



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

Thirtieth Sunday in  
Ordinary time Year A

Bulletin

29th Oct 2023

## **Entrance Antiphon :** Cf Psalm 104:3-4

Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice; turn to the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face.

## **First Reading:** Exodus 22:20-26

If you are harsh with the widow or the orphan, my anger will rage against you.

## **Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 17:2-4. 47. 51. R. v.2

(R.) I love you, Lord, my strength.

1. I love you, Lord, my strength, my rock, my fortress, my saviour. My God is the rock where I take refuge; my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold. The Lord is worthy of all praise: when I call I am saved from my foes. (R.)
2. Long life to the Lord, my rock! Praised be the God who saves me. He has given great victories to his king and shown his love for his anointed. (R.)

## **Second Reading:** 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10

You turned away from idols to serve God and await his Son.

## **Gospel Acclamation** John 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!  
All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them.  
Alleluia!

## **Gospel :** Matthew 22:34-40

You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself.

## **Communion Antiphon:** Cf Psalm 19:6

We will ring out our joy at your saving help and exult in the name of our God.

## **REFLECTION by Greg Sunter**

Like last week's gospel, we again have an example of the Pharisees seeking to 'catch Jesus out' in his interpretation of scripture. The Pharisees were regarded as the great interpreters of the Torah – the Law. To them, ALL the commandments were vitally important, not just the Ten Commandments given to Moses with which we are perhaps most familiar, but the 613 *mitzvot* (commandments) contained within the Torah – the first five books of the Bible. These 613 *mitzvot* governed all aspects of Jewish life. For the Pharisees to ask Jesus about the 'greatest' commandment was a blatant challenge to him. Perhaps they expected Jesus to name one commandment and then they could challenge him with a whole series of 'What about ...?' questions.

Jesus' answer to the Pharisees highlights their preoccupation with the particulars of the Law contained within scripture. In their over-emphasis on the details of religious observance, they have forgotten about the most basic element of faith: to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind. Jesus reminds them that being faithful to God isn't about following precise rules but rather it is simply about loving God. With this one sentence, Jesus undermines the power position of the Pharisees. If the Law is as simple as 'Love God', what need is there of Pharisees to interpret the details of the Law? Having pulled the rug out from under them, Jesus follows up with his reminder that the second most important commandment is to love your neighbour as yourself. This is a call to compassion and justice that Jesus practised freely but was sadly lacking in the religious authorities of his time.

### **Scriptural context – Quoting scripture**

The question and response that we see in this gospel passage was a common form of scholarly debate in the Jewish tradition. The Pharisees ask Jesus which of the commandments is the greatest. Jesus responds by directly quoting the commandment from the ancient scriptures. His reply, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind,' comes directly from Deuteronomy 6:4. Further, Jesus' followup, 'you must love your neighbour as yourself,' comes from Leviticus 19:18. Deuteronomy and Leviticus are two of the first five books of the Bible that make up the Jewish Torah, or Law.

### **Living the Gospel – Compassion**

Jesus' words call us to love our neighbour as ourselves. We are called to treat others as we would like to be treated ourselves. To be able to do this, we need to picture ourselves in their place – experiencing all that they are experiencing; not imposing our own values and circumstances. To see ourselves in the place of another is the key to responding with compassion. The origin of the word 'compassion' means experiencing with. If we are able to truly 'experience with' another person perhaps then we can genuinely recognise and respond to their needs.

### **Gospel Focus – Love your neighbour as yourself**

There is an implicit, or understood, commandment within the command to love your neighbour as yourself. That is, we must first love ourselves. Whilst to say someone 'loves themselves' is used as a criticism of a person who is a bit too vain, that is not what is intended here. If we are to love others as we love ourselves we must first be content and happy with who we are. It is only when we are comfortable with who we are that we are able to reach out to those around us with compassion.

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	Mass only on 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month. Next mass is on 4th Nov.
Sunday	8:00am Mass	10:00am Mass

28th /29th Oct (5th Sun/4th Sat)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5:00pm	8.00am	6:15pm	10.00am
<b>Acolytes</b>	Greg Driver	Volunteer	No Mass	Volunteer
<b>EMOHC</b>	Volunteer	Volunteer		
<b>Readers</b>	Karen Volunteer	Annie JP Moral		Nina M Volunteer
4th/5th Nov (1stSun)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5:00pm	8.00am	6:15pm	10.00am
<b>Acolytes</b>	Greg Driver	Gary, Max	Tony Oscuro	Paul Watson
<b>EMOHC</b>	Susi	Annie		
<b>Readers</b>	Pavia Family	Ronnie C Mary C	Fran Oscuro	Gail Abbott Luisa Galea

**Death Anniversary:** Barry Humphreys (late husband of Vilma)

**Pray for good health of :** Mark Green, Rihanna Choi, 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, Briega Robson, Monica O'Brien, Antonius Widjaja, Jeffrey Bishop, Fr Isidore, Holy Souls in purgatory.

### All Souls Day

**Thursday 2nd November 2023**

**Mater Dei:** 6:30pm Rosary followed by Mass

**St. Raphael:** Mass at 6:30am and 9:15am

### 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

31-10-2023	Nives Care	33 Church Street Blakehurst	11-00 AM
07-11-2023	Nives Care	33 Church Street Blakehurst	11-00 AM
All are welcome			

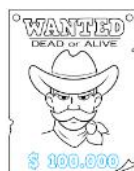
### Most Wanted

Little Johnny's kindergarten class was on a field trip to their local police station where they saw pictures, tacked to a bulletin board, of the 10 most wanted men.

One of the youngsters pointed to a picture and asked if it really was the photo of a wanted person.

"Yes," said the policeman. "The detectives want him very badly."

So Little Johnny asked, "Why didn't you keep him when you took his picture?"



### 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 CATHOLIC CHURCH

CHRISTMAS PARTY/ FUNDASIER EVENT 2023

All funds raised will be used to help Mater Dei Parish

Family and Friends  
COME AND JOIN US!

DATE: SAT 2<sup>ND</sup> DEC 2023

TIME: 5:30pm Vigil Mass

VENUE: Mater Dei Parish Hall

1008 King Georges Road Blakehurst NSW 2221

Kindly please bring your Authentic Native Cuisine

Foods to be sold on the night of the event.

Sausages Sizzle, Water, Soft Drinks, International Cuisine and more.

Raffle Tickets to be sold on the day. (Numerous prizes & raffles)

### ENTERTAINMENT

RANDAL (Choir Master)

Will be performing on the night!

Followed by Social Dancing and Christmas Carols.

Kids games and adults' games

Everyone is invited to attend.

For information, please contact:

Michael Fernandes: 0437 517 758 – Vilma 0405 046 655

## St Raphael's Church Christmas Get together

**Date:** Sat 25th November after 5pm Mass

**Venue:** Harmony Hall

**BYO:** Please bring a plate to share.

All are welcome



Date	Mater Dei & St Raphael Parish Calendar 2023	Parish
19th Nov Sun	Catechist mass at St Mary's Cathedral 2:30pm	Cathedral
25th Nov Sat	St Raphael Christmas party after vigil mass	St Raphael
2nd Dec Sat	Mater Dei Christmas party + family Mass at 5:30pm	Mater Dei
7th Dec Thurs	St Raphael's Christmas concert with John Burland	St Raphael

### COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	315.80	347.15
Second: loose	383.00	600.95
Envelopes	395.00	330.00

### 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