



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

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B **BULLETIN 29TH AUG 2021**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Cf. Ps 85:3,5

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.  
O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

**First Reading:** Dt 4:1-2. 6-8

You may add nothing to the word which I speak to you – keep the commands of the Lord.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 14:2-5. R. v.1

(R.) The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

1. Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain?  
He who walks without fault; he who acts with justice and speaks the truth from his heart. (R.)
2. He who does no wrong to his brother, who casts no slur on his neighbour, who holds the godless in disdain, but honours those who fear the Lord. (R.)
3. He who keeps his pledge, come what may; who takes no interest on a loan and accepts no bribes against the innocent. Such a man will stand firm for ever. (R.)

**Second Reading:** Jas 1:17-18, 21-22, 27

Be doers of the word.

**Gospel Acclamation :** Jas 1:18

Alleluia, alleluia!  
The Father gave us birth by his message of truth, that we might be as the first fruits of his creation.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel :** Mk 7:1-8. 14-15. 21-23

You forget the commandments of God and hold on to human tradition.

**Communion Antiphon:** Ps 30:20

How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you.

## REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

No matter how good the intention, sometimes misguided principles can lead to false action. This is what Jesus chastised the Pharisees about. The traditions that had been established through the Pharisees and the Lawyers were certainly based on the Law as stated in the Torah. However, the practices that had been established to try to help people honour the Torah had effectively replaced the Law. In order to maintain spiritual cleanliness, a tradition of physical cleanliness had emerged – particularly around interaction with Gentiles and around eating. However, the purpose of the tradition had become lost. The need for physical cleanliness had replaced the maintenance of spiritual cleanliness.

The Pharisees observe some of the disciples eating without properly washing their hands and challenge Jesus about it. They are upholding the tradition that has effectively become the Law. Jesus reminds them – somewhat forcefully – that these external practices are not the Law; rather the Law is observed internally. Jesus goes so far as to call the Pharisees hypocrites. It is a criticism of them that the gospel writers attribute to Jesus quite frequently. For Jesus, hypocrisy was one of the greatest failings. Because Jesus placed such a high price on integrity of word and action he could not abide those who proclaimed to be just, pious or forgiving and yet acted in ways that were contrary to these claims. His chastisement of the Pharisees – calling them hypocrites – was a challenge to their observation of external practices and rituals instead of seeking to understand the Torah as a call to a change of heart. Jesus points out that no amount of ritual cleansing will make a person clean within. Similarly, evil and uncleanness come from within a person – one doesn't 'catch it' from contact with strangers.

### Historical Context – Pharisees

Pharisees were mostly lay men (i.e. generally not Priests) who were characterised by a strict observance of the Torah as well as an oral tradition of teaching and interpretation. They believed that the Torah required interpretation – by engaging in this interpretation they participated in God's ongoing revelation. They also had a strong belief that all Jewish people were called to be a priestly people. This belief naturally put them at odds with the Priests of the Temple. After the destruction of the Temple in 70 CE, the teachings of the Pharisees gained prominence and eventually developed into Rabbinic Judaism that continues today.

### Dear Parishioners

*Even in these times of lockdown there is much to be grateful for. Look around you and see the beauty in nature - the sun rise, the trees and flowers in the garden, etc. These times, when we are not rushing to go to work and not too busy with some chores, we can stop and thank God for his gifts of creation.*

*Blessings from Fr Thomas Alukka, Parish Priest*

# Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;

let the sea resound,  
& all that is in it.

Let the fields be jubilant,  
& everything in them;

let all the trees of  
the forest sing for joy.

-Psalm 96:11-12

"I want every soul to glorify the mercy of God, for each one experiences the effects of that mercy on himself. The Saints in heaven worship the mercy of the Lord. I want to worship it even now, here on earth, and to spread devotion to it in the way that God demands of me." - St. Faustina.

**TAX RECEIPTS 2020-2021**

If you would like to have the Tax Receipts for the financial year 2020-2021, please email us at [admin@materdei-straphael.org.au](mailto:admin@materdei-straphael.org.au), with Subject: Tax Receipt FY2021 – PG Env # (Number), with details of your name, Planned Giving Envelope number and your parish.

**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

Mater Dei and St Raphael's  
**Sunday School!**

"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." - Matt 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 E: [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." - Matt 18:20

**Go Make Disciples**

Daniel Ang, Director of the Sydney Centre for Evangelisation shares his vision for Go Make Disciples with the Catholic Weekly's Marilyn Rodrigues

<https://www.gomakedisciples.org.au/>

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

Planned giving can be done via bank transfer:

First Collection (for the priests)

BSB 062784 Account Nr: **100006233** (indicate SR or MD)

Second Collection (for the church maintenance)

Mater Dei: BSB 062784 Account No. **100000476**

St Raphael: BSB 062784 Account No. **100000380**

Ref: Your name and envelope No. (if any)

Thank you for your generosity.

**Further extension of COVID19 restrictions for Greater Sydney**  
The NSW government has announced a further extension of COVID-19 restrictions for all of Greater Sydney, including the Blue Mountains and Wollongong regions.

Churches will be closed to the public until at least Thursday 30 September 2021.

Funerals may proceed at this time, with a maximum of ten members of the congregation, following a four square metre rule.

**Catholic Weekly online (Free)**

<https://www.catholicweekly.com.au/catholic-weekly-newspaper-online/>

**Livestreaming of Mass during lockdown**

**Daily 9:15am mass at St Declan's Penshurst:** <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/>

**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

**Afghan Refugee Appeal**

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP, has launched the Afghan Refugee Appeal. The appeal will raise desperately needed funds and commit the Archdiocese resources of education, health and welfare to Afghan families and individuals fleeing their homeland in the wake of the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan.

<https://www.ourfaithourworks.org/ara/>

New publication gathers expert analyses on gender identity issues relating to children and teens <https://www.catholicweekly.com.au/fresh-trans-inquiry-call/>

By the time the morning service was to begin, only one man was in the church. The priest said to him, "It looks like everyone has slept in. Do you want to go home or should I preach the sermon?"

The man replied, "When I go to feed the chickens and only one comes, I still feed it." The priest took that as a yes, mounted the pulpit and delivered an hour-long sermon. At the end, he asked the man what he thought.

His answer: "When I go to feed the chickens and only one comes, I don't give it the whole bucket!"



**PARISH DIRECTORY**

**PARISH PRIEST:** Fr Thomas Alukka

**M:** 0469 236 118 **E:** [tomyalukka@gmail.com](mailto:tomyalukka@gmail.com)

**MATER DEI CATHOLIC CHURCH**

1008 King Georges Road, Blakehurst 2221, NSW

**ST. RAPHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**

84 George Street, South Hurstville

[www.materdei-straphael.org.au](http://www.materdei-straphael.org.au)

**Parish Secretary:** Juliana Widjaja

Office hours: Tues & Wed 9:30am - 2:30pm

Phone: 9546 2605 - Fax: 9547 2323

Email: [admin@materdei-straphael.org.au](mailto:admin@materdei-straphael.org.au)

**Parish Ministry Coordinator & Safeguarding Officer**

**Michael Fernandes**

Office hours: Tues, Wed & Fri 10am – 2pm

**M:** 0437 517 758 **E:** [mc@materdei-straphael.org.au](mailto:mc@materdei-straphael.org.au)

**Pastoral Ministry Coordinator:** Br. Ben Krupowicz

Phone: 02 95462544 Email: [strsh@outlook.com](mailto:strsh@outlook.com)

**Fr. Jan Chrzczonowicz :** Phone: 0412 786 245

**Mater Dei Primary School:** (02) 9546 7298

Principal: Ms Melanie Headley

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

Principal: Mrs Annette McKenzie