



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

Baptism of the Lord Year C

Bulletin

9th Jan 2022

Entrance Antiphon:

After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

First Reading: Is 40:1-5. 9-11

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it.

Responsorial Psalm:

(R.) Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!

1. Lord God, how great you are, clothed in majesty and glory, wrapped in light as in a robe! You stretch out the heavens like a tent. (R.)
2. Above the rains you build your dwelling. You make the clouds your chariot, you walk on the wings of the wind, you make the winds your messengers and flashing fire your servants. (R.)
3. How many are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you have made them all. The earth is full of your riches. There is the sea, vast and wide, with its moving swarms past counting, living things great and small. (R.)
4. All of these look to you to give them their food in due season. You give it, they gather it up: you open your hand, they have their fill. (R.)
5. You take back your spirit, they die, returning to the dust from which they came. You send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the earth. (R.)

Second Reading: Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7

He saved us through the water of rebirth and renewal in the Holy Spirit

Gospel Acclamation: See Lk 3:16

Alleluia, alleluia!

John said: He who is to come is mightier than I; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Mk 1:7-11

When Jesus had been baptised and had been praying, the heavens were opened and the Holy Spirit came upon him.

Communion Antiphon: Jn 1:32,34

Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

Today's gospel begins with a level of expectancy among the people that John the Baptist may be the Christ; the Messiah. This seemingly throw away introductory comment confirms the fact that the Jewish expectation of the Messiah was particularly heightened at the time of John and Jesus. At the time of the ministries of John and Jesus, the Romans had been the occupying force in Judaea for about 80 or 90 years. Throughout most of their lives the infamous Galilee area had been relatively peaceful and free of revolutionary activity but that changed from about 26 CE. With the anti-Roman sentiment on the rise, the ancient yearning for a Messiah resurfaced.

This Messianic expectation stretched back hundreds of years and was richly associated with the sovereign line of King David. The Davidic line ruled for more than 400 years until it was ended in the early 6th Century BCE by the Jewish people being exiled in Babylon for about 50 years.

The term, Messiah, literally means anointed one. In ancient Israel, the king was designated by being anointed with oil on his head. Following the exile in Babylon, the people longed for another great king, in the style and from the line of David. Over time, this expectation grew into an ideal that one day a perfect king would rise up again and be the anointed one; the Messiah. As the years grew into decades and centuries, this expectation took on more and more significance. When the Messiah came, the whole world would be put to right; a period of justice and peace would prevail; the oppressed would be liberated.

Whilst the people longed for the Messiah to appear, the gospels reveal that they had difficulty believing Jesus was the one for whom they hoped.

Historical context – Baptism

John makes clear to the people that the baptism he performs is with water but the baptism by Jesus is with the Holy Spirit. John preached a baptism of repentance. In keeping with his Jewish tradition, John called upon the people to make a public declaration of their wrong-doing and commitment to be washed clean of this sinfulness and desire to live in right relationship with God and others. The baptism to which he refers is the complete change of heart and mind that comes through the Holy Spirit and results from a person accepting the message of Jesus.

Gospel focus – My Son, the Beloved

'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.' This declaration by the voice from Heaven – the voice of God – is an amalgamation of two earlier pieces of scripture: 'You are my son; today I have begotten you' (Ps 2:7) and 'Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights' (Is 42:1). The fact that it is uttered before Jesus has begun his ministry is a sign to all of us that God delights in us for who we are, not for what we have achieved in our lives.

Have you thought? Trinity

The baptism event in the gospels is a moment of revelation of the Trinitarian nature of God. The Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus in the form of a dove whilst the voice of God is heard to declare of Jesus, 'You are my Son.' It is a unique moment in the scriptures where the three persons of God are individually and collectively revealed. Although the scriptures do not explicitly name God as Trinity, by the time of Paul's early writings, blessings in the name of Jesus, God and the Holy Spirit are frequent. Despite this, Trinity continues to be a difficult concept for many Christians.

"When we baptize a child, the Holy Spirit enters that child, and the Holy Spirit makes the Christian virtues grow in that child, who will then flourish. We must always give this opportunity to everyone, to all children, to have inside of them the Holy Spirit that will guide them throughout their lives. Do not forget to baptize children!"

- 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 (mass moved from St Raphael Church until SR school commences)
Friday	Adoration resumes on Fri 28th Jan at 7:30pm	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

Ministry 8th/9th Jan (2nd Sun)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.30am	6.15pm V	10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Michael B Minh N	Ray Low	Volunteer
Readers	Volunteers	Volunteers	Louise Tapp	Joan Hanson Jean Dorahy
Ministry 15th/16th Jan (3rd Sun)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.30am	6.15pm V	10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Earl, Carl	Michael B	Volunteer
Readers	Volunteers	Volunteers	Br Michael Nina M	Jolly Jose Wendy E

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



Redemptorist Fathers—Kogarah are seeking a part-time weekday cook for their residence/Monastery in Kogarah.
For more information, please call 02 9553 3777.

Mass Intentions

Arranging a Mass Intention is a beautiful way to honour our loved ones - living and the deceased, or to commemorate a special occasion.

If you would like to have the name or event published in the bulletin, please complete a Mass Intention Request envelope and drop the envelope in the weekend offertory plate or give it to the Parish Office/ Parish Priest/Acolyte. The envelopes are kept in the foyer.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

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

Eli Ariel Sainsbury
(child of Jessica & Paul Ryan) and
Amelia Lanza
(child of Gemma and Daniel)



Congratulations to the families!

**CORONAVIRUS
UPDATE CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE OF
SYDNEY**

[https://
www.sydneycatholic.org/
coronavirus-updates/](https://www.sydneycatholic.org/coronavirus-updates/)

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND		
TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	434.50	207.80
Second: loose	411.10	193.50
Envelopes	340.00	565.00

Death Anniversary: Vincenzina Capuzza

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

The Catholic Weekly

Catholic Weekly hard copies now available in the church for \$2.00

Safeguarding Children

The Safeguarding and Child Protection documents can be found on our website at [https://
www.materdei-straphael.org.au/safeguarding/](https://www.materdei-straphael.org.au/safeguarding/)

COVID Regulations for Churches- From 24th Dec 2021

- 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).
- All members of the congregation are permitted to sing.
- 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.

"If I sold my house and my car, had a big garage sale, and gave all my money to the church, would I get into heaven?" a teacher asked the children in her Sunday school class. "No!" the children all answered.

"If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the yard, and kept everything neat and tidy, would I get into heaven?" Again the answer was, "No!"

"Well," she continued, "then how can I get to heaven?"

A five-year-old boy shouted out, "You gotta be dead!"



PARISH DIRECTORY

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Parish Secretary: Juliana Widjaja
Office hours: Tues & Wed 9:30am - 2:30pm
Phone: 9546 2605
Email: admin@materdei-straphael.org.au

Parish Ministry Coordinator & Safeguarding Officer
Michael Fernandes
Office hours: Tues, Wed & Fri 10am – 2pm
M: 0437 517 758 E: mc@materdei-straphael.org.au

Pastoral Ministry Coordinator: Br. Ben Krupowicz
Phone: 02 95462544 Email: strsh@outlook.com

Fr. Jan Chrzczonowicz : Phone: 0412 786 245

Mater Dei Primary School: (02) 9546 7298
Principal: Mrs Melanie Headley

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