



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

Third Sunday in
Ordinary Time Year B

Bulletin

21st Jan 2024

Entrance Antiphon: Cf. Ps 95:1,6

O sing a new song to the Lord;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
In his presence are majesty and
splendour, strength and honour in
his holy place.

First Reading: Jon 3:1-5. 10

The Ninevites renounced their evil
ways.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 24:4-9. R. v.4

(R.) Teach me your ways, O Lord.

1. Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and
teach me:
for you are God my saviour. (R.)
2. Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown
from of old.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O
Lord. (R.)
3. The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who
stray,
he guides the humble in the
right path;
he teaches his way to the poor.
(R.)

Second Reading: 1 Cor 7:29-31

The world as we know it is pass-
ing away.

Gospel Acclamation: Mk 1:15

Alleluia, alleluia!
The kingdom of God is near:
believe the Good News!
Alleluia!

Gospel: Mk 1:14-20

Repent, and believe the Good
News.

Communion Antiphon: Cf. Ps 33:6

Look toward the Lord and be radi-
ant; let your faces not be abashed.

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

This week's Gospel shows us clearly that those Jesus chose to follow him closely were the most ordinary of people. Anyone today wanting to enter into some sort of public life would gather around them a team of advisers, an image stylist, a public relations expert, a market analyst and probably a guard or two. Who did Jesus choose to be 'entourage'? A few fishermen, some friends of friends and even a tax collector – one the most despised occupations of his time. The very ordinariness of these disciples was a deliberate action on the part of Jesus. It was a clear statement that his message was not for the learned scholars and interpreters of the Torah but rather for the everyday person. Throughout the gospels we see that the vast majority of encounters and interactions that Jesus has are with common, everyday people. When he encounters the officials of the Jewish faith – the scribes and Pharisees – it is inevitably in a conflict situation. Those to whom he directs his ministry are the common people – those who have felt the brunt of Roman oppression and the strict interpretation of Jewish Law.

The gospel passage also gives us an insight into what a charismatic figure Jesus must have been. Fishing was a good solid livelihood. Fish was a staple in the diet of Galileans and so supplying that staple would have provided a regular income. But on encountering this man Jesus, the fishermen abandon their nets and begin to follow him. They must have immediately seen something in him that impressed them. It seems hard to believe that physically tough men such as fishermen would have been easily impressed – much like today. So the impact that Jesus made on these men must have been quite special to make them walk away from everything that they knew.

Scriptural Context – The Gospel in a hurry.

One of the features of this week's gospel is the immediate response that Jesus inspires from the fishermen as they give up all that they previously knew to follow him. We will see throughout this year of readings that this is characteristic of the Gospel of Mark. This gospel is sometimes referred to as the gospel in a hurry as the writer uses a lot of language that implies haste – 'straight away'; 'immediately'; 'that day'; 'at once'. Such language is used to describe the movement of Jesus around Galilee but it is also used to describe the powerful reactions people have to him.

Have you thought? Year B.

Although the new liturgical year began with Advent, this week's reading is the first time that we enter into the cycle of the gospel for this liturgical year, the Gospel of Mark. The Church calendar works on a cycle of three years: Year A; Year B; and Year C. Each of the three synoptic gospels is associated with one of the years: Matthew in Year A; Mark in Year B; and Luke in Year C. Throughout this liturgical cycle we will move through the Gospel of Mark from beginning to end – usually in the part of the liturgical calendar known as Ordinary Time.

Living the Gospel – The Good News is here.

This week's gospel marks the beginning of Jesus' public ministry in the Gospel of Mark. The gospel writer has Jesus clearly announcing his message in plain, simple language: 'The kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.' That message is as true for us today as it was when those words were first spoken. The kingdom is still close at hand if we would only recognise it in our midst rather than pinning our hopes on some future reward. The call to repent and believe the Good News is as relevant for us as it was for the first believers.

MASS TIMES		
	St Raphael Church	Mater Dei Church
Tues		9:15am Mass
Wed		9:15am Mass
Thurs	No 9:15am Mass	No 9:15am Mass
Friday	7:30pm Adoration resumes 2 Feb 2024	9:15am 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

20th /21st Jan (3rd Sun)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	4:30pm	8.00am		10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Earl Lappen	No Vigil Mass	Volunteer
EMOHC	Susi	Henrietta		
Readers	Volunteers	Volunteers		Jolly Jose Wendy E

27th /28th Jan (4th Sun)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	4:30pm	8.00am		10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Norman Y	No Vigil Mass	Volunteer
EMOHC	Gail D	Rosie G		
Readers	Volunteers	Volunteers		Lucy Mitry Phil M

Death Anniversary: Fr Isidore Anantharaj (3rd Anniv.)

Recently Deceased: Victoria Fernandes

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

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

Mater Dei Home Rosary

Rosary will resume on the 6th Feb 2024

The Bathtub Test

During a visit to the mental asylum, a visitor asked the Director what the criterion was which defined whether or not a patient should be institutionalized. "Well," said the Director, "we fill up a bathtub, then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket to the patient and ask him or her to empty the bathtub." "Oh, I understand," said the visitor. "A normal person would use the bucket because it's bigger than the spoon or the teacup." "No." said the Director, "A normal person would pull the plug. Do you want a bed near the window?"

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

HOMILY by Fr Geoffrey Plant :

Third Sunday of Ordinary Time Year B [click here.](#)

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 MASS Friday 26th January

St Raphael: Mass at 6:30am.

Mater Dei: 8:45 Adoration, 9:15am Mass

A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at **(02) 9390 5810** or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

Lent commences on

Ash Wednesday

14th Feb 2024

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	396.00	148.50
Second: loose	447.35	288.40
Envelopes	430.00	330.00

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

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

Office hours: Tues, Wed & Fri 10am - 2:30pm

M: 0437 517 758 E: mc@materdei-straphael.org.au

Pastoral Ministry Coordinator: **Br. Ben Krupowicz**

Phone: 02 95462544 Email: strsh@outlook.com

Fr. Jan Chrzczonowicz : Phone: 0412 786 245

