

"May we be in this world a ray of that light which shone forth from Bethlehem, bringing joy and peace to the hearts of all men and women"
— 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: Anna Jaimal, Ian Gould
Also pray for: Holy Souls in Purgatory
Mass Offered: Giuseppe Didio, Natale Pelle, Rita Ciappare, Lina Cuchere, Mladen & Boris Pancer, Otto & Maria Mundwell, Elias Haddad, Jeffrey Bishop

Sick: 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, Dianne Edwards

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


COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND		
TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	378.05	195.15
Second: loose	176.95	248.55
Envelopes	390.00	680.00



Ormonde dental centre
 Integrity & care
 Suite 2
 2 Ormonde Parade
 Hurstville NSW 2220
 ph. (02) 9580 2728
 fax. (02) 9586 3067
 info@odc.net.au

Catholic Church of St Raphael's, South Hurstville warmly welcomes
Zed Vinluan Espiritu
 (child of Arish & Charity)
 into it's family & community.
 Congratulations !!


Plenary Council 2020: We are thankful to **Carl Pavia** and **Graeme Dorahy** for volunteering their time and forming a team to represent us.

In the morning of Christmas Eve, a lady rummages through the last remaining turkeys in the supermarket freezer.
 "Do they get any bigger by any chance?" she asks the shop assistant with a sigh. He looks at her for a while and says,
 "No madam, they are quite dead."


Ministry 22nd & 23rd Dec 2018 (4th Sun)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.30am	6.15pm V	10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Luke, Carl	Ray Low	Graeme, Onsi
EMHC	Susi Fabbro	Kathy, Rosemary, Florence		Marguerite Derrig
Readers	Carl, George	Zakhem Family	Maureen Weirs Caterina	Lucy Mitry Phil Monaghan
Altar Servers	Volunteers	Volunteers	Volunteers	Volunteers
Children's Liturgy	No liturgy until Feb 2			No Liturgy
Music	CD	Norma	Kim	Kim
Ministry 29th & 30th Dec 2018 (5th Sun)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.30am	6.15pm V	10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Norman, Michael F	Volunteer	Volunteer
EMHC	Susi Fabbro	Kathy, Rosemary, Florence		Marguerite Derrig
Readers	Volunteers	Volunteers	Volunteers	Volunteers
Altar Servers	Volunteers	Volunteers	Volunteers	Volunteers
Children's Liturgy	No liturgy until Feb 2			No Liturgy

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
One mass only
Mater Dei 9:00 AM

THE CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY SAFEGUARDING OFFICE NOTICE
 If you or a person close to you has been abused by someone working or ministering within the Archdiocese of Sydney we invite you to contact us. We will listen to you respectfully, offer support and discuss the options you have available to you. Please contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office on ph 02 9390 5812. **Please see the church notice board for letter on National Redress Scheme from the Archdiocese.**



PARISH DIRECTORY
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 Principal: Mrs. Annette McKenzie



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

Fourth Sunday of Advent - Year C

BULLETIN 23rd Dec 2018

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.

First Reading: Mi 5:1-4
 The Lord foretells the coming of the Messiah from Bethlehem.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19. R. v.4
 Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

- O Shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne. O Lord, rouse up your might O Lord, come to our help. (R.)
 - God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see. Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. (R)
 - May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength. And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name (R)
- Second Reading:** Heb 10:5-10
 Paul reveals Jesus as the new sacrificial offering.


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

Gospel: Lk 1:39-45
 Mary visits Elizabeth.

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

Catechist Required: Please contact the Parish Office on 9546 2605 if you are able to help teach Catechism for half an hour during school term at our local Public Schools. All support and training shall be provided.

Dear Brothers & Sisters,
 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 and your loved ones a Blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with the benevolence of Our Lord.
 May EMMANUEL God-with-us enlighten us all through our journey of faith!
 God Bless.
 Fr Isidore




Reflection

There is always excitement at this time of the year. It is as if everything is filled with promise. Animosity is set aside; estrangement dissolves into reconciliation; the whole world seems gentler; and we are filled with the spirit of generosity. In the days just before Christmas, the possibility of newness is almost palpable. The spirit of the season has caught hold of us even before the actual day has arrived. Today we stand on the threshold of fulfilment. The future that God has prepared for us is open before us, even though we have not yet stepped out into it.

The incarnation takes place in human history, thus affirming the fundamental goodness of human life and concerns, and sanctifying them even further. The child comes from simple people, from a place that is relatively insignificant, thus underscoring God's preference for what is ordinary. The body that was offered for our salvation, the body that consecrated us through having been offered up, was the body that grew in the womb of Mary. The extraordinary salvific deed of God was accomplished through his coming into the world as one of us. The obedience that Christ played out through his body fulfilled for us the promises made by God.

We stand on the threshold of fulfilment, the fulfilment of an event that has already taken place. We ritually reenact it so that we never take it for granted, so that we never forget that it is in and through human history that the marvellous deeds of God are accomplished.
 by Dianne Bergant CSS

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)