



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

Twenty-Fourth Sunday
in Ordinary time Year C

Bulletin

11th September 2022

Entrance Antiphon : Cf. Sir 36:18

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

First Reading: Ex 32:7-11. 13-14

The Lord relented and did not send the evil he had threatened.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 50:3-4. 12-13.
17. 19. R. Lk 15:18

(R.) I will rise and go to my father.

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin. (R.)
2. A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit. (R.)
3. O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall declare your praise. My sacrifice is a contrite spirit; a humbled, contrite heart you will not spurn. (R.)

Second Reading: 1 Tm 1:12-17

Christ came to save sinners.

Gospel Acclamation 2 Cor 5:19

Alleluia, alleluia!

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.
Alleluia!

Gospel : Lk 15:1-32

There will be joy in heaven over one sinner who does penance

Communion Antiphon: Cf. Ps 35:8

How precious is your mercy, O God!
The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

The gospel passage begins with an accusation that Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. This is the gravest social accusation one could level at another because who you ate with was a reflection of your own status. To welcome sinners and to eat with them was to effectively become one of them yourself. In response to this accusation, rather than mounting an argument, the gospel writer has Jesus tell three parables about the lost being found. The answer to the accusation is that those dismissed as 'sinners' are the 'lost' who will be celebrated with extravagant rejoicing when they have been 'found' again through their acceptance of the message of Jesus.

The parable of the lost son is usually taken in isolation and rarely is heard in the full context of the three parables of the lost being found. We need all three to recognise the ridiculous nature of the celebration of the forgiving father's actions. All three parables display great folly. What shepherd would leave 99 of his sheep in the wilderness to go in search of just one? Similarly what woman is going to reveal to her friends how poverty-stricken she really is by inviting them to rejoice with her at the finding of one lost drachma – the least valuable of coins. When we come to the father rejoicing at his son's return, this too would have seemed a ridiculous folly. Because of his actions, the son completely shamed himself and his father. The father's expected and justified response would have been to turn his back on his son and banish him forever. To welcome him back would have been unthinkable to Jesus' audience. In an echo of God's ridiculous and unbounded loving forgiveness, the father welcomes his son with open arms and reclaims him as his own.

Historical Context – Scandal at the dinner table

The accusation that Jesus eats with sinners would have been considered incredibly insulting and defamatory. In that time, dining was as much a political act as it was a social one. Breaking bread together had incredible significance. To break bread or share a meal with someone was to acknowledge them as a person and to in some way become one with them. So to eat with sinners was to also become one with them – to become a sinner yourself. For Jesus to deliberately seek out opportunities to dine with sinners was scandalous behaviour. It challenged one of the basic social principles.

Scriptural context – Parables of the lost

The three parables that appear in Luke 15 are unique to the gospel of Luke – none of the other gospels use these parables. They are used by the gospel writer to further highlight a theme that runs throughout this gospel: the release and acceptance of those who are oppressed and afflicted. It stems from the declaration of Jesus' mission in Ch 4 when he reads from the scroll of Isaiah. More than any other gospel, this one portrays Jesus as having a special care and compassion for those who have been rejected by society.

Gospel Focus – Who is a sinner?

The Jews at the time of Jesus had a particular view of sin and its consequences. Because of the multiple rules of purity and proper behaviour, it was almost impossible for an average person not to commit a sin at some time and sin was seen as making one impure. Sacrifice, worship and even baptism were means of restoring purity and removing sin. However, sin that was not acknowledged and rectified quickly would be punished by God. Those who suffered chronic illness, impairment or deformity were seen as being punished by God for their own or their parents' sin and Jesus challenged this interpretation.

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

Next vigil mass at Mater Dei Church will be on 17th September 2022

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.materdei-straphael.org.au/>



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

FRG MINISTRY (With Fr Rob Galea, Alyssa Agius & Justine Cumbo)
FRG Ministry is a not-for-profit Catholic organisation bringing the love of Jesus and His message of hope to people of all ages across the world. FRG Ministry pioneers new means of evangelisation through developing relevant & engaging resources. FRG Ministry also provides educational programs and resources for schools and Catholic parishes which empower people to grow as Christ's true disciples.
<https://www.frgministry.com/home>. Check out their Podcast.



10th/11th Sept (2nd Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.00am	6.15pm V	10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Michael B Minh	No Mass	Volunteer
Readers	Pavia Family	Yenson Family		Joan Hanson Jean Dorahy
18th/19th 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	Br Michael Nina Milazzo	Jolly Jose Wendy E

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

Child Protection Week 5-11th Sept 2022.
This week the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney celebrated National Child Protection Week for the 6th year in a row, and today, the week culminates with the celebration of Safeguarding Sunday. The celebration of this past week has provided us with an opportunity to reflect on how we celebrate and embrace differences within our community.
To help us reflect, the Safeguarding Office has developed a new resource for Children; the Celebrating Differences – We are all special-Activity Book. These resources can be accessed on the Safeguarding [website](#).
We encourage you all to take the time to reflect on how we can all participate in the shared responsibility of caring for and protecting our Children and Young People as well as how we can all celebrate differences within our community and life.

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

Embrace the Call to Global Mission
American Samoa, Cambodia, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Zambia are requesting Australian Catholics to live in and share their skills with parish communities. Embrace one of these **Mission opportunities abroad** and mentor those with little other opportunity. You will be well prepared and supported by Palms Australia who have engaged Australian Catholics in this mission since 1961.
Enquire online or Ph: **0422 742 567** and **Register** for a Webinar on **Saturday September 24th at 11:30am** where you can talk directly with Veronica Lawson who is mentoring teachers in Pago Pago, American Samoa now. Or visit others already engaged in Mission with Palms on our **13-day Encounter Tour to Timor-Leste from October 16th to 28th**.



Palms Australia

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



Mater Dei Home Rosary
13-9-22 Nives Care
33 Church Street Blakehurst 11-00 AM
20-9-22 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

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	354.55	198.90
Second: loose	384.00	213.15
Envelopes	300.00	520.00

PARISH DIRECTORY
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Fr. Jan Chrzczonowicz : Phone: 0412 786 245

Grandma Helen gives directions to her grandson who is coming to visit with his wife. "You come to the front door of the apartment complex. I am in apartment 14T. There is a big panel at the door. With your elbow push button 14T. I will buzz you in. Come inside, the elevator is on the right. Get in and with your elbow hit 14. When you get out I am on the left. With your elbow, hit my doorbell". "Grandma, that sounds easy, but why am I hitting all these buttons with my elbow?" asks Erik. "You're are coming empty handed?"



RUNNY