



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

7th Sunday in Ordinary time Year C *Bulletin* 20th Feb 2022

Entrance Antiphon: Ps 12:6

O Lord, I trust in your merciful love. My heart will rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.

First Reading: 1 Sm 26:2. 7-9. 12-13. 22-23

The Lord has put you in my power, but I will not raise my hand against you.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 102:1-4. 8. 10. 12-13. 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 is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy. He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults. (R.)
4. As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins. As a father has compassion on his sons, the Lord has pity on those who fear him. (R.)

Second Reading: 1 Cor 15:45-49

Just as we have carried the earthly image, we must carry the heavenly image.

Gospel Acclamation: Jn 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment; love one another as I have loved you. Alleluia!

Gospel: Lk 6:27-38

Be merciful as your Father is merciful.

Communion Antiphon:

I will recount all your wonders, I will rejoice in you and be glad, and sing psalms to your name, O Most High.

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

The radical teaching that was begun in last week's gospel as the beatitudes and woes is continued in this week's challenge to be forgiving, compassionate and generous in the same way that God expresses abundant love. As with the blessings and curses of the Beatitudes passage, this teaching continues the challenge to act against cultural and social expectations. Who would be surprised if you were to express hatred for an enemy or for someone who hates you or treats you badly? But Jesus tells his disciples to **love** their enemies and to **do good** to those who hate them. His instruction is contrary to the 'normal' way of doing things – and that's exactly the message Jesus wanted to convey! Rather than a spiteful, vengeful God who keeps score and punishes wrongdoing, Jesus presents a compelling image of a God of unbounded compassion and abundant generosity.

In this passage we find one version of the Golden Rule that appears repeatedly throughout the gospels (as well as most other religious traditions): 'Treat others as you would like them to treat you.' It is followed up with a comment that it takes no effort to treat well people whom you like – anybody can do that. The challenge is to treat people you don't like as you would like to be treated yourself. In a society that had very strict rules about the way to treat different people and clearly established boundaries between different groups, this was a tough ask by Jesus. Bear in mind also that there was an occupying army in the country and Jesus was encouraging the people to treat even their enemies, the Romans, with love, compassion and forgiveness. This was a radical and challenging teaching!

Historical Context – In the midst of oppression

What a powerful message Jesus delivered to people who were subjugated and oppressed by an invading army. It would have been easy, and somehow 'natural', for the people of Palestine to hate the Roman occupiers and to seek revenge upon them. How confronting then for Jesus to say, 'love your enemies'! He tells the people that the way to live God's way in this situation was to be compassionate towards the oppressors; that when they rob you of your cloak to present them with your shirt as well. To do otherwise is to become like the oppressors themselves. Meeting hatred with hatred never ended hatred.

Scriptural context – Compassion

The compassion of God is a very strong theme that runs through the Gospel of Luke. Throughout the gospel, the compassion and mercy of God is emphasised and a defining feature of the gospel is the number of healings and parables that relate to people who were regarded as the outcasts of society. In this gospel, Jesus is the embodiment of God's compassion. Jesus wants all people to experience first hand the abundant love God holds for them. Today's gospel passage is a reminder that when we experience God's compassion we are also called to show it to others.

Sign an ePetition against Euthanasia Laws in NSW

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP has asked Catholics to support an e-petition launched by Upper House MLC Greg Donnelly opposing proposed euthanasia laws in NSW.

Next week, a NSW Parliamentary Committee examining the proposed laws will hand back its final report, after which the bill is expected to be formally introduced into the NSW Upper House.

To demonstrate your opposition to the proposed laws, sign the e-petition [here](#)

What you are is God's gift to you, what you become is your gift to God. – Hans urs von Balthasar

MASS TIMES

St Raphael Church		Mater Dei Church	Ministry 19th/ 20th Feb (3rd Sun)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
Tuesday		9:15am Mass	Acolytes	5.00pm	8.30am	6.15pm V	10.00am
Wednesday		8:45am Rosary, Novena 9:15am Mass	Readers	Greg Driver	Earl, Carl	Ray Low	Volunteer
Thursday	9:15am (School and Parish Mass)		Ministry 26th/ 27th Feb (4th Sun)	Rosie G Volunteer	Minh JP	Family Mass	Jolly Jose Wendy E
Friday	Adoration 7:30pm	8:45am Adoration 9:15am Mass	Acolytes	5.00pm	8.30am	6.15pm V	10.00am
Saturday	Reconciliation 4:30pm 5:00pm Vigil Mass	6:15pm Vigil Mass	Readers	Greg Driver	Norman, Michael F	Br Michael	Volunteer
Sunday	8:30am Mass 6:00pm Croatian Mass	10:00am Mass		Rose T Monica F	Lappen Family	Volunteers	Lucy Mitry Phil Monaghan

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

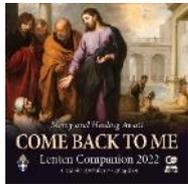
Ash Wednesday Mass timings

2nd March 2022,

Mater Dei Church 9:15am
St Raphael Church 11:30am

LENTEN PROGRAM 2022

COME BACK TO ME: Mercy and Healing Await



Starting on **Thursday 3rd of March** – the parish is offering the opportunity to make space for time with God in prayer and community over **6 weeks** in preparation for Easter 2022.

Please come and join as we read, ponder, pray and contemplate each of the Sunday Gospels up to Palm Sunday using the Go Make Disciples Lenten Companion booklets which will be supplied.

You can either join face to face or via Zoom. Registration Sheets are also on the desks at Mater Dei and St. Raphael churches (please indicate which meeting option and put your name and contact details).

TIME	Thurs 7:30pm-8:30pm
Meetings in Person	St Raphael's School Meeting Room
Led by	Carl and Susan Fabbro 0418 672 394 cpavshome@gmail.com
Meeting via Zoom link	https://zoom.us/j/9577646626?pwd=UjZscTFZRZkZlRzJYcnd3dVlrUT09
Led by	Monica and Michael Fernandes 0437 517 758 mc@materdei-straphael.org.au

Marist College Penshurst Open Day

Wed 9 March 2022 2pm - 6pm

A CO-EDUCATIONAL YEARS 7 - 12 COLLEGE
Year 7-8: 29A Greenacre Road, South Hurstville 2221
Year 9-12: 65 Victoria Avenue, Mortdale 2223
T 9579 6188 W www.maristpenshurst.catholic.edu.au

Bethany College Open Day

Tues 1 March 2022, 3.30pm - 6.30pm at the College
Enrolling Year 7, 2024
Enrolment packages will be available on the day
www.bethanyhurstville.catholic.edu.au | 8566 0711

PULPIT POINTS 20 FEBRUARY 2022

- The Five and the Furious. Religious Discrimination law paralysed.
- Quiet Achievers. Catechists share the light of faith.
- Yes, I'm not Arab. Why I became a Maronite Catholic.
- The lucky country? Not if you're homeless.
- Movie review: Munich: The Edge of War
- From slave to saint. Meet St Bakhita.

ALPHA 2022: Date: 8th March 7:30 pm via Zoom

REGISTER: With the QR Code or the link



<https://forms.gle/uvhkDCxKzpKeE2K39>

Cost: Free to attend. For more info visit:

www.materdei-straphael.org.au



Home Rosary Mater Dei

22-2-2022 Nives Care 33 Church Street
Blakehurst. 11:00 AM
01-3-2022 Josie & Denis Kocina 45 Town-
son St Blakehurst. 11:00 AM
Everyone welcome

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	218.90	192.00
Second: loose	299.90	314.20
Envelopes	352.50	360.00



The preacher and the doctor: There's a story told of a husband and wife both of whom were doctors – one a Doctor of Theology and the other a Doctor of Medicine. When their doorbell was rung and the maid answered, the inquirer would often ask for "the doctor". The maid's interesting reply was: "Do you want the one who preaches or the one who practices?"

PARISH DIRECTORY

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Thomas Alukka
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MATER DEI CATHOLIC CHURCH
1008 King Georges Road, Blakehurst 2221, NSW
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
Phone: 9546 2605

Email: admin@materdei-straphael.org.au

Parish Ministry Coordinator & Safeguarding Officer
Michael Fernandes

Office hours: Tues, Wed & Fri 10am – 2pm
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Pastoral Ministry Coordinator: Br. Ben Krupowicz
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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