



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

Third Sunday of Lent - Year C Bulletin

20th March 2022

## **Entrance Antiphon:** Cf. Ps 24:15-16

My eyes are always on the Lord,  
for he rescues my feet from the  
snare. Turn to me and have mercy  
on me, for I am alone and poor.

## **First Reading:** Ex 3:1-8. 13-15

This is what you must say to the  
children of Israel: I Am has sent me  
to you.

## **Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 102:1-4. 6-8.

11. R. v.8

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord,  
all my being, bless his holy  
name. My soul give thanks to  
the Lord and never forget all his  
blessings. (R.)
2. It is he who forgives all your  
guilt, who heals every one of  
your ills, who redeems your life  
from the grave, who crowns you  
with love and compassion. (R.)
3. The Lord does deeds of justice,  
gives judgement for all who are  
oppressed. He made known his  
ways to Moses and his deeds to  
Israel's sons. (R.)
4. The Lord is compassion and  
love, slow to anger and rich in  
mercy. For as the heavens are  
high above the earth so strong  
is his love for those who fear  
him. (R.)

## **Second Reading:** 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12

All this that happened to the people  
of Moses in the desert was written  
for our benefit.

## **Gospel Acclamation:** Mt 4:17

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord  
Jesus Christ! Repent, says the  
Lord; the kingdom of heaven is at  
hand. Glory to you, Word of God,  
Lord Jesus Christ!

## **Gospel:** Lk 13:1-9

Unless you repent you will all perish  
as they did.

## **Communion Antiphon:** Jn 4:13-14

For anyone who drinks it, says the  
Lord, the water I shall give will be-  
come in him a spring welling up to  
eternal life.

## **REFLECTION** by Greg Sunter

When Jesus is asked about the deaths of some Galileans and some residents of Jerusalem, he seizes the opportunity to remind his audience that their obsession with the 'sin' of the victims is misplaced. He challenges all who are listening that unless they repent, they will all perish in a similar fashion. This would have been very confronting to those in the audience who were ingrained in the thinking that 'bad things only happen to bad people'. The purity codes of the day stated that if one maintained purity of action – obeying the Law and respecting the prohibitions on certain actions – then one was fulfilling one's duty and maintaining right relationship with God. Jesus chastises the people for this attitude and tells them that they all must 'repent'. For 1st Century Jews, the word 'repent' had a greater depth of meaning than our current understanding. Rather than simply 'being sorry', to repent meant to completely turn life around – both individually and as a society. His injunction to repent would be seen as a challenge to question motives and actions and set a new direction.

To follow this up, Jesus tells his audience a parable about a fig tree that has not borne fruit after three years. There are many interpretations of this parable and it is often interpreted in isolation from the gospel passage that immediately precedes it. Given the challenge to 'repent' that is given so strongly, we can see the parable as an example to the listeners that their time for repenting is running out. The one year reprieve for the fig tree is an indication to the listeners that their change of heart and change of spirit had better take shape in the very near future.

### **Scriptural context – Parables**

The parable of the unproductive fig tree at the end of today's passage is not a straightforward story with a clear message. Indeed, this is a hallmark of the style of storytelling that we call 'parable'. A parable is deliberately open to interpretation at different levels. In the first instance, today's parable is a simple farming story. However, the original audience knew (as we know) that there had to be more to the story. Parables use metaphoric and symbolic language that invites the listener or reader to explore deeper and find a meaning that lies beyond the literal.

### **Living the Gospel – Bad Things / Good People**

Today's gospel taps in to the vexing question: 'Why do bad things happen to good people?' The question implies that God is punishing good people. Surprisingly, this attitude continues and one only has to watch news coverage of a tragedy to hear someone ask, 'How could God let this happen?' The very question suggests a belief in a God who interferes in our lives and manipulates events. Jesus suggests that tragic events are not punishment from God, but the accidental, deliberate or natural event does provide a reminder to turn our lives around and live lives that matter.

### **Gospel Focus – Repent**

Throughout the gospels, Jesus challenged the prevailing 'purity codes' that separated and classified people. The Jewish religious officials of the day were obsessed with the 'letter of the Law' as it applied to purity observance. Jesus told them that a spirit of compassion was much more important than the blind adherence to the Law. He suggests that it is not the lack of observance of purity codes that makes a person 'unclean' or 'sinful'; rather, it is lack of compassion informing their actions towards others. The call to 'repent' is a call to complete conversion of heart – to take on an attitude of compassion.

Pope Francis based his Message for Lent 2022 on a passage from St Paul's Letter to the Galatians, "Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up. So then, while we have the opportunity, let us do good to all" (6:9-10).

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

Ministry 19th/ 20th Mar (3rd Sun)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.30am	6.15pm V	10.00am
<b>Acolytes</b>	Greg Driver	Earl, Carl	Ray Low	Volunteer
<b>Readers</b>	Pavia Family	Fernandes Family	Family Mass	Jolly Jose Wendy Eather
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 Monaghan

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

**Death Anniversary:** Edmond Vahanian  
**Pray for good health of :** Judy Lee, John and Shirley Wakefield, Yin Kwan Tsang.  
**Mass Offered:** Fr Isidore, Elias Haddad, Jeffrey Bishop  
**Also pray for:** Holy Souls in Purgatory

**Home Rosary Mater Dei**  
 22-3-2022 Nives Care 33 Church St  
 Blakehurst. 11:00 AM  
 29-3-2022 Marguerite and Denis Derrig  
 14 Waratah Street Kyle Bay. 11:00 AM  
 Everyone welcome

**MATER DEI CHURCH  
 AIR CONDITIONED**  
 We are happy to inform you that the installation of Air Conditioning in Mater Dei Church is finally complete. We look forward to having a comfortable environment during the unbearable summer's heat or a cold and chilly morning.  
 Please let us know if you are able to donate towards the cost of installation by ringing the parish office on 02 9546 2605.



COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND		
TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	515.75	253.75
Second: loose	410.50	284.95
Envelopes	435.00	640.00

**Rosary at St Raphael's Church**  
 Every Monday at 7:30pm

**Fr Jacques Philippe to address the Archdiocese of Sydney | Live Online | Wed 23 March 2022 | 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM**  
 Register: [gomakedisciples.org.au](http://gomakedisciples.org.au)



**Day of the Unborn Child, Sunday 27 March**  
 Remembering the lives of unborn children lost to the grave injustice of abortion. Held to coincide with the Feast of the Annunciation, marking the day of Our Lord's conception in the womb of His Blessed Mother. Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP will celebrate at a Mass at St Mary's Cathedral at 10.30am. A rosary procession will follow which will make its way past the NSW Parliament House. It will conclude with Benediction at 1:30pm.. For more event details: <https://fb.me/e/2gek7yQ8>

**THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY  
 PULPIT POINTS 20 MARCH 2022**

- The chilling of our charities: Soaring prices bite
- Aussies dig deep for Ukraine: Caritas appeal \$1.5m - and rising
- Life after death? The new book telling amazing stories
- Monica Doumit: The lies they tell our girls
- Plenary: Warning from Germany
- Philippa Martyr: Where preppers go wrong

**PARISH RENEWAL CONFERENCE**  
 19-20 AUGUST 2022  
 St Mary's Cathedral Precinct (**Save The Date**)

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**Mater Dei Primary School:** (02) 9546 7298  
 Principal: Mrs Melanie Headley  
**St. Raphael Primary School:** (02) 9546 4898  
 Principal: Mrs Annette McKenzie

**Exhausting fans**  
 My father was renovating the bathroom and went to buy a new exhaust fan. The store clerk looked them up on the computer and recommended one fan in particular because it was exceptionally quiet.  
 When told the price, my father enquired, 'Do you have anything louder?'  
