

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

Twenty-Third Sunday  
in Ordinary time Year C

Bulletin

4th September 2022

## **Entrance Antiphon :** Ps 118:137, 124

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

## **First Reading:** Wis 9:13-18

Who can comprehend the will of God?

## **Responsorial Psalm:** 17. R. v.1

(R.) In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

1. You turn men back into dust and say: 'Go back, sons of men.' To your eyes a thousand years are like yesterday, come and gone, no more than a watch in the night. (R.)
2. You sweep men away like a dream, like grass which springs up in the morning. In the morning it springs up and flowers: by evening it withers and fades. (R.)
3. Make us know the shortness of our life that we may gain wisdom of heart. Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever? Show pity to your servants. (R.)
4. In the morning, fill us with your love; we shall exult and rejoice all our days. Let the favour of the Lord be upon us: give success to the work of our hands. (R.)

## **Second Reading:** Phlm 9-10, 12-17

Receive him, not as a slave anymore, but as a very dear brother.

## **Gospel Acclamation** Ps 118:135

Alleluia, alleluia!

Let your face shine on your servant, and teach me your laws.  
Alleluia!

## **Gospel :** Lk 14:25-33

All who do not renounce their possessions cannot be my disciples.

## **Communion Antiphon:** Cf. Ps 41:2-3

Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God; my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

## **REFLECTION by Greg Sunter**

'Hate' is an emotive and extremely harsh word in our society. In its gospel context, the word is not used as an opposite of 'love' but as an indication of deserving of less significance than another thing. So the teaching about hating father, mother, etc can be read as saying that being a disciple of Jesus must take precedence over everything else, even family. In 1st Century culture, family was foremost above everything else; it was the very fibre that held society together. Jesus is saying that discipleship must be put above even that which is most important and most intrinsic to life in this world. That is why he goes on to tell the two stories about the need to count the cost before undertaking an important venture. He makes clear to his listeners that discipleship is more important than anything else and that there are huge costs associated with taking it on. A believer has to literally 'count the cost' of what it will mean to place discipleship above family, friendships, career, politics and even life itself. Jesus makes no apologies for the fact that what he is asking is incredibly demanding.

Our 'possessions' are all those things – material, emotional, and psychological – that we cling to and that we think give us our identity and status. Jesus called for a radical reinterpretation of status and position. He tells his listeners that they cannot truly be disciples if they continue to cling to those things that are considered important in this world. They have to surrender the things that bind them to this world's ideas of status and position before they can fully embrace the kingdom view of the world. As Jesus said, you have to really count the cost!

### **Historical Context – Radical poverty**

The earliest Christian communities were characterised by a redistribution of all wealth and possessions to ensure that the needs of every single member were met. This was the first interpretation of Jesus' teaching to give up possessions to embrace discipleship. Modern religious life, grounded in the monastic traditions of the Middle Ages, embraces a radical poverty in order to free religious from societal notions of status and power so that they might more freely and openly serve others. Lack of possessions and wealth brings a humility and openness that is almost impossible when playing the game of 'keeping up with the Joneses'.

### **Scriptural context – Honour and Shame**

The first example of counting the cost that Jesus relates is about a man building a house without the means to complete it suffering the fate of his neighbours making fun of him. Whilst the thought of neighbours laughing at our mistake may not be too serious to us, it was a devastating thought in the 1st Century. A social code of honour and shame dominated the world view at the time. To be shamed by your actions or by the actions of others was humiliating and lowered social status. Jesus frequently used the honour-shame code to make his point and challenge social expectations.

### **Living the Gospel – Give up my possessions?**

We live in an era of extraordinary wealth in some countries contrasted against extraordinary poverty and need in other countries. Accumulation of possessions has become a driving force in our society. Flat screen televisions, iPods, multiple computers, games consoles, portable DVD players, multifunction mobile phones are all 'must-have' items. The thought of surrendering such items may be almost impossible to consider. However, Jesus' message about being a disciple calls to us. How can some people in the world surround themselves with such luxuries while others don't have enough to eat? Does the love of 'possessions' blind us to the needs of others?

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	<b>6:15PM VIGIL MASS</b> Every 1st and 3rd Sat (except school holidays)
Sunday	<b>8:00am Mass</b> 6:00pm Croatian Mass	10:00am Mass



**PRIESTS' RETIREMENT FOUNDATION**  
OUR FAITH OUR WORKS  
**PRIESTS' RETIREMENT FOUNDATION APPEAL**  
**FATHER'S DAY**  
SEPTEMBER 3 & 4, 2022

Priest Retirement Foundation  
<https://www.ourfaithourworks.org/>

**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/>



**Recently Deceased:** Antonius Widjaja (*Parish Secretary, Juliana's dad*)

**Death Anniversary:** DeJohn Luigi Santelli

**Pray for good health of :** Adele Shehata, Analiza Torres Zapata, Yin Kwan Tsang.



There is morning tea and games after the 8am Sunday Mass at St Raphael's Church. Play-Socialise-Have fun. All are welcome!!

3rd / 4th Sept (1st Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.00am	6.15pm V	10.00am
<b>Acolytes</b>	Greg Driver	Gary, Max	Tony Oscuro	Paul W
<b>Readers</b>	Lovat Family	Maria C Ronnie C	Frances O Volunteer	Gail Abbott Luisa Galea
10th/11th Sept (2nd Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.00am	6.15pm V	10.00am
<b>Acolytes</b>	Greg Driver	Michael B Minh	No Mass	Volunteer
<b>Readers</b>	Pavia Family	Yenson Family		Joan Hanson Jean Dorahy

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

**Child Protection Week**  
5 - 11 September 2022  
Celebrating Diversity and Differences with all our Children



When a parish in the Archdiocese of Sydney is called upon to safeguard its community, we are being asked to pro-actively support a culture of care that champions honesty and engagement. The result of this is a community environment where children and young people are valued, heard and protected from harm.

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

**Evangelisation and Renewal – Making the most of the Church's Seasons**

Advent is a grace-filled time in our Church's calendar; a time where we can boldly proclaim the coming of Jesus our Saviour, as the world prepares to celebrate His birth. Join us online as we explore and discuss some practical ideas that parishes can engage with around this special time, so that others may come to share in our joy and hope that only Jesus can give. All welcome!

**Date:** Thursday 22 September, **Time:** 7:30pm – 8:30pm, **Platform:** Online via Zoom  
Register at [www.gomakedisciples.org.au/cas-events/](http://www.gomakedisciples.org.au/cas-events/)

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



**Mater Dei Home Rosary**  
6-9-22 Nives Care  
33 Church Street Blakehurst 11-00 AM  
All are welcome

**The Catholic Weekly PULPIT POINTS 04th Sept 2022**

- Making better dads
- The conversion everyone is talking about
- Blackmailing parents
- WYD 2023: 12 months to go!
- Movie review: *She-Hulk*
- Discover your faith: New online resource

**Blessed Father's Day!**  
*Numbers 6:24*  
The LORD bless you and keep you.

**There is Sat Vigil mass on 3/9/2022 at Mater Dei Church**

**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	385.45	159.70
Second: loose	280.80	217.70
Envelopes	525.00	525.00

**PARISH DIRECTORY**

**PARISH PRIEST:** Fr Thomas Alukka  
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**MATER DEI CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
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**ST. RAPHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
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Website: <https://www.materdeistraphael.org.au/>

**Parish Secretary:** Juliana Widjaja  
Office hours: Tues & Wed 9:30am - 2:30pm  
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Email: admin@materdeistraphael.org.au

**Parish Ministry Coordinator & Safeguarding Officer:** Michael Fernandes  
Office hours: Tues, Wed & Fri 10am – 2:30pm  
M: 0437 517 758 E: mc@materdeistraphael.org.au

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

The prodigal son was the subject of the catechism lesson and Sister was dwelling on the character of the elder brother.

“But amid all the enjoyment,” said Sister, “there was one to whom the preparation of the feast brought no joy; to whom the prodigal's return gave no happiness, only bitterness, one who did not approve of the feast and who had no wish to attend it.

“Now who can tell me who this was?”

Silence for several moments, then as a hand went up, a small, sympathetic voice said, “Please, Sister, it was the fatted calf.”



**FUNNY**