



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

Palm Sunday - Year C

Bulletin

10th April 2022

## **Entrance Antiphon :** Mt 21:9

Hosanna to the Son of David;  
blessed is he who comes in the name of  
the Lord, the King of Israel.  
Hosanna in the highest.

## **First Reading:** Is 50:4-7

I did not cover my face against insult and I  
know I will not be ashamed.

## **Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 21:8-9. 17-20. 23- 24. R. v.2

### **My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?**

1. All who see me deride me.  
They curl their lips, they toss their  
heads. 'He trusted in the Lord, let him  
save him; let him release him if this is his  
friend.' (R.)

2. Many dogs have surrounded me,  
a band of the wicked beset me. They  
tear holes in my hands and my feet.  
I can count every one of my bones (R)

3. They divide my clothing among  
them. They cast lots for my robe.  
O Lord, do not leave me alone, my  
strength, make haste to help me! (R)

4. I will tell of your name to my brethren  
and praise you where they are assembled.  
'You who fear the Lord give  
him praise; all sons of Jacob give him  
glory. Revere him, Israel's sons.' (R.)

## **Second Reading:** Phil 2:6-11

Jesus made himself lowly and was exalted.

## **Gospel Acclamation :** Phil 2:8-9

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of  
endless glory! Christ became obedient  
for us even to death dying on the cross.  
Therefore God raised him on high and  
gave him a name above all other  
names. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,  
king of endless glory!

## **Gospel :** Lk 22:14 – 23:56

The Passion.

## **Communion Antiphon:** Mt 26:42

Father, if this chalice cannot pass without  
my drinking it, your will be done.

## **REFLECTION** by Greg Sunter

### **Gospel Reflection**

Christianity is a faith of paradox: leadership through service; greatness through humility; and life through death. The greatest paradox of all is the paradox of the cross. The death of Jesus through the most humiliating form of capital punishment in history would appear to be exactly what the Jewish authorities hoped it would be: the end of the Jesus movement. The ignoble death of a group's leader through public execution is usually enough to bring about the end of any movement. However, Christians know that the death of Jesus is not the end of the story.

His resurrection, that we celebrate at Easter next weekend, is the twist in the tale that means the death of Jesus, rather than being a point of despair, in fact becomes a moment of hope. This difference of expectation is captured in the Lukan account of the crucifixion by the two criminals with whom Jesus is crucified. One joins in the mockery of Jesus, whilst the other recognises the innocence of Jesus and has faith that Jesus will enter into his kingdom. This second criminal acts as an example for all people of faith. He reminds us that those with faith still have to face death and still have to face up to the consequences of their actions, and yet the way we approach death should not be with despair, but rather with hope and confidence that we will share in Christ's resurrection.

The reading of the Passion narrative leaves us up in the air. It leaves us in a better position than the disciples at the time. They were downcast by what they felt was the defeat of Jesus, but we know the end of the story! We know that out of this darkness will come light and hope!

### **Historical Context – Crucifixion**

The Romans used crucifixion as a deterrent against insurrection and rebellion. Not only was it an agonising death it was usually a slow, drawn out death – taking days to die. Victims were always crucified in public settings; alongside main thoroughfares or on hilltops outside a city. The victims were left on the cross for weeks while birds and wild dogs ate their bodies. The idea of crucifixion was that nothing was left to bury as this was the ultimate domination and humiliation of the rebel. The account of Jesus dying within a few hours is very unusual.

### **Scriptural context – One with the lost**

Throughout the Gospel of Luke, Jesus is portrayed as not only the champion of the poor and outcast, but indeed being one with them. The witnesses to his birth in this gospel are lowly shepherds, not the wise men from the East. His parables and actions are addressed to the lost and the lowly. He eats with sinners and other outcasts – to the horror of Jewish leaders. Finally, at his death, Jesus is crucified as a criminal with other criminals. This gospel in particular addresses the message and ministry of Jesus to those on the margins of society.

### **Gospel Focus – Changing expectations**

The early audience of the gospel accounts would have known exactly what was meant by crucifixion. It was an all too familiar reality for them as the Romans sought to suppress any suggestion of opposition to their rule. The early audience would have recognised that the account of Jesus' death and burial was not in keeping with their knowledge of what normally happened. They would have known that something special was being conveyed through this story. They would have known that the story of his death was only a prelude to the real story of Jesus' passion – his resurrection.

**Holy Week** "Holy week is a privileged time when we are called to draw near to Jesus: friendship with Him is shown in times of difficulty."  
- Pope Francis

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



Over the last two years for many of us the Covid virus has disrupted our weekend mass routine. If you find your weekly mass habits fallen by the way, we would like to extend a warm invitation to you to be with us for the celebration of the Easter mysteries. In this way we are able to reconnect with our community and to celebrate Christ's Resurrection. Check out our Easter Mass times in this bulletin or on the Parish website.

### HOLY WEEK MINISTRIES ROSTER

Please refer to the Holy Week Roster in the Foyer. Please write your names if there is a vacancy.

### Holy Places Appeal – Good Friday April 15, 2022

The annual collection for the support of the church in the Holy Land will take place on Good Friday April 15. This collection promotes the missionary work of the Church in the Holy Land by providing welfare assistance to local Christians in areas such as Health, education, employment and housing.

Parishes, schools, orphanages and medical centres throughout the Holy Land also rely on assistance from this collection. It is also used to maintain over 70 churches and shrines associated with the life of Jesus. Last year, due to the ongoing global pandemic, it was again a difficult time for the Church and people of the Holy Land with much reduced income due to fewer pilgrims and lower Church attendance around the world.

In Australia, we were more fortunate and Australian Catholics donated \$1,126,098 (compared to \$406, 023 in 2020 and \$1.3 million in 2019). This year, the Holy Land will continue facing an income shortfall due to the ongoing effects of the pandemic and so we again ask Catholics around the world to be as generous as possible.

**Donation Envelopes will be placed on the pews on Good Friday**

**Chrism Mass** at Cathedral on Holy Thursday, 14 April, 2022 at 10:30am

### Confirmation 2022

**St Raphael's:** Sun 31 July 2022 @ 12:30PM  
**Mater Dei:** Sun 31 July 2022 @ 3:30PM  
**Venue:** St Mary's Cathedral

### Online Training Program for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Enrolments are being accepted for the next program which will start on: **27 April 2022**. The program will run at various times throughout the year. This engaging 5-week online program includes weekly Zoom classes and many enjoyable interactive elements.

Further details of this new program can be found online at: [www.acu.edu.au/centreforliturgy/pastoral-training](http://www.acu.edu.au/centreforliturgy/pastoral-training). Please contact Michael Fernandes 0437 517 758



Mater Dei—St Raphael  
**COMBINED PARISHES**  
**DINNER DANCE**  
 Fri 21/10/2022 at Doltone House, Sylvania

### NO MASS at Mater Dei

There will be no week day masses at Mater Dei church during the week after EASTER 19th April to 22nd April 2022. (including Thurs Mass at SR)

### Mater Dei Home Rosary

12-4-22 Nives Care  
 33 Church Street Blakehurst. 11-00 AM  
 19-4-22 Nives Care  
 33 Church Street Blakehurst. 11-00 AM

### COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	324.55	304.80
Second: loose	472.00	343.60
Envelopes	342.50	240.00

### PARISH DIRECTORY

**PARISH PRIEST:** Fr Thomas Alukka  
**M:** 0469 236 118 **E:** tomyalukka@gmail.com  
**MATER DEI CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
 1008 King Georges Road, Blakehurst 2221, NSW  
**ST. RAPHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
 84 George Street, South Hurstville  
**Website:** <https://www.materdei-straphael.org.au/>

**Parish Secretary:** Juliana Widjaja  
 Office hours: Tues & Wed 9:30am - 2:30pm  
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**Parish Ministry Coordinator & Safeguarding Officer**  
**Michael Fernandes**  
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**Pastoral Ministry Coordinator: Br. Ben Krupowicz**  
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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

Izzy was in a couple's home trying to fix their Internet connection. The husband called out to his wife in the other room for the computer password. "Start with a capital S, then 123," she shouted back. We tried S123 several times, but it didn't work. So we called the wife in. As she input the password, she muttered, "I really don't know what's so difficult about typing Start123."



**FUNNY**