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

The Baptism of the Lord - Year B

BULLETIN

11 January 2015



The Baptism of the Lord

GOSPEL COMMENTARY by © Brendan Byrne SJ

With the feast of the Baptism today we make a swift transition from Jesus' infancy and childhood to the event which, in all four gospels, inaugurates his adult public ministry.

The first reading, from the first Servant Song in Isaiah (42:1-4, 6-7), is presumably chosen because its opening words seem to find an echo in the divine voice that Jesus hears as he emerges from the water following his baptism by John, 'You are my Son, the Beloved, in whom my soul delights.'

The Song records the divine address to a chosen person, presumably a royal figure. Endowed with God's Spirit, the Servant will 'establish true justice' through a quiet, gentle, yet persevering encouragement of those who are crushed and downtrodden. Beyond being 'a covenant to the people' (Israel), he is to be 'a light to the nations', leading them out of the darkness in which they are imprisoned into the light of God's day.

The heart of the preaching of John the Baptist is to point to Jesus as the coming One who is 'more powerful' than he is. Jesus will be more powerful because, whereas John baptises literally, i.e. operates with water, Jesus will 'baptise' with the power and force of God's Spirit. John's water baptism prepares a 'way' for the Gospel in repentant human hearts. Jesus' endowment with the Spirit enables him to break the grip of Satan upon human lives and reclaim them for the Rule ('Kingdom') of God.

The simplicity of Mark's introduction of Jesus is in its own way very powerful. Jesus emerges out of the common mass of humanity approaching John for baptism as a sign of repentance and need for salvation.

It is only what happens afterwards that sets him apart. Mark's description is powerful: 'he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him'. The tearing apart of the heavens responds to a cry for rescue expressed in another part of Isaiah (64:1: 'O, that you would tear open the heavens and come down'). The same expression will recur in the tearing of the curtain of the Temple immediately following Jesus' death upon the cross (Mark 15:38). In both cases there is the sense of the barrier between the divine and human world being ripped away.

The descent of the Spirit 'like a dove' has been variously explained. In view of the address that follows: 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased', there are grounds for thinking that we should hear an echo of God's love for Israel expressed in the bridal imagery of the Canticle of Canticles (2:14; 5:2; 6:9). Jesus' experience of the Spirit is essentially an experience and assurance of the Father's love. His Spirit-empowered mission will be to rebuild a People of God upon that same assurance. Every baptised person can hear the 'Father's voice' from heaven: 'You are my beloved son, my beloved daughter; in you I am well pleased.'

In this way, I think, today's feast, while primarily about the baptism of Jesus, is also about our baptism as well. That sacrament brings human beings within the Trinitarian experience of God's love enacted in Jesus' baptism and empowers them, as it empowered him, to reflect that love to the world.

Entrance antiphon

After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

First Reading: Isaiah 55:1-11

Come to the water; listen to my words and you shall have life.

Psalm: Isaiah 12:2-6

R. You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

Truly, God is my salvation,

I trust, I shall not fear.

For the Lord is my strength, my song, he became my saviour.

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. **R.**

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!

Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!

Declare the greatness of his name. **R.**

Sing a psalm to the Lord for he has done glorious deeds, make them known to all the earth! People of Zion, sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. **R.**

Second Reading: 1 John 5:1-9

The Spirit, the water and the blood give witness.

Gospel Acclamation: John 15:4. 5

Alleluia, alleluia! We have seen his star in the East; and have come to adore the Lord. Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 1:7-11

You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Communion antiphon:

Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

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 your God" (Micah 6:8)

MASS TIMES this week		
	Mater Dei	St.Raphael's
Saturday	6.15pm	5.00pm
Sunday	10.00am	8.30am
Tuesday	8.00am	
Wednesday	8.00am	
Thursday		9.15am
Friday	8am	9.00am
RECONCILIATION: (also by appointment)		
Saturday		4.30pm
EXPOSITION		
Saturday	from	4.00pm

Legions of Mary
MD: Meets 10am every Monday morning in the Piety Stall at Mater Dei.
St R's Rosary and Meeting every Friday at 9:30 am downstairs in the Hall.
St Vincent de Paul Society
 Meets second Tuesday of each month in the Kennedy Centre at Mater Dei at 7.30 pm.

HOME ROSARY
St Raphael's Parish - Mondays 7.30pm
 December - ADVENT BREAK
 Resumes January
Mater Dei Parish - Tuesdays
 December - Advent Break
 Resumes January
ALL WELCOME

Please pray for the work of this Council which has been set up as part of the Church's response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. Please pray especially, too, for the victims of child sexual abuse by clergy, religious and Church employees.

Please Pray For Deceased parishioners or relatives and their families.
Deceased: Joseph McGloin,
 Please pray for those who are sick:
 Therese Mir, Franko Turiano Sandra Salvador, Ingolf Leuschner, Cath Spongberg, Paul Gilmore, Wally Wells, Beryl Harrington, Maria Nguyen, Evelyn Williams, Rina Ricco, Morrell, Hennie Smith, Sue McDermott, Margaret Hopkinson, Sr Vianney Hatton, Mary Krone, Ann, Sr Maree Henderson, rsc, Blaza Kursar, Howard Courtney, Ann Davies, Joanne McRea, Patrick & Sidney Yenson, Matthew Tuffin, Joanne Martin, Jack & Sylvia Wood.

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND		
TYPE	StR	MD
First	543	253
Second: loose	425	273
Envelopes	533	401

Free e-book for computer or e-reader:
 Son of God: The Daily Gospel Year B-1
 This e-book, which may be downloaded free of charge to a computer or e-reader, offers the Gospel for every day of this present Liturgical Year B-1 (Sundays Year B, weekdays Year1), together with a reflection of some 750 words on each daily Gospel. It contains the Gospel passages not only for this present year but for any B-1 Liturgical Year in the future, together with their respective reflections. It may be passed on to friends or acquaintances as desired. It carries the Imprimatur of the Archbishop of Sydney. **The e-book may be accessed at the following address: www.catholic-thoughts.info/ebook/**

St John of God Institute of Counselling
 Established in 1969, the institute offers a course designed to develop skills in personal growth, communication, parenting and general counselling principles. Participants can learn new skills in dealing with daily personal challenges and the issues that arise within families, the school environment and in the workplace. Tuesday evenings within the school term between 7.30pm - 9.45pm at Holy Cross College, Victoria Road, Ryde commencing on Tuesday 3 February 2015. The cost for the course is \$450.00 for the year with an early bird offer of \$400.00 if paid in full by the end of February 2015. For enquires please contact: Michael Hill - 9869 3774 or 0410 774 32; Carol Harding - 9639 0096 or 0408 705 848; Janelle Carlile - 0431 598 004; or Email: counselling1969@gmail.com

ACBC PASTORAL RESEARCH OFFICE E-NEWS BULLETIN.
 A regular bulletin profiling interesting data about Catholic life in Australia. Edition #18 features Catholics and the Environment and is now available. Anyone interested in receiving this newsletter please contact the Pastoral Research Office via email: office@pro.catholic.org.au.

Pilgrimage - 20 Days/17 Nights Eastern Europe & Medjugorje, (8 Nights Poland, Prague & Vienna & 9 nights in Medjugorje) The pilgrimage will begin in Perth from 10 May to 30 May. The pilgrimage will consist of a small group of pilgrims only and there are just a few seats left. Please confirm your booking before 15 January 2015. Some of the holy sites include the convent of Saint Faustina, the Jasna Gora, the Black Madonna, Sanctuary of Divine Mercy, Wadowice, etc. Other places of interest include Auschwitz, the Salt Mine, etc. The 9 nights in Medjugorje involve you participating in the Holy Masses, the Rosaries, climbing the Apparition Hill, Krizevac Hill & more. Possible local tours. All for A \$ 6,499.00 - includes all international & internal flights, full land tour, breakfast & dinner, tips, English speaking guide, etc. Contact Edman : 04 244 37251 emausmigr@optusnet.com OR Bada Payne 08 92765577 or Bada.Morley@helloworld.com.au.

Would you like to become more involved in Parish Life?
 You can just email, fax or write a note with your name and email/phone number, noting your area of interest. There are also Parish Registration Forms at the doors which you can complete—the back page gives you some options for helping out. There are some particular ministries which require specific training, and others where you can learn on the job. The Parish needs everyone!

St Vincent De Paul Society would like to thank everyone who supported the Christmas Appeal

HOLY HOUR AT ST RAPHAEL'S
 Continues Fridays, between 8pm and 9pm.

RCIA will resume in February 2015. If you or anyone you know is interested in learning more about our faith please contact Graeme Dorahy on 9546 6032.

St Philomena Association Holy Mass to be held on Saturday, 30 May 2015 at Midday, with confessions from 11.30am. (Pop this in your diary!) Where: St John Vianney's Catholic Church, 17 Cameron St, Doonside. A short walk north from Doonside station, one stop past Blacktown. RSVP: by phone or text to Elizabeth on 0423 154 463 or email: epeoples9@gmail.com (Please bring a snack to share)

Ministry 10 & 11 January	St Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm V	8.30am	6.15pm V	10.00am
Acolytes/SS	Daniel	Michael	Ray	Paul
EMHC	Shirley Jan	Michelle Monica		Marguerite
Readers			Ronnie Louise	Joan Jean
Altar Servers	Volunteers	Volunteers	Emma	Bianca, Gabrielle
Music	Niko	Julia	John	Kim
Altar Society			Grace & Angela	
Children's Liturgy	School		holidays	

Ministry 17 & 18 January	St Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm V	8.30am	6.15pm V	10.00am
Acolytes/SS	Br Ben	Earl	Sofi	Jeff
EMHC	Ida Rosie	Henriette Adele	Olivia	Marguerite
Readers			Br Michael Cettina	Cath Wendy
Altar Servers	Volunteers	Volunteers	Emma	Bianca, Gabrielle
Music		Julia	Jan	Youth
Altar Society			Gail & Clara	
Children's Liturgy	School		holidays	

Do you have some spare time which you could donate to help children?
 Both Parishes need more Catechists, men and women who are enthusiastic about their faith who are willing to share it with children who might otherwise never hear about the love of God. 40% of catholic children attend public schools and it is our responsibility to assist their parents with their faith education. We have a great team of catechists and the work is very rewarding if there are enough people to help. The classes are only half an hour per week during the school term. Please contact Kath Cullen on 9546 2487 to find out more. This is a job you could share with your husband or wife, or a friend. There is a set syllabus and each child has a workbook.



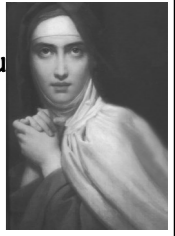
PATHWAYS OF ST PAUL PILGRIMAGE:
 Join parishioners from Holy Innocents' on a 20 day Pilgrimage to Greece and Turkey, departing Monday 20th April 2015. Walk in the footsteps of St. Paul, visit the places where he lived, worked and was imprisoned. Also visit island of Patmos, where St John wrote the book of Revelation, Basilica of St John built over the tomb of "The Divine" Apostle and the "House of Mary" where it is said Mary spent the later years of her life. For Itinerary Brochure and Booking Form please contact Fr. Peter Krigovsky, admin@holyc.org.au, 9747 -4291, or download from www.holyinnocents.com.

FUNNY A very drunk man stumbles upon the local Baptist minister conducting his Sunday service down by the river. He proceeds to venture into the water and stand next to the minister. The minister turns, notices the man and says, 'Mister, are you ready to find Jesus?' The man looks back and says, 'Yes Reverend, I am.' The minister then dunks the fellow under the water and pulls him right back up. 'Have you found Jesus?' the minister asks. 'No, I didn't!' replies the man. The minister then dunks him under for quite a bit longer, brings him up and says, 'Now brother, have you found Jesus?' 'No, I did not!' says the drunken man again. Disgusted, the minister holds the man under for at least thirty seconds this time, brings him up and demands, 'For the grace of God, have you found Jesus yet?' The man wipes his eyes and pleads, 'Are you sure this is where he fell in?'



Both Churches have a hearing loop installed: switch your hearing aid to "T-coil".

The Wisdom of Teresa
 Jan 30 - Feb 1, 2015 Presenter: Fr Paul Maunder, OCD Cost: \$220 (concessions available)
 Where: Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, 247 St Andrews Road, Varroville, NSW, 2566 Contact: 8795 3400, email: retreats@camelite.com www.carmeliteretreats.com.au
 Divine Friendship: spiritual guidance in prayer, holiness and mission from the writings of St Teresa of Avila.



PARISH DIRECTORY
 Parish Priest
 Fr Isidore Anantharaj
 Phone: 95462605
pp@materdei-straphael.org.au
 Presbytery & Parish Office
 1008 King Georges Rd.,
 Blakehurst, NSW 2221
 Fax: 95472323
www.materdei-straphael.org.au
Mater Dei Church: 1008 King Georges Rd, Blakehurst,
St Raphael's Church: 84 George St, South Hurstville
 Parish Secretary
 Mrs Jennifer Stanley
admin@materdei-straphael.org.au
 Br. Joe Cassar
 9546 1232
Pastoral Assistant (St Raphael's):
 Br. Ben Krupowicz Ph: 9546 2544
stshr@outlook.com
Priest in Residence
 Fr. Jan Chrzczonowicz
 (Chaplain to the French)
 Mobile: 0412786 245
SCHOOLS:
Mater Dei Primary 9546 7298
 Principal: Mrs Jenni Payne
St Raphael's Primary 9546 4898
 Principal: Mrs Annette McKenzie