



# Parishes of Mater Dei Blakehurst &

# St Raphael's South Hurstville

*The Assumption of The  
Blessed Virgin Mary*

**BULLETIN 15th Aug 2021**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Cf. Rev 12:1

A great sign appeared in heaven:  
a woman clothed with the sun, and  
the moon beneath her feet,  
and on her head a crown of twelve  
stars.

**First Reading:** Rv 11:19; 12:1-6, 10

I saw a woman clothed with the sun  
and with the moon at her feet.

**Responsorial Psalm:** . Ps 44:10-12. 16.  
R. v.10

(R.) The queen stands at your right  
hand, arrayed in gold.

1. The daughters of kings are  
among your loved ones.  
On your right stands the queen  
in gold of Ophir.  
Listen, O daughter, give ear to  
my words:  
forget your own people and  
your father's house. (R.)
2. So will the king desire your  
beauty:  
He is your lord, pay homage to  
him.  
They are escorted amid glad-  
ness and joy;  
they pass within the palace of  
the king. (R.)

**Second Reading:** 1 Cor 15:20-26

As members of Christ all people will  
be raised, Christ first, and after him  
all who belong to him.

**Gospel Acclamation :**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Mary is taken up to heaven,  
and the angels of God shout for joy.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel :** Lk 1:39-56

DoThe Almighty has done great  
things for me; he has lifted up the  
lowly.

**Communion Antiphon:** Lk 1:48-49

All generations will call me blessed,  
for he who is mighty has done great  
things for me.

## REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

On the surface, today's gospel passage has little to do with the feast of the Assumption. There is no scriptural account of the Assumption and so we draw on a different significant gospel passage that features Mary. However, the account of Mary rushing to her cousin and exuberantly proclaiming the Magnificat is an example of Mary's joyful 'Yes' to life and to God that tradition tells us was rewarded in her bodily assumption into heaven.

Immediately prior to this account, the angel Gabriel has announced to Mary that she is to give birth to the Christ-child. Her humble response to the angel and to God is, 'Let it be done to me according to your word' even though she knew the shame and rejection her pregnancy would cause in her village. Whilst her initial response is subdued and humble, it is a 'Yes' to God's will. Mary's next instinct is an emphatic 'Yes' to life. The angel tells Mary that her cousin, Elizabeth, is also to bear a child. Elizabeth was an older woman and keenly felt the social and cultural shame of not being able to bear children. When Mary hears that Elizabeth is already pregnant she rushes to be with her. Where no life was thought possible, God has created life. Elizabeth would have been shamed and regarded as inadequate and of lesser standing because of her childlessness. In many ways, Elizabeth was deprived of her own life because she could not give birth. Mary's "Yes" to God and "Yes" to life is confirmed and amplified by God's granting fullness of life to Elizabeth.

### Historical Context – Feast of the Assumption

Since the 5th Century there has been an active tradition and belief around the assumption of Mary. The tradition states that Mary was physically 'taken up' into heaven at the end of her life. It is believed that her soul and her body remained united. This ancient belief was defined as an infallible teaching of the Church by Pope Pius XII in 1950. It is one of only two infallible statements that have been defined as such and both related to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The feast is celebrated on August 15 and is a Holy Day of Obligation.

### Scriptural context – New life

The restoration of life to those who are shamed and oppressed that is exemplified in Elizabeth is a compelling theme of the gospel of Luke. Time and again, those who are ground down by a lack of life are given new hope and new life by the extravagant love of God. And throughout Luke, the recipients of this new life are women. The widow of Nain (7:11-15); the sinful woman who washed Jesus' feet (7:36-50); the woman with a haemorrhage (8:43-48); Jairus' daughter (8:40-56); and the crippled woman (13:10-17) are all examples of this outpouring of new life.

### Living the Gospel – Saying 'Yes'

In a world that is increasingly selfish and negative, there is a trend towards isolation from family, neighbours and community. In the face of social isolation, the call to a Christian life is a call to say 'Yes' to life itself and all it offers. To say 'Yes' to life is to say 'Yes' to life-giving relationships and decisions and 'No' to life denying relationships and decisions. To say 'Yes' to life is to say 'No' to those things that harm self and harm others. A 'Yes' to life is a 'Yes' to hope; to possibility; to love; to God; and to yourself.

### Tax Receipts for 2020—2021

The tax receipts will be issued as soon as the Covid lock-down is lifted.  
We apologise for the inconvenience.

Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible.  
— Saint Francis of Assisi

## Natural Fertility Awareness Week Aug 23-29, 2021

Billings LIFE is pleased to launch Natural Fertility Awareness Week with a free Webinar presentation on this year's theme *Tracking Fertility : Tracking Health*.

An information session about the Billings Ovulation Method® will be held on Monday 23rd August @ 7.30pm - 8.30pm

To register please go to:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/free-webinar-tracking-fertility-tracking-health-tickets-163000285241>

Further information about natural fertility awareness can be found at the Billings LIFE website: <https://billings.life/en/>

**Pray for good health of :** Giselle Oscuro, John and Shirley Wakefield, Yin Kwan Tsang.

**Mass Offered:** Fr Isidore Anantharaj, Elias Haddad, Jeffrey Bishop

**Also pray for:** Holy Souls in Purgatory

### Go Make Disciples Online Lay Leadership Series- "Christ-centered Leadership"

17 August: *The Recollected Leader: The Spiritual Practice of Making Better Decisions*

Register at <https://www.gomakedisciples.org.au/cas-events/>

#### PLANNED GIVING (during lockdown)

Planned giving can be done via bank transfer:

Mater Dei: BSB 062 784 Account No. 000003791

St Raphael: BSB 062 784 Account No. 000002827

Reference: Your Name and envelope No. (if any)

Thank you for your generosity.

## Livestreaming of Mass during lockdown

Daily 9:15am mass at St Declan's Peshurst: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMUpiYtTbVl-1M3Uj-3b9Vg>

Sun 9am Mass at St Declan's: <https://www.stdeclansparish.org/live/>

Sunday St Mary's Cathedral: <https://www.sydneycatholic.org/live-masses/>

Sunday 6:00AM TV Ch10 Mass or via website <https://massforyou.com.au/>

Please see a new app "**Our Faith Our Works**" app released by the Fundraising and Development Office of the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney which will assist our parish and parishioners in two ways.

1. keeping the fire of faith alive amongst parishioners with spiritual formation resources (videos and podcasts) and
2. easy access to support your parish by setting up a monthly (or one-off) donation from the comfort of one's living room.

To download the app visit:  
[www.ourfaithourworks.org/app](http://www.ourfaithourworks.org/app)  
or  
scan the QR code



## Mater Dei & St Raphael's Parishes online meetings via Zoom

- Bible reading Wed 8:00pm.  
Contact Carl Pavia 0418 672 3944.
- Cenacle Rosary Tues 7:30pm.  
Contact Flora 0434 932 876.
- Chaplet of Divine Mercy Friday 5:00pm  
Contact Michael Fernandes 0437 517 758

All are welcome

#### Mater Dei & St Raphael's Parish Calendar— August 2021

Until end Aug	COVID-19 Lockdown—no Mass	SR & MD
7/9/2021	MD Pastoral Council Meeting	MD
TBA	SR Pastoral Council Meeting	SR
TBA	Sacrament of First Eucharist	SR & MD
Postponed to Dec 2021	Combined Parish Dinner	SR & MD

## Alpha at Mater Dei and St Raphael Parishes

Alpha Series is commencing via Zoom on **Thursday 26th August** at 7pm.

Join us as we take the opportunity to explore the big questions of life around an Alpha talk and discussion.

Everyone is welcome regardless of your life or faith journey. Come and see on your own or bring a family member or friend, neighbour or work-mate.

Please check out the Alpha intro video:

<https://player.vimeo.com/video/182479526>

Please register at: <https://qr.go.page.link/6DmiV>

Hope to see you there!

## PARISH DIRECTORY

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**Mater Dei Primary School:** (02) 9546 7298

Principal: Ms Melanie Headley

**St. Raphael Primary School:** (02) 9546 4898

Principal: Mrs Annette McKenzie

**BUNNY** The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large tray of apples. A nun lettered a note and posted it on the apple tray: "Take only ONE. God is watching."

Moving along the lunch line, at the other end was a large tray of chocolate chip cookies. A girl wrote a note, which she put next to the tray of cookies, "Take all you want. God is watching the apples."