

MARRIAGE PREPARATION WEEKEND.

Preparing for the vocation of marriage? Of Life and Love Marriage Preparation Weekend at the Catholic Adult Education Centre. Places still available for 07 & 08 November 2015. \$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.

INFORM CAEC NEWSLETTER.

The latest issue - Embracing the Year of Mercy is now available. Pope Francis has proclaimed an Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, from the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (8th December 2015) to the Feast of Christ the King (20th November 2016). Fr Ken Barker MGL discusses why we need a Holy Year of Mercy, and what Pope Francis is hoping to achieve. Copies available at the back of St Joachim's Church, Lidcombe or from the Mustard Seed Bookshop.

Grief & Loss in our Lives

A free Community event. An opportunity to ask questions, explore and learn about life's grief.

Monday 31st August 2015, 11am -1pm

The Tree of Hope Room Mary Potter Wing

2c West Street (Corner Thomas Street), Lewisham

Easy bus/train connection

Bookings are essential,

Patricia Thomas 0438 263 036 / 9649 6423

patriciat@catholiccemeteries.com.au

Advertisement:

Share accommodation - room for rent; non smoker; only 5 mins from Allawah Train station. If interested pls call April on 0424 887 848.



Twentieth Sunday in

Ordinary Time— Year B

Parishes of Mater Dei Blakehurst &

St Raphael's South Hurstville

BULLETIN

16th August 2015

Entrance Antiphon

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of your anointed one; one day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

First Reading: Prv 9:1-6

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 33:2-3. 10-15. R. v.9

(R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times, his praise always on my lips; in the Lord my soul shall make its boast. The humble shall hear and be glad. (R.)

2. Revere the Lord, you his saints. They lack nothing, those who revere him. Strong lions suffer want and go hungry but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing. (R.)

3. Come children, and hear me that I may teach you the fear of the Lord. Who is he who longs for life and many days, to enjoy his prosperity? (R.)

4. Then keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit. Turn aside from evil and do good; seek and strive after peace. (R.)

Second Reading: Eph 5:15 – 20

Gospel Acclamation: Jn 6:56

Alleluia, alleluia!
All who eat my flesh and drink my blood live in me and I in them, says the Lord.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Jn 6: 51-58

Communion antiphon:
With the Lord there is mercy; in him is plentiful redemption.

Reflection by Fr Michael Tate:

When I was a boy (is it so long ago?) it was still the rule at Mass that only the priest drank from the chalice. One of the great actions of the Church over the last fifty years has been the recovery of the ancient practice of offering Holy Communion under the appearance of both bread and wine.

The reception of both the consecrated bread and the consecrated wine is in perfect harmony with today's Gospel: 'Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood has eternal life.' Note the present tense: 'has' – right now! This is because, as St John Paul II put it: 'We digest, as it were, the secret of the Resurrection.'

Of course, Our Risen Lord is really present under the appearance of either the bread or the wine. For a Jew, (unlike the Greeks) the body was absolutely core to being the person one is. For a Jew, blood was identified as the life-force of any animal. So, for the Jewish Jesus, to say 'This is my body... this is my blood' was to gift us his core identity, his deepest vitality. Either the consecrated blood or consecrated wine gives us His whole life.

But to receive both the Heavenly Bread and the Spiritual Drink does enable us to more fully respond to Our Lord at the Last Supper: 'Take, eat ... take, drink'. Then the words of today's Gospel can more physically resonate in our own bodies: 'He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I in him.'

We could take a moment to pray in thanksgiving that we are able to join in the tradition starting with the Apostles at the Last Supper and, in doing so, to enter into Holy Communion with the only One who can embody in us the secret of His resurrection.

*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)*

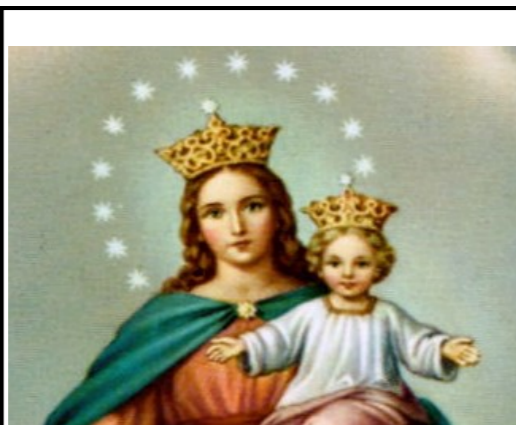


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Integrity & care

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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.

RETREAT FOR WOMEN (21st Aug—23rd Aug)

Join Sr Mary Rachel OP, Francine Pirola, Fr Epeli Qimaqima, Sr Judy Bowe MGL, Elizabeth Arblaster and others for an inspiring retreat. This event is for any single woman (18-35 years) who is seeking to enter into a deeper relationship with God and take a step towards a fuller sense of the purpose of her life. Retreat includes talks on prayer, scripture, discerning your vocation, marriage, consecrated life and more. There will also be opportunities for private spiritual guidance, Confession, Adoration and Mass. Cost: \$190. Takes place at the beautiful Mt Schoenstatt Retreat Centre at Mulgoa. Enquiries/bookings: elizabeth.arblaster@sydneycatholic.org or 9307 8425.

MASS TIMES		
	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	8.00am	9.00am
RECONCILIATION: (also by appointment)		
Saturday		4.30pm
EXPOSITION St. Raphael Church		
Friday	8:00pm to	9:00pm
Saturday	From	4.00pm



Your donation to Mary MacKillop International gives expression to the Gospel imperative and the intentions of Australia's first saint for us to seek first those who suffer the most. Mary MacKillop International supports a range of education, health and livelihoods programs with communities in Timor-Leste and Peru.

With your help more can be done. Please take an envelope from the back of the church, donate to Mary MacKillop International today and bring hope to communities in need.

Mary MacKillop Feast Day
August 8th, 2015

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.

Bible reading - Men's group.
Thursday's 8pm to 9pm at St Raphael's School Hall. All Invited.
Contact: Carl Pavia 0418 672 394

Home Rosary:
Mater Dei: Tuesdays
18/08/2015 : Nives Care 8:00PM
33 Church Street Blakehurst.
25/08/2015 : Nives Care 8:00PM
33 Church Street Blakehurst.
St Raphael's: Mondays 7.30PM
17/08/2015 : Joey & Sonia Magpily
16 Lynwood St Blakehurst
24/08/2015 : Mladen & Maryana Zubonja
19 Yarran Rd Oatley

Please Pray for:
Recently Deceased: Marie Bartels, Kathleen Morgan, Henry Phaltas, Edward Yenson, Florence Maloney, Nguyen Manh Wong Joseph, John Murphy, Catherine Lin Siew Ngik, Margaret Low
Also pray for: Sam Greco, Daren Reyes, Auyoung, Domenico Cardillo, Giuseppe Maurici, Bronwyn Walter, Natale Pelle, Robert Holt
Sick: George & Therese Mir, Sidney Yenson, Joanne McRea, Sue McDermott, Maria Lefroy, Andreas Grannakouras, Jack & Sylvia Wood, Brian Waterman Sr Vianney Hatton, Neuyen, T Houng, Leslie & Michael Higgins, Iris Kirkwood

Mass for Pregnant Mothers:
*Are you expecting a baby or know someone who is? You are warmly invited to attend the annual Mass for Pregnant Mothers to be celebrated by Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP at St Mary's Cathedral on Sunday 23rd of August at 10:30am. Morning tea will follow in St Mary's Cathedral Chapter Hall. **RSVP and enquiries can be directed to LMFEvents@sydneycatholic.org or call 9307 8404.***

An elderly lady was well-known for her faith and for her boldness in expressing it.
She would stand on her front porch and shout "PRAISE THE LORD!"
Next door to her lived an atheist who would get so angry at her proclamations he would shout, "There ain't no Lord!!"
Hard times set in on the elderly lady, and she prayed for GOD to send her some assistance.
She stood on her porch and shouted "PRAISE THE LORD. GOD I NEED FOOD!! I AM HAVING A HARD TIME. PLEASE LORD, SEND ME SOME GROCERIES!!"
The next morning the lady went out on her porch and noted a large bag of groceries and shouted, "PRAISE THE LORD."
The neighbour jumped from behind a bush and said, "Aha! I told you there was no Lord. I bought those groceries, God didn't."
The lady started jumping up and down and clapping her hands and said, "PRAISE THE LORD. He not only sent me groceries, but He made the devil pay for them. Praise the Lord!"

FUNNY

Obituary
John Borgers much loved and long time Parishioner passed away on 8th August 2015 at St. Andrew's Nursing Home. His funeral will be held at Guardian Funeral, 388 Forest Road Hurstville 2220 on Fri 21/8/2015 at 10am.
We extend our heartfelt condolences to his daughter and family and we pray for the repose of the soul of John Borgers.

A Short Course In Christianity.
The Sydney Cursillo is running a "Short Course in Christianity" at the Mount Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, from Friday evening 21 August to Sunday evening 23 August, continuing with a follow-up evening on Friday, 29 August at Moorebank. Bookings essential - for more information please phone either, Ian Skuse 0407 251 241 or Wendy Tourle 9755 2448, 0414 471 702 or
email wendyjt@bigpond.com (please put the word Cursillo in the subject line). Online applications are also available through the following link <http://cursillo.skuse.info>. This weekend is a wonderful opportunity to look at our faith as adults. All welcome.

Gospel Concert 'Spirit of Joy': 5 September
Gospel Concert 'Spirit of Joy' is presented in association with the Sydney Sacred Music Festival
<http://www.sydneySacredMusicFestival.org/program/>.
It will be held on Saturday 5 September 2015 from 3pm-5.30pm at Mt Schoenstatt Spirituality Centre. It aims to bring together people of all religious traditions to feel the joy of God, through spiritually uplifting/upbeat music and song. Tickets: \$12 adults, \$8 school-age children, \$35 family – two adults with up to four school-age children, children under five free. Bookings <http://www.trybooking.com/144537> For further information please contact Ann-Maree Timmings tel (02) 4773 8338 ext 236 or send an email to manager@schoenstatt.org.au

Weekend retreat: All is Grace
Presenter: Fr Paul Maunder, OCD
Where: Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, 247 St Andrews Road, Varroville, NSW, 2566
When: August 28 - 30
Cost: \$220 (concessions apply)
Phone: 02 8795 3400
Email: retreats@carmelite.com
www.carmeliteretreats.com.au
All is Grace: spiritual guidance in prayer, holiness and mission from the writings of St Therese of Lisieux.


Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP will celebrate the annual **Memorial Mass for the Unborn on Friday 11 September at 7.00pm at St. Mary's Cathedral**. The Mass will be offered in commemoration of the lives lost to abortion and in solidarity with the women and men who grieve this profound loss. During the Mass 82 candles will be bought forward to represent the 82 lives lost to abortion each day in NSW. All are invited to attend. Enquiries: Life, Marriage and Family Centre, 9307 8404 or LMFEvents@sydneycatholic.org.


PARISH DIRECTORY
Mater Dei Catholic Church
Parish Priest: Fr. Isidore Anantharaj
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www.materdei-straphael.org.au
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Blakehurst 2221 NSW
Phone: 95462605 Fax: 95472323
Parish Secretary for both parishes:
Mrs. Jenny Stanley
admin@materdei-straphael.org.au

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84 George St, South Hurstville
Phone: (02)95462544
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Mobile: 0412786245
Mater Dei Primary School:
(02) 95467298
Principal: Mr. Peter Cranney
St. Raphael primary School:
(02) 95464898
Principal: Mrs. Annette McKenzie

RCIA: Want to be catholic?
The RCIA is a course run by a team of people in the parish for those wanting to know more about the catholic faith.
Second session: 19th Aug 2015 7:30pm
St. Raphael's school.
Everyone is welcome to attend.
Please contact Graeme Dorathy on 9546-6032.

Please Remember to collect your planned giving envelopes

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

 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.