



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

Twenty-fourth Sunday in
Ordinary Time Year B

BULLETIN 12TH SEP 2021

Entrance Antiphon: Cf. Sir 36:18

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

First Reading: Is 50:5-9

I gave my body to those who struck me.

Responsorial Psalm:

(R.) I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.

1. I love the Lord for he has heard the cry of my appeal; for he turned his ear to me in the day when I called him. (R.)
2. They surrounded me, the snares of death, with anguish of the tomb; they caught me, sorrow and distress. I called on the Lord's name. O Lord my God, deliver me! (R.)
3. How gracious is the Lord, and just; our God has compassion. The Lord protects the simple hearts; I was helpless so he saved me. (R.)
4. He has kept my soul from death, my eyes from tears and my feet from stumbling. I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living. (R.)

Second Reading: Jas 2:14-18

Faith without good works is dead.

Gospel Acclamation: Gal 6:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

My only glory is the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, which crucifies the world to me and me to the world.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Mk 8:27-35

You are the Christ ...the Son of Man was destined to suffer much.

Communion Antiphon: Cf. Ps 35:8

How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

'But you, who do you say I am?' This would have to be one of the most powerful questions of the gospels. It echoes down the centuries and is just as relevant today as it ever was. 'Who do you say I am?' Our answer to that question is perhaps the most revealing statement of our faith. Our answer no doubt changes over time as we grow in understanding and as we experience the ups and downs of life, but nonetheless, just like Peter in the gospel passage, our answer remains a clear statement of our faith. 'Who do you say I am?' Just a good guy who lived 2,000 years ago? A role model? A friend? God made flesh? The Word come down from heaven? Nobody? Everybody? Our saviour? An inspired man of God? The Messiah?

Perhaps you've never tried to actually answer the question yourself. It is a confronting question, 'Who do you say I am?' It's confronting because, as Christian people, we believe that our actions are a reflection of our beliefs and values. It's confronting because whatever we say in answer to that question has implications for the way we live. 'Who do you say I am?' You see, the question is in the present tense, not the past. It doesn't ask 'Who do you say I was?'; it asks, 'Who do you say I AM?' The very question asks us to recognise that Jesus was not just some guy who lived 2,000 years ago but rather someone who continues to be a presence in our lives today. And he stands before each and every one of us today and asks that same, demanding, confronting, purposeful question: 'Who do YOU say I am?'

Scriptural context – A Turning Point

This passage forms a crucial turning point in the Gospel of Mark. It occurs at the very mid-point of the gospel – the end of chapter 8 in a 16 chapter gospel. From this point on the gospel takes a greater focus on what it means to be a disciple and Jesus' movement towards Jerusalem. This passage in which Peter professes his faith in Jesus as the Messiah is immediately followed by the account of the Transfiguration. From this point onwards, the gospel writer reveals the growing understanding of Jesus' identity that until now has been wrapped in secrecy.

Gospel Focus – Peter's insight

When Peter answers Jesus' question he demonstrates the disciples' dawning awareness of Jesus' true identity. It is the first occasion that the disciples are called to own what they think about Jesus. However, when Jesus begins to spell out what being the Messiah reality means – persecution and death – Peter tries to convince Jesus that he doesn't need to go down that path. Jesus turns on Peter and snaps, 'Get behind me, Satan!' It is a reminder of the desert temptation Jesus had to face at the start of his ministry when he wrestled with what sort of messiah he was called to be.



Dear Parishioners

As we continue during this period of lockdown, let us turn to the Lord who is our strength and hope. Jesus is present in every circumstance of our life. Lean on him, as he calls us to follow Him.

I remember you all in my prayers each time I celebrate Mass.

Blessings,

Fr Thomas Alukka



... Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me... Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever -David

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/>

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

Death Anniversary: Orlando Casas

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

Also pray for: Holy Souls in Purgatory

Mater Dei and St Raphael's Sunday School!

Sunday school commenced last Sunday with 10 children

When: Sundays 2pm-2:30pm

Who: For children from Kindy to Year 6

Please contact Cecilia on 0413 673 669 or E: cee.and.ed@gmail.com if you would like your child to attend.

NEW WEB DESIGN

Our Parish Website has received a new colourful design thanks to our own Lorraine Bobosevic. Check it out.

Also, a new tab has been recently added—the Adult Faith Formation You can find the latest popular App “The Chosen” there.

<https://www.materdei-straphael.org.au/>

Church Contributions can be done via Bpoint or Direct Transfer

A). Payment via Credit Card.

Method 1: Please follow the steps below:

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)

Method 2 is same as above but deposit is directly via the links below:

St Raphaels: <https://www.bpoint.com.au/payments/hurstvillesouth>

Mater Dei: <https://www.bpoint.com.au/payments/blakehurstparish>

and select correct biller code

B). Payment via Direct Deposit

First Collection: (for the Priest and Presbytery):

Account Name: Blakehurst / South Hurstville P/Revenue

BSB: 062-784 Account Number: 100006233 (Please indicate MD or SR parish)

Planned Giving Envelopes and general donation / 2nd collection

Blakehurst Parish: BSB 062-784 Account No. 100010644

Hurstville South Parish: BSB 062-784 Account No. 100010643

Reference: Your name & PG Envelope number or 2nd collection

Thank you for your generosity.

Tap and Go amount now \$10.00

Just to let you know, we have raised the minimum amount from \$5.00 to \$10.00 on the Tap and Go machine in the church

Catholic Weekly online (Free)

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

PMater Dei & St Raphael's Parish Calendar— August 2021

| Until end Sept | COVID-19 Lockdown—no Mass | SR & MD |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|---------|
| Postponed | 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 |

PARISH DIRECTORY

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Thomas Alukka

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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

Parish Secretary: Juliana Widjaja

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

Phone: 9546 2605 - Fax: 9547 2323

Email: admin@materdei-straphael.org.au

Parish Ministry Coordinator & Safeguarding Officer

Michael Fernandes

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Pastoral Ministry Coordinator: Br. Ben Krupowicz

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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

Moses was leading the Hebrews to the Red Sea and the Egyptians were coming fast.

Moses turned to his PR agent: “Where are all those boats I told you to get!” The PR man said, “What boats? You never mentioned boats to me.”

“Just great” said Moses “what am I supposed to do, lift my staff and part the waters?????”

The PR man answered: “If you can pull that one off, I can get you a whole section in the Bible.”



A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney:

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or

safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org

You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance.

The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.