



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

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King
of the Universe Year A

Bulletin

26th Nov 2023

Entrance Antiphon : Revelation 5:12

How worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and divinity, and wisdom and strength and honour. To him belong glory and power for ever and ever.

First Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-12. 15-17

You, my flock, I judge between sheep and sheep.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 22:1-3, 5-6,

(R.) The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.

1. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. (R.)
2. Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit.
He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. (R.)
3. You have prepared a banquet
for me in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. (R.)
4. Surely goodness and kindness
shall follow me all the days
of my life. In the Lord's own
house shall I dwell for ever and
ever. (R.)

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:20-26.

He will hand over the kingdom to God the Father, so that God may be all in all.

Gospel Acclamation Mark 11:9-10

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David!
Alleluia!

Gospel : Matthew 25:31-46

He will take his seat on his throne of glory, and he will separate men one from another.

Communion Antiphon: Psalm 28:10

The Lord sits as King for ever. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

This week's gospel is the final passage in Matthew's gospel before the passion narrative – the death and resurrection of Jesus. As such, it provides a powerful end point to the teaching ministry section of the gospel. In many ways this passage can be seen as a summary of Jesus' vision for the Kingdom – a world in which the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked and the imprisoned are treated with respect and dignity as a child of God. This is exactly what Jesus himself did throughout his ministry and it is what all Christian people are called to do.

Like the virtuous people of the passage, there are many times when we do not know the good work that we do. There are many times when our positive interaction with another person can be the difference between hope and despair for that person – and we may never know the difference we have made in their life. The challenge presented by Jesus is that whenever we see a person in need our response to them should be as if we were responding to Jesus himself.

But what of the times we fail to respond to the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked and the imprisoned? Who are they for us? ... That irritating person who we've never been able to get along with? ... That person who's just arrived in the country and can't speak the language properly? ... That kid who always looks dirty and nobody talks to? ... That girl who's no good at relating to other people and everyone avoids her? ... The homeless man in the street who asks for money? ... The asylum seeker fleeing their country who didn't go through all the right channels to immigrate? ... Lord, when did we see you, and not come to your help?

Scriptural context – Matthew 25

This week's gospel passage comes as the third in a sequence of passages that make up Matthew Chapter 25. The chapter addresses the gospel's intended audience who were caught in a time of uncertainty. Many had expected the promised return of the Lord within their lifetime and had seen the fall of Jerusalem and the destruction of the Temple by the Romans in 70 CE as a sign that the end of days was approaching. The three gospel passages speak of continuing to prepare for the coming of the Kingdom and the need to act in a way that works to bring about the reign of God in the world.

Have you thought? – Christ the King

This week's liturgy marks the end of the liturgical cycle. Next week begins the new year with the season of Advent. The liturgy is celebrated as the Feast of Christ the King – reminding us of a very imperial model of church and theology that reflected the structure of the Roman Empire and later, Feudal Europe. To have this reading on the feast of Christ the King is a powerful reminder of how Jesus envisaged the Kingdom of God. For Jesus, the Kingdom was not a rule of power and status but a rule of justice and peace for even the lowliest. It is an apt conclusion to the liturgical year.

HOMILY by Fr Geoffrey Plant


Here is the link to Sunday's homily, the Solemnity of Christ the King, Year A. To watch the homily on YouTube, [click here](#).

To access the text of the homily in PDF format, [click here](#).

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 2nd Dec.
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
 Nov 30 Preparing for Advent Ron Maldigri



St Raphael's Church Christmas Get-together

Date: Sat 25th November after the 5pm Mass
Venue: Harmony Hall
BYO: Please bring a plate to share on the communal table.

For catering purposes - Please register on the sheets provided at the church or RSVP via text to Michael Fernandes 0437 517 758. Also, let us know if you can help with set up, serving or clean up.

All are welcome

25th/26th Nov (4th Sun)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5:00pm	8.00am	6:15pm	10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Norman Yenson	No Mass	Volunteer
EMOHC	Gail D	Rosie Gould		
Readers	Karen Volunteer	Lappen Family		Lucy Mitry Phil M

CARITAS AUSTRALIA'S GAZA CRISIS APPEAL

Please donate to Caritas Australia's Gaza Crisis Appeal. You can donate online www.caritas.org.au/gaza or phone 1800 024 413

2nd/3rd Dec (1st Sun)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5:00pm	8.00am	6:15pm	10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Gary, Max	Tony O	Paul Watson
EMOHC	Susi	Annie		
Readers	Volunteers	JP/ Rose Toohey	France Oscuro	Gail Abbott Luísa Galea

Date	Mater Dei & St Raphael Parish Calendar 2023	Parish
26th Nov Sat	St Raphael Family mass & Christmas Party	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

Recently Deceased: Tommy McNeela (Manchester, UK)

Death Anniversary: Maria Nguyen, Joseph Vu

Pray for good health of : Gisselle Clark (Oscuro), Joan Rounds, Graeme Dorahy, Anne Lo, Sunga Family, Adele Shehata, Anna Liza Torres Zapata.

Pray for the deceased: George, Joan & John Beater; Mary & Patrick Derrig, Souls of all the departed Legionaries and their Families. Meri Beljo, Mary Toohey, Antonius Widjaja, Fr Isidore, Jeffrey Bishop, Fr Kennedy, Fr Kerr, all priests, Holy Souls in purgatory.

Mater Dei Church Christmas Party/Fundraiser event 2023

Date: Sat 2nd December 2023 after 5:30pm Mass.
Venue: Mater Dei Parish Hall, Blakehurst

Plenty of food, raffle prizes and games for the children.
 Entertainment: Randal (Choir Master) will be performing on the night.
 Followed by Social Dancing and Christmas Carols.
 Games for kids and adults.

Everyone is welcome.



Raffle tickets are on sale now.
Contact : Michael Fernandes 0437 517 758 or Vilma 0405 046 655 .



CHARITABLE WORKS FUND PASTORAL APPEAL
 Support our Archdiocesan ministries today.

To donate please visit:
www.ourfaithourworks.org/cwf
 or scan the QR code




Mater Dei Home Rosary		
28-11-2023	Nives Care	
	33 Church Street Blakehurst	11-00 AM
05-12-2023	Nives Care	
	33 Church Street Blakehurst	11-00 AM
All are welcome		

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND		
TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	411.05	235.25
Second: loose	364.80	329.30
Envelopes	340.00	560.00

White Hair

One day a little girl was sitting and watching her mother do the dishes at the kitchen sink. She suddenly noticed that her mother had several strands of white hair sticking out in contrast on her brunette head. She looked at her mother and inquisitively asked, "Why are some of your hairs white, Mom?" Her mother replied, "Well, every time that you do something wrong and make me cry or unhappy, one of my hairs turns white." The little girl thought about this revelation for a while and then said, "Momma, how come ALL of grandma's hairs are white?"

e FUNNY

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMINGS 2023

SATURDAY, 23RD DECEMBER
 St Raphael 5:00pm Mass
 Mater Dei -- No Mass

SUNDAY, 24TH DEC (CHRISTMAS EVE)
ST. RAPHAEL'S
 8:00am Mass
 11:00am Croatian Mass
 4:00 PM Carols followed by
 4:30 PM Mass
MATER DEI
 10:00am Mass
 7:30 PM Carols followed by
 8:00 PM Mass

MONDAY, 25TH DEC (CHRISTMAS DAY)
 St. Raphael's 8:00 AM
 Mater Dei 10:00 AM
 Croatian Mass 11:00 AM
 at St Raphael's

NEW YEAR DAY MON 1ST JANUARY
 St Raphael 6:30am
 Mater Dei 9:15am