



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

Second Sunday of Lent - Year C *Bulletin*

13th March 2022

Entrance Antiphon : Cf. Ps 26:8-9

Of you my heart has spoken, Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

First Reading: Gen 15:5-12. 17-18

God made a covenant with Abraham, his faithful servant.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 26:1. 7-9. 13-14. R. v.1

(R.) The Lord is my light and my salvation.

1. The Lord is my light and my help; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life before whom shall I shrink? (R.)
2. O Lord, hear my voice when I call; have mercy and answer. Of you my heart has spoken: 'Seek his face.' (R.)
3. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek, hide not your face. Dismiss not your servant in anger; you have been my help. (R.)
4. I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living. Hope in him, hold firm and take heart. Hope in the Lord! (R.)

Second Reading: Phil 3:17 – 4:1

Christ will transfigure these bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body.

Gospel Acclamation : Mt 17:5

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel : Lk 9:28-36

As Jesus prayed, the aspect of his face was changed, and his clothing became brilliant as lightning.

Communion Antiphon: Mt 17:5

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

In all three versions of this Transfiguration event that appear in the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, the context in which the event occurs is identical. That's a little unusual with these three gospel writers who like to put their own spin on events and often play with the chronology or settings of events. However, in this case, all three writers report the Transfiguration event as taking place immediately after a particular sequence of events. Jesus has asked the disciples who they think he is and Peter has made his confession of faith by declaring that Jesus is the Messiah. This declaration is followed by Jesus teaching about the demands of discipleship and then the account of the Transfiguration. Furthermore, all three versions are directly followed by an account of a man who brings his possessed son to Jesus for healing after the disciples have tried and failed to cast out the demon.

When all three of the synoptic gospels use the same story with little variation and all three retain the same context around the event then there are some pretty clear signals that this was a commonly accepted sequence of events and their sequence holds significance. The core message of this sequence of stories is about the faith of the disciples. Whilst Peter declares Jesus to be the Messiah, he and the others don't really yet know what this means. In the Transfiguration, they are given the clearest possible indication of Jesus' identity and yet they're half asleep and we're told Peter doesn't know what he's saying when he starts talking about building tents. The following failure by the disciples to cast out a demon shows that they still haven't understood fully who and what Jesus is. What a great reading for the season of Lent!

Scriptural context – Gospel Parallels

The account of the Transfiguration appears in all three synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke). The word, synoptic, means 'seen together' and these three gospels can be seen together because they have so much material in common. It is now accepted that the gospel of Mark was the first written as so much of it appears in the other two, while the gospels of Matthew and Luke both seem to have also drawn on another source of Jesus material (known as the 'Q' source). Despite the parallels, each writer uses the same story to convey the particular message of that gospel.

Living the Gospel – 'Listen to him!'

God's voice from the cloud claims Jesus as his Son, the Chosen One and then goes on to instruct those present – and we, the readers – to 'Listen to him!' For the disciples, this was a message not to get carried away with their own ideas about the Messiah but to listen to what Jesus was saying about the suffering he must endure and to what he was saying about true discipleship. Jesus tells us that to be a follower of his involves sacrifice, hardship and often unpopularity. It is this message we must listen to as much as the promise of salvation.

Gospel Focus – Asleep again?

It seems that at crucial points in the gospel where Jesus' true identity and mission are revealed, the disciples are falling asleep! The gospel of Luke is unique in suggesting that the disciples were sleepy at the Transfiguration. They managed to fight off sleep in this instance, but were fast asleep at the Mount of Olives as Jesus prayed in agony. The sleepiness of the disciples at these crucial times is indicative of limited grasp of what Jesus is on about. They are wearied by all that he asks of them, rather than energised by it, and consequently they're not ready to witness great events when they come along.

"The most miserable prison in the world is the prison we make for ourselves when we refuse to show mercy. Our thoughts become shackled, our emotions are chained, the will is almost paralysed. But when we show mercy, all of these bonds are broken, and we enter into a joyful liberty that frees us to share God's love with others."

Warren W Wiersbe

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

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

Death Anniversary: Edmond Vahanian (2nd Anniv 17/3), Anna Pelosi (9th Anniv 13/3)

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

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 by calling 13 18 12, or at any St Vincent de Paul Society Shop.



Please pray for St Raphael's school children who will be receiving their FHC at the next two weekend masses.

Go Make Disciples

Fr Jacques Philippe to Address the Archdiocese of Sydney | Live Online | Wed 23 March 2022 | 7 – 8:30 PM

Please register at www.gomakedisciples.org.au/cas-events.

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	355.40	120.85
Second: loose	428.70	243.05
Envelopes	450.00	540.00

Feast of St Patrick 17th March

Feast of St Joseph 19th March

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

Home Rosary Mater Dei

15-3-2022 Nives Care 33 Church St Blakehurst. 11:00 AM
22-3-2022 Nives Care 33 Church St Blakehurst. 11:00 AM
Everyone welcome

Support Caritas Ukraine Appeal

Donate generously to the Caritas Ukraine Appeal:

<https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/ukraine-appeal/>

INSTALLATION OF AIR CONDITIONING IN MATER DEI CHURCH

We are happy to inform you that this installation is in progress and will be completed before next weekend.

The final cost is less than first estimated as we didn't require additional electrical works.

The total cost is now \$25,000.

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



PARISH DIRECTORY

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Thomas Alukka

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MATER DEI CATHOLIC CHURCH

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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

A priest told his congregation, "Next week I plan to preach about the sin of lying. To help you understand my sermon, I want you all to read Mark 17." The following Sunday, as he prepared to deliver his sermon, the priest asked for a show of hands. He wanted to know how many had read Mark 17. Every hand went up. The priest smiled and said, "Mark has only sixteen chapters. I will now proceed with my sermon on the sin of lying."

