



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

Fourth Sunday in  
Ordinary Time Year B

Bulletin

28th Jan 2024

## **Entrance Antiphon:** Ps 105:47

Save us, O Lord our God!  
And gather us from the nations,  
to give thanks to your holy name,  
and make it our glory to praise you.

## **First Reading:** Dt 18:15-20

I will put my words into the  
prophet's mouth, and he will tell  
them all I command

## **Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 94:1-2. 6-9. R. v.9

(R.) If today, you hear his voice,  
harden not your hearts.

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;  
hail the rock who saves us.  
Let us come before him, giving thanks,  
with songs let us hail the Lord. (R.)
2. Come in, let us kneel and bend low;  
let us kneel before the God who made us  
for he is our God and we  
the people who belong to his pasture,  
the flock that is led by his hand. (R.)
3. O that today you would listen to his  
voice!  
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,  
as on that day at Massah in the desert  
when your fathers put me to the test;  
when they tried me, though they saw  
my work.' (R.)

## **Second Reading:** 1 Cor 7:32-35

The unmarried woman dedicates  
herself to the things of the Lord, that  
she might be holy.

## **Gospel Acclamation:** Mt 4:16

Alleluia, alleluia!  
A people in darkness have seen a  
great light: a radiant dawn shines on  
those lost in death.  
Alleluia!

## **Gospel:** Mk 1:21-28

This is a new kind of teaching that  
speaks with authority.

## **Communion Antiphon:** Cf. Ps 30:17-18

Let your face shine on your servant.  
Save me in your merciful love.  
O Lord, let me never be put to  
shame, for I call on you.

## **REFLECTION by Greg Sunter**

Although this week's gospel is a relatively short passage, there's a lot going on within it. Firstly, we are presented with Jesus going to the synagogue in Capernaum and teaching there. This immediately indicates that Jesus must have been quite well educated – he was obviously able to read from the Torah in Hebrew and then teach about it with an impressive level of authority. In fact at the end of the passage, the people seem more impressed with his teaching than with the act of casting out the unclean spirit! Secondly, in the interaction with the unclean spirit, it knows Jesus and identifies him as the 'Holy One of God'. Jesus sharply tells the spirit to 'Be quiet!' Jesus almost appears to want to silence the spirit before it says any more about who he really is. This is a feature of the gospel of Mark in which the identity of Jesus as the Messiah is kept under wraps but breaks out in unlikely places – known as the Messianic secret.

Whenever an exorcism miracle occurs in the gospels the emphasis is on the reaction to the miracle much more than the action itself. Here, the casting out of the unclean spirit appears to confirm for the people the authority that they sensed in the teaching of Jesus. Liberating the possessed man from the unclean spirit is an illustration of the way in which the people themselves were liberated by Jesus' teaching. It is the message, the teaching, of Jesus that frees people. It is in this way that his understanding of Messiah is revealed. Jesus wants people to come to that knowledge through understanding his message, rather than being impressed by miraculous actions.

### **Historical Context – He said what?**

In an age when most people were illiterate, Jesus appears to have been quite well educated. Some suggest that he may have spoken three or four different languages. He obviously spoke everyday Aramaic, as it was spoken in that region. Jesus also appears to have been taught Hebrew, the language of religious texts and religious practice. Greek, the language of trade in marketplaces, was a language that Jesus probably used when helping Joseph sell his carpentry products at stalls and markets. Finally, Jesus probably picked up a reasonable amount of Latin, the language of the Roman occupiers – he was able to hold a conversation with Pontius Pilate.

### **Scriptural context – The Messianic Secret**

A feature of the Gospel of Mark is an element of secrecy and confusion that surrounds Jesus' identity. He silences demons who would announce his identity and warns those he heals to be quiet about what has occurred. There is a real lack of understanding displayed by the disciples about who Jesus is. At one point, Jesus asks the disciples, 'who do you think I am?' They identify him as the Messiah but immediately demonstrate that they don't really understand what that means. The theme that runs through the gospel is a developing understanding of what it means that Jesus is the Messiah.

## **HOMILY by Fr Geoffrey Plant :**

Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time Year B [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		9am Novena 9:15am Mass
Thurs	No 9:15am Mass	No 9:15am Mass
Friday	7:30pm Adoration resumes 2 Feb 2024	8:45am Rosary, Adoration, 9:00am Mass
Sat	4:30pm Reconciliation 5:00pm Vigil Mass	No Vigil Mass during School Holidays. Next mass is on 17th Feb 2024.
Sunday	8:00am Mass	10:00am Mass

27th /28th Jan (4th Sun)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	4:30pm	8.00am		10.00am
<b>Acolytes</b>	Greg Driver	Minh	No Vigil Mass	Volunteer
<b>EMOHC</b>	Gail D	Rosie G		Lucy Mitry Phil M
<b>Readers</b>	Volunteers	Volunteers		
3rd /4th Feb (1st Sun)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	4:30pm	8.00am		10.00am
<b>Acolytes</b>	Greg Driver	Gary, Max	No Vigil Mass	Paul Watson
<b>EMOHC</b>	Susi	Annie M		Gail Abbott Luisa Galea
<b>Readers</b>	Pavia Family	Maria C Ronnie C		

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

**Pray for the deceased:** Rafael Monserrat, Souls of all the departed Legionaries and their Families. Meri Beljo, Antonius Widjaja, Jeffrey Bishop, Fr Isidore Anantharaj, Fr Kennedy, Fr Kerr, all priests, Holy Souls in purgatory.

**Volunteer Cleaners** required for Mater Dei Church to be on a roster. Please contact Michael Fernandes 0437 517 758

ROSARY	
St Raphael's Church	Mater Dei Church
Mondays 7:30 pm Rosary & Adoration will resume on <b>5th Nov 2024</b> .	Sunday 9:30am before the 10am mass
Fri night 7.30pm Adoration will resume on 2nd Feb 2024	(Will Resume in Feb 2024)


**Mater Dei Home Rosary**  
Rosary will resume on the 6th Feb 2024

**ANGRY ACTIVIST**

Sue went to university and joined an animal-rights group. When she returned home, she was shocked to find her mother wearing a pricey fur coat.

"Don't you realise some poor, defenceless animal had to suffer for you to get that coat?" Sue asked her mother, impassioned.

"Don't talk about your father like that again!" came the reply.



*so funny*

**ST MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC 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**

Feb 1	The power of Eucharistic Adoration— "Come to me all of you who labour and are heavily burdened"	Fr Hugh Thomas
Feb 8	Healing Mass	Fr George Garzkowski
Feb 15	What is coming and how to prepare (video)	Fr Jim Blount
Feb 22	The Prodigal Daughter	Di Brown
Feb 29	Preparing for Lent	Ron Maldigri


**Please Note: Confession will be available from 6:30pm—7pm**



Mater Dei & St Raphael's Parish Calendar 2024		
31-01-2024	Schools re-open	MD & SR
13-02-2024	Mater Dei Council meeting 7:00pm	MD
14-02-2024	Ash Wednesday. Mass at SR: 6:30am & 11:30am. MD: 9:15am & 7pm	MD & SR
15-02-2024	St Raphael Council Meeting 7:00pm	SR
24-03-2024	Palm Sunday	MD & SR
29-03-2024	Good Friday	MD & SR
31-03-2024	Easter Sunday	MD & SR

**AUSTRALIA DAY 2024:** Mass at St Raphael 6:30am.  
Mater Dei: 8:45am Adoration and 9am Mass.

There will be morning tea on Sun 4th Feb 2024 at Mater Dei Church after the 10:00am mass and at St Raphael's after the 8am mass.



The **Catholic Weekly** news **PULPIT POINTS 28 January 2024**  
<https://www.catholicweekly.com.au/>

- Filipino Fiesta welcomes Holy Child of Cebu to Revesby p7
- West brings Theology of the Body alive in Sydney p3
- Religious freedom at stake with new 'Equality' bill p2
- Study shows young women the frontline in gender wars p4
- New podcast from leading ACU academic p6
- Journey to Holy Week with the 2024 Lenten Companion p6

**Lent commences on  
Ash Wednesday  
14th Feb 2024**

**PARISH DIRECTORY**

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**Parish Ministry Coordinator & Safeguarding Officer** Michael Fernandes  
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