



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

Twenty-Fifth Sunday
in Ordinary time Year C

Bulletin

18th September 2022

Entrance Antiphon :

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

First Reading: Am 8:4-7

The Lord God spoke against those who buy the poor for money.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 112:1-2. 4-8. R. see vv.1. 7

(R.) Praise the Lord who lifts up the poor.

1. Praise, O servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord! May the name of the Lord be blessed both now and for evermore! (R.)
2. High above all nations is the Lord, above the heavens his glory. Who is like the Lord, our God, who has risen on high to his throne yet stoops from the heights to look down, to look down upon heaven and earth? (R.)
3. From the dust he lifts up the lowly, from the dungheap he raises the poor to set him in the company of princes, yes, with the princes of his people. (R.)

Second Reading: 1 Tm 2:1-8

Let prayers be offered to God for everyone; he wants all people to be saved.

Gospel Acclamation 2 Cor 8:9

Alleluia, alleluia!
Jesus Christ was rich but he became poor, to make you rich out of his poverty.
Alleluia!

Gospel : Lk 16:1-13

You cannot be slaves both of God and of money.

Communion Antiphon: Ps 118:4-5

You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

We return again to the Lukan theme of money and how it can get in the way of being a true disciple. This week's gospel passage reminds us that we cannot be a follower of God and chase after riches at the same time. That parable of the steward and his master is one that is rarely quoted and would be unfamiliar to most readers. The actions of the steward upon learning that he is to be dismissed seem to us to be evidence of his dubious dealings and yet the master praises his astuteness.

When a steward entered into loans and deals on behalf of his master, he would build into the repayment a profit for himself. This was quite normal and acceptable. So the amount that the steward asks the debtors to reduce their debts to the master is actually the cut that he had built into the deal for himself. His actions are, surprisingly, quite noble and legitimate. What he is doing is ensuring that his master receives all that is owed to him whilst the steward is making himself more popular with the debtors because they don't have to pay back as much. It would be like a modern day salesman saying that he would forego his commission on the sale so that the purchaser didn't have to pay as much.

But why does Jesus use this parable? He makes the point that when the crunch comes – when the kingdom of God is imminent – monetary wealth is going to be meaningless. It is best to cut your losses and turn your energy to building relationships rather than riches.

Historical Context – Stewards

We often encounter the term *steward* in the gospels. To be the steward of a household or business was much more than being the manager on behalf of the owner. Stewardship meant to stand and act in the place of the owner. It was to carry the authority and responsibility of the master or owner. When dealing with a steward it was just like dealing with the master. Jesus sometimes portrays himself as God's steward and sometimes portrays the disciples as his stewards. To be entrusted with the stewardship of anything was a great honour and carried enormous trust.

Gospel Focus – Using money

Jesus tells his audience to use money to win friends so that when your money fails you your friends will welcome you. This sounds a bit like buying friendship. But what Jesus was saying was to share your riches with those in need and not be boastful and greedy of your wealth. He is calling his audience back to the commands of God to take care of the needy and to make sure that no one is left without enough to live. So the friendship Jesus is encouraging the people to make through their money is a friendship with the poor and the needy.

Have you thought? Tainted Money

Money seems to get a pretty bad rap in the gospel of Luke. In today's passage, it is even described as 'that tainted thing' which is the lowest measure of trustworthiness. However, it is not money as such that is the concern, but rather it is the love of money and inappropriate use of money. In the Jewish tradition, the measure of society was based on how the lowest and the least were treated and looked after. When our focus is on acquiring money and possessions, it is impossible to be using our money for the good of others.

**UNITED IN FAITH, GUIDED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT NOURISHED BY THE EUCHARIST,
COMMITTED TO PROCLAIMING THE
GOSPEL WE STRIVE TO LIVE AS GOD ASKS**

"to act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with our God" (Micah 6:8)

MASS TIMES		
	St Raphael Church	Mater Dei Church
Tuesday		9:15am Mass
Wednesday		8:45am Rosary, Novena 9:15am Mass
Thursday	9:15am	
Friday	7:30pm Adoration	8:45am Adoration 9:15am Mass, Cenacle
Saturday	4:30pm Reconciliation 5:00pm Vigil Mass	6:15PM VIGIL MASS Every 1st and 3rd Sat (except school holidays)
Sunday	8:00am MASS 6:00pm Croatian Mass	10:00am Mass

WYD LISBON 2023

Official Prayer

Our Lady of the Visitation, you who left in haste towards the mountain to meet Elizabeth, lead us also to meet all those who await us to deliver them the living Gospel: Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord! We will go in a hurry, with no distraction or delay, but with readiness and joy. We will go peacefully, because those who take Christ take peace, and well doing is the best wellbeing. Our Lady of the Visitation, with your inspiration, this World Youth Day will be the mutual celebration of the Christ we take, as You once did. Make it a time of testimony and sharing, fraternization, and giving thanks, each of us looking for the others who always wait. With you, we will continue on this path of gathering, so that our world will gather as well, in fraternity, justice and peace.

Help us, Our Lady of the Visitation, to bring Christ to everyone, obeying the Father, in the love of the Spirit!

Mater Dei—St Raphael
COMBINED PARISHES
DINNER DANCE
Fri 21st Oct 2022 at
Doltone House, Sylvania

Please register and book a table at the below link:

<https://www.materdeistraphael.org.au/>



There is family mass this Saturday at 6:15pm at Mater Dei

Recently Deceased:
Death Anniversary: Orlando Casas
Pray for good health of : Adele Shehata, Analiza Torres Zapata, Yin Kwan Tsang.

17th/18th Sept (3rd Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.00am	6.15pm V	10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Earl, Carl	Ray Low	Volunteer
Readers	Volunteer	Minh, JP	Family Mass	Jolly Jose Wendy E
24th/25th Sept (4th Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.00am	6.15pm V	10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Michael F Norman	No Mass	Volunteer
Readers	Pavia Family	Lappen Family		Lucy Mitry Phil M

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

Pope Francis Offers Condolences on Queen's Death

Pope Francis sent a condolence telegram to King Charles III on Thursday, telling him that he was "deeply saddened to learn of the death" of Queen Elizabeth II. "I willingly join all who mourn her loss in praying for the late Queen's eternal rest, and in paying tribute to her life of unstinting service to the good of the Nation and the Commonwealth, her example of devotion to duty, her steadfast witness of faith in Jesus Christ and her firm hope in his promises," the pope wrote.

Queen Elizabeth II died on 8th Sept 2022 at the age of 96. Pope Francis met the queen and the Duke of Edinburgh at the Vatican in 2014. Queen Elizabeth met with five popes in her lifetime, beginning with Pope Pius XII in 1951.

HEART OF LIFE Centre of Spiritual and Pastoral formation

'Walking with Wisdom Series' (in person or via Zoom), 4 x Thursdays, 6-27 October 2022, 10am-12.30pm. This series offers a time to explore the depths of wisdom in our own heart, to recognise wisdom in the encounter with another ... to dwell in the Heart of Contemplation. Led by spiritual directors Carole Carmody rsm and Julie Adam. Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation, Rear 41 Stanhope St, Malvern VIC. Cost \$30 per session or \$100 for the series. Book and pay via www.heartoflife.melbourne, email office@heartoflife.melbourne, or tel (03) 9890 1101.

ROSARY	
St Raphael's Church	Mater Dei Church
Every Monday at 7:30pm with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Every Sunday 9:30am before the 10am mass

CENACLES OF THE MARIAN MOVEMENT OF PRIESTS Every Friday after the 9:15am mass at Mater Dei Church



Mater Dei Home Rosary

20-9-22 Nives Care
33 Church Street Blakehurst 11-00 AM
27-9-22 Nives Care
33 Church Street Blakehurst 11-00 AM
All are welcome

Chaplains St George Public Hospital

Gary Cartmer from our Parish and Sister Maria Pineda are Catholic Care Lay Chaplains at St George Public Hospital on Tue, Wed and Thu to provide emotional, spiritual and sacramental support for you or your family member during the patient's stay. Ph: 9113 2189

The Catholic Weekly PULPIT POINTS 18th Sept 2022

- Life of Service and Faith- Vale Queen Elizabeth II
- A Christian King: Charles III
- Euthanasia: An Indigenous perspective • Archbishop's student awards • Renew: National Catholic Mens' Gathering
- The honey-making Sisters

This week the Catholic Church of St Raphael's, South Hurstville warmly welcomes



Luca Shotam

(child of Stefanie & Darren)

Congratulations to the family!

PARISH DIRECTORY

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Thomas Alukka

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Parish Ministry Coordinator & Safeguarding Officer **Michael Fernandes**

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Pastoral Ministry Coordinator: **Br. Ben Krupowicz**
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Fr. Jan Chrzczonowicz : Phone: 0412 786 245

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	404.05	165.45
Second: loose	331.50	196.90
Envelopes	315.00	265.00

Ian was driving when he first saw the flash of a traffic camera. He figured that his picture had been taken for speeding, even though he knew he wasn't. Just to be sure, Ian went around the block and passed the same spot, driving even more slowly. But again the camera flashed. Thinking this was pretty funny, he drove past even slower three more time, laughing as the camera snapped away each time he drove by at a snail's pace. Two weeks later, Ian got five tickets in the mail for driving without a seatbelt.



FUNNY