

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

Twenty-fifth Sunday in
Ordinary Time Year B

BULLETIN 19TH SEP 2021

Entrance Antiphon:

I am the salvation of the people,
says the Lord.
Should they cry to me in any dis-
tress,
I will hear them, and I will be their
Lord for ever.

First Reading: Wis 2:12, 17-20

Let us condemn him to a most
shameful death.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 53:3-6. 8. R. v. 6

(R.) The Lord upholds my life.

1. O God, save me by your name;
by your power, uphold my
cause.
O God, hear my prayers;
listen to the words of my mouth.
(R.)
2. For proud men have risen
against me,
ruthless men seek my life.
They have no regard for God.
(R.)
3. But I have God for my help.
The Lord upholds my life.
I will sacrifice to you with willing
heart and praise your name for
it is good. (R.)

Second Reading: Jas 3:16-4:3

Justice is the harvest of peacemak-
ers from seeds sown in a spirit of
peace.

Gospel Acclamation: See 2 Thes 2:14

Alleluia, alleluia!
God has called us with the gospel
to share in the glory of our Lord
Jesus Christ.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Mk 9:30-37

The Son of Man will be delivered
into the hands of humanity ... All
who wish to be first must make
themselves the servants of all.

Communion Antiphon: Ps 118:4-5

You have laid down your precepts
to be carefully kept;
may my ways be firm in keeping
your statutes.

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

Last week's gospel, in which Jesus asked his disciples, 'Who do you say I am?' marked a turning point in the gospel of Mark. Having established in the minds of the disciples that he is indeed the Messiah, Jesus now begins to explore with them what that really means and also what it means to be a follower – a disciple – of the Messiah who must be put to death. Having finally come to some level of understanding that Jesus is the Messiah, the disciples have latched on to a very limited understanding of Jesus' Messiahship. They have assumed that being Messiah meant that Jesus was going to lead a triumphant victory over all the woes of the Jews – it was a common understanding and expectation of what the Messiah would do. With this in mind, the disciples begin to argue amongst themselves about who will hold positions of respect and power in the aftermath of Jesus' great triumph. Despite what Jesus had just said about being put to death and rising again, the disciples simply couldn't grasp what he was saying and fell back onto a familiar picture of the Messiah.

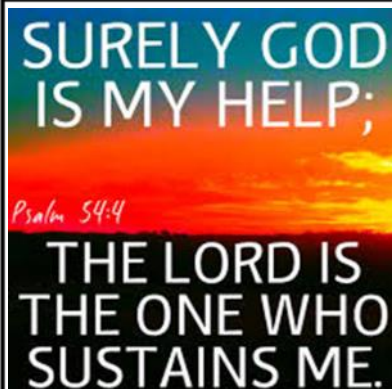
To really shake up the disciples and try to make them pay attention to what he was saying to them, Jesus put his arms around a small child and told the disciples they had to welcome little children in his name. Like so many gospel images there is more going on here than meets the eye. Children were regarded as complete nobodies in the culture of the time. They had no status and absolutely no authority. Jesus is saying to the disciples, don't argue about who will be the greatest; this child – this nobody – is greater than anyone who lords it over others. If you treat a nobody like this with respect, you treat me with respect.

Historical Context – Messianic expectation

The term Messiah means anointed one. In the era of the Kings of Israel, quite literally someone was designated King by being anointed – having oil poured over their head. It's easy to see that when the people of Israel spoke about a 'Messiah' (an 'anointed one') who would restore justice and peace, they had in mind a great King. They even expected that the new king would come from the line of David, the line of the great kings of their history. Jesus was working against centuries of tradition when he tried to get the disciples to see that the Messiah could be something else.

Have you thought? Last of all?

Jesus tells his disciples that if anyone wants to be first, they must make themselves last of all and servant of all. This is as challenging to us today as it was to the disciples and early Christians. Our world seems to revolve around position, status and power – whoever has the most toys wins! But what Jesus advocated was a leadership based on being of service to others. Being powerful simply means you are in a position to help even more people. Putting yourself last, instead of first, gives respect, dignity and power to others rather than to yourself.



Dear Parishioners

As we continue in this period of lock-down, I encourage you to persevere in prayer and not give up.

We know God is there with us in every struggle and every difficulty we have.

Along with the Psalmist we can say, "But I have God for my help. The Lord upholds my life".

Have a blessed week, Fr Thomas Alukka

"Sometimes It happens that you feel disappointed, discouraged, abandoned by all; but God does not forget his children, he never abandons them! He is always at our side, especially in trying times." - Pope Francis

Invitation to Go Make Disciples Prayer Night

30 Sept, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Greetings in Christ. I am writing to invite you and your community to join together with Catholics across the Archdiocese to pray for our parish communities, our city and our nation. This will take the form of a simple online holy hour on Thursday 30 September, 7PM – 8:30 PM.

Further information and the registration link can be found at <https://www.gomakedisciples.org.au/cas-events/>

Sister Anastasia Reeves, OP | Parish Renewal Officer Archdiocese of Sydney

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

Seasons of Creation - Climate Change Lamentation

Archbishop Peter Loy Chong of Suva in Fiji has produced a powerful Climate Change Lamentation song to tell the story of Pacific Islanders united response to addressing the urgent issues of climate change and environmental destruction affecting their nations.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h17GvSJIrPc>

7 Days of Creation, Scriptural Prayers and Reflection, Year B

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UW1anUK-Y_U

(St Columbans Mission Society)

2022 Columban Art Calendar (Pre-order)

[https://www.columban.org.au/donate/shop/columban-art-calendar/2022-columban-art-calendar-pre-order-\(wholesale\)](https://www.columban.org.au/donate/shop/columban-art-calendar/2022-columban-art-calendar-pre-order-(wholesale))

Blessed

Daily Advent and Christmas Reflections 2021

Blessed is a 92-page pocket-size book containing short spiritually rich, yet accessible, daily reflections from the beginning of Advent (28 November 2021) through to the Baptism of the Lord (9 January 2022). \$4.40 each. Order at: <https://www.dow.org.au/product/blessed-advent-program-2021/>



If you have any questions or you would like to place a phone or email order, call us on (02) 4222 2411 or orders@dow.org.au

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/>

Charitable Works Fund Parish Appeal 2021

Please note following dates for appeals:

- 26 September, CWF appeal
- 24 October, PRF appeal
- 21 November, CWF appeal

We appreciate this is a very difficult time for everyone, but it is also the reason why we need to support our Charitable Works Fund, which in turn supports Catholic Care, the Ephpheta Centre and many other ministries in the Archdiocese of Sydney. (See Archbishop's video in my bulletin email)

Church Contributions via Credit Card or Direct Transfer

Go to our website: <https://www.materdei-straphael.org.au/>
On the top right-hand side, click 'SUPPORT US' then Click 'DONATE'
Click either donate to St Raphael or Mater Dei and select correct biller code.
(Pastoral Revenue = 1st Collection, General Donation =2nd Collection)

OR you can use the Direct Transfer Method

Thank you for your generosity.

PARISH DIRECTORY

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Thomas Alukka

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MATER DEI CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Parish Ministry Coordinator & Safeguarding Officer
Michael Fernandes

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FUNNY

Watch out!

A drunkard was staggering down the street with blisters on both ears. "What caused those blisters on both ears?" asked a friend. "My wife left her hot iron near the phone; so when the phone rang, I picked up the iron by mistake" explained the drunkard. "Okay, but how about the other ear?" continued the friend. "That fool phoned a second time!"

