



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

Twenty-Seventh Sunday
in Ordinary time Year A

Bulletin

8th Oct 2023

Entrance Antiphon : Cf Esther 4:17

Within your will, O Lord, all things are established, and there is none that can resist your will. For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth, and all that is held within the circle of heaven; you are the Lord of all.

First Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7

The vineyard of the Lord God of hosts is the House of Israel.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 79:9. 12-16. 19-20. R. Is 5:7

(R.) The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.

1. You brought a vine out of Egypt; to plant it you drove out the nations. It stretched out its branches to the sea, to the Great River it stretched out its shoots. (R.)
2. Then why have you broken down its walls? It is plucked by all who pass by. It is ravaged by the boar of the forest, devoured by the beasts of the field. (R.)
3. God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see. Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. (R.)
4. And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name. God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved. (R.)

Second Reading: Philippians 4:6-9

Do these things and the God of peace will be with you.

Gospel Acclamation See John 15:15

Alleluia, alleluia!

I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father.

Alleluia!

Gospel : Matthew 21:33-43

He leased his vineyard to other farmers.

Communion Antiphon: Lam 3:25

The Lord is good to those who hope in him, to the soul that seeks him.

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

This week's gospel must be read in conjunction with the first reading (Isaiah 5:1-7) and the responsorial psalm, because the message of these passages is implicit in the parable told by Jesus. As soon as Jesus began to describe the vineyard – fenced around, a winepress dug and tower built – his audience would have immediately known that he was reflecting the Isaiah description of Israel as the vineyard of the Lord. Isaiah's condemnation of Israel in that passage is so strong that one can almost imagine Jesus' audience cringing in anticipation of where this story was leading.

The imagery Jesus used would have been so familiar to his audience that it was almost mundane, and yet Jesus, as usual, gives the image a twist. He describes a vineyard owner whose tenant farmers rebel, beat and murder his servants. Any one of these acts was punishable by death and the audience may well have expected the story to end there. And yet the landowner sends further messengers – hopeful of a change of heart from the tenants and allowing them the opportunity to do what is right. After these messengers are also murdered, the landowner sends his own son to collect the harvest from the tenants.

Jesus, of course, is drawing on the familiar image of Israel as the vineyard of the Lord. God, the landowner, has entrusted this beautifully prepared land to the people of Israel and yet they have taken ownership for themselves and forgotten their Lord. Messengers, in the form of prophets, have been sent to call the people back to God but they were ignored and even murdered. Now, the Son has been sent to the people and received much the same response. When Jesus asks his audience of chief priests and elders what the landowner should do, they are acutely aware that he is asking them how God should deal with them.

Scriptural context – Fulfilling prophecy

Matthew's whole recount of this parable is dependent upon the reader/listener's familiarity with earlier writings within the Old Testament. We are fortunate that the designers of the lectionary have included the relevant passages as the first reading and psalm for this Sunday's readings. The original audience would have drawn on their own familiarity with the texts and recognised Jesus' words as echoing those of Isaiah and the psalmist. Matthew's gospel was particularly keen to cast Jesus in the image of fulfilling the prophecies of the Jewish tradition. Throughout Matthew's gospel we see the author placing the words of prophecy in Jesus' mouth or using the narration to confirm that Jesus performed actions to fulfil the words of the prophets.

Have you thought? The benevolent landowner

One of the images from this gospel that would have been puzzling to the audience, and may have tipped them off that Jesus was telling a parable with a particular message, is the image of the landowner being incredibly benevolent and tolerant of his rebellious tenants. Jesus' audience would have known that the law was always on the side of a landowner over his tenants. Any misdeed by a tenant farmer would have been dealt with swiftly and severely and yet the landowner in Jesus' story (God) is almost unbelievably patient and prepared to give the tenants every opportunity to do the right thing.

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.
Sunday	8:00am Mass	10:00am Mass

7th /8th Oct (2nd Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5:00pm	8:00am		10:00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Carl Pavia	No Mass	Volunteer
EMOHC	Gail D	Ronnie C		
Readers	Pavia Family	Sienna, Zac, Yenson		Joan Hanson Jean Dorahy
14th /15th Oct (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	Lappen Family	Br Michael Nina Milazzo	Jolly Jose Wendy E

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, Briege Robson, Monica O'Brien, Antonius Widjaja, Jeffrey Bishop, Fr Isidore, Holy Souls in purgatory.

Neighbouring Parishes news:

St Joseph's, Oatley will be twinned with St Declan's, Penshurst from the end of October, 2023. The MGL priests will take up the pastoral care of that parish. The current priest, Fr Paul Hilder, will be retiring.

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

10-10-2023	Nives Care 33 Church Street Blakehurst	11-00 AM
17-10-2023	Marguerite and Denis Derrig 32 Waratah St	7-00 PM
All are welcome		

How Money Travels

A well-worn five-dollar bill and a similarly distressed fifty-dollar bill arrived at a Federal Reserve Bank to be retired. As they moved along the conveyor belt to be burned, they struck up a conversation. The fifty-dollar bill reminisced about its travels all over the country. "I've had a pretty good life," the \$50 proclaimed. "Why I've been to Las Vegas and Atlantic City, the finest restaurants in New York, performances on Broadway, and even a cruise to the Caribbean." "Wow!" said the one-dollar bill. "You've really had an exciting life!" "So tell me," says the fifty, "where have you been throughout your lifetime?" The one dollar bill replies, "Oh, I've been to the Methodist Church, the Baptist Church, the Catholic Church..." The fifty-dollar bill interrupts, "What's a church?"

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

Oct 5	The Spirit of the Eucharist (Video)	Fr Dave Pivinka
Oct 12	Healing Mass	Fr Thomas Alukka
Oct 19	Evangelisation of Spirit	Abraham George
Oct 26	Understanding Different types of Suffering	Ron Maldigri



The Catholic Weekly

8 Oct 2023 PULPIT POINTS

- Crisis in Armenia: Catholic parliamentarians on refugee crisis front-line (p1)
- Pope Francis responds to cardinals' dubia on eve of synod on synodality (p3)
- Voice to Parliament: Marathon man Pat Farmer's run for the Voice ends (p7)
- Leading voices on Yes and No sides make final pitches to Catholics (p15)
- Pat O'Shea: Catholic traditions and the "Lindy effect" (p19)
- George Weigel: No, the Synod on Synodality isn't the most important event since Vatican II! (p19)

Catholic Mission collection next week



catholic MISSION

Freecall: 1800 257 296
catholicmission.org.au/timor

Didaskō 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.

Date	Mater Dei & St Raphael Parish Calendar 2023	Parish
8th Oct Sun	Sacrament of First Reconciliation lessons commencing	Mater Dei
11th Oct Wed	SR Pastoral Council Meeting	St Raphael
13th Oct Fri	One Parish One School Mass (SR + MD)	Mater Dei
14th Oct Sat	AEC Voting for Referendum 2023	SR Hall
16th Oct Mon	MD Pastoral Council Meeting	Mater Dei

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	420.40	188.15
Second: loose	421.80	159.10
Envelopes	420.00	235.00

PARISH DIRECTORY

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Thomas Alukka

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MATER DEI CATHOLIC CHURCH

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