



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

Third Sunday of Lent  
Year B

Bulletin

3rd March 2024

## **Entrance Antiphon:** Cf. Ps 24:15-16

My eyes are always on the Lord,  
for he rescues my feet from the  
snare. Turn to me and have mercy  
on me, for I am alone and poor.

## **First Reading:** Ex 20:1-17

The Law was given through Moses.

## **Responsorial Psalm:**

Ps 18:8-11. R. Jn 6:68

(R.) Lord, you have the words of  
everlasting life.

1. The law of the Lord is perfect,  
it revives the soul. The rule of  
the Lord is to be trusted,  
it gives wisdom to the simple. (R.)
2. The precepts of the Lord are  
right, they gladden the heart.  
The command of the Lord is  
clear, it gives light to the eyes. (R.)
3. The fear of the Lord is holy,  
abiding for ever.  
The decrees of the Lord are  
truth and all of them just. (R.)
4. They are more to be desired  
than gold, than the purest of  
gold and sweeter are they than  
honey, than honey from the  
comb. (R.)

## **Second Reading:** 1 Cor 1:22-25

We are preaching a crucified Christ,  
a scandal to many, but to those who  
have been called, the wisdom of  
God.

## **Gospel Acclamation:** Jn 3:16

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,  
king of endless glory!  
God loved the world so much, he  
gave us his only Son,  
that all who believe in him might  
have eternal life.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,  
king of endless glory!

## **Gospel:** Jn 2:13-25

Destroy this sanctuary, and in three  
days I will raise it up.

## **Communion Antiphon:** Jn 4:13-14

For anyone who drinks it, says the  
Lord, the water I shall give will be-  
come in him a spring welling up to  
eternal life.

## **REFLECTION by Greg Sunter**

The Temple in Jerusalem was (and still is) a powerful symbol of holiness and a symbol of the connection and relationship between God and the Hebrew people. It is often assumed that Jesus' anger was directed at the traders and moneychangers because their business had infringed on and desecrated the temple precinct. But the reality is a bit more complicated. The Temple was the holiest site for sacrifice to God. The tradition dictated that sacrifice made by a priest on the altar was the highest form of worship. The best animal to sacrifice was a healthy, properly formed creature. Rather than walking a lamb all the way from somewhere like Galilee to Jerusalem, the faithful would purchase their sacrifice animal at the Temple itself – thus the presence of the people selling cattle, sheep and doves. However, to further complicate matters, the Temple traders would not accept Roman coins to purchase the sacrificial animals as they bore the image of the deified emperor. Therefore, money changers were required to exchange Roman currency for acceptable coinage – so the money changers were also playing their part in the prayer life of the Temple.

Jesus' outrage is not so much with the traders and the money-changers as with the whole religious practice and hierarchical structure that has developed to a point where the only way a person can pray in a 'valid' way is to purchase an animal and hand it over to a priest who goes behind a screened wall to sacrifice the animal. The only way to seek God's forgiveness and mercy was to 'buy' it at the Temple. *This* was what outraged Jesus. He could not stomach the injustice nor the barriers that had been erected between the people and their God.

### **Scriptural context**

This episode of outrage in the Temple is recorded in all four of the Gospels. Interestingly, the three synoptic gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke place the event in the final days leading to Passion events while the Gospel of John places the event in the very early days of Jesus' public ministry. While the three synoptics are likely to be more chronologically correct, the Gospel of John uses the event very deliberately to make the point that Jesus is the new Temple – the new focus of God's presence in the world; the Word made flesh.

### **Historical Context**

In Jewish tradition, the Temple marked the point of physical connection between God and humankind and between the past and the present. It was where God's story and humanity's story met. However, in the year 70 C.E. – some 40 years after Jesus – the Temple was destroyed by the Romans. The gospel of John is written another 20+ years later and so the reality of the Temple's destruction is still trying to be absorbed by the people. It was a very powerful image for the gospel writer to suggest that Jesus was the new Temple – the new point of connection.

### **Different View – Just like Jesus**

This gospel passage must be one of the most commonly misused passages in the Bible. So often it is used as justification for someone losing their temper, or worse, an outrageous temper tantrum, or 'dummy spit'. People will declare in their defence, 'Well, Jesus lost his temper and got angry in the Temple!' They fail to appreciate the difference between their own hot-headedness and the outrage against injustice that was being expressed by Jesus. They also seem to miss the significance of the fact that this was a 'one off' for Jesus!

UNITED IN FAITH, GUIDED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT NOURISHED BY THE EUCHARIST, COMMITTED TO  
PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL WE STRIVE TO LIVE AS GOD ASKS  
"to act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with God" (Micah 6:8)

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

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
9th /10th Mar (2nd Sun)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	4:30pm	8.00am	6:15pm	10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Carl Pavia	No Mass	Volunteer
EMOHC	Gail	Ronnie		Joan Hansen Jean Dorahy
Readers	Carl & Susi	Sienna/Zac/ Rose T		

**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

5-3-2024	Nives Care 33 Church Street Blakehurst 11-00 AM
12-3-2024	Nives Care 33 Church Street Blakehurst 11-00 AM

### How's your hearing

The stranger approached the priest after service and said, "I'd like you to pray for my hearing."  
The pastor placed his hands on the man's ears and said a passionate, earnest prayer.  
"How's your hearing now?" the pastor asked.  
Looking surprised, the man said, "Well, it's not until tomorrow."



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## 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

Mar 7	Invitation to the Royal Banquet	Marina George
Mar 14	Healing Mass	Fr Vijay Boilla
Mar 21	Stations of the Cross	Members of the St Michael's Catholic Charismatic Prayer Group
Mar 28	Holy Thursday	No St Michael C. C. Prayer Group tonight

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

There will be no 9:15am mass on Tuesday 5th March at St Raphael and on Wed 6th March at Mater Dei church.

**Sacrament of Confirmation Parent Information Night**  
**Mater Dei School**  
**12th March 2024 6pm**

### Mater Dei School

**PLAYGROUP**

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

**FREE**

Mater Dei and St Raphael  
Morning tea after the  
Sunday morning mass



Mater Dei and St Raphael

Morning tea after the  
Sunday morning mass



MARIST COLLEGE KOGARAH

## OPEN DAY

Wednesday 13 March  
3.00-6.00pm

Register Now



mckogarah.sydney.catholic.edu.au

PROUDLY PART OF THE COMMUNITY OF Sydney Catholic Schools

### Volunteer help required

We need **Cleaners** at Mater Dei Church to work on roster basis.

Contact: Michael Fernandes 0437 517 758.

Email: mc@materdei-straphael.org.au.

### Parish Courses for Liturgical Ministers in 2024

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

### COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	325.05	215.95
Second: loose	869.10	501.15
Envelopes	370.00	660.00

### 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