



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

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in
Ordinary time Year A

Bulletin

17th Sep 2023

Entrance Antiphon: Cf Sirach 36:18

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

First Reading: Sirach 27:30 – 28:7

Forgive your neighbour's faults and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 102:1-4. 9-12.

R. v.8

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name. My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. (R.)
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. (R.)
3. His wrath will come to an end; he will not be angry for ever. He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults (R.)
4. For as the heavens are high above the earth so strong is his love for those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins. (R.)

Second Reading: Romans 14:7-9

Whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation John 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

I tell you that you forgive not seven times but seventy times seven.

Communion Antiphon: Cf Psalm 35:8

How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

This gospel passage follows directly from last week's passage. It concludes the whole of Matthew Chapter 18 that deals with sin, forgiveness and reconciliation. Peter's question to Jesus and suggested answer is a reflection of the view that there is a limit to the number of times we should forgive someone. Seven is a significant number in scripture and implies a 'perfect' amount. Even though by his use of seven, Peter is suggesting that he should forgive someone many, many times, Jesus quickly corrects Peter and says not seven, but seventy-seven times (or seventy times seven). Jesus plays on the use of the number seven and multiplies it to indicate that one should forgive as many times as is required – without keeping count; without keeping score.

The story of the unforgiving servant is a familiar one of forgiveness and mercy being shown but not passed on. The sting in the tail of this parable is Jesus' final warning that, 'So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives his brother from his heart.' This is an unsettling statement, as we believe God's forgiveness to be without measure and without end. Jesus warns that unless we seek to imitate God's forgiveness and forgive others 'from our heart' (with compassion) then we are not going to recognise the forgiveness of God and will cut ourselves off from it.

The whole idea of forgiving from the heart is a powerful contradiction of a popular concept: 'I can forgive, but not forget.' Is it really possible to forgive but refuse to forget? Surely holding on to a memory of hurt is holding on to the hurt itself and does not display that any forgiveness has occurred at all. To forgive but not forget is to keep count. How many times should I forgive the one who has hurt me? As many times as it takes!

Have you thought?

The parable sees the unforgiving servant putting his fellow servant in prison 'until he paid back the debt'. This is almost exclusively what prisons were used for until only a few hundred years ago. When a person could not repay a debt, they were held in prison until the debt was paid. Of course, being in prison, they had little opportunity to repay the debt themselves and relied on friends and relatives to repay the debt on their behalf. To pay someone's debt was to 'redeem' them. The earliest ideas of Christ as a 'Redeemer' were based on the idea of Christ paying a debt on behalf of humankind.

Living the Gospel – Just like Peter

Throughout the gospels, Peter is a fantastic example of the common person. He has insights of faith at times but usually messes it up with his next breath. His question in this week's gospel is one that any one of us might ask. I try to do what's right, but how long do I have to hang in there? There has to be a limit to patience with someone who keeps upsetting me, surely? Jesus shows us that if we operate from a motivation of compassion and a desire to constantly build relationships that are life-giving for both parties, then there is no end to the number of times that we try to re-build that relationship.

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/](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	6:15pm mass only on 1st and 3rd Sat. (Next Vigil mass is on 16th 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 and Worship and Reconciliation, 7:30 pm Talk or Mass or Adoration

Dates to Remember

Sept 21 Understanding the different types of suffering Ron Maldigri

Sept 28 Hour of Power

Members of St Michael's Charismatic Prayer Group



Children's Liturgy at St Raphael 5pm Mass

There is a parent from our parish who is interested in running the Children's liturgy during the Sat 5pm mass at St Raphael's church. She is hoping that she could get a group of interested parents together. If there were 6 or 8 then they could do it in pairs every 3 to 4 weeks.

The National Church Life Survey (NCLS) report that - About nine in ten children of churchgoing families affirmed that they "know that Jesus helps me", that "God means a lot to me" and that "God helps me lead a better life".

Please contact Michael Fernandes if you would like to be part of this group.

16th/17th Sept (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		
Readers	Volunteers	Rounds Family	First Eucharist Mass	First Eucharist Mass
23th /24th Sept (4th Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5:00pm	8:00am	6:15pm	10:00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Norman Y	No Vigil Mass	Volunteer
EMOHC	Gail	Florence		
Readers	Karen Volunteer	Maria C Annie M		Lucy M Phil M

Mater Dei & St Raphael Parish Renewal Workshop

Date: Sat 23rd Sept 2023 at 10:00am
Venue: Mater Dei Church Hall (MKC)
Speaker: Helen Wagner and Tanya Rimac to help us renew & re-energise our Parish.

All are welcome.
Contact: Michael Fernandes 0437517758

Oremus: Foundations in Prayer

Strengthen your faith in Christ, your prayer life, and your confidence to pray with others. The first session last Wednesday was a beautiful and prayerful experience. Join us **online** for weeks 2 and 3 of the series. **Date:** Wednesdays 13 and 20 September. **Time:** 7:30 - 8:45pm
Venue: Online **Cost:** Free.
Register [here](#).

Death Anniversary: Victor Care, Orlando Casas

Pray for good health of : Gisselle Clark (Oscuro), Joan Rounds, Graeme Dorahy, Anne Lo, Sunga Family, Adele Shehata, Anna Liza Torres Zapata.

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

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

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

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

19-9-2023	Nives Care 33 Church Street Blakehurst	11-00 AM
26-9-2023	Nives Care 33 Church Street Blakehurst	11-00 AM
All are welcome		

Date	Mater Dei & St Raphael Parish Calendar 2023	
16/17 Sept	First Eucharist Year 3 Mater Dei School	Mater Dei
23rd Sept	Parish Renewal mtg with Helen Wagner 10am	Mater Dei
11th Oct	SR Pastoral Council Meeting	St Raphael
16th Oct	MD Pastoral Council Meeting	Mater Dei

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	420.10	211.10
Second: loose	371.00	390.65
Envelopes	320.00	150.00

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.materdeistraphael.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

Psalm 23 For Church Attendance

Recreation is my shepherd, I shall not stay at home; It maketh me to lie down in a sleeping bag; It leadeth me down the interstate each weekend. It restoreth my sustan; It leadeth me to state parks for comfort's sake. Even though I stray on the Lord's Day, I will fear no reprimand, for I am relaxed; My rod and reel they comfort me. I annointed my skin with oil, My gas tank runneth dry; Surely my trailer shall follow me all the weekends of summer, And I shall return to the house of the Lord this fall. But by then, it will be hunting season and football season, And that's another psalm.

BUNNY