



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

Sixth Sunday in
Ordinary Time Year B

Bulletin

11th Feb 2024

Entrance Antiphon: Cf. Ps 30:3-4

Be my protector, O God,
a mighty stronghold to save me.
For you are my rock, my stronghold!
Lead me, guide me, for the sake of
your name.

First Reading: Lv 13:1-2. 44-46

As long as he is unclean, he must
live alone, outside the camp

Responsorial Psalm:

(R.) I turn to you, Lord, in time of
trouble, and you fill me with the
joy of salvation.

1. Happy the man whose offence
is forgiven, whose sin is remit-
ted. O happy the man to whom
the Lord imputes no guilt,
in whose spirit is no guile. (R.)
2. But now I have acknowledged
my sins; my guilt I did not hide.
I said: 'I will confess my offence
to the Lord.' And you, Lord,
have forgiven the guilt of my
sin. (R.)
3. Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord,
exult, you just! O come, ring out
your joy, all you upright of heart.
(R.)

Second Reading: 1 Cor 10:31 – 11:13

Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ

Gospel Acclamation: Lk 7:16

Alleluia, alleluia!

A great prophet has appeared
among us; God has visited his peo-
ple.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Mk 1:40-45

The leprosy left him and he was
cured.

Communion Antiphon: Cf. Ps 77:29

They ate and had their fill, and what
they craved the Lord gave them;
they were not disappointed in what
they craved.

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

It is hard to imagine a person in 1st Century Palestine who would be more of an outcast from society than the leper. Unfortunately, any form of skin disease was categorised as leprosy (known as Hansen's disease today). It was regarded as one of the greatest forms of uncleanness and seen as a physical manifestation of God's punishment on the person.

For a person like this to even approach Jesus is a huge risk and an enormous act of faith. He trusts that Jesus will not reject him like everybody else in his life has done. His request to Jesus is almost a demand; it is certainly filled with an utter conviction of Jesus' ability and good will: 'if you want to, you can cure me'. Jesus' reaction is one of equally strong emotion – he is so moved by this man's plight that he reaches out his hand and touches the man. To touch a person with leprosy was to break every rule of the clean/unclean social structure that dominated Jewish society. In this one action, Jesus challenges the entire basis on which Jewish society is constructed – the purity code. For Jesus to touch this man, according to the purity code, is to become unclean himself. But Jesus ignores these social rules and responds out of love and heals the man with word and action. However, Jesus knows that if the man is to be accepted back into society he needs to conform to the rules that dominate his world. He must present himself to the local priest who is the only one with the authority to declare someone cured of their disease and thus able to become ritually clean and welcome back into worship and back into everyday life.

Historical Context – Leprosy

To be a leper in 1st Century Palestine was to be utterly rejected from society. They were not permitted to engage in religious practice as they were permanently regarded as being ritually unclean and, indeed, unable to become clean as long as their disease lasted. The book of Leviticus, quoted in today's first reading, contains two whole chapters of rules regarding lepers. Lepers were forced to live outside of any village for fear of contamination and even had to call out a warning of 'Unclean! Unclean!' if anyone came near them. They were forced to beg for food and money because no-one would hire them. They were literally on the very edge of society.

Living the Gospel – Who is your leper?

There is a story of Francis of Assisi in which he encountered a horribly disfigured leper. Initially, Francis was repulsed by the man but remembered that this man too was a child of God and made in the image and likeness of God. Overcoming his fears, Francis ran forward and embraced the man. Rather than seeing the disease, Francis saw the person. We can ask the question, Who is your leper? Who is the person in your life that you need to embrace rather than reject? Who would benefit from you viewing them with different eyes? Soft eyes! Eyes of compassion!

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.

HOMILY by Fr Geoffrey Plant :

Sixth 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	Vigil mass 1st and 3rd Sat. 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 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

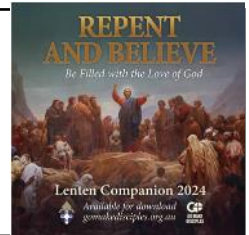
Ash Wednesday 14th Feb 2024

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

10th /11th Feb (2nd Sun)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	4:30pm	8.00am		10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Carl	No Vigil Mass	Volunteer
EMOHC	Gail	Ronnie		
Readers	Volunteers	Sienna/Zac/Annie		Joan Hanson Jean Dorahy
17th /18th Feb (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	Rounds Family		Jolly Jose Wendy E

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

Now available in the church. Please take one.



Catechist Sunday Mater Dei (11/2) & St Raphael's (18/2)

We are looking for new SRE Catechists and Helpers to take the word of God to the children in public schools. Half an hour lesson once a week, with an hour of preparation is all that is required. Please contact the parish office if you can help. 02 9546 2605.

Death Anniversary: Felice & Josephine De Fina

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

Mass Intentions

Arranging a Mass Intention is a beautiful way to honour our loved ones - living and the deceased, or to commemorate a special occasion.

If you would like to have the name or event published in the bulletin, please complete a Mass Intention Request envelope and drop the envelope in the weekend offertory plate or give it to the Parish Office/ Parish Priest/Acolyte. The envelopes are kept in the foyer.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Mater Dei & St Raphael's Parish Calendar 2024

13-02-2024	Mater Dei Council meeting 7:00pm	MD
14-02-2024	Ash Wednesday.	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
Every Monday at 7:30pm with Adoration.	Every Sunday 9:30am before the 10am mass

Mater Dei Home Rosary

- 13-2-2024 Nives Care
33 Church Street Blakehurst 11-00 AM
20-2-2024 Nives Care
33 Church Street Blakehurst 11-00 AM
All are welcome

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	394.90	188.45
Second: loose	302.90	264.55
Envelopes	350.00	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

Creation story

God is talking to one of his angels and says, "Do you know what I have just done? I have just created a 24-hour period of alternating light and darkness on Earth. Isn't that good?"

The angel says, "Yes, but what will you do now?"

God says, "I think I'll call it a day."

