

Parishes of
5th Sunday Of Easter

Entrance Antiphon

O sing a new song to the Lord,
for he has worked wonders;
in the sight of the nations
he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

First Reading: Acts 9:26-31

Responsorial Psalm :

Ps 21:26-28. 30-32. R. v.26

(R.) I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

1. My vows I will pay before those who fear him. The poor shall eat and shall have their fill. They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him. May their hearts live for ever and ever! **(R.)**

2. All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord, all families of the nations worship before him. They shall worship him, all the mighty of the earth; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust. **(R.)**

3. And my soul shall live for him, my children serve him. They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come, declare his faithfulness to peoples yet unborn: 'These things the Lord has done.' **(R.)**

Second Reading: 1 Jn 3:18-24

Gospel Acclamation: Jn 15:4-5

Alleluia, alleluia!

Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord;
my branches bear much fruit.
Alleluia!

Gospel: 15:1-8

Communion antiphon:

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord.
Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia

Reflection: By Fr Michael Tate

We are too familiar with today's gospel. Christ is the vine and we are the branches, sometimes in need of a good pruning. But God's purpose is not to produce a perfect vineyard. It is to produce a full-bodied wine at the end of history.

There is a foretaste of this at every Mass. The wine we offer – 'fruit of the earth and work of human hands' – becomes the spiritual drink which best serves the purpose of our Heavenly Father. How does this happen?

For the Jewish people observing an animal whose throat is cut, it is obvious that the life drains out with the blood. 'Life' and 'blood' became synonyms. So, when the Jewish Jesus says of the wine in the chalice at the Last Supper: 'This is my blood', amongst other things he is saying: 'This is my life force, this is my very life given unreservedly for you.'

So, when we drink from the chalice at Holy Communion, the life of the Risen Lord courses through our bodies just as the sap of the vine courses through its branches. We share the same ultimate vitality so that our bodily existence builds into the Body of Christ. He becomes truly 'full-bodied' as the Divine Vignerone desires.

We could take a moment to pray that we respond to the pruning and the tending and the pressing by our Heavenly Father so as to contribute our distinctive character to the vintage at the end of history, the spiritual drink of the Kingdom of Heaven.

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)

Preparing For The Vocation Of Marriage?

Of Life and Love Marriage Preparation Weekend at the Catholic Adult Education Centre. Places still available for May 2 & 3 or June 27 & 28. \$230 per couple. For more information, call 9646 9010 or go to www.caec.com.au - *A wedding is a day, but a marriage is a lifetime*

The Grace Of Vocation. Union and Charity, a series of discernment events held on Saturdays in Sydney for young single women sponsored by the Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma. Last event date: 16 May. For further information visit www.rsmofalma.org and to RSVP ring 02 9557 2398 or stjoseph@rsmofalma.org.

Pentecost Retreat Saturday 23rd May, 2015

Come and join us for a day retreat 9am to 5pm at 74 Rosebery Ave, Rosebery. There will be talks based on the Word of God, time for personal reflection and sharing. Please contact Verbum Dei Missionaries if you have any questions on 9313 7099 or email

verbumdeisydney@gmail.com



ROME PILGRIMAGE TOUR - 3 JUNE 2015 DEPARTURE.

There are some vacancies still available on the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney's Rome Pilgrimage Tour which departs on 03 June 2015. The 7-night tour package includes return economy airfares, accommodation at Domus Australia, all breakfasts and dinners, and all tours including admission. For full details go to www.romepilgrimages.com or phone 1800 819 156.

Immaculate Heart of Mary



Lord you place deep in our hearts the love of Mary Help of Christians.

Through her prayers grant wisdom to our leaders and integrity to our citizens.

Under her protection may Australia be granted harmony, justice and peace. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



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Integrity & care

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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 7.30pm
 04-05-2015 Tony & Maggie
 6 Scenic Cres, Connells Pt
 11/5/15 Anton & Margurite
 13-A Australia St, Hurstville
Mater Dei Parish - Tuesdays
 5-5-15 Angela and Victor Diangelo
 105 Kyle Pde, Kyle Bay. 8.00 P.M
 12-5-15 Frances and Tony Oscuro
 51 Stuart St. Blakehurst 8.00pm

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 dergy, religious and Church

Please Pray for

† **Deceased:** Philomena Danaher, Martin Breeb, Rachele Calvitto, Baxter Derrig, Clarice Dorany, Domenico Cardillo, Betty Peipman, Fr Brendan Shiel, Baden Barter, Ron Masson, Souham Wehbe, Garry Stewart, Julia & Monica Mullens, Natale Pelle.

Sick: Brian Waterman Sr Vianney Hatton, Damien & Rosemary Caruana, Neuyen, T Houng, Maria

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND		
TYPE	StR	MD
First		
Second: loose		
Envelopes		

Mater Dei Parish and St Raphael's Parish

Invite you to their annual Parish Dinner

Christmas in July

Friday, 24th July 2015

7pm for 7:30pm start

Doltone House

223 Belgrave Esplanade, Sylvania Waters

Cost: \$75 per person

Includes 3 course meal,

beer wine and soft drinks, coffee/ Tea

DJ Included

A Date for your dairy:
31/05/2015

Sunday 10.00am @ Mater Dei

Thanksgiving Mass for



Br Joe Cassar

and for

the Society of Christian Doctrine.

For the years of service to our parish, our schools & our community.

Please join us for morning tea after 10.00am Mass.



George Preca (in Maltese: Ġorġ Preca)

(12 February 1880 – 26 July 1962)

was a Maltese Roman Catholic priest who founded the Society of Christian Doctrine, a society of lay catechists. In Malta, he is known as "Dun Ġorġ" and is popularly referred to as the "Second Apostle of Malta", after Paul of Tarsus. He was canonized on 3 June 2007 by Pope Benedict XVI.[1] Feast Day on the 9th May.

29 April 2015

STATEMENT FROM THE ARCHBISHOP OF SYDNEY

MOST REV ANTHONY FISHER OP

ON THE EXECUTION OF ANDREW CHAN AND

MYURUN SUKUMARAN IN INDONESIA

Like most Australians I do not support capital punishment: there is enough violence in our world already without legal systems modelling it to others.

When the Grand Mufti of Australia, Dr Ibrahim Abu Mohamed, and I made a joint appeal for clemency, we made it clear that we respected Indonesia's sovereignty and shared its condemnation of drug trafficking. We are all aware of the terrible damage drugs cause. But refusing even to entertain appeals for mercy – even after the pair had demonstrably turned their lives around – seemed to us to damage our neighbour's reputation for justice.

In some ways capital punishment punishes the families more than those executed. They must carry the memories for years to come. My heart and the hearts of all good-willed Australians go out to the Chan and Sukumaran families and the families of the others executed with them. May their children rest in peace.

+Anthony Fisher op

CHARITABLE WORKS FUND (CWF) PASTORAL APPEAL. This weekend is the CWF appeal which continues to play an important role in providing social, pastoral, advocacy and training programs through its 6 agencies. The CWF is your Catholic charity and we encourage you to give it your generous support. Couples, families, refugees, migrants, our future priests, Catholic public school children, the deaf and hearing impaired are just some of the people you are helping by supporting the CWF. There is so much which can be done with your donations, so please give generously.

DOWNPOUR - PENTECOST YOUTH RALLY – SAT, 23 MAY 2015. Join with hundreds as we celebrate Pentecost 2015 and pray for Sydney! This awesome night will feature worship by Steve Angrisano (USA), Gary and Natasha Pinto (Melbourne) and Stephen Kirk (Canberra) with a dynamic preaching by Fr Chris Ryan MGL. A night not to be missed!! Tickets and information available online at downpoursydney.com.

PARISH DIRECTORY

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Mater Dei Church: 1008 King Georges Rd, Blakehurst,

St Raphael's Church: 84 George St, South Hurstville

Parish Secretary for Both Parishes

Mrs Jenny Stanley

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Parish office: Tues, Wed & Frd. 10-2

Br. Joe Cassar

9546 1232

Pastoral Assistant (St Raphael's):

Br. Ben Krupowicz Ph: 9546 2544

strsh@outlook.com

Priest in Residence

Fr. Jan Chrzczonowicz

(Chaplain to the French)

Mobile: 0412786 245

SCHOOLS:

Mater Dei Primary 9546-7298

Principal: Mr Peter Cranney

St Raphael's Primary 9546-4898

Principal: Mrs Annette McKenzie

ADULT FAITH FORMATION 2015. St Teresa of Avila 2: Bishop David Walker DD, Emeritus Bishop of the Diocese of Broken Bay, will deliver teachings on St Teresa of Avila. St Teresa, a Doctor of the Church, has come to be recognised as one of the great teachers of how to journey to God. Come and join us in exploring the richness of St Teresa's wisdom. All are welcome! The venue for all courses will be The Centre for Christian Spirituality, 14 Frances St, Randwick. St Teresa of Avila 2: The Interior Castle. Dates: Wednesdays: 29 April, 6 & 13 May 2015, 7.00 – 8.30pm. Course Cost: \$25. To register: <http://trybooking.com/GVFO>.



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