



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

Thirty-first Sunday in  
Ordinary time Year A

Bulletin

5th Nov 2023

**Entrance Antiphon :** Cf Psalm 37:22-23

Forsake me not, O Lord, my God;  
be not far from me! Make haste and  
come to my help, O Lord, my strong  
salvation!

**First Reading:** Malachi 1:14 – 2:2. 8-10

You have strayed from the way, you  
have caused many to stumble by  
your teaching.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 130

(R.) In you, Lord, I have found my  
peace.

1. O Lord, my heart is not proud  
nor haughty my eyes.  
I have not gone after things too  
great nor marvels beyond me.  
(R.)
2. Truly I have set my soul in si-  
lence and peace. A weaned  
child on its mother's breast,  
even so is my soul. (R.)
3. O Israel, hope in the Lord  
both now and for ever. (R.)

**Second Reading:** 1 Thessalonians 2:7-9.  
13

We were eager to hand over to you  
not only the Good News but our  
lives as well.

**Gospel Acclamation** Matthew 23:9. 10

Alleluia, alleluia!

You have one Father, your Father in  
heaven; you have one teacher: the  
Lord Jesus Christ.

Alleluia!

**Gospel :** Matthew 23:1-12

They do not practise what they  
preach.

**Communion Antiphon:** Cf Psalm  
15:11

You will show me the path of life,  
the fullness of joy in your presence,  
O Lord.

## REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

This week's gospel is a lesson on leadership. The gospel writer has Jesus offering a very strong criticism of the religious leadership of his day as exemplified by the scribes and Pharisees. He accuses them of not practising what they preach – a rather familiar criticism often levelled at politicians, teachers and church leaders in our own society today. When the criticism is used today it often implies that if the person fails to practise what they preach then what they have to say carries little weight. But rather than totally rejecting the scribes and Pharisees, Jesus cautions his listeners to take notice of what they have to say – as their teachings were always grounded in scripture and tradition – but not to follow their example of behaviour.

Throughout Matthew's gospel we encounter criticisms of the scribes and Pharisees. This example is of the same nature: they were too caught up with rules and obligations and did not approach life with compassion and concern for the individual. The community for whom Matthew's gospel was intended was struggling with being both Jewish and Christian. They were coming to realise that to be followers of Jesus' way they needed to cast aside some of the attitudes and behaviours of their Jewish tradition. That applied particularly to the model of leadership that they had inherited from Jesus: a model of leadership through service, not power and authority. This gospel passage makes it very clear for that original community as well as ourselves that true leadership is provided through service to others and through humble action. Unlike the Pharisees of Jesus' time, Christian leaders are called to do away with the trappings of power and prestige and, instead, be of service to those whom they would lead.

### Living the Gospel – Christian Leadership

The Christian model of leadership often flies in the face of societal concepts of leadership. Many of the models of leadership we witness in society focus on exerting power over others. People are praised for showing 'strong' leadership when they manipulate situations, bully less powerful people and bulldoze their way through others' opinions. Whilst this model of leadership may have a certain effectiveness in the short term, there is certainly nothing 'Christian' about its operation and ultimately it forces a wedge between the leader and the led. Christian leadership focuses on empowering all parties and rather than power over others, it embraces power *through* and *with* others.

## Talks at St Declan's Penshurst in November

Every week in the month of November, St Declan's Parish invite you to join us for a series of insightful talks exploring grief, faith and love after a personal loss; palliative care; funeral preparations; and embracing the journey from death to new life.

Registration is essential on the parish Events page.

<https://www.stdeclansparish.org/events>

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 our God" (Micah 6:8)

| MASS TIMES |  |  |
|------------|--|--|
|            | St Raphael Church                          | Mater Dei Church   |
| Tues       |  | 9:15am Mass  |
| Wed        |  | 8:45am Rosary, Novena<br>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<br>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   |

| 4th/5th Nov (1st Sun)   | 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<br>Luisa Galea |
| 11th/12th Nov (2nd Sun) | St. Raphael's |                    | Mater Dei   |                            |
|                         | 5:00pm        | 8:00am             | 6:15pm      | 10:00am                    |
| <b>Acolytes</b>         | Greg Driver   | Carl Pavia         | No Mass     | Volunteer                  |
| <b>EMOHC</b>            | Gail D        | Ronnie C           |             |                            |
| <b>Readers</b>          | Volunteers    | Sienna, Zac, Annie |             | Joan Hanson<br>Jean Dorahy |

**Pray for good health of :** Mark Green, 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.

There will be morning tea at St Raphael's Church hall after the 8:30am mass

**November Mass offering for departed souls**

If you would like to offer Mass for the Holy Souls of your loved ones during November, you can pick an envelope from the Church foyer. Kindly write the names clearly. The names will appear in the *Book of Remembrance* kept near the Altar, parish website and mass power point. Thank you.

| 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 |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| 07-11-2023            | Nives Care<br>33 Church Street Blakehurst 11-00 AM                    |
| 14-11-2023            | Nives Care<br>33 Church Street Blakehurst 11-00 AM<br>All are welcome |

**Parents**

Two kids are talking to each other. One says, "I'm really worried. My dad works twelve hours a day to give me a nice home and good food. My mom spends the whole day cleaning and cooking for me. I'm worried sick!"


The other kid says, "What have you got to worry about? Sounds to me like you've got it made!"

The first kid says, "What if they try to escape?"

**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 9  | Healing Mass                        | Fr Vijay Boilla                         |
| Nov 16 | Spirit and Our Lady (video)         | Fr Dave Pivinka                         |
| Nov 23 | Hour of Power—Eucharistic Adoration | Members of St Michael's CC Prayer Group |
| Nov 30 | Preparing for Advent                | Ron Maldigri                            |



**MATER DEI CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**CHRISTMAS PARTY/ FUNDRAISER 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!**

**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                    | 512.10       | 220.25    |
| Second: loose            | 511.75       | 294.65    |
| Envelopes                | 245.00       | 215.00    |

**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

