



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

First Sunday of Advent Year C **Bulletin**

28th Nov 2021

Entrance Antiphon: Cf. Ps 24:1-3

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

First Reading: Jer 33:14-16

The day is coming when the Lord will fulfil his promises.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 24:4-5. 8-9. 10. 14. R. v.1

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

1. Lord, make me know your ways. Lord, teach me your paths. Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: for you are God my saviour. (R.)
2. The Lord is good and upright. He shows the path to those who stray, he guides the humble in the right path; he teaches his way to the poor. (R.)
3. His ways are faithfulness and love for those who keep his covenant and will. The Lord's friendship is for those who revere him; to them he reveals his covenant. (R.)

Second Reading: 1 Thes 3:12 – 4:2

Conduct yourself in a way pleasing to God.

Gospel Acclamation :Ps 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

Gospel : Lk 21:25-28. 34-36

Be ready for the second coming.

Communion Antiphon: Ps 84:13

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

CELEBRANT: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

CONGREGATION: A light no darkness can overpower.

CELEBRANT: Lord God, let our prayers rise up like incense before you, as we ask that you bless our Advent wreath and these four candles. May this wreath be a sign to us of the new life Jesus promised us. May these candles remind us to wait, full of hope, so that when the Lord comes into our lives we will recognise and welcome him.



REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

We are, perhaps, used to thinking of the season of Advent as a time of preparation for the celebration of Christmas. But this week's readings, and the readings of the next few weeks, remind us that the notion of preparation extends well beyond the celebration of the birth of Jesus. We are reminded that we are, in fact, living in an 'in-between time'. From this week's first reading we are reminded that the expectation of a Messiah was a very long-standing hope for Israel. The coming of the Messiah would usher in a new prosperity and a divine reign of God. The earliest Christians began to see that the ancient prophecies could all be applied to Jesus and they began to regard Jesus as the promised Messiah – the fulfilment of prophecy. However, Jesus also promised that he would come again, and the expectation of the first followers of Jesus was that his return would be in their lifetime. In our second reading from the letter to the Thessalonians, we can see the growing realisation that perhaps Jesus' return will not occur within the current generation. This realisation had a dramatic effect on the life and faith of the community. Imagine living with the belief that the end of time was going to occur not just in your lifetime but literally any day now. Slowly, they realised that Jesus' words were not that specific and the time of return had not been identified. What Jesus had called for was a state of readiness, a state of preparedness. This didn't mean he was coming immediately; what it meant was that there was need to get the house in order because he would be coming at some time. Advent is a time to remember that we still haven't really got the house in order.

Historical Context—The Advent Wreath

One of the major symbols of the Advent season is the wreath. The encircling wreath is symbolic of God without beginning or end and the green foliage represents our hope in God. There are usually five candles in the wreath. The first candle, which is purple, symbolizes hope. It is sometimes called the "Prophecy Candle" in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ.

The second candle, also purple, represents faith. It is called the "Bethlehem Candle" as a reminder of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem. The third candle is pink and symbolizes joy. It is called the "Shepherd's Candle," and is pink because rose is a liturgical colour for joy. The fourth purple candle marks the final week of prayer and penance as we wait for the birth of our Saviour. This final candle, the "Angel's Candle," symbolizes peace. It reminds us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."

The white candle is placed in the middle of the wreath and lit on Christmas Eve. It is the "Christ Candle" and represents the life of Christ. The colour white is for purity—because Christ is our sinless, pure Saviour.

"The time of Advent that we begin again today returns us to the horizon of hope, a hope that does not disappoint because it is founded on the Word of God. A hope that does not disappoint, simply because the Lord never disappoints! He is faithful!"
- Pope Francis

MASS TIMES

	St Raphael Church	Mater Dei Church
Tuesday		9:15am Mass
Wednesday		8:45am Rosary, Novena 9:15am Mass
Thursday	9:15am Mass is only for school children. Due to Covid regulations parishioners cannot mix with school children	
Friday	7:30pm Adoration	8:45am Adoration 9:15am Mass
Saturday	Reconciliation 4:30pm 5:00pm Vigil Mass	6:15pm Vigil Mass
Sunday	8:30am Mass 6:00pm Croatian Mass	10:00am Mass

Ecumenical Remembering Service



Each year we have an opportunity to gather with our friends at St Mark's South Hurstville to give thanks, light a candle, and remember those we have loved and lost. This year the Remembering Service will be held at St Raphael Church on Sunday 5 December at 2.30pm. Afternoon tea will follow. All are welcome.
Contact: Michael Fernandes 0437 517 758



Christmas Get together



Mater Dei Church: Sun 5th Dec 2021 after the 10am mass
St Raphael Church: Sat 11th Dec 2021 after the vigil mass.
"Are you intending to come? For catering purposes - Please register on the sheets provided and let us know how many are in your group. Also if you are able to help out with set up/serving/clean up. Thanks!" Carl Pavia 0418 672 394

Appointment of new Auxiliary Bishop, Fr Danny Meagher

Our congratulations to Father Danny Meagher on his appointment by Pope Francis as auxiliary bishop of Sydney. Fr Danny has had a very broad experience as a priest. In addition to being a seminary rector, he has ministered in the parishes of Mt Pritchard, Mosman, Gynea, Hoxton Park, Carnes Hill, North Leichhardt, Broken Hill, Penshurst-Peakhurst, Strathfield and Five Dock as a truly good shepherd.

Ministry 27th/28th Nov (4th Sun)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.30am	6.15pm V	10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Norman Michael F	Bro Michael	Volunteer
Readers	Fernandes Family	Lappen Family	Volunteers	Lucy M Phil M
Ministry 4th/5th Dec (1st Sun)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.30am	6.15pm V	10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Gary, Max	Tony Oscuro	Paul Watson
Readers	Lovat Family	Rounds Family	Volunteer Frances O	Gail Abbott Luisa Galea

Please arrange for a replacement if you are unable to serve - Michael Fernandes 0437 517 758

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	371.95	201.75
Second: loose	351.55	163.95
Envelopes	462.60	960.00



Thank you for supporting the CWF Parish Appeal.

For more info about CWF please visit www.ourfaithourworks.org/cwf

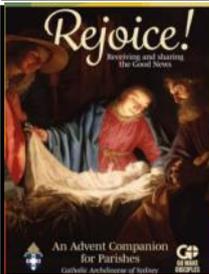
6th Death Anniversary of Jeffrey Bishop

Jeff was the first Acolyte and Reader at Mater Dei church. He was an Acolyte for 25 years until he passed away.

Pray for good health of: Lorraine Borean, 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



ADVENT PROGRAM

Mater Dei and St Raphael Parishes
Starting THURSDAY - 2nd DECEMBER 2021 7.30 pm—8.30pm
Via Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/96649367623>
For more info visit www.materdei-straphael.org.au
All are welcome



**Wed 1st Dec, 2021
7:30PM**

Topic: Jesus / the only way to God
Meet in St Raphael's Harmony Hall.
Any queries please contact Graeme Dorahy on 0421 420 497.
All are welcome.

Blessed



Daily Advent and Christmas Reflections 2021.
Books available in the Foyer. \$5:00

THE LORD'S GARDEN



The new Parish Priest thought of visiting some of his parishioners in the neighbourhood. He was passing a very well kept garden in the area and stopped to admire the beautiful flowers... "The Lord and you have done remarkable things to this garden," said the priest to the owner. "Well, thank you Father", replied the owner, "but you should have seen it when it was only the Lord in charge!"



PARISH DIRECTORY

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