



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

Second Sunday of Advent Year C

Bulletin

5th Dec 2021

Entrance Antiphon: Cf. Is 30:19,30
O people of Zion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

First Reading: Bar 5:1-9

Take off your robe of mourning, put on the splendour of glory.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 125. R. v.3

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs. (R.)

2. The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them! What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad. (R.)

3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land. Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap. (R.)

4. They go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed for the sowing; they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves. (R.)

Second Reading: Phil 1:3-6. 8-11

He who has begun the good work in you will bring it to completion.

Gospel Acclamation: Ps 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

Gospel: Lk 3:1-6

John the Baptist proclaims a baptism of repentance.

Communion Antiphon: Bar 5:5; 4:36

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

2nd 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 God, let our prayers rise up like incense before you, as at this Advent time we are reminded of the beauty and goodness you have brought into our world.

We pray that Jesus' coming, which we are awaiting will give our spirits new life and energy as we try to follow his way.

May these two candles remind us of the need we have to open our hearts and minds to the light and warmth of your love.



REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

The second and third weeks of Advent this year focus particularly on the role of John the Baptist as the one who prepared the way for Jesus and announced his coming. It continues the theme of preparation that was begun last week, but still, rather than preparing for the birth of Jesus, we are exploring the wider theme of preparation. The gospel writer includes a quote from Isaiah in which the prophet says, 'Prepare a way for the Lord.' (Often translated as 'Prepare the way of the Lord'.) The application of this passage to John the Baptist is a logical one. This gospel emphasises that John was preaching 'a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins'. Throughout the gospel of Luke, the recognition of sinfulness and the desire to repent and seek forgiveness is the prelude to receiving God's favour.

This gospel makes it clear that one way in which we can prepare a way for the Lord is to recognise our faults and failings and to seek forgiveness. It is only through such repentance that we can make ourselves receptive to the love of God. The only preparation of the way that is necessary for the Lord is a personal preparation to be receptive. We are absolutely assured of God's love. The problem is that we often feel that we are undeserving of that love or are unable to receive it. When we are called to 'Prepare a way for the Lord' it is a call to prepare a way in our own hearts – to break down the barriers that we have put up; to clear the obstacles that we have placed in the path. God's love will find a way! We simply make the way easier for ourselves to recognise God's love if we 'Prepare a way'.

Living the Gospel – Make way!

Today's gospel is a reminder to us that Advent is a season of preparation. In this case, the preparation is all about making way for the love of God in our lives. The love of God surrounds us all the time. It's like a rapidly flowing stream and sometimes we have placed boulders in the stream that send the water flowing around us. The call to make a way for the Lord is a call to clear the rocks out of the stream; to remove the obstacles that are directing the love of God around us and allow it instead to flow directly through us.



Christmas midnight mass choir practice on 11th and 18th Dec at 4:45pm before the vigil mass. All are welcome

**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)

"Let us allow ourselves to be guided by [Mary this Advent], she who is mother, a mamma and knows how to guide us. Let us allow ourselves to be guided by her during this season of active waiting and watchfulness." — 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



Please join us 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.



Christmas Get together



Mater Dei Church: Sun 5th Dec after 10:00am mass

St Raphael Church: Sat 11th Dec 2021 after the vigil mass. Please register on the sheets provided at the church. Let us know if you are able to help out with setup/serving/clean up.

2021 Christmas Mass Times	St Raphael	Mater Dei
Fri 24th Dec	4:00pm Carols 4:30pm Mass	6:15pm Mass 11:30pm Carols 12:00 am Mass
Sat 25th Dec	8:30am 11:00am Croatian No Vigil Mass	10:00am No Vigil mass
Sun 26th Dec	8:30am	10:00am
Sat 1st Jan 22	5:00pm	9am Mass 6:15pm

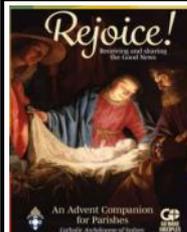
Ministry 4th/5th Dec (1st Sun)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.30am	6.15pm V	10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Gary, Max	Tony Oscuro	Paul Watson
Readers	Lovat Family	Rounds Family	Volunteer Frances O	Gail Abbott Luisa Galea
Ministry 11th/12th Dec (2nd Sun)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.30am	6.15pm V	10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Michael B Minh	Ray Low	Volunteer
Readers	Pavia Family	Yenson Family	Louise Tapp	Joan Hanson Jean Dorahy

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	477.20	218.15
Second: loose	514.00	247.40
Envelopes	727.50	450.00

SVDP Christmas Appeal We are asking for donations of **non-perishable food items** to be distributed to families and others in our community who struggle to afford the little extras we all enjoy at this time of year. Some suggestions are tinned ham, salmon, cordial, Juice, canned fruit, sweet or savoury biscuits, long life custard, puddings, cakes or mince tarts, pasta, rice etc. Your gift should be left at the Church **before December 19th** for distribution by us on 22nd. Many thanks and Merry Christmas.
Envelopes are in the foyer



ADVENT PROGRAM

Mater Dei and St Raphael Parishes
THURSDAYS 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

In Loving Memory

Please pray for the soul of Wajid Dahman, father of James Dahman, who recently passed away in Lebanon. Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him and may he rest in Peace. Amen



**Wed 8th Dec, 2021
7:30PM**

Meet in St Raphael's Harmony Hall. Topic: **The Evidence for the Resurrection.**

Any queries please contact Graeme Dorahy on 0421 420 497.

To Know, Worship and Love (KWL) Books wanted

Dear parents, if you have "To Know, Worship and Love" books, it would be much appreciated if you could donate them to the Parish Catechists. Please contact Odette Korkor Email: okorkor41@gmail.com

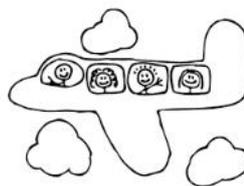
May her soul rest in peace.



A much loved person and long time parishioner, Lorraine Borean, wife of (late) Mario, entered eternal life on 1st Dec 2021. Her funeral is on Wed 8th Dec 2021 at 10:30am at St Raphael Church. We extend our heartfelt condolences to her family and friends.

At liturgy class, the younger children were drawing pictures illustrating Biblical stories. The teacher walked by and noticed one little boy was drawing an airplane! "Oh, what Bible story are you drawing?" she asked.

"This is the Flight into Egypt," the little boy answered. "See, here is Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus. And this," he said, pointing to the front of the plane, "is Pontius. He's the Pilot."



FUNNY

Pray for good health of : Terisa Dawson, John and Shirley Wakefield, Yin Kwan Tsang.

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

Also pray for: Holy Souls in Purgatory