

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

Twenty-Second Sunday in
Ordinary time Year A

3rd Sep 2023



Entrance Antiphon : Cf Psalm 85:3,5

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

First Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-9

The word of the Lord God has meant derision for me.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 62:2-6. 8-9. R. v.2

(R.) My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

1. O God, you are my God, for you I long; for you my soul is thirsting. My body pines for you like a dry, weary land without water. (R.)
2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary to see your strength and your glory. For your love is better than life, my lips will speak your praise. (R.)
3. So I will bless you all my life, in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, my mouth shall praise you with joy. (R.)
4. For you have been my help; in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast. (R.)

Second Reading: Romans 12:1-2

May you present your bodies as a living sacrifice.

Gospel Acclamation See Ephesians 1:17-18

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart, that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called. Alleluia!

Gospel : Matthew 16:21-27

Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself.

Communion Antiphon: Psalm 30:20

How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you.

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

This week's gospel is the first of three predictions of Jesus' death and resurrection in Matthew's gospel (see also Mark and Luke). Despite Peter's confession of faith that immediately precedes this passage (see last week's gospel), the disciples still do not have a very solid understanding of Jesus' purpose. They may regard him as the Messiah, but still do not fully understand what that means. In this passage, Jesus is beginning to prepare them for the events of the passion – his death and resurrection. He is trying to lead them to a greater understanding of his mission and message. But Peter abruptly 'rebukes' Jesus and tells him not to speak like that. One can almost hear Peter saying, 'Look, Jesus, you've got a good thing going here, don't spoil it by talking about dying!' However, Jesus responds to Peter very sharply, suggesting that his lack of understanding is inspired by evil and reflects human thought, not divine wisdom.

The passage then leads in to a description of the challenge of discipleship. To be a follower of Jesus means to 'deny' oneself, take up one's cross and follow Jesus. In the context of this passage, to 'deny' oneself means to not be concerned about 'I' but to be concerned about 'You' – to put others before self. To be a follower of Jesus means to be selfless, not self-centred. In the ultimate example of this, Jesus tells his disciples that whoever wishes to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for Jesus' sake will find it. To 'save' your life is to hold back from giving yourself fully to the message of Jesus – to be 'half-hearted' in your faith. But to 'lose' yourself in the message of Jesus is to fully give yourself over to living the reign of God and through 'losing' yourself in this way, Jesus tells us, is how to truly find life.

Historical Context. Whoever loses his life for my sake...

At the time of the writing of Matthew's gospel (around 75-80 CE), Christians were being persecuted and put to death for their beliefs. They were literally giving up their lives for their faith. These persecuted Christians saw Jesus' triumph over death as a sign of great hope and trust in the future for themselves. Jesus' words in the gospel – 'whoever loses his life for my sake will find it' – would give hope to those under persecution that ultimately they too would triumph and that the deaths of their friends were not in vain.

Scriptural context. Not quite there...

This passage immediately follows the passage of last week's gospel which featured Peter's confession of faith – his inspired revelation that 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God.' The reader might think, 'Aha, the disciples have finally got it!' But in a very clever piece of writing, the author of Matthew's gospel follows this revelation of faith immediately with an example of the lack of clarity that the disciples, including Peter, still possess. This happens throughout the gospels. Whenever the disciples have a bit of an insight, they are almost immediately shown to only have a partial understanding of the truth. The full revelation of Jesus' mission and ministry is not easy to grasp and even the disciples were not quite there until they had seen the 'full story' played out before and within them.



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 and Worship and Reconciliation, 7:30 pm Talk, Mass or Adoration



Sept 7 Your Father in Heaven knows what you need even before you ask him (Mt 6:8)

Sr Maria Pineda
Verbum Dei Missionary

Sept 14 Healing Mass

Fr Hugh Thomas

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 Volunteer
9th / 10th Sept (2nd Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5:00pm	8:00am	6:15pm	10:00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Carl Pavia		Volunteer
EMOHC	Gail	Ronnie	No Vigil Mass	
Readers	Volunteers	Siena, Zac, Yenson fly		Joan Hanson Jean Dorahy

Recently deceased: Mary Bernadette Gunning

Death Anniversary: Sam Greco, Joseph Yiw Kwan Tsang

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, Antonius Widjaja, Jeffrey Bishop, Fr Isidore, 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

Mater Dei Home Rosary	
5-9-2023	Nives Care 33 Church Street Blakehurst 11-00 AM
12-9-2023	Nives Care 33 Church Street Blakehurst 11-00 AM
All are welcome	

The Bullet Test

Imagine this happening to you . . .

One Sunday morning during service, a 200 member congregation was surprised to see two men enter, both covered from head to toe in black and carrying sub-machine guns.

One of the men proclaimed, "Anyone willing to take a bullet for Christ remain where you are."

Immediately, the choir fled, the deacons fled, and most of the congregation fled. Out of the 200 there only remained around 20.

The man who had spoken took off his hood, looked at the preacher and said "Okay Pastor, I got rid of all the hypocrites. Now you may begin your service. Have a nice day!" And the two men turned and walked out.

Now - what would YOU do?



Father's Day Appeal

Sunday 3 September 2023

Your priests helped begin your faith journey
The Archdiocese Father's Day Appeal supports retired priests and honours our Fathers for their wonderful service to our community. Your gift is a 'thank you' to those who've contributed in so many ways in your life.



Will you help look after them in their retirement this Father's Day?

Donate today by completing the parish envelope, calling 1800 753 959 or online at www.ourfaithhourworks.org/prf

Aid to the Church in Need is running an emergency campaign for Pakistan. Recently up to 24 churches, hundreds of Christian homes and a Christian cemetery were targeted in an attack in Pakistan which was sparked by reports of blasphemy allegations against two Christians accused of desecrating the Qur'an. ACN is working with project partners on the ground to aid the current needs of the Christian people. To learn more and to make an offering visit www.aidtochurch.org/pakistanappeal or scan the QR code.



There will be morning tea at St Raphael's Church on Sun 3rd Sept



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

Date	Mater Dei & St Raphael Parish Calendar 2023	
9th Sept	Sacrament of First Eucharist	St Raphael's
13th Sept	First Reconciliation Parent/Child info evening	St Raphael's
16/17 Sept	First Eucharist Year 3	Mater Dei

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND		
TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	579.70	253.15
Second: loose	421.05	359.45
Envelopes	365.00	610.00

PARISH DIRECTORY

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Thomas Alukka
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MATER DEI CATHOLIC CHURCH
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Parish Secretary: Juliana Widjaja
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