

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

Thirty-third Sunday in
Ordinary time Year A

Bulletin

19th Nov 2023



Entrance Antiphon : *Jeremiah*
29:11,12,14

The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction. You will call upon me, and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place.

First Reading: *Proverbs 31:10-13. 30-31*
Give her a share in what she has worked for.

Responsorial Psalm: *Ps 127:1-5. R. v.1*
(R.) Happy are those who fear the Lord.

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways! By the labour of your hands you shall eat. You will be happy and prosper. (R.)
2. Your wife like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house; your children like shoots of the olive, around your table. (R.)
3. Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord. May the Lord bless you from Zion in a happy Jerusalem all the days of your life. (R.)

Second Reading: *1 Thessalonians 5:1 –6*

The day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night.

Gospel Acclamation *John 15:4. 5*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord; my branches bear much fruit.

Alleluia!

Gospel : *Matthew 25:14-30*

Because you have been faithful over a few things, enter into the joy of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon: *Psalm 72:28*

To be near God is my happiness, to place my hope in God the Lord.

REFLECTION by Richard Leonard

This week's gospel is a very familiar parable and one that is often used with students and young people. It is generally used as an encouragement to make the most of the gifts and skills that the listeners possess. It is rarely, however, placed in its context as part of the full Chapter 25 lesson about the time of waiting and preparation for the coming of the Lord and the Christian life.

Again, the story is presented as a parable of the Kingdom – a glimpse into the right order of things in the realised Kingdom. A very wealthy master entrusts his considerable assets to his servants to manage in his absence. The three servants were allocated money, 'each in proportion to his ability'. The emphasis of the parable is on what each servant did with the funds they were allotted. They were charged with managing the money in the place of their master; acting in their master's place to further develop his wealth.

Like all of Jesus' parables, this one has a sting in the tail. Although the third servant has done nothing illegal or corrupt, he is very harshly dealt with. His crime is laziness! He was given a great opportunity to demonstrate his abilities and yet he shied away and returned to his master exactly what had been entrusted to him, unimproved. The author of Matthew's gospel uses this parable to shock the audience out of complacency. They cannot rely solely on the promised return of the Lord, they must continue to act on Jesus' message and work to bring about the Kingdom in their own lives. Those who fail to act, leaving everything to the work of God, are as bad as the lazy servant who failed to grasp an extraordinary opportunity.

Gospel Focus – Such a talent!

In its original usage, a 'talent' was a measure of weight. It came to designate a weight measure of silver. One talent was roughly equivalent to a labourer's wages for 10 years. It was a huge amount of money! Due largely to the reference in this gospel parable the word eventually came to its more common meaning of a special natural ability. Although in its original use in the gospel, 'talent' meant nothing more than a large sum of money, it is a happy development of language that makes this scripture passage such a favourite of teachers and retreat providers!

Living the Gospel – Bring forth the Kingdom.

Like the original audience of Matthew's gospel, we can sometimes rely too much on God to bring about the Kingdom in our world. Like the lazy servant in the gospel, we can fall into the trap of handing the world back to God in exactly the same condition that we received it. We have to make a difference in the world! We are called to change the world and bring it closer to the realisation of the Kingdom. The only way that we can do that it is to live our lives as if the Kingdom is already here.

HOMILY by Fr Geoffrey Plant

Here is the link to next Sunday's homily, the 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, 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 18th Nov.
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 23	Hour of Power—Eucharistic Adoration	Members of St Michael's CC Prayer Group
Nov 30	Preparing for Advent	Ron Maldigri



19th/20th Nov (3rd Sun)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5:00pm	8.00am	6:15pm	10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Earl Lappen	Ray Low	Volunteer
EMOHC	Susi	Henrietta		
Readers	Volunteers	Yenson Family	Br Michael Nina Milazzo	Jolly Jose Wendy E
26th/27th 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	Florence		Lucy Mitry Phil M
Readers	Karen Volunteer	Lappen Family		

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 .



Pray for good health of : Mark Green, Gisselle Clark (Oscurio), Joan Rounds, Graeme Dorahy, Anne Lo, Sunga Family, Adele Shehata, Anna Liza Torres Zapa-

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, all priests, Holy Souls in purgatory.

The **Catholic Weekly** news
PULPIT POINTS 19 November 2023
 • BR PETER BRAY IN BETHLEHEM - 'I've never seen Palestinians so frightened.'
 • Sydney's front yards get a touch of grace before Advent
 • Liturgical reform a history of 'triumphs and tragedies'
 • Kandinsky: The Christian story of modern art you won't hear
 • Catholic medicos join forces before NSW euthanasia start
 • Sydney Catholic Schools embraces change for the future

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		
21-11-2023	Nives Care	
	33 Church Street Blakehurst	11-00 AM
28-11-2023	Nives Care	
	33 Church Street Blakehurst	11-00 AM
All are welcome		

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.

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
20th Nov Mon	Mater Dei Pastoral Council Meeting	Mater Dei
22nd Nov Wed	St Raphael Pastoral Council Meeting	St Raphael
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	315.70	214.65
Second: loose	434.95	310.45
Envelopes	235.00	250.00

Mommy Ate It

For weeks a six-year-old lad kept telling his first-grade teacher about the baby brother or sister that was expected at his house. One day the mother allowed the boy to feel the movements of the unborn child. The six-year old was obviously impressed, but made no comment. Furthermore, he stopped telling his teacher about the impending event. The teacher finally sat the boy on her lap and said, "Tommy, whatever has become of that baby brother or sister you were expecting at home?" Tommy burst into tears and confessed, "I think Mommy ate it!"



PARISH DIRECTORY

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