



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

First Sunday of Lent  
Year B

Bulletin

18th Feb 2024

**Entrance Antiphon:** Cf. Ps 90:15-16

When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.

**First Reading:** Gen 9:8-15

I will recall the covenant between myself and you... the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.

**Responsorial Psalm:**

Ps 24:4-9. R. see v.10

(R.) Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

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 Pt 3:18-22

The water of the flood is a type of the baptism which saves you now.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Mt 4:4

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!  
No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

**Gospel:** Mk 1:12-15

He was tempted by Satan, and the angels looked after him

**Communion Antiphon:** Mt 4:4

One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

## REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

The First Reading, from Genesis, and the Gospel this week need to be looked at together. In the Genesis reading, God has just wiped clean the earth and is ready to re-establish the relationship with humanity through Noah and his family. In the short gospel passage, Jesus enters the wilderness as a time of preparation and renewal, ready to embark on his mission of re-establishing the relationship between God and humanity. In both readings there is a sense of a fresh start – a clean slate – for humankind. It is a clear indication of God's commitment to humanity, even when we have totally distanced ourselves from God and forgotten about keeping up our part of the relationship, God is willing to make a clean start of it all again. Both readings offer a reminder of God's constant desire for us to be in right relationship with God and with the world. The presence of Jesus in the world was as clear a signal as the rainbow in the sky that God was willing to give us another go – give us a chance to again see God with new eyes and new understanding.

In the gospel passage, we have a picture of Jesus preparing himself for his public ministry. He takes himself out into the wilderness, away from all that he has known until this time, to reflect on his life so far and this next vital stage that he is about to enter. In the wilderness, Jesus is tempted. He has to face his own doubts and demons before he sets off on the road of his public ministry. When he leaves the desert wilderness and enters back into Galilee he immediately begins to preach and, in the first words accredited to him in this gospel, Jesus announces that the kingdom of God is at hand and it's time to repent and believe. It's a call to open your eyes and get with the program!

### Have you thought? Temptation?

When we adopt a view of Jesus as the Son of God, it is hard to imagine him even facing temptation, let alone the possibility of him giving in to it. However, when we see Jesus as also being fully human, we realise that he was just as likely to face temptation as we are. But what might have tempted Jesus? Was he tempted to simply go back to his life in Joseph's carpentry business and not respond to God's call? Was he tempted to display his power in flashy demonstrations for all to see? Was he tempted to despair at what lay ahead of him?

### Living the Gospel – Change of heart

Jesus' proclamation of the kingdom of God is a call to live out God's transformative dream of right relationship with one another and with our world. To accept this call requires a change of heart and mind (a metanoia) and the adoption of a new orientation, a new worldview based on living the kingdom of God. This is a challenge to be counter-cultural – to go 'against the flow' of the majority attitudes at times. It is certainly not an 'easy option' that we are called to live. Jesus' call to 'repent and believe' is a very appropriate call to begin the Lenten season.

**Shrines of Our Lady Pilgrimage** 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).

### HOMILY by Fr Geoffrey Plant :

First Sunday of Lent Year B [click here](#).

| MASS TIMES |   |  |
|------------|---|--|
|            | St Raphael Church                       | Mater Dei Church   |
| Tues       | 9:15am Mass (new Mass timing)           | No Mass  |
| Wed        |   | 9am Novena 9:15am Mass                                     |
| Thurs      | No Mass                                 | 9:15am Mass (new mass timing))                             |
| Friday     | 7:30pm Adoration resumes 2 Feb 2024     | 8:45am Rosary, Adoration, 9:00am Mass                      |
| Sat        | 4:30pm Reconciliation 5:00pm Vigil Mass | Vigil mass 1st and 3rd Sat. Next mass is on 17th Feb 2024. |
| Sunday     | 8:00am Mass                             | 10:00am Mass   |

| 17th /18th Feb (3rd Sun) | St. Raphael's |               | Mater Dei               |                    |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
|                          | 4:30pm        | 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    | Rounds Family | Br Michael Nina Milazzo | Jolly Jose Wendy E |

| 24th /25th Feb (4th Sun) | St. Raphael's |               | Mater Dei     |                    |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|
|                          | 4:30pm        | 8.00am        |               | 10.00am            |
| <b>Acolytes</b>          | Greg Driver   | Dr Norman     | No Vigil Mass | Volunteer          |
| <b>EMOHC</b>             | Gail D.       | Rosie Gould   |               |                    |
| <b>Readers</b>           | Volunteers    | Rounds Family |               | Lucy Mitry Phil M. |

**Death Anniversary:** Anna Maria Turiano Teresa Fallucchi.

**Pray for good health of :** Yvonne Amy, Gisselle Clark (Oscuro), Joan Rounds, 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. Antonius Widjaja, Jeffrey Bishop, Fr Isidore Anantharaj, Fr Kennedy, Fr Kerr, all priests, Holy Souls in purgatory.

### Volunteer help required

- Cleaners** at Mater Dei Church.
- Catechists** at Mater Dei & St Raphael parish. Please contact the parish office if you are interested 02 9546 2605.

### ROSARY

| St Raphael's Church                    | Mater Dei Church                         |
|--|--|
| Every Monday at 7:30pm with Adoration. | Every Sunday 9:30am before the 10am mass |

### Mater Dei Home Rosary

20-2-2024 Nives Care  
33 Church Street Blakehurst 11-00 AM

27-2-2024 Nives Care  
33 Church Street Blakehurst 11-00 AM

All are welcome

### The Hand of God

Little Philip was walking home in the rain with his mother following Sunday worship. It finally stopped raining as they rounded the corner, where to their surprise and delight appeared a vivid double rainbow in the sky. "Doesn't it look like an artist painted this rainbow?" his mother exclaimed. "I bet God painted this just for you!" "Yes," replied Philip, "God did it, and he did it left handed." Confused, his mother asked him, "What makes you say God did this with his left hand?" "Well," said Philip, "we learned in Sunday School that Jesus sits on God's right hand."

### 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

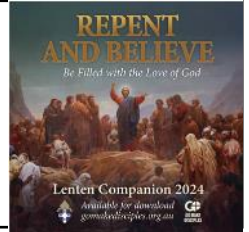
Feb 22 The Prodigal Daughter Di Brown  
Feb 29 Preparing for Lent Ron Maldigri

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



### REPENT AND BELIEVE: Be Filled with the Love of God Lenten Companion 2024

Now available in the church. Please take one.



Stations of the Cross 7:00pm

+

Adoration (Holy Hour) 7:30pm—8:30pm

St Raphael's Church



### Parish Courses for Liturgical Ministers in 2024

List of courses for new and existing liturgical ministers is displayed in the Church Notice board.



#### LENTE

#### Donation

A speaker from Caritas Australia will be giving a talk at the St Raphael 8am Mass and Mater Dei 10am mass on **Sunday 25th February 2024.**

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available in the church, by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion), or by calling 1800 024 413.

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

|            |               |         |
|------------|---------------|---------|
| 24-03-2024 | Palm Sunday   | MD & SR |
| 29-03-2024 | Good Friday   | MD & SR |
| 31-03-2024 | Easter Sunday | MD & SR |

### COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

| TYPE          | St Raphael's | Mater Dei |
|---------------|--------------|-----------|
| First         | 162.90       | 474.80    |
| Second: loose | 218.80       | 284.65    |
| Envelopes     | 390.00       | 370.00    |

### 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](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)

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