

"The Church must be a place of mercy freely given, where everyone can feel welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged to live the good life of the Gospel."
- Pope Francis

MASS TIMES AT ST RAPHAEL AND MATER DEI CHURCH during Phase 3 Lockdown (Attendance max 48 at SR and 88 at MD)		
	St Raphael	Mater Dei
Monday	7:00am Mass	No Mass
Tuesday	7:00am Mass	6:00pm-6:30pm Mass 6:30pm-7:30pm Adoration
Wednesday	7:00am Mass	6:00pm Novena & Adoration 7:00pm-7:30pm Mass
Thursday	7:00am Mass	6:00pm-6:30pm Mass 6:30pm-7:30pm Adoration
Friday	7:00am Mass (or 9am first Fri) 7:30pm-8:30pm Adoration	6:00pm-6:30pm Mass 6:30pm-7:30pm Adoration
Saturday	5:00pm vigil Mass	6:15pm vigil Mass
Sunday	8:30am Mass	10:00am Mass

Given the extra precautions in place to maintain physical distancing, parishioners have the option of donating online through the link below:
www.ourfaithhourworks.org/prf

Child Protection Sunday- 13 September 2020 This day, marked by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, acknowledges the immense damage caused by the sexual abuse of children, including by priests, religious and lay people within Catholic contexts. It makes a commitment to practices and protocols that create and maintain safe environments for all people, especially children and other people who are at risk. It invites people to pray for those harmed by abuse directly and indirectly.

A number of resources have been created to help Catholic communities mark the day. They include prayers, social media graphics and banners for various digital platforms. You can access them in this Google Drive folder:
<http://bit.ly/ChildProtectionSunday2020>.

Also pray for: Holy Souls in Purgatory

Mass Offered: Elias Haddad, Jeffrey Bishop, Giovanni & Giovannina Favalaro, Josephine & Felice De Fina

Recently Deceased: Jimmy Culkin

Death Anniversary: Gladys Michael

For good health of: John Wakefield



The COVID-Safe app is completely voluntary.

Email:

support@covidsafe.gov.au

Telephone:
1800 020 080

Website:
COVID Safe online

Congratulations! To our Parish children **Lucas Mumford, Markus Mezei, Mitchell Duncan** and **Roman Abbattista** who receive their **First Holy Eucharist** on Sat 12th September. We thank Monica Fernandes, our Sacramental Coordinator who prepared them. We warmly welcome into our Catholic Parish Community our RCIA candidates, **Paris Xinling, Ka Cutchung, Monica Cutchung** as they receive the three Sacraments of Initiation. We thank Graeme Dorahy who prepared them. Let us keep these candidates in our prayers as they grow in the knowledge of Christ and the Catholic faith. God Bless all.

A father was reading Bible stories to his young son. He read, "The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt." His son asked, "What happened to the flea?"

COVID-19 Update

Parishioners are exhorted to wear face masks as a safeguard to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Congregational singing, the sign of peace and passing of the collection plate continue to be suspended at this time.

Church attendance numbers are limited to a maximum of 100 people, providing there is a four square metre space around each person, with the exception of people from the same household.

All parishes must ensure that their churches are not left unattended when their doors are open and must keep written records with names and contact details of everyone who comes into the church at any time and these records must be kept for at least 4 weeks.

Parishes are advised to designate specific people to monitor the sign-in process and to make sure all people attending Masses are registering (at least one person from each family group).

Parishioners must not mingle before, during or after Mass since social distancing rules cannot be easily observed.

Preparation Class - Dates @ 8:45AM

Week 1 Sunday **13 September** **Sacrament of Reconciliation**
Week 2 Sunday **20 September** **at Mater Dei School Holidays**
Week 3 Sunday **18 October** **2020**
Week 4 and **Sacrament: Sunday 25 October**

PARISH DIRECTORY

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Parishes of Mater Dei Blakehurst &

Twenty-fourth Sunday in

Ordinary Time - Year A

St Raphael's South Hurstville

BULLETIN

13th Sep 2020

REFLECTION

A distinctive feature of the teachings of Jesus is his exhortation to forgive. Very explicit about this, Jesus left us his own example by forgiving his executioners while he hung dying on the cross. Until recently we thought that forgiveness begins with the offender repenting of the offence and then asking for pardon. Today many maintain that reconciliation must begin with the one offended offering forgiveness. This willingness to forgive transforms a victim into a survivor. Such magnanimity might then touch the heart of the offender, who may thus be transformed from being an offender to becoming a friend.

If God has been so generous in forgiving us, surely we should be generous in forgiving others. The process of becoming a forgiving person takes time. For some, it may take a lifetime. Only little by little are our pettiness and indignation reduced and our desire to strike back diminished. Still, as disciples, we are expected to give the forgiveness that we have been given.

Such forgiveness does not provide an easy way out for offenders, for ultimately justice will prevail. If we remain untransformed by God's forgiveness of us, we will be liable to judgment. Our unwillingness to forgive can eat away at us, and we can carry hurts from childhood far into adult years. Forgiving others, as difficult as that may be, is in the long run much easier than bearing the weight of resentment, vindictiveness and unresolved frustration. When we forgive we truly begin to be healed.

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This year, due to the closure of churches during Holy Week and the cancellation of the **annual Pontifical Good Friday Collection**, Pope Francis has rescheduled this collection to the **weekend of Sunday September 13th 2020**. This is so it coincides with the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross on September 14th.

Message from Dcn Roberto Keryakos:

With thanksgiving to Almighty God, I will be ordained a priest next week alongside three of my classmates: Dcns Noel Custodio, John Pham and Jonathan Vala.

We will be ordained priests on: **Saturday 19th September 11:00am St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney**

Due to current restrictions the cathedral can only hold 100 people (25 for me) and those people (mostly family) have already been notified.

If you are interested in watching the ordination ceremony live (or after the event) you can find it on the St Mary's Cathedral Sydney YouTube page, or directly through this link:

<https://youtu.be/RW0tPzeveGk>

I'm very excited to be ordained a priest, though with so few friends and family, it truly is a bittersweet moment.

Saying that, I can't really complain as I have been so blessed over these many years in seminary formation and this year as a deacon.

As always, please keep my classmates and I in your prayers.
May God abundantly bless you all.

Please keep Dcn Roberto Keryakos in your prayers. He'll be celebrating his **First Mass** after Ordination at **St Raphael's Church** on **Saturday 3rd October 2020 - Vigil Mass** and again on **Sunday 4th October 2020 - Morning Mass**. Christ, Our Lord, bless Roberto abundantly in his priestly ministry.

Entrance Antiphon: Cf. Sir 36:18

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

First Reading: Sir 27:30 - 28:7

Hate and anger lead to death; love and forgiveness to the kingdom.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 102:1-4. 9-12. R. v.8

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name. My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. (R.)

2. It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. (R.)

3. His wrath will come to an end; he will not be angry for ever. He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults (R.)

4. For as the heavens are high above the earth so strong is his love for those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins. (R.)

Second Reading: Rom 14:7-9

Christ is Lord of the living and the dead.

Gospel Acclamation: Jn 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia! I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you. Alleluia!

Gospel: Mt 18:21-35

Parable of the official who, receiving mercy, does not show it to others.

Communion Antiphon: Cf. Ps 35:8

How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

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)