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Pope's recognition of migrants

Pope Francis celebrated Mass on the tiny Sicilian island of Lampedusa on Monday, July 8, to commemorate thousands of migrants who have died crossing the sea from North Africa, underlining his drive to put the poor at the heart of his papacy. 'Who wept for these people who were aboard the boat?' Pope Francis asked in his homily. 'We are a society that has forgotten how to cry,' he said. The Pope denounced smugglers who take advantage of the poverty of migrants to enrich themselves. While thanking Lampedusans and volunteers who care for the newly arrived migrants, he challenged everyone to take responsibility for the migrants' desperation, urging them not to have 'anesthesia of the heart'.

CathNews, July 9, 2013

Youth News

Young Men of God National Conference – 11-13 October at Stanwell Tops. The 2013 YMG National Conference promises personal transformation. An opportunity to meet inspiring Catholic men from around the nation. Thought provoking and challenging talks. A time to retreat and reflect on your journey. Encouragement as you walk in the faith. An opportunity to go deeper. The YMG Conference is like no other gathering, as young men come together for brotherhood, prayer, formation and the sacraments. With this year's theme "The truth will set you free" we will be taking the real issues faced by young men head on. For men aged 16-35. Register at www.ymgmovement.org.

Australian Catholic Youth Festival Melbourne 5-7 December. For information go to www.youthfestival.catholic.org.au. See little cards at the doors, too.

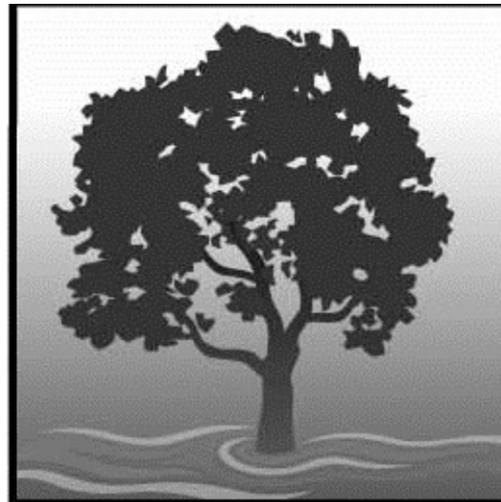
Inviting Young Women Aged 18-35 To Discover - a self-knowledge weekend on identity, personality, dignity, womanhood, personal ideal, vocation and mission. From 11 - 13 October at Mount Schoenstatt Retreat Centre. Registration essential. For further information or to register contact Sr M Julie Brcar: juliebrcar@gmail.com.

Parishes of Mater Dei Blakehurst St Raphael's South Hurstville

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

BULLETIN

6 October 2013



GOSPEL COMMENTARY

by Greg Sunter

How much faith does one have to have? How much faith is enough? How is it possible to measure one person's faith against another? When the disciples asked Jesus to increase their faith, what exactly were they asking of him? These fishermen and nobodies chosen as disciples by Jesus must surely have had moments of realisation that they were not the sorts of young men normally chosen by Rabbis to be disciples. They must have looked around at the disciples of other teachers and seen that, by comparison, they weren't really in the same league. So they ask Jesus to increase their faith. What they're saying is: make us more like the sorts of people we think we should be. Jesus counters their request by telling them that if they had faith the size of a tiny mustard seed they could accomplish great things. It's not a matter of how much faith one has but what they do with it. How much faith does it take to do great things? Jesus says that it only takes the tiniest scrap of faith.

Jesus follows up this statement by pointing out to the disciples that no matter how small the amount of faith, it carries with it a responsibility and duty to act upon it. One shouldn't be looking for acclaim and special treatment when one acts out of faith as that is simply what is expected. The gift of faith carries with it a duty to live that faith and act upon it.

When speaking about doing what is expected, Jesus uses the image of a servant or slave. Whilst this image may be a difficult one for us, Jesus is simply using an image that would have held meaning to his audience. The sense of doing what is expected without anticipating acclaim was best captured in the time by talking about a servant or slave. This does not suggest that Jesus condoned the practice of slavery or servitude – they were just cultural norms at the time. When Jesus spoke about these matters it was only to ensure that slave and servants were treated fairly.

For the last few months, in the Sunday gospel readings, we have been working our way through the second half of the gospel of Luke. From the end of chapter 9 onwards, the gospel charts the journey of Jesus towards Jerusalem. Throughout this journey, Jesus teaches his disciples and attempts to prepare them for his departure and their need to step up and take on his ministry. Today's passage is an example of this instruction to the disciples. Jesus makes clear that they are being called to give their lives to faith in service of others without expecting any return – just as Jesus does!

The disciples ask Jesus to increase their faith, but their question – and the reply given by Jesus – does not make clear the faith that they want increased. Is it their faith in God; their faith in themselves; or their faith in the people they are called to serve? The response by Jesus suggests that, in fact, it is faith in all these things. Faith in God and faith in self are intrinsically linked and Jesus makes plain to the disciples that this faith must find its expression in selfless service to others.

Entrance antiphon:

Within your will, O Lord, all things are established, and there is none that can resist your will. For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth, and all that is held within the circle of heaven; you are the Lord of all.

First Reading: Hab 1:2-3. 2:2-4

The just will live by faithfulness.

Psalm: 94

R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us.

Let us come before him, giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord. R.

Come in; let us bow and bend low; let us kneel before the God who made us for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture, the flock that is led by his hand. R.

O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert when your fathers put me to the test; when they tried me, though they saw my work.' R.

Second Reading: 2 Tim 1: 6-8, 13-14

Never be ashamed of witnessing the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

The word of the Lord stands for ever; it is the word given to you, the Good News. Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 17: 5-10

If you had faith!

Communion antiphon:

The Lord is good to those who hope in him, to the soul that seeks him.



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"to act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8)

MASS TIMES this week		
	Mater Dei	St.Raphael's
Vigil (Saturday)	6.15om	5.00pm
Sunday	10.00am	8.30am
Tuesday	8.00am	
Wednesday	8.00am	
Thursday		9.15am
Friday	8am	9.00am
Reconciliation: (also by appointment)		
Saturday		4.30pm

Legions of Mary
MD: Meets 10am every Monday morning in the Piety Stall at Mater Dei.
St R's Rosary and Meeting every Friday at 9:30 am downstairs in the Hall.
St Vincent de Paul Society
 Meets second Tuesday of each month in the Kennedy Centre at Mater Dei at 7.30 pm.

HOME ROSARY
St Raphael's Parish - Mondays 7.30pm
 7 October - Jose Luis & Lulu Ynfante
 3 Annie St, Hurstville
 14 October - Steve & Gerry McKluskey
 4 Waterview St, Carlton
Mater Dei Parish - Tuesdays
 8 October - Josie and Tony Ledonne
 81 Illawarra St Allawah 8pm
 15 October - tba
ALL WELCOME

FEAST DAYS:
 Mon 7 Oct: **Our Lady of the Rosary**

Please pray for
Deceased: Victor Care, Valliamai Subramaniam, Donald Krone, Francs Xavier Fulton
Other: Kathleen Barter
Sick: John Murphy, Ann, Margaret Hopkinson, Blaza Kursar, Howard Courtney, Paul Foley, Marie Worsley, Ann Davies, Joanne McRea, Brigit, Patrick & Sidney Yenson, Matthew Tuffin, Joanne Martin, George & Therese Mir, Jack & Sylvia Wood.

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND		
TYPE	StR	MD
First	392	269
Second: loose	321	424
Envelopes	687	894

Favourite Saints of Pope Francis
 1. **St. Augustine:** This fifth-century church father and theologian is a favourite of retired Pope Benedict XVI and for his successor. In a talk on the saint's feast day 28 Aug, Pope Francis said Christians must follow St. Augustine's example and refuse to become "anesthetized by success, by things, by power," but let themselves be restless for God. They also must never tire of sharing the good news of God's love and promise of salvation with others who are as lost as the saint was.

COMBINED PARISHES DINNER DANCE:
 On 25 October the communities of Mater Dei and St Raphael's will come together in a night of good food, fellowship and dancing at Zippo's Restaurant at Kyle Bay. The evening will start with a glass of champagne and coffee and tea will be available after dinner. The cost is \$65/pp. Tickets are selling fast and numbers are limited so make sure that you don't miss out! Tickets MUST be purchased before the night: order forms are at the doors of the churches. They can be returned to the Parish Office or given to Marguerite, Dianne or Wendy at MD or Rosie or Sophie at St R's. At Mater Dei, tickets for those who have paid are available from the sacristy after the Vigil Mass, and from Marguerite or Wendy after the 10am. See Rosie or the volunteers at St Raphael's.

Date Claimer: Twilight Mass & Christmas Party Picnic
 On 8 December Fr Isidore will celebrate a special Mass at MD at 5pm which will be followed by a BBQ and carols in the grounds. Parishioners from both Parishes are invited to come along with their picnic rug, munchies and enthusiasm. More info later.

America magazine's interview with Pope Francis
 There are a few copies of this long interview at the doors if you would like to take a copy and read it.

A Retreat Day for WIDOWED Women and Men
 A guided retreat is being offered, led by Fr Brendan Purcell, on Saturday 27 October starting at 10am and finishing at 4pm, at the Mount Schoenstatt Shrine and Retreat Centre (230 Fairlight Rd., Mulgoa). Total cost, including meals is \$10. Enquiries and registration to the Life, Marriage and Family Centre email LMFevents@sydneycatholic.org or phone 9390 5283.

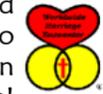
Ministry 5 & 6 October	St Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm V	8.30am	6.15pm V	10.00am
Acolytes / SS	Vincent	Max	Sofi	Onsi
EMHC	Moya Ellen	Annie Rosie		Marguerite
Readers	Pavia Family	Yenson Family	Sonia Kevin	Gail Angela, Luisa
Altar Servers	Volunteers Please	Volunteers Please	Adam Maxine	Amy, Alex Bianca
Music			Jan	Kim
Childrns Liturgy Leader			School holiday break	

Ministry 12 & 13 October	St Raphael's THISWEEKEND		Mater Dei THISWEEKEND	
	5.00pm V	8.30am	6.15pm V	10.00am
Acolytes/SS	Daniel	Michael	Gary	Graeme
EMHC	Jan Shirley	Michelle Monica		Marguerite
Readers	Shalala Family	Elisa Joseph	Ronni Louise	Joan Jean
Altar Servers	Marcus, Nevin, Eroy, Edward	Brianna, Sienna, Melissa, Chrystal	Adam Maxine	Amy Bianca
Music	Niko		Jan	Peter
Childrns Liturgy Leader				tba

Our Lady of Fatima Rosary Procession and Mass
 Where: Parish Church of St Benedict's Arcadia Corner Arcadia & Fagans Road, Arcadia
 When: Sunday 13 October at 1.00pm
 Starts with children performing a short re-enactment of the story of Our Lady of Fatima, a procession of the Rosary in five different languages, concluding with a Mass in English followed by light lunch and refreshments.



Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend – relationship enrichment for married couples, a unique opportunity to recharge relationship batteries, refocus on each other and fall in love all over again! 8 – 10 November at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW bookings: 4283 3435 or wsharpe@bigpond.net.au More info at: www.wwme.org.au



"The Chocolate Experience"
 You are invited to this event presented by Kenvale College, a non-profit organization specializing in Hospitality and Events Management courses based on Catholic principles. Enjoy tasting and learning about chocolate and information explaining the college's projects. Date: Friday 11 October at 11am at Our Lady of the Way Church (Parish Hall) 191Princes Hwy, Sylvania. RSVP to Diana 0400546511 for chocolate catering purposes.

St Vincent de Paul Festival Mass
 The St Vincent de Paul Society St George Regional council warmly invites its members, their families and the Parish Community to join them at their festival Mass on Friday 11 October at St Dedans church, Penhurst. Mass commences at 7.30pm and is followed by supper. Principal celebrant is Fr John Crowthers.

Retrieving the Vision of the People of God: a time of Crisis and Opportunity
 An open seminar organised in response to the strong desire among Catholic laity for change in our church. This seminar will focus on questions such as: What is the "sense of loss" being experienced, and where to ground a "sense of meaning" "Religion of empire" versus "religion of creation": both are found in scripture – does this distinction help us respond to our calling to be church? Haven't we been here before? Exploring aspects of the Catholic story that offer a way ahead for modern believers. Facilitators include Norma Tracey (psychoanalytic psychotherapist), Alex Nelson (theologian and psychologist) and Rev. Edmund Campion (historian and honorary professor at the Australian Catholic University).
 AT The Grail Centre, 22 McHatton Street North Sydney
 ON SATURDAY 19 OCTOBER 10.30 am - 3.30pm
 RSVP: 12 October to graillsydney@ozemail.com.au or Tel. 9955 3053 Donation: \$20 (waged), \$10 (unwaged) or what you can afford. Please bring your own lunch. Tea and coffee provided.

"We shall not cease from exploration. And the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time." T S Eliot, Little Gidding

For those interested in following the work of the Truth, Justice, Healing Council which is coordinating the Catholic Church's response to the Australian Government's Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, "with a commitment to cooperation, openness, full disclosure and justice for victims and survivors" please go to www.tjhcouncil.org.au

Flavour and Challenges Introduced by Vatican II
 Our Lady of Fatima Kingsgrove is hosting a course of five talks by Professor Neil Ormerod (ACU) on Saturdays 12, 19, 26 October and 2 November from 3.30pm to 4.45pm. The topic for Session 1 (12 October) is "What is a Church Council?". More details can be found at olkingsgrove.org.au/news-and-events/parish-news.

eConference on Gospel of St John
Pauline Books & Media will be a Discussion Group Host for this new eConference. You can attend at their shop at 150 Castlereagh Street, Sydney Tel.: 9264 8630 on Wednesday 16 October 10.30am-2.30pm. Keynote Educators: Fr Francis Moloney SDB and Rev. Dorothy Lee. Morning Tea will be provided at 9.50am. Please bring your own lunch RSVP to nrina@paulinebooks.com.au by 11 October. Facilitator – Paul Taouk. Official Broken Bay Institute eConference Website: john.vivlive.com.

Justice and Peace Gathering of Parishioners of the Archdiocese of Sydney
 At St Patrick's Summer Hill, Saturday 19 October at 10am. this time to reflect on the Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Statement for 2013-2014 "Lazarus at our Gate". Speakers will be Br John Nguyen (Capuchin), Sr Susan Connolly rsj, Melville Fernandez (Caritas) and Graeme Mundine among others.

Positions Vacant
The Catholic Diocese of Parramatta is looking for a dedicated Catholic and highly skilled person to take on the role of a Personal Assistant in the Bishop's office. The role provides secretarial and day-to-day management of an executive diary looking forward to 2014 and beyond with appointments. This is a full time position based in Parramatta. To view the full job advertisement and download the Position Description, please visit www.parra.catholic.org.au, the Diocesan website, and go the Employment section. Applications close 5pm on Monday 14 October.

a FUNNY
 A man was out one Saturday night and had a lot to drink. He went with his family to church early on Sunday and he was still feeling tipsy and drowsy. During the sermon, the priest asked, "Who wants to go to heaven?" Everyone raised their hand except him. His wife nudged him to alertness. The priest looked at him and said, "Don't you want to go to heaven when you die?" "Oh, when I die. I thought you were getting a group together right now."

Advertising in the parish bulletin: If you know a business which might be interested in this opportunity please pass this information on.

Report from St Raphael's Pastoral Council
 The new PC see their role as working with Fr Isidore to find new ways to improve the parish and build a strong community. From their last meeting the following actions will be taken:

- a book will be placed at the door of the church for parishioners to give feedback on what's happening in the Parish, and make constructive suggestions for change.
- Name badges available, for people to wear (if they choose) so we get to know each other and be able to greet each other by name.
- Christmas Party planning has been authorised.
- A Liturgy committee has been established. If you would like to be part of this please contact Br Ben.

Members of the Pastoral Council are: Sharon Saab, Adele Finlay, Jan Jorgensen, Rosie Gould, Jo Stores, Max Montecillo, Carl Pavia, Chris Wong, Gail Dawson, Sophia Zachem, Minh Nguyen & Br Ben. Feel free to talk to them about any ideas you may have to grow the Parish.

Get to know your Neighbour at St Raphael's
 Name badges are available at the doors. If you are a regular attender why not make yourself a badge which you can wear each week so other people can get to know you?

PARISH DIRECTORY
Parish Priest
Fr Isidore Anantharaj
 Phone: 95462605
pp@materdeiparish.org.au
Presbytery & Parish Office
 1008 King Georges Rd.,
 Blakehurst, NSW 2221
 Fax: 95472323
Mater Dei Church: 1008 King Georges Rd, Blakehurst,
St Raphael's Church: 84 George St, South Hurstville
Parish Coordinator & Secretary:
 Maryanne Hemsley
admin@materdeiparish.org.au
 Br. Joe Cassar
 9546 1232
Pastoral Assistant (St Raphael's):
 Br. Ben Krupowicz
 Phone: 9546 2544
Priest in Residence
 Fr. Jan Chrzczonowicz
 (Chaplain to the French)
 Mobile: 0412786 245
SCHOOLS:
Mater Dei Primary 9546 7298
 Principal: Mrs Jenni Payne
St Raphael's Primary 9546 4898
 Principal: Mrs Jo Stores

