



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

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in  
Ordinary time Year A

Bulletin

1st Oct 2023

**Entrance Antiphon :** Daniel

3:31,29,30,43,42

All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgement, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

**First Reading:** Ezekiel 18:25-28

The sinner who decides to turn against sinfulness deserves to live.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 24:4-9. R. v.6

(R.) Remember your mercies, O Lord.

1. Lord, make me know your ways. Lord, teach me your paths. Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: for you are God my saviour. (R.)
2. Remember your mercy, Lord, and the love you have shown from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth. In your love remember me, because of your goodness, O Lord. (R.)
3. The Lord is good and upright. He shows the path to those who stray, he guides the humble in the right path; he teaches his way to the poor. (R.)

**Second Reading:** Philippians 2:1-11

In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus.

**Gospel Acclamation** John 10:27

Alleluia, alleluia!

My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel :** Matthew 21:28-32

He went out moved by regret. The tax collectors and prostitutes will precede you into the kingdom of God.

**Communion Antiphon:** Cf Psalm 118:49-50

Remember your word to your servant, O Lord, by which you have given me hope. This is my comfort when I am brought low.

## REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

This week's gospel passage is one of many within Matthew's gospel that show Jesus at odds with the religious authorities of his day. The picture of the religious leaders that comes through Matthew's gospel is one of hypocrisy. Jesus is frequently portrayed as criticising the leaders for holding too strongly to the letter of the law and ignoring the spirit of the law and the call to compassion. This week's passage has Jesus seeking the opinion of the chief priests and elders on a hypothetical situation (a common style of debating a point of law in the Jewish tradition). He describes two sons, each asked by their father to go and work in the family vineyard. The first says 'No' but later does his father's bidding. The second says 'Yes' but doesn't follow through on his commitment.

Jesus is criticising the religious leaders of his time who, with their words, said 'Yes' to God but by their actions said 'No'. He most certainly would have upset the leaders by telling them that tax collectors and prostitutes would enter the kingdom of God before them. Whilst these tax collectors and prostitutes were regarded by the religious authorities as 'sinners' beyond redemption, Jesus holds them up in the image of the first son of the story. Although they may have said 'No' to God through their poor choices, ultimately they are saying 'Yes' to God in their acceptance of Jesus and the message of the kingdom of God. On the other hand, the leaders have said 'Yes' to God publicly through abiding by all the religious laws and maintaining a 'religious profile' but in their hearts and actions they have not truly said 'Yes!'

### From the perspective of ... A Tax Collector

Hey, Jesus is talking about me again! I love it when he says that I'm better than some of those stuck up chief priests. All my life they've looked down on me; pretending they're better than me. I've seen the way some of them behave when they think no-one's watching! They're no better than me! And Jesus says that people like me will enter the kingdom before people like them! Yes! I know I've done the wrong thing plenty of times – Jesus has helped me to see that. Maybe that's what makes me different from those priests; I don't pretend that I've never done anything wrong.

### Historical Context – Chief Priests and Tax Collectors

Only men of the Israelite tribe of Levi could become Priests and Levites. Men from the other eleven tribes were prohibited. It was not a religious 'call' but rather a fact of birth that led men to be priests. The chief priests and high priest performed all the rituals in the Temple in Jerusalem – it was they who performed sacrifices on behalf of others. They were very important and influential. Tax collectors were regarded poorly because they acted on behalf of the Romans – collecting revenue for an occupying and pagan force. They made their living by collecting extra amounts. They were looked down upon by most people.


### Living the Gospel – Saying 'Yes!'

In many ways, it is easy to say 'Yes' and not really mean it. Some people do it all the time in their lives. They say 'Yes' when they have no intention at all of following through on their commitment. It's easy to say 'Yes' and not mean it when it comes to faith as well. It's pretty easy to turn up at Church on a Sunday and be seen to be doing the 'right' thing. But if our faith doesn't change the way we live, then maybe we're really saying 'No' to God.

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		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



**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

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	No Mass due to School Holidays	Paul Watson
<b>EMOHC</b>	Susi Fabbro	Annie M		
<b>Readers</b>	Volunteer	Rose T J P Moral		Gail Abbott Luisa Galea
7th /8th Oct (2nd Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5:00pm	8.00am		10.00am
<b>Acolytes</b>	Greg Driver	Carl	No Mass	Volunteer
<b>EMOHC</b>	Gail D	Ronnie C		
<b>Readers</b>	Pavia Family	Sienna, Zac, Yenson		Joan Hanson Jean Dorahy

Celebrating St Raphael's feast day with morning tea at St Raphael's on Sun 1st Oct after the 8am mass. All are welcome.



NSW Daylight saving starts Sunday 1st Oct 2023



**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, Briega 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

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

**Sand and Stone**

A story tells that two friends were walking through the desert. During some point of the journey, they had an argument, and one friend slapped the other one in the face. The one who got slapped was hurt, but without saying anything, he wrote in the sand:  
 Today my best friend slapped me in the face.  
 They kept on walking, until they found an oasis, where they decided to take a bath. The one who had been slapped got stuck in the mire and started drowning, but his friend saved him. After he recovered from the near drowning, he wrote on a stone: Today my best friend saved my life. The friend, who had slapped and saved his best friend, asked him, "After I hurt you, you wrote in the sand, and now, you write on a stone, why?"  
 The other friend replied: "When someone hurts us, we should write it down in sand, where the winds of forgiveness can erase it away, but when someone does something good for us, we must engrave it in stone where no wind can ever erase it.  
 Learn to write your hurts in the sand and to carve your blessings in stone.

**Didasko Adult Faith Formation**  
 The Parish Renewal Team has partnered with the **University of Notre Dame Australia** to deliver a series of five **online** short courses, each consisting of three evening sessions. Topics include Philosophy, Scripture, Theology, Christology, and Moral Theology. Ideal for beginners and those interested in continuing their formation.  
**Special Offer for parishes:** Make the most of this opportunity by gathering a group in-person and sharing the learning experience with others.  
**Cost per course:** \$35 per person or \$100 per Parish Group for an in-person gathering (+ booking fees).  
 To find out more and to register, visit <https://gomakedisciples.org.au/didasko/>.  
[Download the flyer](#) for your parish.

**Parish Renewal Planning Workshop – 23/09/23**  
 7 parishioners each from Mater Dei and St Raphael parish attended. The group from each parish came up with suggestions for the Vision for our church and the steps that might be required to attain it (Mission). This has been presented to Fr Thomas to produce a formal vision with the help of the Holy Spirit.

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

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND		
TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	521.25	205.45
Second: loose	344.25	377.35
Envelopes	255.00	485.00

**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  
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