Meeting	Mater Dei

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

**Mater Dei Home Rosary**

26-9-2023	Nives Care 33 Church Street Blakehurst	11-00 AM
3-10-2023	Nives Care 33 Church Street Blakehurst	11-00 AM
All are welcome		

**COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND**

TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	294.75	552.30
Second: loose	392.15	859.80
Envelopes	315.00	220.00

**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

**Messages From Actual Signs Seen On Church Properties**

"No God-No Peace. Know God-Know Peace."  
 "People are like tea bags - you have to put them in hot water before you know how strong they are."  
 "Come in and pray today. Beat the Christmas rush!"  
 "How will you spend eternity-Smoking or Non-smoking?"  
 "Come work for the Lord. The work is hard, the hours are long and the pay is low. But the retirement benefits are out of this world."  
 "Do not wait for the hearse to take you to church."  
 "This is a ch\_\_ch. What is missing?" ---> (U R)  
 "If you can't sleep, don't count sheep. Talk to the Shepherd."  
 "Our arms are the only ones God has to hug His children."

**BUNNY**