



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

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

BULLETIN 3RD OCT 2021

Entrance Antiphon: Cf. Est 4:17

Within your will, O Lord, all things are established, and there is none that can resist your will. For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth, and all that is held within the circle of heaven; you are the Lord of all.

First Reading: Gen 2:18-24

They were two in one flesh

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 127. R. v.5

(R.) May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives.

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways! By the labour of your hands you shall eat. You will be happy and prosper. (R.)
2. Your wife will be like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house; your children like shoots of the olive, around your table. (R.)
3. Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord. May the Lord bless you from Zion in a happy Jerusalem all the days of your life! May you see your children's children. On Israel, peace! (R.)

Second Reading: Heb 2:9-11

He who sanctifies, and those who are sanctified have one origin.

Gospel Acclamation : cf. 1 Jn 4:12

Alleluia, alleluia!
If we love one another,
God will live in us in perfect love.
Alleluia!

Gospel : Mk 10:2-16

What God has joined together, no one must divide.

Communion Antiphon: Lam 3:25

The Lord is good to those who hope in him, to the soul that seeks him.

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

In the Western world today, somewhere between one-third and one-half of marriages end in divorce. It's a statistic that we hear wheeled out as a sign of the collapse of family values in our society. However, the reverse statistic is also true: somewhere between one-half and two-thirds of marriages are lasting ones. In the last 30-40 years, divorce has transformed from being a shameful scandal to an accepted, even commonplace, fact of life. It would be uncommon not to know someone affected by divorce. Despite those who argue that divorce is too 'easy', it is an emotional and difficult decision for couples to reach and has rippling impacts on children, extended families and friends.

When the Pharisees in the gospel asked Jesus about the law regarding divorce, they really weren't interested in divorce; they wanted to check Jesus' orthodoxy – how he stood in relation to traditional teaching. Rather than respond to them directly, Jesus asks them first of all to name the teaching to which they refer. He then explains that Moses only ever wrote the instruction because the people were so unwilling to listen to God's way.

For the second time in the last few weeks, the gospel shows Jesus welcoming children and praising their attitude as the way to the kingdom of God. Children of the time had no status and were regarded as literally the property of their father. When Jesus laid his hands on the children and gave them his blessing, this was the action of a father 'claiming' the child as their own. To welcome the kingdom like a little child is to enter into living the kingdom of God without any claim to position or status; to recognise our complete dependence on others; to let go of our ideas of who is important and who is not; to allow ourselves to be 'claimed' by Jesus.

Scriptural context – Discipleship

This section of Mark's Gospel explores what it means to be a disciple. While this particular passage may seem to be a bit out of place, Jesus seems to be stressing to the disciples that there are some bottom lines – some non-negotiables – when it comes to being a disciple. Unlike the Pharisees who are preoccupied with the letter of the Law, Jesus encourages his disciples to get beyond that and understand the spirit of the Law – God's dream for humankind. The shift in the passage to the focus on

In today's Gospel, Jesus says that I tell you solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it. (Mark 10:15) Some of the qualities the children show are wonder and awe, joy, creativity and imagination, openness about emotions and feelings and being willing to learn and grow. If you want to experience God's life in this life (the kingdom of heaven), then you need to become like a little child once again. And also, like little children, we need to trust Our Heavenly Father more.

St Therese of Lisieux, whose feast we celebrated on 1st Oct, showed similar trust in God's love and mercy.

Have a blessed week and stay safe.



Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. John 14:27

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!

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).

Parish Appeal 2021 - this weekend

Donate Here or by calling **1800 753 959**



A special message from Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP (below) emphasises the importance of this appeal, and invites you to support our “Gospel message of love, and its fruits in ministries of mercy”.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N5HVJM3YJ3g>

A Prayer for the Day

Dear God, so far today, I've done all right.

I haven't gossiped, and I haven't lost my temper. I haven't been grumpy, nasty or selfish, and I'm really glad of that!

But in a few minutes, God, I'm going to get out of bed, and from then on, I'm probably going to need a lot of help. Thank you! Amen.

BUNNY

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

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/>

Archbishop's Appeal for Afghan Refugees

Donations can be made online here: <https://www.ourfaithhourworks.org/ara/>

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