



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

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

BULLETIN 26TH SEP 2021

Entrance Antiphon:

All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgement, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

First Reading: Nm 11:25-29

Are you jealous on my account? Who decrees that all people may prophesy?

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 18:8, 10, 12-14.

(R.) The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.

1. The law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul. The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, it gives wisdom to the simple. (R.)
2. The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding for ever. The decrees of the Lord are truth and all of them just. (R.)
3. So in them your servant finds instructions; great reward is in their keeping. But who can detect all his errors? From hidden faults acquit me. (R.)
4. From presumption restrain your servant and let it not rule me. Then shall I be blameless, clean from grave sin. (R.)

Second Reading: Jas 5:1-6

Your wealth is rotting.

Gospel Acclamation: See Jn 17:17

Alleluia, alleluia!

Your word, O Lord, is truth: make us holy in the truth. Alleluia!

Gospel: Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

Anyone who is not against us is for us. If your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off.

Communion Antiphon:

Remember your word to your servant, O Lord, by which you have given me hope. This is my comfort when I am brought low.

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

The first part of today's gospel deals with the disciples' jealousy at someone else 'cashing in' on Jesus' name and authority. It is a continuation of their limited understanding about the message and ministry of Jesus. They still cling to an idea that Jesus is going to rise up in power against the forces of Rome and, in the aftermath, they are going to be sitting pretty as associates of this powerful figure. The disciples have been blinded by their dreams of glory and forgotten that the real story is that people are being cured and having demons cast out. Rather than celebrating the healing that is occurring in Jesus' name, the disciples are jealous that it's someone else who is getting the credit. Jesus assures them, and us, that any good work being undertaken genuinely in his name is to be welcomed. It is a reminder to us that sometimes we look down on the work of others because 'they're not one of us', or 'they're not doing it our way'.

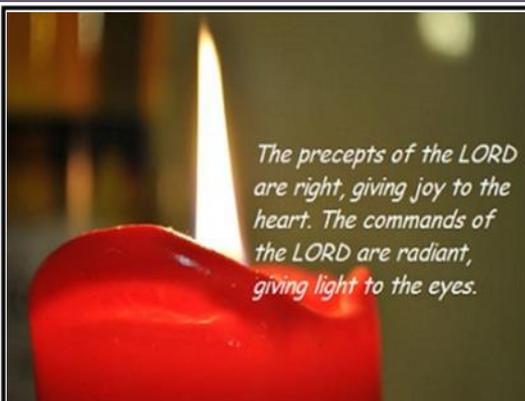
The second portion of the gospel is one of the really challenging teachings of Jesus. Drawing on the image of the community as being a whole body, the teaching suggests that it is better to remove the part of the body/community that is causing sinfulness than have the whole body/community perish. It is a concept we are familiar with in modern medicine: sometimes it is necessary to remove diseased tissue to prevent the spread of disease. We are reminded that if we surround ourselves with negative people and negative influences, we too will become negative. If we separate ourselves from negative influences and surround ourselves with positive ones then the positive aspects of our lives will flourish.

Have you thought? Jealousy

The disciples are portrayed as being jealous of someone healing in the name of Jesus. It is almost an intellectual property argument – you can't use Jesus' name to heal, only we can 'cause we're with Jesus. Their attitude sounds quite childish but it is an attitude we encounter all the time – and are perhaps guilty of ourselves at times. In our world that encourages competitive behaviour at every turn, Jesus' attitude is a challenging one – if good is being done, why care who gets the credit for it? Perhaps politicians would get more done if they weren't concerned about getting credit for what they do.

Living the Gospel – Cut it out!

The thought of cutting off a hand or foot or tearing out an eye seems a bit extreme if taken literally. Whilst Jesus didn't mean for us to do a bit of self-surgery, if we find ourselves caught in behaviour that is self-destructive or hurtful to others, the only solution is quite literally to 'cut it out'. We know within ourselves when our actions are life-giving or life-harming. Surprisingly we often persist with harmful behaviour even when we know it's harmful. Jesus' solution is simple: cut out the negative behaviour and get back on track. That's the principle behind Reconciliation.



The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes.

Dear Parishioners

I encourage you to use this time of lockdown fruitfully. One way is to read the scriptures. You will learn that the commandments of God are not stern or harsh. They are gifts from God to give us joy.

Every day when I celebrate Mass, I remember you all.

*Have a blessed week,
Fr Thomas Alukka*

"First, I would have you consider how short your life is, that you cannot be sure of tomorrow. We can truly say that we aren't bearing the sufferings of the past nor those of the future, but only the moment we're living right now. And since time is so short, we surely ought to suffer patiently. Secondly, consider the fruit that follows these sufferings. St. Paul says there is no comparison between our sufferings and the fruit and reward of heavenly glory. Thirdly, reflect on the loss incurred by those who suffer angrily or impatiently, for the consequence is not only what they lose here but eternal suffering hereafter as well. I beg you then, dearest brother, to suffer patiently." St. Catherine of Siena

Go Make Disciples Prayer Night: Opening Hearts to Christ

Praying for our Parishes and our People

Catholics from across Sydney will gather online to pray for the parishes and people in our Archdiocese and beyond. This event takes places on the eve of the feast of St Therese, patron saint of missionaries. As we await the end of lockdown, let us unite ourselves with Christ and pray for renewal of our parishes, that many hearts will be open to Christ's love and granted the grace to encounter Him in this time of challenge and to live ever more deeply as His disciples.

Date: Thursday 30 September

Time: 7:00pm – 8:30pm

Platform: Online via Zoom, please register at [here](#)

Information: Contact sr.anastasia.reeves@sydneycatholic.org.

Rosary Crusade for Victory Against the Darkness

This will be a live, worldwide, virtual event at 6:30 pm central on Thurs October 7, 2021—yes, that's right, the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary! You will need to register in advance to receive the link to join in. Here's where to sign up: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/avilafoundation/568089#>

Our Lady of Victory, pray for us!

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/>

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 as shown in the website.

Thank you for your generosity.

A little boy was waiting for his mother to come out of the grocery Store. As he waited, he was approached by a man who asked, "Son, can you tell me where the Post Office is? The little boy replied, " Sure! Just go straight down the street a couple of blocks and turn to our right." The man thanked the boy kindly and said, "I'm the new vicar in town. I'd like for you to come to church on Sunday. I'll show you how to get to Heaven." The little boy replied with a chuckle. "Awww, come on ...You don't even know the way to the Post office."

W FUNNY

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

WITH DEEPEST
Sympathy

We offer our condolences to Michael Eather and family on the demise of his beloved mother, Coral Mary Eather, who passed away on 11th Sept. The funeral was on 24/9/21 at Rookwood. She was 92. May loving memories bring them peace, comfort and strength today and always.

Catholic Weekly online (Free)

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

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)

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