



# Parishes of Mater Dei Blakehurst &

# St Raphael's South Hurstville

Twenty-first Sunday in  
Ordinary Time Year B

BULLETIN 22nd Aug 2021

**Entrance Antiphon:** Cf. Ps 85:1-3

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

**First Reading:** Jos 24:1-2, 15-18

We will serve the Lord God, because he is our God.

**Responsorial Psalm:**

(R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times, his praise always on my lips; in the Lord my soul shall make its boast. The humble shall hear and be glad. (R.)
2. The Lord turns his face against the wicked to destroy their remembrance from the earth. The Lord turns his eyes to the just and his ears to their appeal. (R.)
3. They call and the Lord hears and rescues them in all their distress. The Lord is close to the broken-hearted; those whose spirit is crushed he will save. (R.)
4. Many are the trials of the just man but from them all the Lord will rescue him. He will keep guard over all his bones, not one of his bones shall be broken. (R.)
5. Evil brings death to the wicked; those who hate the good are doomed. The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants. Those who hide in him shall not be condemned. (R.)

**Second Reading:** Eph 5:21-32

This is the great mystery, it applies to Christ and the Church.

**Gospel Acclamation :** Jn 6:60-69

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Your words, Lord, are spirit and life: you have the words of everlasting life. Alleluia!

**Gospel :** Lk 1:39-56

Lord, whom shall we go to? You have the words of everlasting life.

**Communion Antiphon:** Cf. Ps 103:13-15

The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.

## REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

For the last few weeks we have heard a number of readings from chapter 6 of the Gospel of John focusing on the teaching of Jesus that he is the Bread of Life, come down from heaven. This reading is the last in the sequence and shows the reaction to Jesus' teaching. What Jesus has been saying in this discourse is incredibly confronting to his Jewish audience. Jesus asserts that he has come down from heaven – from the Father – and that through knowing him one can know the Father. Jews were the first people to have a concept of one God. This belief did not allow for any spouse or child of God, nor any personal manifestation. They struggled with what Jesus was saying because his claim to have come down from heaven could be seen as blasphemous. No wonder many of them walked away from Jesus and wanted nothing more to do with him!

Jesus gives an interesting response to them. He tells them that it is the spirit that is important, not his human flesh, and that the spirit is what he has been sharing with them through his words and actions. He is trying to say to these faithful Jews, don't be hung up about the fact that I'm here in person, listen to my message as you've never heard it before. It is an interesting thought for our modern audience as well. How often do we fail to hear the message of Jesus because we are dismissive of the way in which it comes to us; the messenger; or the circumstances in which we hear it? The message is all the more confronting when it comes from an unlikely (or even un-likable) source. The message of Jesus is to be found in our everyday encounters with everyday people.

### Historical Context – Christians and Jews

The first followers of Jesus and those who became followers in the years after the death of Jesus were faithful Jews. They saw the teachings of Jesus as a way of being a better Jew. They didn't think that they were beginning a new religion; just a new way of interpreting their faith. However, as the years passed and the followers of Jesus began to clarify their understandings and beliefs, it started to become obvious that their belief in Jesus as the Son of God was distancing them from their Jewish brothers and sisters. Gradually the term, Christian, came into use and their differences from Judaism became more apparent.

### Gospel Focus – Peter's faith

Having laid out a fairly difficult teaching to the crowd, Jesus is faced with the fact that many of those who were following him couldn't cope with what he was saying and they walked away from him. Jesus turns on the Twelve and demands of them, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' One can almost hear the frustration and weariness in his voice. Peter's response must have been a great relief to Jesus. Peter declares that Jesus has the message of eternal life and is the Holy One of God. He still hasn't quite got the full picture but it's something Jesus can continue to work with!

### Dear Parishioners,

*I want you all to know that in these days of lockdown, I continue to offer masses for you and I pray for your health and well being.*

*These times can be difficult for families, as we cannot see other members of our extended family and our friends. However, these times could also be a time to pray together in your own homes to strengthen your faith.*

*Jesus said "I am with you always even to the end of world." Mat 28:20*

*Take comfort knowing that He is with us at all times.*

*I am looking forward to celebrating Mass with you all soon.*

*Blessings - Fr Thomas Alukka, Parish Priest*



Since you cannot do good to all, you are to pay special attention to those who, by the accidents of time, or place, or circumstances, are brought into closer connection with you.

- Saint Augustine

### Sunday School

#### at Mater Dei & St Raphael's parishes via Zoom

**"Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." - Matthew 19:14**

**When:** Sundays 2pm-2:30pm

**Who:** For children from Kindy to Year 6

**What:** We will do some games, pray and go through/discuss themes based on Sunday mass readings

Please contact Cecilia on 0413 673 669 or

Email: [cee.and.ed@gmail.com](mailto:cee.and.ed@gmail.com) if you would like your child to attend.

**"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." - Matthew 18:20**

**Pray for good health of :** Giselle Oscuro, John and Shirley Wakefield, Yin Kwan Tsang.

**Mass Offered:** Fr Isidore Anantharaj, Elias Haddad, Jeffrey Bishop

**Also pray for:** Holy Souls in Purgatory

#### Go Make Disciples Online Lay Leadership Series- "Christ-centered Leadership"

**24 Aug: Love that Risks: Creating Communities of Growth and Innovation.** Fr David Braithwaite SJ

Register at <https://www.gomakedisciples.org.au/cas-events/>

**Please note change in account number from 1st Sept 21**

#### PLANNED GIVING (during lockdown)

Planned giving can be done via bank transfer:

First Collection (for the priests)

BSB 062784 Acct Nr:100006233 (indicate SR or MD)

Second Collection (for the church)

Mater Dei: BSB 062 784 Account No. **100000476**

St Raphael: BSB 062 784 Account No. **100000380**

Reference: Your Name and envelope No. (if any)

Thank you for your generosity.

### Livestreaming of Mass during lockdown

**Daily 9:15am mass at St Declan's Peshurst:** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMUpiYtTbVl-1M3Uj-3b9Vg>

**Sun 9am Mass at St Declan's:** <https://www.stdeclansparish.org/live>

**Sunday St Mary's Cathedral:** <https://www.sydneycatholic.org/live-masses/>

**Sunday 6:00AM TV Ch10 Mass** or via website <https://massforyou.com.au/>

### NATURAL FERTILITY AWARENESS WEEK. August 23-29

Tracking Fertility: Tracking Health

Would you like to discover a way of tracking your cycles and understand a method of family planning in which both members of the couple share this awesome responsibility?

This knowledge is something every woman should have and every man can learn!

The Billings Ovulation Method® is based on sound science and has been proven an effective Method to achieve or postpone a pregnancy and to monitor reproductive health.

More info can be found: website <https://billings.life/en/> OR Contact your Billings Area Administrator, Maria: 040840259 for a teacher nearest to you.

#### Mater Dei & St Raphael's Parish Calendar— August 2021

Until end Sept	COVID-19 Lockdown—no Mass	SR & MD
7/9/2021	MD Pastoral Council Meeting	MD
TBA	SR Pastoral Council Meeting	SR
TBA	Sacrament of First Eucharist	SR & MD
Postponed to Dec 2021	Combined Parish Dinner	SR & MD

### Alpha at Mater Dei and St Raphael Parishes

Alpha Series is commencing via Zoom on **Thursday 26th August** at 7pm.

Join us as we take the opportunity to explore the big questions of life around an Alpha talk and discussion.

Everyone is welcome regardless of your life or faith journey. Come and see on your own or bring a family member or friend, neighbour or work-mate.

Please check out the Alpha intro video:

<https://player.vimeo.com/video/306917700>

Please register at: <https://qrgo.page.link/6DmiV>

Hope to see you there!

#### PARISH DIRECTORY

**PARISH PRIEST:** Fr Thomas Alukka

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**ST. RAPHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**

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Principal: Ms Melanie Headley

**St. Raphael Primary School:** (02) 9546 4898

Principal: Mrs Annette McKenzie

**Visiting his grandparents**, a small boy opened the big family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out. He picked it up and found that it was an old leaf that had been pressed flat between the pages. "Mama, look what I found" he called out. "What have you got there, dear?" his mother asked. With astonishment in his voice, the boy answered, "I think it's Adam's underwear!"

**FUNNY**