



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

Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time—Year B

Bulletin

7th Nov 2021

Entrance Antiphon: Cf. Ps 87:3

Let my prayer come into your presence. Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.

First Reading: 1 Kgs 17:10-16

Elijah and the widow at Zaraphath.

Responsorial Psalm:Ps 145:7-10. R.v.2

Praise the Lord, my soul!

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith forever who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord who sets prisoners free. (R.)

2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down. It is the Lord who loves the just, the Lord who protects the stranger. (R.)

3. The Lord upholds the widow and orphan but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. (R.)

Second Reading: Heb 9:24-28

Christ will appear again to bring salvation.

Gospel Acclamation :Mt 5:3

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

Gospel : Mk 12:38-44

The widow's mite.

Communion Antiphon: Cf. Ps 22:1-2

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose, near restful waters he leads me.

November Mass Envelopes If you'd like to offer Mass for the Holy Souls of your loved ones during November, you may pick the envelope kept in the foyer of the Church. Do write names clearly. The names appear in the *Book of Remembrance* kept near the Altar. Thank you.

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

We would normally hear or read the second half of this week's gospel as a stand alone example of generosity and faith – often without the section that immediately precedes it. Whilst the actions of the widow are certainly worthy of comment, when we read it in the context of the condemnation that immediately precedes it, the widow's offering is placed in a different light. Jesus condemns the scribes who parade their wealth and seek trappings of earthly power and glory: being recognised and greeted as they walk the streets; taking the front seats in synagogue; and expecting to be seated in the place of honour at banquets. Whilst parading their wealth and feasting at banquets, they are also swallowing up the property of widows – taking advantage of those in need. We often hear widows and orphans named in the scriptures as those in need. Widows and orphans (and strangers in the land) are marked out for special attention in the Torah. They are named as deserving of special care – the lost and broken of society. So despite holding a special place in Jewish Law and tradition, the widows are being taken advantage of by the scribes, who are taking over their property for their own gain. One of the duties of the scribes was to administer the proper payment of Temple taxes. The treasury referred to in the passage is the Temple treasury. Rather than a great act of generosity, we can now see the widow's payment of Temple tax as a burdensome, heart-wrenching obligation to pay the very last coins she had to a corrupt, uncaring system. We usually read praise into Jesus' comments about the widow's offering, but it can also be read as moral outrage at the system that demands this woman pay all that she possesses to the Temple.

Living the Gospel – Hypocrisy

Throughout the gospels, what Jesus appears to abhor more than anything else is hypocrisy. His harshest condemnation of the scribes and the Pharisees is that they are hypocrites. In this passage, whilst Jesus hates the scribes' parading around and claiming honour that is not their due, what really sees him condemn them is their mistreatment of widows 'while making a show of lengthy prayers'. We cannot praise God in prayer while at the same time mistreating our neighbour. That is hypocrisy! Our actions are an extension of our prayer. We cannot celebrate the Eucharist on Sundays and fail to live it the rest of the week!

Historical Context – The Widow

In ancient Jewish culture, until a woman was married she was literally the property of her father. Upon marrying, the woman left her family and became part of her husband's family and became specifically the property of her husband. If the woman's husband were to die, leaving her a widow, she no longer had anywhere to belong. Because a woman's identity was based on which man she belonged to, she effectively ceased to belong anywhere. It is for this reason that the Torah names widows as deserving of special care and protection from the whole community.

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)

“Do things for people not because of who they are or what they can do for you in return, but because of who you are.” — Mother Teresa

MASS TIMES

	St Raphael Church	Mater Dei Church
Tuesday		9:15am Mass
Wednesday		8:45am Rosary, Novena 9:15am Mass
Thursday	9:15am Mass is only for school children. Due to Covid regulations parishioners cannot mix with school children	
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

Fr Hugh Thomas' retreat

Date: Saturday 20th November 2021

Start: 9am **Finish:** 11.30am.

Location: Mater Dei Catholic Church Blakehurst.
Please bring along a bottle of water.
(There will be no morning tea due to COVID)
(For further info contact Gary Cartmer 0418 781 777)

Theme of talk

“He turns all things into good for those who love Him.”

Having a time of deprivation of Holy Communion, Confession and Live Mass could mean a greater appreciation of these gifts of God when they are available.

Start

Details

0900am	Mass
0935am	Father Hugh talk
1015am	Commence Holy Hour – Confession available
1130am	Finish



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
Ministry 13th/14th Nov (2nd Sun)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.30am	6.15pm V	10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Michael B Minh N	Ray Low	Volunteer
Readers	Saab Family	Lappen Family	Louise Tapp	Joan Hanson Jean Dorahy

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

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

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 2:30pm followed by refreshments. Please support this unity. All are welcome

RCIA

RCIA commences on
Wed 17th Nov 2021 at 7:30pm
At St Raphael's Church, 82
George St South Hurstville at 7:30pm. Topic:
Importance of being a Christian in our society.
Contact: Graeme Dorahy 0421420497

PRIESTS' RETIREMENT FOUNDATION



Priests' Retirement Foundation Appeal 2021

On behalf of this parish, we thank you for supporting **Priests' Retirement Foundation Appeal**. Through your gift, we are able to continue in our mission to provide care for our growing number of sick and retired priests in the Archdiocese of Sydney. If you missed the special collection you can still donate visit www.ourfaithourworks.org/prf or scan the QR Code.

A Full Service Vet

A client brought a litter of golden retriever puppies to a veterinary clinic for inoculations and worming. As the look-alike pups squirmed over and under one another in their box, the vet realized it would be difficult to tell the treated ones from the rest. So, he turned on the water tap, wet his fingers, and moistened each dog's head when he had finished with it. As he sprinkled the last pup's head, the woman leaned forward, smiled and whispered, 'I didn't know they had to be baptised, too.'

FUNNY

Children's Liturgy online

Via Zoom on Saturdays 4:00pm—4:30pm
Contact Cecilia 0413 673 669



PARISH DIRECTORY

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MATER DEI CATHOLIC CHURCH

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ST. RAPHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Michael Fernandes

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Pastoral Ministry Coordinator: Br. Ben Krupowicz

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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/>