



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

*Fifth Sunday in  
Ordinary Time Year B*

*Bulletin*

*4th Feb 2024*

**Entrance Antiphon:** *Psalm 94:6-7*

O come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for he is the Lord our God.

**First Reading:** *Job 7:1-4. 6-7*

I am filled with sorrow all day long.

**Responsorial Psalm:**

(R.) Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.

1. Praise the Lord for he is good; singing to our God for he is loving; to him our praise is due. (R.)
2. The Lord builds up Jerusalem and brings back Israel's exiles, he heals the broken-hearted, he binds up all their wounds. He fixes the number of the stars; he calls each one by its name. (R.)
3. Our Lord is great and almighty; his wisdom can never be measured. The Lord raises the lowly; he humbles the wicked to the dust. (R.)

**Second Reading:** *1 Corinthians 9:16-19. 22-23*

Punishment will come to me if I do not preach the Gospel.

**Gospel Acclamation:** *Matthew 8:17*

Alleluia, alleluia!  
He bore our sickness,  
and endured our suffering.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel:** *Mark 1:29-39*

He cured many who suffered from diseases of one kind or another.

**Communion Antiphon:** *Cf Psalm 106:8-9*

Let them thank the Lord for his mercy, his wonders for the children of men, for he satisfies the thirsty soul, and the hungry he fills with good things.

## REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

This week's gospel follows directly on from last week's reading and, as is typical with Mark's gospel, the events occur on the very same day. The urgency of the gospel is obvious in this week's reading; Jesus had a very busy 24 hours! Having launched his public ministry in the synagogue earlier that day, Jesus accompanies his new disciples to meet some of their family and have a meal. However, on arriving at the home of Simon and Andrew, they find Simon's mother-in-law is sick. Unlike the public displays of his healing power that preceded and will follow this episode, Jesus does not say anything but simply takes the woman by the hand and helps her up. Her response of beginning to wait on Jesus and his disciples is a faith response and a recognition of who Jesus is. A theme that runs through this gospel is that the disciples never fully understand who Jesus is. Here, a woman who has just met him recognises him as the Messiah and begins to serve him.

Still on the same day, we see the expansion of Jesus' healing ministry. On this one day he has cast an unclean spirit out of a possessed man in the synagogue, healed Peter's mother-in-law of a fever and then healed the crowds of people who came to the door. The next morning he announces that they will take the ministry to the whole region of Galilee. In a very simple way, the gospel of Mark has described the growth of Jesus' ministry from very humble isolated examples to a deliberate reaching out to the people of an entire region.

### Historical Context – Capernaum

Jesus appears to have made Capernaum his base after leaving Nazareth. He may, in fact, have based himself at Simon Peter's house. There are many references in the gospels to Jesus' actions in Capernaum. Archaeologists have identified the house in Capernaum that they believe to be Simon Peter's house – less than 100 metres from the Capernaum synagogue. Evidence reveals carved inscriptions and symbols that identify both Jesus and Peter. The house appears to have been used as a 'house-church' until a church was built on the site in the 5th Century. Excavations of the site can be seen today.

### Have you thought? Simon's Wife?

In this week's reading, it is Simon's mother-in-law who is healed. This obviously means that Simon is married. However, there is no mention whatsoever about his wife. Is she alive or dead? Do they have children? We have no indication. It is not until the writings of Paul (1 Cor 9:5) that we learn Simon Peter was indeed married and that his wife accompanied him on his travels. Perhaps this visit to his family home was to announce to his wife and family that he had decided to follow Jesus and give up fishing.

### Living the Gospel – Prayer

In the midst of an extremely hectic 24 hours where Jesus effectively launches his public ministry, Jesus takes time to go aside to a lonely place and pray. The passage tells us that it was 'long before dawn' that he did this. It may have been his usual practice to pray early in the morning or he may have been restless after the events of the previous day and the thought of what lay ahead. Nevertheless, Jesus provides us with a model of using prayer to reflect on events and to prepare ourselves for the day ahead.

## HOMILY by Fr Geoffrey Plant :

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

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

## 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 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**

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		
<b>Readers</b>	Pavia Family	Maria C Ronnie C		Gail Abbott Luisa Galea
10th /11th Feb (2nd Sun)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	4:30pm	8.00am		10.00am
<b>Acolytes</b>	Greg Driver	Carl	No Vigil Mass	Volunteer
<b>EMOHC</b>	Gail	Ronnie		
<b>Readers</b>	Volunteers	Sienna/Zac/Annie		Joan Hanson Jean Dorahy

### Ash Wednesday 14th Feb 2024

Mass times: **St Raphael: 6:30am & 11:30am** (school /parish mass).  
**Mater Dei: 9:15am & 7pm**

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.



### Catechist Sunday

**Mater Dei: Sunday 11th Feb 10am**  
**St Raphael: Sunday 18th Feb 8am**

**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.

We are in need of **Volunteer Cleaners** at Mater Dei Church. They will be placed on a roster. Please contact Michael Fernandes 0437 517 758

**Shrines of Our Lady Pilgrimage** Fr Richard Rosse would like to invite you for an 14-day pilgrimage departing on 21st May 2024. This pilgrimage features Fatima, Valladolid, Lourdes, Nice, Siena, Rotondo and Rome for all-inclusive price of \$8190. The fare includes Return Economy Airfares + Local Transfers in Deluxe coaches + Stay in Premium Hotels + All Breakfasts & Dinners + Catholic Priest + English speaking professional guides. For enquiries & bookings call 03 8839 6615 or 1300 721 561 or email us [pilgrimage@magiholidays.com.au](mailto:pilgrimage@magiholidays.com.au).

## TECH SAVVY SENIORS

Recommences 1 pm Thursday 22 February for 4 weeks at Marist Catholic College Penhurst. Registrations are now open, all are welcome! Click here: <https://www.stdeclansparish.org/events/tech-savvy-seniors-feb-2024/2024-02-22>



## Mater Dei & St Raphael's Parish Calendar 2024

13-02-2024	Mater Dei Council meeting 7:00pm	MD
14-02-2024	<b>Ash Wednesday.</b>	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

### ROSARY

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

### Mater Dei Home Rosary

6-2-2024	Josephine and Tony Ledonne 61 Castle Street Blakehurst 7-00 PM
13-2-2024	Nives Care 33 Church Street Blakehurst 11-00 AM
	All are welcome

### COLLECTIONS LAST TWO WEEK-ENDS

TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	725.50	378.00
Second: loose	670.25	442.40
Envelopes	828.00	715.00

## PARISH DIRECTORY

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Thomas Alukka

M: 0469 236 118 E: [tomyalukka@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:mc@materdei-straphael.org.au)

## Paper Tiger

Our office manager is a tyrant when it comes to keeping the printer area clean. Recently, a colleague printed something, but when he went to pick up the document it was gone.

"You know I throw out everything that's more than 24 hours old," the manager told him.

"But I just printed it" my friend insisted.

"Sorry," she replied, "but I'm not in tomorrow."



**FUNNY**