



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

Twenty-Eighth Sunday in  
Ordinary Time Year B

Bulletin 10th Oct 2021

**Entrance Antiphon:** Ps 129:3-4

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But with you is found forgiveness, O God of Israel.

**First Reading:** Wis 7:7-11

In comparison to wisdom, I held riches as nothing.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 89:12-17. R. v.14

(R.) Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy!

1. Make us know the shortness of our life that we may gain wisdom of heart. Lord, relent! Is your anger forever? Show pity to your servants. (R.)
2. In the morning, fill us with your love; we shall exult and rejoice all our days. Give us joy to balance our affliction for the years when we knew misfortune. (R.)
3. Show forth your work to your servants; let your glory shine on their children. Let the favour of the Lord be upon us: give success to the work of our hands. (R.)

**Second Reading:** Heb 4:12-13

The word of God discerns the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Mt 5:3

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Happy the poor in spirit;  
the kingdom of heaven is theirs!  
Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Mk 10:17-30

Go and sell whatever you have and come follow me.

**Communion Antiphon:** Cf. Ps 33:11

The rich suffer want and go hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.

## REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

Jesus reminds us in this gospel that to join him in bringing about the reign of God requires absolute commitment and a willingness to give up that which is most precious to us. The rich man who approached Jesus was genuine in his desire to fulfil all the requirements of the Law to attain eternal life. Jesus quoted to him all the commandments that deal with right relationships with others. The man is able to tick these off and assure Jesus that he has been doing this since childhood – a pretty big claim in the first place! Then Jesus 'looked steadily at him and loved him' – he looked on him with the eyes of love; the eyes that see to the heart of a person, and in that look knew what was most important to the man. Jesus could tell by his dress no doubt that the man was wealthy and so it is this aspect of the man's life that Jesus chooses to challenge him about. This gospel shouldn't necessarily be read as a condemnation of wealth – rather, it is the man's inability to surrender his wealth that Jesus challenges. Jesus sees to the heart of the man and asks if he is willing to give up that which is most important in his life. The man is unable to do what Jesus asks of him and goes away sad. Why sad? He's sad because he knows that he has been tested and failed. He knows that what he genuinely desired was within his reach but he needed to let go of his position, his status, his wealth, to be able to grasp what he desired in both hands.

### From the perspective of ... The Disciples

'What about us?' Peter cried. The disciples were staggered that Jesus could turn away the rich man so easily and declare how difficult it is to enter into the kingdom of God. They suddenly see themselves in the shoes of the rich man: what more do they have to do? They've left their homes and families to traipse after Jesus, believing that this sacrifice would be enough to assure them a place in the kingdom, and suddenly they are faced with doubts. Has it all been worth it? Jesus reminds them that if they have followed him for all the right reasons then their reward is assured.

### Gospel Focus – Sacrifice

Sacrifice is a term that gets used quite a lot in religion and yet it's a term with which modern society is very uncomfortable. We're not really 'into' sacrifice. We're much more into feeling good about ourselves and comfortable in our existence. Jesus called on the rich man to make a sacrifice – to let go of what he really loved and valued. What Jesus really called the man to do was to place his trust in Jesus and not in material wealth – that was the sacrifice he was called to make. Ultimately, the man couldn't do that! He couldn't let go of certainty and security and entrust his life and soul to Jesus.



We thank God for his presence in our lives and the many blessings that he has poured out on us. We also remember those who have been doing it tough during this time, specially those who have been lonely, have lost jobs and those suffering ill health etc. As we will be out of lockdown soon, we are reminded to continue to focus on God and his goodness. St Paul reminds us that the word of God is something alive and active.

(Hebrews 4:12-13) We still have time in the next few weeks to read the Bible and spend time reflecting on it. Have a blessed week!

"O sinner, be not discouraged, but have recourse to Mary in all your necessities. Call her to your assistance, for such is the divine Will that she should help in every kind of necessity." - Saint Basil the Great

### COVID—Easing of restrictions Message from Archdiocese

#### STAGE ONE – WHEN 70% ARE VACCINATED – ESTIMATED DATE 11 OCTOBER

We will patiently wait the estimated two further weeks until we reach 80% fully vaccinated before re-opening our churches to the public, and conducting public Masses etc.

#### STAGE TWO – WHEN 80% ARE FULLY VACCINATED – ESTIMATED DATE 25 OCTOBER

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.

#### STAGE THREE – WHEN 90% ARE EXPECTED TO BE FULLY VACCINATED – 1 DECEMBER 2021 – “THE NEW NORMAL”

The Government has advised that from 1 December there will be no difference between the Covid safety requirements for all NSW citizens, whether fully vaccinated, partially vaccinated or unvaccinated. The key requirement for churches will be the 2sqm rule at all indoor religious gatherings, including weddings and funerals. There will be no limit on the numbers at outdoor events. Masks will not be required inside a church (though some people may wish to wear a mask for added protection).

### Sydney French Roman Catholic Charities

Thank you to all who have purchased tickets for the Raffle which will be drawn on Sat 30th October 2021.

Anyone who has bought a booklet and wish to return it and the money for the tickets, please contact Carl Pavia on 0418 672 394

### Month of the Rosary

#### Will you take up the Rosary challenge?

October is dedicated as the month of the Rosary.

During this month St Declan's Parish would like to help you become Rosary fit! Whether you're a beginner, occasionally pray the Rosary or are someone seasoned at it, they have a challenge that is right for you!

Resources, ideas and tips to help and encourage you and the family are

<https://www.stdeclansparish.org/rosary-challenge>



### Children's Liturgy new timing

The Children's liturgy timing is brought forward to Sunday 11:30am—12:00noon to allow families to get out and enjoy the afternoon. Contact is Cecilia 0413 673 669

### The Lord's Army

Ray was coming out of church one day, and the priest was standing at the door, as he always was, to shake hands with the worshippers. He grabbed Ray by the hand and pulled him aside. The priest said to him, “You need to join the army of the Lord.” Ray replied, “I'm already in the army of the Lord, Father.” So the priest enquired, “Then how come I don't see you except at Christmas and at Easter?” Ray whispered back, “I'm in the secret service.”

**HUNNY**

**Pray for good health of :** Norma Gum, 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

### 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/>

### Catholic Weekly online (Free)

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



With reference to the photograph emailed to parishioners on St Raphael's feast day (29th Sept 2021), the source of the photograph was not mentioned.

Photographer Sarah Fitzherbert who holds the copyright

has given Rosie Gould permission to use it for church purposes. The photograph appears in Rosie Gould's book “An Ornament to the District” which was printed in 2017. It has a lovely history of St Raphael's church.

Copies of the book are available in the Parish office for \$20.00.



### Safeguarding Children

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

#### PARISH DIRECTORY

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