



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

Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time—Year B

Bulletin

31st Oct 2021

Entrance Antiphon: Cf. Ps 37:22-23

Forsake me not, O Lord, my God; be not far from me! Make haste and come to my help, O Lord, my strong salvation!

First Reading: Dt 6:2-6

Hear Israel, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 17:2-4. 47. 51. R.v.2

(R.) I love you Lord, my strength

1. I love you, Lord, my strength, my rock, my fortress, my saviour. My God is the rock where I take refuge; my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold. The Lord is worthy of all praise: when I call I am saved from my foes. (R)

2. Long life to the Lord, my rock! Praised be to the God that saves me. He has given great victories to his king and shown love for his anointed. (R)

Second Reading: Heb 7:23-28

This one, because he remains forever, has an eternal priesthood.

Gospel Acclamation : Jn 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them.

Alleluia!

Gospel : Mk 12:28-34

This is the first commandment, and the second is similar to it.

Communion Antiphon: Cf. Ps 15:11

You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence, O Lord.

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

Generally, in the gospels, the scribes are shown as antagonistic towards Jesus and when we begin this passage we may be expecting a trap being laid by the scribe. In Jewish tradition, a lot of teaching occurs through a question and answer style and often the question is related to a particular teaching from Torah. Here, the scribe approaches Jesus as a teacher, a rabbi, and poses a question just as he would to any other worthy teacher. He asks which of the commandments Jesus regards to be foremost. This could be an opening question to any teacher and one would expect it to be the start of a long conversation. Neither of the commandments Jesus quotes come from the Ten Commandments with which we are most familiar, but, rather, they come from other parts of Torah (the Law). His qualification of the first commandment – to love God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength – is a way of capturing the whole person. What Jesus is saying is to love God completely and utterly with your whole person. Then he follows up and adds another commandment – ‘You must love your neighbour as yourself.’ The scribe agrees with Jesus’ teaching and adds that these are far more important than offering sacrifice. This is a pretty controversial statement from a scribe! Sacrifice has been the official form of prayer practised in the Temple for a very long time and he suggests that love of God and love of neighbour are far more important! It is because of this understanding about the priority of love over religious practice – the hallmark of the kingdom of God that Jesus proclaims – that Jesus pronounces the scribe to be ‘not far from the kingdom of God.’

Historical Context – Sacrifice

We know from the Old Testament that sacrifice was an important religious practice dating back to the foundations of Jewish faith. After the construction of the Temple in Jerusalem, sacrifice of birds and animals was practised there as the highest form of worship. With the destruction of the Temple in 70 CE – about the time Mark’s gospel was written – temple worship and sacrifice came to an abrupt end. The entire nature of Judaism changed from a Temple-centred faith to a much more decentralised faith. In this week’s gospel, the gospel writer is projecting the reality of his time back into the scribe’s encounter with Jesus.

Living the Gospel – Love

Jesus reminds us ‘You must love your neighbour as yourself.’ There’s an unspoken, underlying idea here that is absolutely crucial. Before you can love your neighbour, you must first love yourself. To say that you love yourself today can imply a level of boastfulness or ego. However, what is required is a genuine love of self – an acceptance; a respect; a true valuing of self. Only then can we know how to treat others. When we ask ourselves how we would want to be treated it points us towards how we should treat others. What is summed up so simply by Jesus is a very tough ask!

COVID—Easing of restrictions

STAGE TWO – AS 80% ARE FULLY VACCINATED – FROM 18th OCT 2021

Churches will be opened to “mixed” congregations (fully vaccinated, partially vaccinated and as yet unvaccinated); the 4 sqm rule will apply, and masks must be worn indoors with No congregational singing.

**UNITED IN FAITH, GUIDED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT NOURISHED BY THE EUCHARIST,
COMMITTED TO PROCLAIMING THE
GOSPEL.WE STRIVE TO LIVE AS GOD ASKS**

“to act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with our God” (Micah 6:8)

Bad times, hard times, this is what people keep saying; but let us live well, and times shall be good. We are the times: Such as we are, such are the times.

ST. AUGUSTINE

MASS TIMES from 18th Oct 2021

	St Raphael Church	Mater Dei Church
Monday		
Tuesday		9:15am Mass
Wednesday		8:45am Rosary, Novena 9:15am Mass
Thursday	9:15am Mass	
Friday	7:30pm Adoration	8:45am Adoration 9:15am Mass
Saturday	Reconciliation 4:30pm 5:00pm Vigil Mass	6:15pm Vigil Mass
Sunday	8:30am Mass 6:00pm Croatian Mass	10:00am Mass

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

Mass Offered: Fr Isidore Anantharaj, Elias Had-dad, Jeffrey Bishop

Also pray for: Holy Souls in Purgatory

Ecumenical Remembering Service

The Ecumenical Remembering service (Anglican, Uniting & Catholic church) will be held at St Raphael's Church on Sunday 5th December 2021 at 2pm followed by refreshments

November mass offering

Please use the envelopes in the church for November mass offerings for holy souls

Ministry 30th/31st Oct (5th Sun)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.30am	6.15pm V	10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer
Readers	Saab Family	Yenson Family	Bessie Chung Volunteer	Nina Milazzo Lorraine Bobosevic
Ministry 6th/7th Nov (1st Sun)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.30am	6.15pm V	10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Gary, Max	Tony Oscuro	Paul Watson
Readers	Pavia Family	Marie C Ronnie C	Frances Oscuro Volunteer	Gail Abbott Luisa Galea

Please arrange for a replacement if you are unable to serve - Michael Fernandes 0437 517 758



Parish Council Meetings

Mater Dei—Tue 2nd Nov 2021 7pm
St Raphael—Tue 9th Nov 2021 7pm



Month of Rosary

Rosary will be recited outdoors in front of Our Lady's statue at Mater Dei Church at 9:30am on Sunday.

PRIESTS' RETIREMENT FOUNDATION



Priests' Retirement Foundation Appeal 2021

This weekend marks the start of the **Priests' Retirement Foundation Appeal**. Your generosity donations support our sick and retired priests, providing them with appropriate accommodation and assistance with transition into retirement, medical and dental care, pastoral and other practical support – to give them a life of relative comfort and dignity in retirement. To donate visit www.ourfaithourworks.org/prf or scan the QR Code.

Medical abilities

Due to his hectic schedule, I had seen little of the medical student who had moved next door to me two years earlier. I learned that he had graduated, and one day when I spotted him in his driveway. I went over and congratulated him.

"Well,' I said, 'Now if I break my arm, you'll be able to fix it.' He replied, 'I've been able to fix your arm for some time. The important thing is that now I can bill you for it.'



PARISH DIRECTORY

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Thomas Alukka
M: 0469 236 118 E: tomyalukka@gmail.com

MATER DEI CATHOLIC CHURCH
1008 King Georges Road, Blakehurst 2221, NSW
ST. RAPHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
84 George Street, South Hurstville

Website: <https://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
Office hours: Tues, Wed & Fri 10am – 2pm
M: 0437 517 758 E: mc@materdei-straphael.org.au

Pastoral Ministry Coordinator: Br. Ben Krupowicz
Phone: 02 95462544 Email: strsh@outlook.com
Fr. Jan Chrzczonowicz : Phone: 0412 786 245

Safeguarding Children

The Safeguarding and Child Protection documents can be found on our website at <https://www.materdei-straphael.org.au/safeguarding/>