

Entrance Antiphon: Cf. Is 45:8
Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour, great counsel.

First Reading: 2 Sm 7:1-5. 8-12.14. 16
The Lord speaks to Nathan.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 88:2-5. 27. 29. R. see v.2

(R.) For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth. Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever, that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. (R.)

2. 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: I will establish your dynasty for ever and set up your throne through all ages.' (R.)

3. He will say to me: "You are my father, my God, the rock who saves me." I will keep my love for him always; for him my covenant shall endure. (R.)

3. Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad, Let the sea and all within it thunder praise. All of the land, all that it bears: Rejoice at the presence of the Lord. (R.)

Second Reading: Rom 16:25-27
God strengthens the Gentiles in their understanding of the Gospel.

Gospel Acclamation: Lk 1:38
Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

Gospel: Lk 1:26-38
The angel Gabriel visits Mary, who responds willingly to God.

Communion Antiphon: Is 7:14
Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Entrance Antiphon: Ps 2:7
The Lord said to me: You are my Son. It is I who have begotten you this day.

First Reading: Is 9:1-7
Isaiah foretells the birth of Jesus.

Responsorial Psalm:
(R.) Today, today a Saviour has been born. A Saviour has been born to us. He is Christ the Lord, Christ the Lord, Jesus Christ the Lord

1. Sing a new song to the Lord
Sing to the Lord all the earth.
Sing to the Lord, sing to the Lord.
Sing to the Lord, bless his name!
(R.)

2. Proclaim his help day by day.
Tell among the nations his glory.
Tell of his works, tell of his works,
And his wonders among all the peoples (R.)

3. Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad, Let the sea and all within it thunder praise. All of the land, all that it bears: Rejoice at the presence of the Lord. (R.)

Second Reading: Ti 2:11-14
The grace of God has been revealed to all people.

Gospel Acclamation: Lk 2:10-11
Alleluia, alleluia! Good News and great joy to all the world: today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord. Alleluia!

Gospel: Lk 2:1-14
The birth of Jesus.

Communion Antiphon: Jn 1:14
The Word became flesh, and we have seen his glory.

Entrance Antiphon: Cf. Is 9:5
A child is born for us, and a son is given to us; his sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.

First Reading: Is 52:7-10
The Lord redeems the entire earth.

Responsorial Psalm:
(R.) Today, today a Saviour has been born. A Saviour has been born to us. He is Christ the Lord, Christ the Lord, Jesus Christ the Lord

1. Sing a new song to the Lord
Sing to the Lord all the earth.
Sing to the Lord, sing to the Lord.
Sing to the Lord, bless his name!
(R.)

2. Proclaim his help day by day.
Tell among the nations his glory.
Tell of his works, tell of his works,
And his wonders among all the peoples (R.)

3. Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad, Let the sea and all within it thunder praise. All of the land, all that it bears: Rejoice at the presence of the Lord. (R.)

Second Reading: Heb 1:1-6
God has spoken through his Son.

Gospel Acclamation: Lk 2:10-11
Alleluia, alleluia! A holy day has dawned upon us. Come you nations and adore the Lord. Today a great light has come upon the earth. Alleluia!

Gospel: Jn 1:1-18
John begins his Gospel with 'In the beginning...'

Communion Antiphon: Cf. Ps 97:3
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.



Parishes of Mater Dei Blakehurst &

Fourth Sunday of Advent -

St Raphael's South Hurstville

Year B

BULLETIN

24th Dec 2017

It's Christmas again - a time to rejoice and remember the peace and joy that Jesus Christ brought to the world. Though born in a lowly manger, He stirs us to show compassion for those in need. May He bless you in all the ways you reflect God's light and love as you inspire your family, friends & community through your words and action.

I wish each one of you a Blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with the benevolence of Our Lord.

May EMMANUEL God-with-us enlighten our path all through our journey of faith!

God Bless.

Fr Isidore

Parish Priest



CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2017 FROM CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP ANTHONY FISHER OP



What's so special about Christmas? Special enough that many who aren't churchgoers or even Christians think it's a special time, and join in the carols, the parties, maybe even come to church? For Christians, it marks the beginning of their history, of a new story for humanity and for each one of us, the story of salvation through God-made-a-baby. But even those who see Jesus just as a great teacher or model recognise His birth as the start of something different. Words like joy, peace, above all hope, come to many people's minds and mouths at this time of year.

At the end of another year the need for renewed hope unites us all. Like any year, this one has had its challenges for our world, our country, and each of us individually. For people of faith you might say it's been an annus horribilis, as our Christian conceptions of life and love have been challenged in the marriage and euthanasia debates; freedom of religion in Australia put in doubt; and shameful crimes and cover-ups in our Church uncovered by the Royal Commission.

But the Christmas story insists there is a star in the dark sky, light amidst the fears and failures. Christmas speaks of new hope. In Sydney we had a glimpse of that hope on the faces of tens of thousands of young people who recently celebrated the Australian Catholic Youth Festival. We look forward to similar scenes throughout this year that marks 10 years since World Youth Day in Sydney. The throng of young people standing up for faith and ideals says to us that whatever the past failures, we can have hope for ourselves, our families, our Church, our nation, our world. Our young people are not naive about the shames in our past or the trials in our future. But they want to be part of the answer to both. They are generously responding to the call to be priests and prophets, servant-leaders and saints, the spiritual heroes we need for our times. Like the Christmas babe, our idealistic young people give us all hope for the future.

God bless you all, and may that newborn Baby bring joy, peace and especially hope to you this Christmas.

Anthony Fisher OP

Most Rev Anthony Fisher OP
ARCHBISHOP OF SYDNEY

NO MORNING MASS ON SUN, 24TH DEC

**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMINGS 2017
Sunday, 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**

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

**NEW YEAR MASS TIMINGS 2018
St Raphael's 8:30 AM
Mater Dei 10:00 AM**

4TH 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 let our prayers rise up like incense before you, as we pray that you would bless these candles, that they might remind us of the fulfilment of your promises. For out of our human family, so ordinary and at times so violent, your Son was to be born. We can so often be petty and sinful. May the birth of Jesus be the cause of change and growth in our lives.



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)

Merry Christmas to All!

The nativity play was going as planned and Joseph and Mary were going from house to house knocking on the doors and asking if there was any room for them. As they continued to get "no room" answers a little voice called from the back "YOU SHOULD HAVE BOOKED!" bringing the house down.



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Ministry 23rd & 24th Dec 2017 (4th Sun)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm V	8.30am	6.15pm V	10.00am
Acolytes / SS	Greg Driver	No Mass on Sunday Morning	Br. Michael	No Mass on Sunday Morning
EMHC	Susi Fabbro		Maureen Wells	
Readers	M Fernandes George Saab		Caterina Colubriale	
Altar Servers	Volunteers		Volunteers	
Children's Liturgy	No Liturgy			
Music	Eddie		Kim	
Ministry 30th & 31st Dec 2017 (5th Sun)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm V	8.30am	6.15pm V	10.00am
Acolytes / SS	Greg Driver	M Fernandes, Luke	Volunteer	Volunteer
EMHC	Susi Fabbro	Kathy, Rosemary, Florence		
Readers	Pat Bates Sophia Zakhem		Volunteers	Debra Amerio Trish Alonso
Altar Servers	Volunteers		Volunteers	Volunteers
Children's Liturgy	No Liturgy			

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