

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

Twenty-Third Sunday in
Ordinary time Year A

Bulletin

10th Sep 2023



Entrance Antiphon : Psalm 118:137, 124

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

First Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-9

If you have not warned the wicked man, then I will hold you responsible for his death.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 94:1-2.6-9. R. v.8

(R.) O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us. Let us come before him, giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord. (R.)
2. Come in; let us bow and bend low; let us kneel before the God who made us for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture, the flock that is led by his hand. (R.)
3. O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert when your fathers put me to the test; when they tried me, though they saw my work.' (R.)

Second Reading: Romans 13:8-10

Love is the fulfilment of the Law.

Gospel Acclamation 2 Corinthians 5:19

Alleluia, alleluia!

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.

Alleluia!

Gospel : Matthew 18:15-20

If your brother or sister listens to you, you will have won that person back.

Communion Antiphon: Cf Ps 41:2-3

Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God; my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

This week's gospel provides us with a lesson that could be well heeded in our contemporary world. Matthew relates a discourse on dealing with a grievance or sin between two 'brothers' – community members; fellow disciples. Matthew advises his audience that the first step is to try to resolve the matter privately between the offender and the one offended. This is a practice that seems to have almost disappeared today. When one person feels offended or hurt by another, it seems the last thing they do is to go and speak to the person, confront them with the hurt and try to resolve it. Soap operas and TV sitcoms promote avoidance of issues. The sub-text of so many TV shows is about lying to cover up a mistake; seeking revenge for some perceived (usually incorrect) insult; or working through others to try to deal with some hurt. If characters on these TV shows were to confront one another with a perceived hurt and seek to resolve the difference between them, then there would be no 'drama' to play out in the show. Admittedly, it doesn't make for great television, but it does make for much better relationships!

Matthew advises his community that only after a failed attempt to address an issue face to face should other members of the community become involved to further confront the offender through witnessing to their fault. The third step is to bring the person before the church community to be confronted with their actions and only after these three attempts to challenge the person fail should they be shunned. There is a very strong message of reconciliation that comes through this process. The person is given every chance to face their error and to seek amends with the one they have hurt. The whole process works towards bringing the community back together in harmony, not to seek revenge and punishment.

Historical Context – Tell the Church

The idea of bringing a 'sinner' or offender before the church community to be confronted is one that the early Christians borrowed from the Jewish culture out of which they were formed. In Jewish society, the local synagogue was effectively a community centre. It was a gathering place, not only for worship and education, but also for meeting, debating and seeking solutions to problems. The synagogue community took on the role of mediator, witness, jury, judge and, if needed, punisher. The role of the scribes in Jewish society was to interpret the Law – the Torah – in resolving everyday situations.

Scriptural context – A Scriptural Sandwich

The placement of this discourse about confronting your brother within the gospel of Matthew helps to shed light on its meaning. Immediately preceding this passage is the parable of the Lost Sheep, about leaving the 99 to go out in search of the one lost sheep. Immediately following this week's passage is the parable of the unmerciful or unforgiving servant who, despite receiving forgiveness of his own debt from his master, throws a fellow servant in debtors prison for failing to pay back money owed. The three passages together give a detailed discourse on forgiveness and reconciliation – dealing with those who have sinned, even against you personally and the powerful call to compassion and mercy.

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	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 14 Healing Mass

Fr Hugh Thomas

Sept 21 Understanding the different types of suffering

Ron Maldigri

Sept 28 Hour of Power

Members of St Michael's Charismatic Prayer Group



Safeguarding Sunday, 10 September 2023

This weekend the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney and our Parish celebrates Safeguarding Sunday.

To help us reflect on how we can listen to the voices of Children and Young people within our community the Safeguarding Office has developed a new resource for Children; the *Someone will listen to you Poster*.

The Safeguarding Office has also developed a resource pamphlet resource for Adults at Risk within our community. This resource helps Adults who may be at risk identify what abuse looks like for an adult as well as who they can contact for support.

These resource can be accessed on the Safeguarding website:

<https://www.sydneycatholic.org/safeguarding-and-child-protection/>

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

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	Br Michael Nina M	Jolly Jose Wendy E

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, 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



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	
12-9-2023	Nives Care 33 Church Street Blakehurst 11-00 AM
19-9-2023	Nives Care 33 Church Street Blakehurst 11-00 AM
All are welcome	

Date	Mater Dei & St Raphael Parish Calendar 2023	
13th Sept	First Reconciliation Parent information evening	St Raphael's
16/17 Sept	First Eucharist Year 3	Mater Dei
23rd Sept	Parish Renewal mtg with Helen Wagner 10am	Mater Dei

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND		
TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	421.05	403.10
Second: loose	270.50	496.15
Envelopes	430.00	810.00

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Late for Bible Class

A little girl, dressed in her Sunday best, was running as fast as she could, trying not to be late for Bible class. As she ran she prayed, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late! Dear Lord, please don't let me be late!"

While she was running and praying, she tripped on a curb and fell, getting her clothes dirty and tearing her dress. She got up, brushed herself off, and started running again. As she ran she once again began to pray, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late...But please don't shove me either!"

