



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

Second Sunday of Lent
Year B

Bulletin

25th Feb 2024

Entrance Antiphon: Cf. Ps 26:8-9

Of you my heart has spoken, Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

First Reading: Gen 22:1-2. 9-13. 15-18

The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith.

Responsorial Psalm:

Ps 115:10. 15-19. R. 114:9

(R.) I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

1. I trusted, even when I said:
'I am sorely afflicted.'
O precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful.
(R.)
2. Your servant, Lord, your servant am I; you have loosened my bonds. A thanksgiving sacrifice I make: I will call on the Lord's name. (R.)
3. My vows to the Lord I will fulfil before all his people, in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem. (R.)

Second Reading: Rom 8:31-34

God did not spare his own Son.

Gospel Acclamation: See Mt 17:5

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! From the shining cloud, the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel: Mk 9:2-10

This is my Son, the beloved; listen to him

Communion Antiphon: Mt 17:5

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

Like so many other important events in the Bible, the events of this week's gospel occur on a high mountaintop. Mountaintops were places of special and dramatic encounter with God and the disciples' experience of the transfiguration is clearly no exception! In this instance, the disciples suddenly see Jesus' power fully revealed but they fail to fully understand what is going on. One might think how much more obvious could God be about trying to reveal Jesus' identity to the disciples, but still they don't really catch on. Peter thinks he has caught on to the message. When the great prophets Elijah and Moses appear beside Jesus, Peter understands Jesus to be part of the line of prophets in the Hebrew tradition. He believes he has had a great insight and is so impressed that he wants to remain on the mountaintop – setting up tents in honour of Jesus, Elijah and Moses. In essence, Peter has still only partially understood who Jesus is. He thinks he is the Messiah, but a Messiah in the same mould as the prophets of old, a prophet of the old tradition. He has not understood that Jesus is breaking that mould and creating a new vision, a new tradition – one that is endorsed by the voice of God on the mountaintop.

Rather than allowing the disciples to set up tents and remain in the 'high' of this experience, Jesus immediately leads the boys back down the mountain. This is perhaps the greatest message of this passage: that life is not lived on the mountaintop but back down in the valley. Although the mountaintop experience may have provided some new insight and new energy, it is back down in the valley that the world waits; that the real work needs to be done; that the sick and the poor are crying out for God's love and mercy.

Scriptural context – Not quite

Throughout the gospel of Mark, it is important to look at the stories that lie either side of important events to pick up the subtlety of the gospel writer's message. In this instance, the passage that immediately follows the Transfiguration is a story of the disciples trying unsuccessfully to heal a boy and Jesus having to intervene. It reinforces the message of the mountaintop in which the disciples still only partially understand Jesus' purpose and presence. They still haven't fully mastered who Jesus is and so they have not fully mastered the ability to heal.

Have you thought? Mountaintop Moments

Throughout the Bible there are instances of important encounters with God on mountaintops. Even this week's first reading, the sacrifice of Isaac by Abraham, occurs on a mountaintop. It is not the potential sacrifice, but the new relationship between God and Abraham that is a mountaintop moment. In modern language, we often speak about 'peak experiences' – moments of exceptional clarity, intense emotion or extraordinary accomplishment. Sometimes, like Peter, we are tempted to try to remain 'in the moment' rather than using the peak experience as a motivator for when we go back down the mountain to our normal (if perhaps changed) existence.

HOMILY by Fr Geoffrey Plant :

Second 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	7:00 pm Stations 7:30pm Adoration	8:45am Adoration, Rosary & Mass
Sat	4:30pm Reconciliation 5:00pm Vigil Mass	Vigil mass 1st and 3rd Sat. Next mass is on 2nd March 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 29 Preparing for Lent

Ron Maldigri

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

Mater Dei School

PLAYGROUP

9am - 10:00am
Every Monday morning
In the Hall from week 3-6,10
Term 1

FREE

St Raphael School/Parish Mass

Date: Fri 1st March 2024 at 5:00pm

followed by BBQ

All are welcome

SAVE
THE
DATE

21:05:2024

MOTHERS 1/2 DAY RETREAT WOMEN
UNITE.
CARWAR AVENUE, CARRS PARK
Contact Sonia Reilly

24th /25th Feb (4th Sun)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	4:30pm	8.00am		10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Dr Norman	No Vigil Mass	Volunteer
EMOHC	Gail D.	Rosie Gould		Lucy Mitry Phil M.
Readers	Karen Volunteer	Lappen Family		
2nd /3rd Mar (1st Sun)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	4:30pm	8.00am	6:15pm	10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Gary, Max	Tony Oscuro	Paul Watson
EMOHC	Susi F	Annie M		
Readers	Pavia Family	Rosie Gould J P Moral	Frances O Volunteer	Gail Abbott Luisa Galea

Recently deceased: Peter Smith

Death Anniversary: Anna Maria Turiano Teresa Fallucchi.

Pray for good health of : Norma Gum, 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.



St Raphael's Church
Stations of the Cross 7:00pm
followed by
Adoration (Holy Hour) 7:30pm—8:30pm

ROSARY

St Raphael's Church	Mater Dei Church
Every Monday at 7:30pm with Adoration.	Every Sunday 9:30am followed by 10:00am mass

Mater Dei Home Rosary

27-2-2024 Nives Care
33 Church Street Blakehurst 11-00 AM
5-3-2024 Nives Care
33 Church Street Blakehurst 11-00 AM

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	398.95	272.65
Second: loose	289.65	360.25
Envelopes	410.00	330.00

Catholic Heart Attack

After suffering a heart attack and having quadruple bypass surgery, a man woke up to find himself in a Catholic hospital with nuns taking care of him. As they nursed him back to health, one of the nuns asked him if he had health insurance. "No," he replied, "No health insurance." "Do you have any money in the bank?" asked the nun. "No. No money in the bank." The nun asked, "Do you have any relatives you could ask for help?" The man replied, "I only have a spinster sister, who is a nun." At this the nun became irritated. "Nuns are not spinsters. Nuns are married to God!" "OK, then," said the man. "Send the bill to my brother-in-law."



LENTEN

Donation

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

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