



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

First Sunday of Lent - Year C Bulletin

6th March 2022

Entrance Antiphon : Cf. Ps 90:15-16

When he calls on me, I will answer him;
I will deliver him and give him glory,
I will grant him length of days.

First Reading: Dt 26:4-10

Moses tells the Israelites of God's care
for them

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 90:1-2. 10-15.

R. v.15

**Be with me, Lord, when I am in
trouble.**

1. He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High and abides in the shade of the Almighty says to the Lord: 'My refuge, my stronghold, my God in whom I trust!' (R.)
2. Upon you no evil shall fall, no plague approach where you dwell.
For you has he commanded his angels to keep you in all your ways.(R)
3. They shall bear you upon their hands lest you strike your foot against a stone. On the lion and the viper you will tread and trample the young lion and the dragon. (R.)
4. His love he set on me, so I will rescue him; protect him for he knows my name. When he calls I shall answer: 'I am with you.' I will save him in distress and give him glory. (R.)

Second Reading: Rom 10:8-13

All who call upon the Lord will be saved.

Gospel Acclamation :Mt 4:4

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel : Lk 4:1-13

Jesus is tempted in the desert.

Communion Antiphon: Mt 4:4

One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes forth
from the mouth of God.

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

The wilderness, or desert, is used repeatedly throughout the Bible as a place of special encounter with God and preparation for a new direction or a new ministry. The 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness immediately followed his baptism in the Jordan where his status as the beloved of God was confirmed. He is led by the Spirit to go out into the wilderness for a period of fasting, prayer and preparation before entering into his public ministry. In fact, the event that immediately follows this passage is the episode in Nazareth where Jesus reads from the scroll of Isaiah and declares the intent of his ministry. It is presented as if, having spent his time in preparation and overcoming the temptations before him, Jesus strode out of the wilderness and laid out what he had decided.

The episode of the temptations is a clear indicator of the humanity of Jesus – he experienced doubt, uncertainty and fear just as we do. If the gospel intended to emphasise the divinity of Jesus, none of these temptations would have been an issue. We are told that Jesus was indeed tempted, not just pestered by the devil. The opportunities laid before Jesus were actually tempting to him. They challenged his resolve. They made Jesus question the sort of Messiah that he was to be: the all-conquering, powerful Messiah that the people expected; or the servant to the poor who will be tortured and put to death. Jesus is tempted to use his power to make his task easier or to display his authority to others. Had he chosen to do this, surely it would have been easier to get people's attention – and that was the temptation: to take the easier path or stick to the more subtle, more personal, more difficult path.

Scriptural context – The temptations

The three temptations Jesus faces all focus upon the nature of his mission and ministry. The first temptation is to miraculously feed himself – is his ministry to be about himself or others? The second is to take power and authority over all the world – to fulfil the human expectations of what a Messiah ought to be or fulfil God's plan of service, rather than domination? The third temptation is about grandstanding – to make a spectacular declaration of his arrival or to minister to the lowly and reveal himself in that way?

Have you thought? – The Devil

The personification of 'the devil' is sometimes difficult to contemplate. The one who tempts Jesus in the wilderness is referred to in this passage as 'the devil'. Devil is the English translation of a Greek word, *diabolos*. As the gospel of Luke was originally written in Greek, we can assume that *diabolos* was the word used. *Diabolos* has several meanings: *the accuser*; *the slanderer*; *the one who separates*. It is the purpose of the temptations to 'separate' Jesus from God and from his intended approach to his ministry. The temptations we face are often those that 'separate' us from what we know to be right.

Living the Gospel – Lent

The 40 days that Jesus spent praying and preparing in the wilderness is reflected in the season of Lent that lasts 40 days from Ash Wednesday until the day before Easter Sunday (not counting Sundays in the season). It has been traditional that during the time of Lent Christian people renew their efforts in prayer, fasting and almsgiving. All three of these practices are actions of preparation. Just as Jesus prepared for his ministry in the wilderness, so too is Lent an opportunity for us to be deliberate about our reflection on what we are called to do in this world.

"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...In this way we will be able to celebrate Easter in truth, ready to renew the promises of our baptism." - Pope Benedict XVI

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 5th/ 6th Mar (1st Sun)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.30am	6.15pm V	10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Max, Gary	Tony Oscuro	Paul Watson
Readers	Pavia Family	Yenson Family	Fran Oscuro	Gail, Luisa
Ministry 12th/ 13th Mar (2nd)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.30am	6.15pm V	10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Minh	Michael B	Volunteer
Readers	Volunteer	Rose T Annie M	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 : Judy Lee, John and Shirley Wakefield, Yin Kwan Tsang.

Mass Offered: Fr Isidore, Elias Haddad, Jeffrey Bishop

Also pray for: Holy Souls in Purgatory

LENTEN PROGRAM 2022

7:30PM Thursdays in the St Raphael School meeting room or via Zoom. All are welcome! Please contact Michael Fernandes 0437 517 758

INSTALLATION OF AIR CONDITIONING IN MATER DEI CHURCH

We will be installing air conditioning system at Mater Dei church soon. This has been long overdue. It will make the church more comfortable during peak summer and winter.

There will be seven split system units, costing approximately \$27,000.00.

Donations towards the cost are welcome and very much appreciated. Please contact the parish office if you can help 02 9546 2605.



This week the Catholic Church of Mater Dei, Blakehurst warmly welcomes

Allegra Rita Badolato

(daughter of Philip and Bianca)
Congratulations to the family!

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 from 7.30pm - 8.30pm.



Support Caritas Ukraine Appeal

As millions of people are likely to be displaced due to Russia's invasion, your support is more important than ever for the people of Ukraine.

Donate generously to the Caritas Ukraine Appeal:
<https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/ukraine-appeal/>
Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

Home Rosary Mater Dei

08-3-2022 Nives Care 33 Church St
Blakehurst. 11:00 A.M
15-3-2022 Nives Care 33 Church St
Blakehurst. 11:00 AM
Everyone welcome

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	412.45	212.30
Second: loose	379.20	182.20
Envelopes	552.60	430.00

THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY PULPIT POINTS 6 MARCH 2022

- Stand by Ukraine
- Work in Wokeness: Discrimination Bill blocked
- Mark Shea: Your big Lenten opportunity
- Second class Catholics: It's official in NSW
- Movie review: Abraham Lincoln
- Why words matter: Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP

PARISH DIRECTORY

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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

Mrs. Smartt was fumbling in her purse for her offering when a large television remote fell out and clattered into the aisle. The curious usher bent over to retrieve it for her and whispered, "Do you always carry your TV remote to church?" "No," she replied, "but my husband refused to come with me this morning, and I figured this was the most evil thing I could do to him legally."

