

"The Second Sunday of this season of preparation for Christmas...is a time to recognize the shortcomings in our life, to smooth out the roughness of pride and to make room for Jesus who comes."
- 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: Ian Gould, Padre Vasco Milani
Also pray for: Holy Souls in Purgatory

Mass Offered: Elias Haddad, Mary El Khouri & Karam El Khouri, Jeffrey Bishop

Sick: Dianne Edwards, Loga Padiachey, Savi Tuling, Marie Zammit, Jimmy Milhem, Susie Zhang, Mary Le Grand, Ian Crawford, Agnes Peluso, Marisa Mundweil, George Mir, Athena Emmanouilidis, Joan Kervin, Bernadette Petersen, Dawn Edwards, Shirley Barbuto, Edna Edwards, Pavo Bosnjak, Betty Swinbourne, Tim Birch, Sue Mc Dermott, Barbara Waterman, Brian Waterman, Mabel Griffith, Moya Smyth, Adriana

DEC 8 The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary to be celebrated at Vigil Mass

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND		
TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	417.65	266.80
Second: loose	236.75	365.45
Envelopes	547.00	835.00



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10-12-18 **Home Rosary St Raphael** Ambihaipahar Family 7:30PM
7 Kelly St, Sylvania
11-12-18 **Home Rosary Mater Dei** Cheddar St Nursing Home
Cheddar St, Blakehurst 11:00AM

Merry Christmas to all!
Rosary will resume from 1st week of February.

Piece of Cake - Three weeks into training camp, Jack Leonard still hadn't gotten used to Navy cooking and was surviving on milk and desserts. In one food line, he picked up the biggest piece of cake available and set it on his tray. The mess cook behind the counter saw the gleam in his eye and asked him if he'd like two pieces. When Jack eagerly answered that he would, the cook leaned over and cut the piece of cake in two.



Ministry 8th & 9th Dec 2018 (2nd Sun)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.30am	6.15pm V	10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Minh Nguyen	Gary Cartmer	Graeme Dorahy
EMHC	Josie El Zoghbi	Sophia, Monica		Marguerite Derrig
Readers	Pavia Family	Lapen Family	Ronnie Cartmer Louise Tapp	Joan Hanson Jean Dorahy
Altar Servers	Volunteers	Volunteers	Volunteers	Volunteers
Children's Liturgy	Mary & Rachel			Angela D'Angelo
Music	Eddie & Cecilia	Norma	John	Kim
Ministry 15th & 16th Dec 2018 (3rd Sun)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.30am	6.15pm V	10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Earl, Michael B	Ray Low	Michael E, Norman
EMHC	Rosie	Henrietta, Gail		Marguerite Derrig
Readers	Fernandes Family	Crosby Family	Br Michael Volunteer	Cath Logan Wendy Eather
Altar Servers	Volunteers	Volunteers	Volunteers	Volunteers
Children's Liturgy	Kelly & Delaney			Angeline Selvaraj
Please arrange for a replacement if you are unable to serve in your ministry - Michael Fernandes 0437 517 758				

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMINGS 2018 MONDAY, 24TH DECEMBER

ST. RAPHAEL'S
4:00 PM Carols followed by
4:30 PM Mass
MATER DEI
6:15 PM Mass
11:30 PM Carols followed by
Midnight mass

TUESDAY, 25TH DECEMBER
St. Raphael's 8:30 AM
Mater Dei 10:00 AM
Croatian Mass 11:00 AM
at St Raphael's

NEW YEAR MASS TIMINGS 2019
TUESDAY, 1ST JANUARY
St Raphael's 8:30 AM
Mater Dei 10:00 AM

With Deepest Sympathy
We offer our prayers and condolences to Rosie Gould and family on the demise of **Ian Gould** on 5.12.18. May loving memories bring them peace, comfort, and strength today and always. May his soul rest in peace!



Christmas Offering Envelopes are on the pews for your kind consideration. Thank you.

An Advent App for Christmas! – Meet Me in the Silence. Walk the journey to Advent on your mobile device - prepare for Christmas despite the busyness of the Christmas season. The Advent Calendar App is free and available on your Apple and Android devices. Search for "Xt3 Advent" in the Google Play store or the App store, or visit www.sydneycatholic.org/xt3advent

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Parishes of Mater Dei Blakehurst &

Second Sunday of Advent -

St Raphael's South Hurstville

Year C

BULLETIN

09th Dec 2018

Entrance Antiphon: Cf. Is 30:19,30
O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

First Reading: Bar 5:1-9
Take off your robe of mourning, put on the splendour of glory.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 125. R. v.3
The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs. (R.)
2. The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!' What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad. (R.)
3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land. Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap. (R.)
4. They go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed for the sowing: they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves. (R.)

Second Reading: Phil 1:3-6. 8-11
He who has begun the good work in you will bring it to completion.

Gospel Acclamation: Ps 84:8
Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

Gospel: Lk 3:1-6
John the Baptist proclaims a baptism of repentance.

Communion Antiphon: Bar 5:5; 4:36
Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

2nd Sunday of Advent

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

CELEBRANT: Jesus Christ is the light of the world
CONGREGATION: A light no darkness can overpower.
CELEBRANT: Lord God, let our prayers rise up like incense before you, as at this Advent time we are reminded of the beauty and goodness you have brought into our world. We pray that Jesus' coming, which we are awaiting will give our spirits new life and energy as we try to follow his way. May these two candles remind us of the need we have to open our hearts and minds to the light and warmth of your love.



Reflection

The advent of God's coming with its promise of fulfilment happens within world history. The first reading locates God's act of restoration in the city of Jerusalem. The gospel situates the ministry of John within a particular period of world history. They point us to historical experience as the place and the time of restoration, of incarnation, of redemption. They show us that God works within everyday life, in conventional places, during regular time. In fact, from a human point of view, the extraordinary events of salvation took place within what was quite ordinary.

John proclaims the kind of transformation that results in a change of heart. Reversals characterise such transformation: the robe of mourning is replaced by the splendour of glory; tears are turned into rejoicing; those led away by enemies are brought back by God; valleys are filled, mountains are levelled, winding roads are made straight; even nature offers itself as shelter for the people of God. Those who are shamed and discarded are made glorious; those who suffer are comforted; the oppressed are freed; all of life's obstacles are removed; the way to God is made straight; the natural world enjoys peace and harmony.

The transformation or repentance of heart takes place within human life, within relationships of justice between people and with the earth, in right living, in genuine unselfish love. It produces the fruits of righteousness of which Paul speaks. Advent is the time to prepare ourselves for this.

by Dianne Bergant CSS



Vinnies Christmas Appeal - will be held on the weekend of 15th and 16th December. There will be envelopes on the seats of the Church for anyone wishing to make a cash donation. We are also making up Christmas Hampers for distribution to families in the local area. We would appreciate donations of non-perishable food such as tinned ham, salmon, fruit custard, fruit mince pies or Christmas cakes etc. Donations can be left at the Church and will be distributed on 21st Dec.

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 our God" (Micah 6:8)