

"God knows better than we do about what we need. We must have faith, because his ways are different from ours."
- Pope Francis

MASS TIMES		
	Mater Dei	St. Raphael
Saturday	6.15pm	5.00pm
Sunday	10.00am	8.30am
Tuesday	8.00am	-
Wednesday	8.00am	-
Thursday	-	9.15am
Friday	8.00am	9.00am
RECONCILIATION: (also by appointment)		
Saturday	-	4.30pm
EXPOSITION		
Friday	-	7:30 pm — 8:30 pm
Saturday	-	4pm — 4:45pm


Please Pray for:
Recently Deceased: Sr Carol Pedersen (RSC), Mario Vaccarella, Carmela Patane, Fr Andrew Quinn, Sylvia Wood, Robyn Mattern, Roger Elsworth, Rita Carmela Testa, Elias Haddad, Anne-Maree Raleigh, Philip Whelan, Bessie Murray, Maria Terzito Rizzuto, Graham Hampden Murphy, Paul Tien, Fr William Davis

Also pray for: Natale Pelle, Hong Nguyen, Members of Kursar Family, Jose Oliveira, Fernando, Conсейsao, Jose, Maria, Albine Alvarez, Sam Greco, Domenico Portolesi, Tony Gonzalez, Maria Angeles, Francine Kidd, Ron Brooks, Antonieta Mayorga, All souls in Purgatory

Mass Offered: Jeffrey George Bishop, Mary El Khouri & Karam El Khouri, Felice & Josephine DeFina, Margaret & Tony Moran

Sick: Anne Woodward, Tony Ostojic, Tim Birch, John Viera, Adriana, Brian & Barbara Waterman, Paul McCann, Mary Foar, Maria Turiano, Zora Jurcevic, Kate Paulis, Michael Higgins, Ian Crawford, George & Therese Mir, Sydney Yenson, Joanne McRea, Sue McDermott, Residents of Cheddar Street Nursing Home

Home Rosary St Raphael Monday 7:30pm
 27-02-17 Orly & Tina Macaraeg
 13/18-20 Kairawa St, Sth Hurstville
 6-03-17 Rosemary & John Colwell
 58 Gnarbo Ave Carss Park
Lenten Break from 13th March
Home Rosary Mater Dei
 28-02-17 Caterina and Greg Colubriale
 68 Hatfield Street Blakehurst 8:00 PM
 7-3-17 Nives Care
 33 Church Street Blakehurst 8:00 PM



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Ministry 25th & 26th Feb 2017 (4th Sun)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
Acolytes / SS	5.00pm V	8.30am	6.15pm V	10.00am
Greg Driver	Greg Driver	Luke, Minh	Bro Michael	Graeme, Onsi
EMHC	Susi Fabbro	Kathy Conroy, Rosemary, Florence		Marguerite Derrig
Readers	Pavia Family	Annie Lo, Yenson family	Sonia Reilly, Fiona Diapouras	Lucy Mitry, Phil Monaghan
Altar Servers	Volunteers	Volunteers		
Children's Liturgy	Delaney, Kelly			Joumana El Khouri

Ministry 4th & 5th Mar 2017 (1st Sun)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
Acolytes / SS	5.00pm V	8.30am	6.15pm V	10.00am
Greg Driver	Greg Driver	Max	Tony Oscuro	Paul Watson
EMHC	Susi Fabbro	Annie Montecillo, Rosie Gould		Marguerite Derrig
Readers	Lovat Family	Fernandes Family	Sonia Magpilly, Maureen Wells	Gail A, Angela H, Luisa Galea
Altar Servers	Volunteers	Volunteers		
Children's Liturgy	Delaney, Kelly			Diana Baladi
Music	CD music	Julia Martin	Kim Laffan	Kim Laffan

Please arrange for a replacement if you are unable to serve in your ministry - Michael Fernandes 0437517758

Xt3 LENT CALENDAR WEBSITE AND FREE APP. The calendar is both a website and a FREE APP with fresh content daily, including Catholic videos, audio reflections, interviews and blogs. The Lent calendar also includes the Gospel readings of the day and daily challenges focussed on prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Give God a moment this Lent visit: www.xt3.com/lenf.



This weekend the Catholic Church of St Raphael's South Hurstville welcomes into the family **Joshua George Benkotic & Mason Luke Benkotic**. Congratulations to their parents Sandra & Glenn!

There's Morning Tea after 10 AM Mass today at Mater Dei Church. All are welcome!

POSITION VACANT - ACCOUNTS PAYABLE ADMINISTRATOR. The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney is seeking applications for the role of Accounts Payable Administrator. Further details about this position is available at www.catholicjobsonline.com.au. Applications close **Fri, 10 March**. Caritas staff will speak at our parish for Project Compassion on the weekend of the 4th and 5th of March. We welcome their speakers, Greta Spies, Mary Ball and Susan Buric. We shall have a contribution drive on these dates to show our solidarity with this beautiful Project.

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND		
TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	377.35	411.95
Second: loose	220.05	500.80
Envelopes	385.00	500.00

Leaders of small groups for Lenten program Volunteers required to host Small groups for Lenten Program 2017. Those who are interested please put your name down in the form kept in the church foyer or contact the Parish Office.

Certificate in RCIA Catechesis - The Catechumenate Office is offering a new formation course for RCIA Ministry. Course begins 25th March. Applications Close 10th March. See the notice board for more info.

Mater Dei and St Raphael's Parishes Calendar 2017		
1 Mar	Ash Wednesday	-
16 Mar	SR Pastoral Council Meeting	SR Hall

Big Brother Talking As Ben & Sam drove through a neighbouring village, something struck their eight-year-old son, Ken as odd. "Hey", he shouted, pointing out of the window, "we have a St James Church in our town too." This coincidence had a simple explanation, according to his older and wiser ten-year-old brother: "It must be a chain."

PARISH DIRECTORY
PARISH PRIEST: FR. ISIDORE ANANTHARAJ
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 Principal: Mr. Peter Cranney
St. Raphael Primary School: (02) 95464898
 Principal: Mrs. Annette McKenzie



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

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary
 Time—Year A **BULLETIN** 26th Feb 2017

Entrance Antiphon: Cf. Ps 17:19-20
 The Lord became my protector.
 He brought me out to a place of freedom; he saved me because he delighted in me.

First Reading: Is 49:14-15
 Can a mother forget her child?

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 61:2-3. 6-9. R. v.6

(R.) Rest in God alone, my soul.

1. In God alone is my soul at rest; my help comes from him. He alone is my rock, my stronghold, my fortress: I stand firm. (R.)

2. In God alone be at rest, my soul; for my hope comes from him. He alone is my rock, my stronghold, my fortress: I stand firm. (R.)

3. In God is my safety and glory, the rock of my strength. Take refuge in God all you people. Trust him at all times. Pour out your hearts before him. (R.)

Second Reading: 1 Cor 4:1-5
 The Lord will reveal what is in the heart.

Gospel Acclamation: Heb 4:12
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 The word of God is living and active; it probes the thoughts and motives of our heart.
 Alleluia!

Gospel: Mt 6:24-34
 Do not worry about tomorrow.

Communion Antiphon: Cf. Ps 12:6
 I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me, sing psalms to the name of the Lord Most High.

Reflection @Dianne Bergant CSS

What can be nobler than building up the reign of God? What could deserve our commitment more than the proclamation of the gospel? What greater privilege could be ours than acting as agents of the blessings of God? Disciples are called to just such privileged roles. And where are these disciples to be found? They spend their lives in classrooms, factories, offices and hospitals. They serve in families, businesses, restaurants, shopping malls, banks and grocery stores. They answer telephones, protect us from harm, build our roads, and repair our plumbing. Disciples upbuild the reign of God in whichever form of life or occupation they have chosen.

Although we embark on a life of service with great enthusiasm and genuine commitment, it does not take long before the enormity of the task becomes apparent. We might then begin to doubt ourselves or doubt the call itself. At such times, Jesus exhorts us to trust in God. All is in the hands of God; for our part, we have only to trust.

Our own limitations and sinfulness often get in the way. There are forces in society that seem bent on undermining our every effort. The people to whom we commit ourselves can be ungrateful or want no part of us or our service. Sometimes the obstacles seem to come from the church, its structures and its personnel. In the midst of such darkness, we hear Jesus gently but firmly saying: Do not worry! Trust! God cares for the birds and the grass, surely God will care for you.

Wednesday, 1 Mar 2017

Ash Wednesday Mass Timings		Historical Context - The mark of the cross	
9:00am	St Raphael's (Fr. Jan)	The tradition of marking the forehead with ash on Ash Wednesday can be traced back to the ancient Jewish action of dusting oneself with ash as a sign of repentance and mourning for wrongful actions. It was a public declaration of the acknowledgement of the wrong and the commitment to turn one's life around and try not to make the same mistake again. It still remains a public declaration that during the period of Lent those who wear the cross of ash are going to attempt to turn around their lives and re-focus themselves more fully on God.	
9:15am	Mater Dei (Fr Isidore)		
7:00pm	Mater Dei (Fr Isidore)		

Message from Archbishop Anthony
 Dear friends in Christ,
 On Wednesday we will receive the mark of ashes on our foreheads, a sign of penance and humility as we begin the season of Lent. We do so with a heightened awareness of the pain and suffering of all victims of sexual abuse, especially those who were abused by clergy and others representing the Church. May our Lenten penance this year be an act of intercession in solidarity with all who suffer, praying that they may find healing and a renewed trust in God and in other people.

Prayer after Communion
 Nourished by your saving gifts, we beseech your mercy, Lord, that by this same Sacrament with which you feed us in the present age, you may make us partakers of life eternal. Through Christ our Lord.

Next Sunday's Readings
First Sunday of Lent - Year A
 Gen 2:7-9; 3:1-7
 Ps 50:3-6. 12-14. 17. R. see v.3
 Rom 5:12-19;
 Mt 4:1-11

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)