



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

Thirty-second Sunday in  
Ordinary time Year A

Bulletin

12th Nov 2023

## **Entrance Antiphon :** Cf Psalm 87:3

Let my prayer come into your presence. Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.

## **First Reading:** Wisdom 6:12-16

Wisdom is found by those who look for it.

## **Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 62:2-8. R. v.2

(R.) My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

1. O God, you are my God, for you I long; for you my soul is thirsting. My body pines for you like a dry, weary land without water. (R.)
2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary to see your strength and your glory. For your love is better than life, my lips will speak your praise. (R.)
3. So I will bless you all my life, in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, my mouth shall praise you with joy. (R.)
4. On my bed I remember you. On you I muse through the night for you have been my help; in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. (R.)

## **Second Reading:** 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Those who died as Christians, God will bring to life with Jesus.

## **Gospel Acclamation** Matthew 24:42. 44

Alleluia, alleluia!

Be watchful and ready: you know not when the Son of Man is coming.  
Alleluia!

## **Gospel :** Matthew 25:1-13

Look, the bridegroom comes. Go out to meet him.

## **Communion Antiphon:** Cf Psalm 22:1-2

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose, near restful waters he leads me.

## **REFLECTION by Richard Leonard**

One Sunday a pastor told the congregation that the church needed some extra money and asked the people to prayerfully consider giving a little extra in the offering plate. He said that whoever gave the most would be able to pick out three hymns. After the offering plates were passed, the pastor glanced down and noticed that someone had placed a \$1000 cheque on the plate.

He was so excited that he immediately shared his joy with his congregation and said he'd like to personally thank the person who placed the money in the plate.

A very quiet, elderly, saintly spinster at the back shyly raised her hand. The pastor asked her to come to the front. Slowly she made her way to the altar. He told her how wonderful it was that she gave so much and, in thanksgiving, asked her to pick out three hymns.

Her eyes brightened as she looked over the congregation, pointed to the three most handsome men in the congregation and said, 'OK Father, I'll take him, him, and him.' Now that's a different take on a wise virgin!

In one sense the parable of the wise and foolish virgins could be considered the first known oil crisis in the east. It is, however, about planning for the future and pacing oneself to see that one has a future to enjoy.

In Christian theology this is called 'discernment'. St Ignatius Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits, wrote a lot about discernment and one of his teachings is that the Holy Spirit allows us to prepare for our future without living it.

Think for a moment of the times when we are going to have a difficult interview or a conversation we would rather not have. We play out in our mind how the interaction will run. It rarely happens how we imagine and we find that our anxiety and fear has often been misplaced. What is curious is that on the next occasion we go through this same process of trying to live the future all over again. Tragically, some people are so anxious about their future that they try and control it, and everyone associated with it. It's always a disaster.

St Ignatius was suspicious of this process. Ignatius seems to have understood today's Gospel very well. The early church thought Jesus would return quickly. There was a crisis of faith when he didn't. Some Christians lived as though this imminent return was a fact. We are still waiting. Matthew tells us then, that the Christian life is about wisdom, right judgment and reading the signs of the times.

St Ignatius tells us the best way to prepare for the future is to let go of the unhealed past, as best as we can, and live in the here and now. The Holy Spirit helps us see what needs to be done today and what preparation is necessary for tomorrow. This is such simple and sound advice and yet many of us don't heed it. For some of us it takes nothing to feel the hurt and pain of our past or to be consumed by the future.

Alcoholics Anonymous sums it up neatly when it tells us to take life 'one day at a time' which is another way of saying what Matthew's community came to see, 'keep awake because you know not the time or place'.

**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 18th Nov. |
| Sunday     | 8:00am Mass                                | 10:00am Mass  |

| 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 |
| <b>18th/19th Nov (3rd Sun)</b> | St. Raphael's |                    |                            | Mater Dei                  |
|                                | 5:00pm        | 8.00am             | 6:15pm                     | 10.00am                    |
| <b>Acolytes</b>                | Greg Driver   | Earl Lappen        | Ray Low                    | Volunteer                  |
| <b>EMOHC</b>                   | Susi          | Henrietta          |                            |                            |
| <b>Readers</b>                 | Volunteers    | Yenson Family      | Br Michael<br>Nina Milazzo | Jolly Jose<br>Wendy E      |

**Pray for good health of :** Mark Green, Gisselle Clark (Oscurio), Joan Rounds, Graeme Dorahy, Sunga Family, Adele Shehata, Anna Liza Torres Zapata.

**Pray for the deceased:** Meri Beljo, Mary Toohey, Antonius Widjaja, 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 from church foyer

**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 |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| 14-11-2023            | Nives Care<br>33 Church Street Blakehurst 11-00 AM                    |
| 21-11-2023            | Nives Care<br>33 Church Street Blakehurst 11-00 AM<br>All are welcome |

**Quick Promotion**


The boss called one of his employees into the office. "Rob," he said, "you've been with the company for a year now. You started off in the mail room, one week later you were promoted to a sales position, and one month after that you were promoted to district manager of the sales department. Just four short months later, you were promoted to vice-president. Now, it's time for me to retire, and I want you to take over the company. What do you say to that?"

"Thanks,Dad," said the employee.

**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 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 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.  
 Kids games and adults' games  
 Everyone is welcome.


**Raffle tickets** are on sale now.

**Contact :** Michael Fernandes 0437 517 758 or Vilma 0405 046 655 .



**Wedding of Rose Toohey and Luke Dalton**

Our Parishioner, Rose and Luke request the honour of your presence at their wedding ceremony.  
 Date and time: Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023 at 3:30pm  
 Church: St Raphael's, South Hurstville.



**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



| 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                    | 289.45       | 191.65    |
| Second: loose            | 293.75       | 414.35    |
| Envelopes                | 160.00       | 350.00    |

**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.materdeistraphael.org.au/>

**Parish Secretary:** Juliana Widjaja  
 Office hours: Tues & Wed 9:30am - 2:30pm  
 Phone: 02 9546 2605  
 Email: admin@materdeistraphael.org.au

