



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

Fourth Sunday of Lent - Year C Bulletin

27th March 2022

## **Entrance Antiphon :** Cf. Is 66:10-11

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

## **First Reading:** Jos 5:9-12

The people of God went to the promised land and there kept the passover.

## **Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 33:2-7. R. v.9

(R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times, his praise always on my lips; in the Lord my soul shall make its boast. The humble shall hear and be glad. (R.)
2. Glorify the Lord with me. Together let us praise his name. I sought the Lord and he answered me; from all my terrors he set me free. (R.)
3. Look towards him and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed. This poor man called; the Lord heard him and rescued him from all his distress. (R.)

## **Second Reading:** 2 Cor 5:17-21

God reconciled us to himself through Christ.

## **Gospel Acclamation :**Lk 15:18

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ! I will rise and go to my Father and tell him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

## **Gospel :** Lk 15:1-3. 11-32

Your brother here was dead and has come to life.

## **Communion Antiphon:** Lk 15: 32

You must rejoice, my son, for your brother was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.

## **REFLECTION** by Greg Sunter

Today's gospel is perhaps the most famous of the parables that are unique to the Gospel of Luke. Sadly, what is often overlooked is the accusation aimed at Jesus that leads into the telling of this and two other shorter parables (the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin – Lk 15:4-10). The Pharisees and scribes accuse Jesus of what they regard to be abhorrent behaviour in relation to the purity code that dominated 1st Century life: not only does Jesus welcome sinners, he actually shares meals with them. This would be absolutely scandalous behaviour. Who you ate with was a reflection of who you were. To eat with sinners and the unclean effectively made you a sinner and unclean.

The three parables Jesus tells in response to this accusation are all about the lost being found and great rejoicing over the finding of the lost sheep, lost coin, or lost son. The Gospel of Luke – more so than any of the others – has a very strong focus on the message of Jesus being addressed to and welcomed by the outcasts and marginalised; in other words, the 'lost' of his society. Rather than being embarrassed by the accusation that he ate with sinners, Jesus would have worn those words like a badge of honour. It was exactly what his mission and ministry was all about – being one with the poor; the outcast; the sinful; the lost. The three parables, and particularly the parable of the lost son, demonstrate the joy of a loving God when one who was lost returns. The extravagant welcome the prodigal son receives from his father is symbolic of the extravagance of God's love that will be poured out for any 'sinner' who returns to God.

### **Historical Context – Customs and culture**

The parable of the lost son is a fascinating study of Jewish culture and purity laws. The son could not have distanced himself more from Jewish custom. Firstly, he demanded his inheritance, effectively treating his father as dead. Secondly, he travels to a pagan land and then in despair finds himself feeding pigs – animals whose meat was forbidden to Jews. He knows that his actions have alienated him from his family and culture and yet when he returns, his father gives him a fine robe and a ring to wear – signs of a father claiming a son as his own.

### **Have you thought? The Prodigal**

Because the only context in which most people ever hear the word *prodigal* is in relation to this parable, there is a common misunderstanding of the word. Because the parable is also referred to as the parable of the lost son, many people think prodigal means lost. However, to be prodigal means to be wastefully extravagant. When the son took his father's money he adopted a prodigal lifestyle. However, the irony of the story that is often lost is that the father too was prodigal in the extravagant welcome he gave. The father's extravagance echoes God's extravagant and abundant grace and love.

### **From the perspective of ... The Older Brother**

We might have a little sympathy for the position of the older brother who has stuck by his father and done all that was required of him. All of a sudden his wayward brother returns and his father pulls out all the stops to welcome him home. The older brother is like the Pharisees and scribes who criticised Jesus for dining with sinners. They were sticklers for the rules and had no sense of compassion if it involved moving outside the requirements of Law. Like the older brother, they could not comprehend a God who could be extravagant in expressing his love.

**LENT** ..... Is like a long 'retreat' during which we can turn back into ourselves and listen to the voice of God, in order to defeat the temptations of the Evil One." - Pope Benedict XVI

**The Stations of the Cross**  
**Mater Dei Church** - Friday 8:45am Adoration, 9:15am mass followed by Stations of the Cross.  
**St. Raphael's Church** - Friday 7pm Stations of the Cross followed by the Holy Hour



**"Stations of the Passionate & Faith filled"**  
 outdoor exhibition features artworks created by 17 Sydney Catholic School Staff from diverse professional and cultural backgrounds. RSVP by 29/3/2022 at:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/10DMY4ICAeIjwYwDH-Xooel4B4Cl1\\_IU2BClqY58M-A/viewform?edit\\_requested=true](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/10DMY4ICAeIjwYwDH-Xooel4B4Cl1_IU2BClqY58M-A/viewform?edit_requested=true)

**HOLY WEEK MASS TIMING 2022**

Date and Time	Mater Dei Church	St Raphael's Church
<b>Holy Thursday 14-04-2022</b>	6:00 PM	8:00 PM
<b>Good Friday 15-04-2022</b>	Stations of the Cross 10:00 AM	
	The Lord's Passion 3:00 PM	The Lord's Passion 3:00 PM
<b>Holy Saturday 16-04-2022</b>	6:00 PM	8:00 PM
<b>Easter Sunday 17-04-2022</b>	10:00 AM	8:30 AM
<b>Holy Week Reconciliation</b>	Holy Sat 4pm-5:30pm	Every Saturday 4:30PM - 5:00PM

**Support Floods Appeal**

St Vincent de Paul Society rallies around flood victims. Donations to the Flood Appeal can be made at [www.vinnies.org.au/nswfloodappeal](http://www.vinnies.org.au/nswfloodappeal) by calling 13 18 12, or at any SVDP Shop.

This week we warmly welcome at Mater Dei church  
**James Pollari & Jacob Rodrigues**  
 and at St Raphael Church  
**Bianka Polinski**  
  
 Congratulations to the families.

**Death Anniversary:** George and John Beater  
**Pray for good health of :** Judy Lee, John and Shirley Wakefield, Yin Kwan Tsang.



**PROJECT COMPASSION**  
 Envelopes are placed on the pew. Please take it home and return it the following week. Appreciate your generous donations. Donations can be made on-line at:  
<https://www.caritas.org.au/resources/project-compassion/>

**MASS TIMES**

	St Raphael Church	Mater Dei Church
Tuesday		9:15am Mass
Wednesday		8:45am Rosary, Novena 9:15am Mass
Thursday	9:15am (School and Parish Mass)	
Friday	7:00 pm Stations of the Cross 7:30pm Adoration	8:45am Adoration 9:15am Mass + Stations of the Cross
Saturday	4:30pm Reconciliation 5:00pm Vigil Mass	6:15pm Vigil Mass
Sunday	8:30am Mass 6:00pm Croatian Mass	10:00am Mass

**RCIA**  
 Commences this **Wed 30th Mar 2022 at 7:30PM**  
 Meet in St Raphael's Harmony Hall.  
 Any queries please contact Graeme Dorahy on 0421 420 497

**THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY PULPIT POINTS 27 MARCH 2022**

- Britain says 'No' to assisted suicide
- Mary, Ukraine's strength
- Soul sisters create blessed bling
- Sydney celebrates St Patrick
- Meet the prodigal parrot
- New book explodes media's role in Pell case

Ministry 26th/ 27th Mar (4th Sun)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.30am	6.15pm V	10.00am
<b>Acolytes</b>	Greg Driver	Norman, Michael F	Br Michael	Volunteer
<b>Readers</b>	Volunteers	Rounds Family	Volunteers	Lucy Mitry Phil M

  

2nd/ 3rd Apr (1st Sun)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.30am	6.15pm V	10.00am
<b>Acolytes</b>	Greg Driver	Max, Gary	Tony O	Paul Watson
<b>Readers</b>	Barry Lovat	Maria C Ronnie C	Frances O	Gail & Luisa

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

**Rosary in St Raphael's Church**  
 Every Monday at 7:30pm with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

**Mater Dei Home Rosary**  
 29-3-2022 Marguerite and Denis Derrig  
 14 Waratah Street Kyle Bay. 11:00 AM  
 05-4-22 Josie and Denis Kocina  
 45 Townson Street Blakehurst 11-00 AM

**COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND**

TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	449.00	385.65
Second: loose	417.40	386.00
Envelopes	600.00	550.00

**PARISH DIRECTORY**  
**PARISH PRIEST:** Fr Thomas Alukka  
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**MATER DEI CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
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**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  
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**Parish Ministry Coordinator & Safeguarding Officer**  
**Michael Fernandes**  
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**Fr. Jan Chrzczonowicz** : Phone: 0412 786 245  
**Mater Dei Primary School:** (02) 9546 7298  
 Principal: Mrs Melanie Headley  
**St. Raphael Primary School:** (02) 9546 4898  
 Principal: Mrs Annette McKenzie

**Goosebumps!!**  
 Confessor: *I have stolen a fat goose from a poultry yard!*  
 Priest: *That is very wrong.*  
 Confessor: *Would you like to accept it, Father?*  
 Priest: *Certainly not, return it to the man whom you stole it from.*  
 Confessor: *But I have offered it to him and he won't have it.*  
 Priest: *In that case you may keep it yourself.*  
 Confessor: *Thank you. Father.*  
 The Priest arrived home to find one of his geese had been stolen.....



**FUNNY**