



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

Fifth Sunday of Lent - Year C *Bulletin*

3rd April 2022

## **Entrance Antiphon:** Cf. Ps 42:1-2

Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

## **First Reading:** Is 43: 16-21

I am doing a new thing and I will give drink to my people.

## **Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 125. R. v.3

(R.) 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 3:8-14

Because of Christ I look upon everything else as useless in order to gain him.

## **Gospel Acclamation:** JI 2:12-13

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,  
king of endless glory!  
With all your heart turn to me,  
for I am tender and compassionate.

## **Gospel:** Jn 8:1-11

Let the person without sin be the first to throw a stone.

## **Communion Antiphon:** Jn 8:10-11

Has no one condemned you, woman? No one, Lord. Neither shall I condemn you. From now on, sin no more.

## **REFLECTION** by Greg Sunter

### **Gospel Reflection**

This entire scene is a conspiratorial 'set-up' to trap Jesus. Jewish law dictated that adultery was to be punished by death for both parties. However, the Roman occupation had forbidden the Jewish authorities to carry out the death penalty. By bringing the woman to Jesus they sought to place him in a no-win situation. If he upheld the Jewish law and ordered the death penalty, then he was flaunting Roman law. If he did not uphold the law then he could be branded as a false teacher. They thought it was a perfect trap!

But where is the man with whom the woman was committing adultery? When he is not also brought forward for judgment as any legitimate accusation would demand, Jesus senses the trap being set for him. He realises that those accusing the woman must have somehow been involved in setting her up so that she could be 'caught committing adultery'. In Jewish law, accessories to a crime were equally guilty and subject to the same penalty. When Jesus says to the gathering, 'If there is one of you who has not sinned ...,' he's letting them know that he's aware of their part in this crime and what judgment is due them also! If they persist with their accusation, they'll also be tried as accessories! So they quietly walk away.

Jesus' words to the woman sum up his message throughout the gospel: 'Neither do I condemn you, go away, and don't sin any more.' As with others in the gospels, Jesus recognises that the woman has indeed sinned, but he does not condemn her for it. By telling her not to sin any more he is calling her to conversion. He is saying, yes, you've made mistakes, but you can do better and I'm challenging you to try.

### **Gospel Focus – Restoring honour**

When the accused woman is brought before Jesus for judgment he neither looks at the woman nor at the accusers. He bends down and writes in the dirt. When the accusers melt away, Jesus (still kneeling on the ground) looks up at the woman to speak to her. She has probably never been treated with this level of respect in all her life. With this action, as much as anything else, Jesus restores dignity and honour to the woman. No longer looked down upon, she can begin a new life.

### **Living the Gospel – Forgiven, not forgotten**

The words Jesus speaks to the accused woman could as easily be addressed to each of us. We all feel at times that we've done the wrong thing – something we don't deserve to be forgiven for. However, Jesus says to us, I know you've done the wrong thing, and you are already forgiven, but you need to make a commitment to change and not repeat the error. It is Jesus' promise not to give up on us – not to forget about us – that we can draw strength from as we try to respond to his challenge to change.

### **Scriptural context – Jerusalem**

This gospel passage begins with Jesus going to the Mount of Olives. We know the Mount of Olives best from the passion narratives in the synoptic gospels. But today's passage is not part of the last week of Jesus' life. The three synoptic gospels generally portray the ministry of Jesus as something of a journey towards Jerusalem and have him arriving just in time for the Passover and his arrest. However, the gospel of John places most of Jesus' ministry in and around Jerusalem to better focus the tension between the teachings of Jesus and the Jewish hierarchy.

HOLY WEEK MASS TIMING 2022		
Date and Time	Mater Dei Church	St Raphael's Church
Holy Thursday 14-04-2022	6:00 PM	8:00 PM
Good Friday 15-04-2022	Stations of the Cross	
	The Lord's Passion 3:00 PM	The Lord's Passion 3:00 PM
Holy Saturday 16-04-2022	6:00 PM	8:00 PM
Easter Sunday 17-04-2022	10:00 AM	8:30 AM
Easter Sunday Croatian Mass		6:00AM
Croatian Reconciliation		Wed 6 <sup>th</sup> April 6:00 PM
Holy Week Reconciliation	Holy Saturday 4pm-5:30pm	Only at Mater Dei

## PASSION SUNDAY

Next Sunday is Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday). On this day the Church celebrates Christ's entrance into Jerusalem to accomplish his paschal mystery. According to Christian belief, Jesus rode into Jerusalem where people gave him a hero's welcome during the Jewish Passover celebration. Palm Sunday services involve distributing palms to the congregation. The palm branch is traditionally a symbol of joy and victory. Have we prepared ourselves to receive our Lord?



Please bring palm leaves next week, preferably cut into small pieces, for each person to take. Please place them in the church veranda or foyer.

## HOLY WEEK MINISTRIES ROSTER

Please write your names in the Holy Week Roster posted at the entrance of the Church or phone or text Michael on 0437 517 758.

**Death Anniversary:** Thelma Fox

**Pray for good health of :** Judy Lee, John and Shirley Wakefield, Yin Kwan Tsang.

### MASS TIMES

	St Raphael Church	Mater Dei Church
Tuesday		9:15am Mass
Wednesday		8:45am Rosary, Novena 9:15am Mass
Thursday	9:15am (School and Parish Mass)	
Friday	7:00 pm Stations of the Cross 7:30pm Adoration	8:45am Adoration 9:15am Mass + Stations of the Cross
Saturday	4:30pm Reconciliation 5:00pm Vigil Mass	6:15pm Vigil Mass
Sunday	8:30am Mass 6:00pm Croatian Mass	10:00am Mass

2nd/ 3rd Apr (1st Sun)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.30am	6.15pm V	10.00am
<b>Acolytes</b>	Greg Driver	Max, Gary	Tony O	Paul Watson
<b>Readers</b>	Barry Lovat	Maria C Ronnie C	Frances O	Gail & Luisa
9th/10th Apr Palm Sunday Sun	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.30am	6.15pm V	10.00am
<b>Acolytes</b>	Greg Driver	Minh	Michael B	Volunteer
<b>Readers</b>	See	Palm	Sunday	Roster

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

## Reconciliation

Pope Francis has said " we can say to God, 'forgive me,' and say our sins. But our sins are also against our brothers, against the Church. This is why it is necessary to ask forgiveness of the Church and of our brothers, in the person of the priest." **Come and soak in HIS mercy !** "Forgiveness is not something we can give ourselves...one asks it of another person, and in confession, we ask forgiveness from Jesus - a gift of the Holy Spirit who showers us with mercy and grace that pours forth unceasingly from the open heart of Christ crucified and risen."



This weekend we welcome **Nathaniel Fainga'a** into the family of the Catholic Church at Mater Dei. Congratulations to his parents **David and Hayley**.

## Turn the clocks back

Remember to move your clocks back one hour.



## Mater Dei Home Rosary

05-4-22 Josie and Denis Kocina  
45 Townson Street Blakehurst 11-00 AM  
12-4-22 Nives Care  
33 Church Street Blakehurst. 11-00 AM

## PARISH DIRECTORY

**PARISH PRIEST:** Fr Thomas Alukka  
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**Website:** <https://www.materdei-straphael.org.au/>

**Parish Secretary:** Juliana Widjaja  
Office hours: Tues & Wed 9:30am - 2:30pm  
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**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

## Gladly the Cross-eyed Bear

Maria came home from Sunday School on Palm Sunday and told her mother that she had learned a new song about a cross-eyed bear named Galdly.

It took her mother a while before she realised that the hymn Maria had been singing was really: "Gladly the Cross I'd Bear

