



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

2nd Sunday in Ordinary time Year C *Bulletin* 16th Jan 2022

Entrance Antiphon : Ps 65:4

All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!

First Reading: Is 62:1-5

As the bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so will your God rejoice in you.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 95:1-3. 7-10. R. v.3

(R.) Proclaim his marvellous deeds to all the nations.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord all the earth. O sing to the Lord, bless his name. **(R.)**
2. Proclaim his help day by day, tell among the nations his glory and his wonders among all the peoples. **(R.)**
3. Give the Lord, you families of peoples, give the Lord glory and power, give the Lord the glory of his name. **(R.)**
4. Worship the Lord in his temple. O earth, tremble before him. Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king' He will judge the peoples in fairness. **(R)**

Second Reading: 1 Cor 12:4-11

One and the same spirit distributes different gifts as he chooses.

Gospel Acclamation: See 2 Thes 2:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

God has called us with the gospel to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Alleluia!

Gospel : Jn 2:1-11

The Wedding at Cana.

Communion Antiphon: Cf. Ps 22:5

You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

Today's first reading from Isaiah is one of several references in the Old Testament that use wedding imagery – bride and groom – to describe the relationship between God and the people of Israel. The imagery is never that of an 'old married couple' but rather young lovers entering into a new life together full of hope; full of romance; and full of passion. This image of God and the people as bride and groom would not have been lost on the first audiences of today's gospel passage. Immediately, they would have recognised the significance of Jesus' first outing in public ministry being at a wedding feast – at the coming together of God and God's people, Jesus is present! It is a very neat and quite deliberate follow on from the prologue of the Gospel of John where the gospel writer uses the image of 'the Word made flesh who lives among us' to describe Jesus. The Word has come into the world and the first public appearance is at an event that symbolises the relationship between God and God's people.

The interplay between Jesus and his mother is very interesting in this gospel event. In this particular gospel it is one of only two occasions that Mary is mentioned: this event at the beginning of Jesus' ministry and then at the foot of the cross as he is crucified. Mary does not ask Jesus to do anything. She simply states, 'They have no wine', but one can almost hear the motherly tone with which it was said. I'm sure Jesus was left in no doubt that he was expected to do something about it. When he tries to avoid the issue, Mary apparently ignores his objections and instructs the servants to do whatever Jesus tells them. No fuss; no argument. How do mothers do it?

From the perspective of ... The servants

What must the servants have been thinking? First of all, there was insufficient wine for the feast. They probably knew who was going to wear the blame for that ordering mistake! Then they're told to fill the enormous water jars with water, draw some into a serving vessel and go and present it to the steward of the household – effectively their overseer; their boss! They must have been very nervous about how the steward would respond to what they were taking to him. Yet they, along with Mary and Jesus, were the only witnesses to Jesus' first miracle! Even the steward was unaware of the miracle.

Gospel Focus – The best wine

The steward comments that the best wine had been kept until the end of the wedding celebration – a clever use of an image for Jesus. Remembering the use of wedding imagery to describe the relationship between the people of Israel and God, the wedding feast is celebration of that relationship, and at the very heart of the celebration and the relationship is Jesus. He is the best wine that is kept until the end – the 'finishing touch' to a magnificent celebration, just as he is the 'finishing touch' to the relationship between God and God's people to that point.

**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)

"I am not sure exactly what heaven will be like, but I know that when we die and it comes time for God to judge us, he will not ask, 'How many good things have you done in your life?' rather he will ask, 'How much love did you put into what you did?' - Mother Teresa

MASS TIMES

| | St Raphael Church | Mater Dei Church | Ministry 15th/16th Jan (3rd Sun) | St. Raphael's | | Mater Dei | |
|-----------|---|---|----------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Tuesday | | 9:15am Mass | | 5.00pm | 8.30am | 6.15pm V | 10.00am |
| Wednesday | | 8:45am Rosary, Novena 9:15am Mass | Acolytes | Greg Driver | Earl, Carl | Michael B | Volunteer |
| Thursday | | 9:15am Mass (mass moved from St Raphael Church until SR school commences) | Readers | Volunteers | Volunteers | Br Michael Nina M | Jolly Jose Wendy E |
| Friday | Adoration resumes on Fri 28th Jan at 7:30pm | 8:45am Adoration 9:15am Mass | Ministry 22nd/23rd Jan (4th Sun) | St. Raphael's | | Mater Dei | |
| Saturday | Reconciliation 4:30pm 5:00pm Vigil Mass | 6:15pm Vigil Mass | | 5.00pm | 8.30am | 6.15pm V | 10.00am |
| Sunday | 8:30am Mass 6:00pm Croatian Mass | 10:00am Mass | Acolytes | Greg Driver | Michael F Norman Y | Br Michael | Volunteer |
| | | | Readers | Volunteers | Volunteers | Volunteers | Lucy Mitry Phil Monaghan |

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

Death Anniversary: Fr Isidore Anantharaj

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

Mass Offered: Elias Haddad, Jeffrey Bishop

Also pray for: Holy Souls in Purgatory

This week the Catholic Church of Mater Dei, Blakehurst warmly welcomes



Christina Gabrielle Zammit
(child of Marites (Tess) & Phillip John)

Congratulations to the family!

Congratulations to Fr Thomas

We are pleased to announce that Fr Thomas Alukka's term of office, as a Parish Administrator, has been extended by 3 years to 2025.

The Catholic Weekly

PULPIT POINTS 16 JANUARY 2022

- Catholics, Vaccines and Science
- Vinnies oppose Bishops
- Experience the magic of Taizé
- Angels in the architecture: Why cathedrals are important
- Movie review: *Don't look up*
- The century-making priest

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

| TYPE | St Raphael's | Mater Dei |
|---------------|--------------|-----------|
| First | 263.25 | 211.20 |
| Second: loose | 350.95 | 198.0 |
| Envelopes | 460.00 | 520.00 |

1st Death Anniversary

Fr Isidore Anantharaj

20th Jan 2022



Almighty and eternal God, from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted, either by death or life: hear our prayers and thanksgivings for Fr Isidore; fulfil in him the purpose of your love; and bring us all, with him, to your eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen

Redemptorist Fathers—Kogarah

are seeking a part-time weekday cook for their residence/

Monastery in Kogarah.

For more information, please call 02 9553 3777.



COVID Regulations for Churches

- Churches are open to all people regardless of vaccination status.
- Density limits of 1 person per 2 sqm will apply (until 27 Jan 2022).
- Face Masks are required at all indoor activities. (until 27 Jan 2022).
- QR Codes and our established check-in procedures are to continue.
- Weddings and Funerals: Anyone can attend a wedding or funeral, regardless of vaccination status.

A man was annoyed when his wife told him that a car had backed into her, damaging a fender, and that she hadn't gotten the license number. What kind of car was he driving? the husband asked. I don't know, she said. I never can tell one car from another. At that, the man decided the time had come for a learning course, and for the next few days, whenever they were driving, he made her name each car they passed until he was satisfied that she could recognize every make. It worked. About a week later she bounded in with a pleased expression on her face.

"Darling, she said, I hit a Porsche today!"



PARISH DIRECTORY

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Michael Fernandes

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Principal: Mrs Melanie Headley
St. Raphael Primary School: (02) 9546 4898
Principal: Mrs Annette McKenzie