



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

Fifth Sunday
of Easter - Year C

Bulletin

15th May 2022

Entrance Antiphon : Cf. Ps 97:1-2

O sing a new song to the Lord,
for he has worked wonders;
in the sight of the nations
he has shown his deliverance, alle-
luia.

First Reading: Acts 14:21-27

They assembled the church and
gave an account of all that God had
done with them.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 144:8-13. R. cf. v.1

I will praise your name for ever, my
king and my God.

1. The Lord is kind and full of com-
passion, slow to anger, bound-
ing in love. How good is the Lord
to all, compassionate to all his
creatures. (R.)
2. All your creatures shall thank
you, O Lord, and your friends
shall repeat their blessing. They
shall speak of the glory of your
reign and declare your might, O
God, to make known to men
your mighty deeds and the glori-
ous splendour of your reign. (R.)
3. Yours is an everlasting kingdom;
your rule lasts from age to age.
(R.)

Second Reading: Rv 21:1-5

He will wipe away all the tears from
their eyes.

Gospel Acclamation : Jn 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved
you.

Alleluia!

Gospel : Jn 13:31-35

I give you a new commandment:
love one another.

Communion Antiphon: Cf. Jn 15:1,5

I am the true vine and you are the
branches, says the Lord.

Whoever remains in me, and I in
him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

Gospel Reflection

The passage from the Gospel of John actually comes from the Last Sup-
per account, as is indicated by the opening line: 'When Judas had gone'.
However, the passage is being used during the post-resurrection Easter
season. The passage about being glorified can be read in this context as
referring to the crucifixion that was, rather than the crucifixion that is still to
come in the original setting. The reference that Jesus will not be with the
disciples much longer can also be read as an indicator towards the Ascen-
sion. It is a clever liturgical use of a gospel passage out of its intended con-
text.

The second half of the gospel passage is perhaps the more familiar sec-
tion. It is a common text for marriage ceremonies. However, sometimes its
selection is purely based on the use of the term 'love'. Earlier in his minist-
ry, Jesus was asked which commandment was the most important. He
replied that you must love the Lord your God with all your heart and that
you must love your neighbour as yourself. (Mt 22) The 'new' command-
ment that he issues at the Last Supper is not so much a new command-
ment as a variation on a theme. The newness highlights the changes that
are occurring in the small group of friends. His language conveys an im-
perative: you must love one another, 'just as I have loved you'. He tells the
disciples – and us – that the way they behave towards one another must
be with the same love that Jesus treated them. And the love that Jesus
gave was the love of God for all the world. So the love that Jesus com-
mands the disciples (us) to show one another is nothing less than the pow-
erful love of God.

Have you thought? Love

I love my dog! I love your hair! I love that new song! I absolutely love choc-
olate! We throw around the word 'love' so casually today that it has almost
lost its meaning. The decision whether or not to say 'I love you' in a rela-
tionship has become a major dilemma – or alternatively, just the formula
that has to be said to get what you want! Jesus did not use the word so
casually or so inappropriately. He spoke of love very deliberately and very
specifically. Jesus calls us to share in the selfless love that he modelled
and to follow his example.

Gospel Focus – God's Love

What does it mean to love as Jesus loved? The love Jesus poured out to
all was an expression of God's love that has been poured out to all crea-
tion since the very beginning and continues to be poured out today. God's
love doesn't keep score. When humankind turned its back on God, God's
love continued to call them back to faithful relationship. God's love is not
conditional – whatever we do, God continues to love us. There is no barrier
that we can construct that God's love cannot get around. It is this sort of
love that the new commandment demands of us.

Living the Gospel – Love is all around

Love surrounds us all the time. It is impossible to turn on a radio without
hearing 'love' used in one way or another. Love is the most common
theme of songs, poetry, literature and art. Although we might bemoan the
casual use of 'love', the fact remains that we fill our lives with the sounds
and images of love. It's easier to imagine the all-pervasive nature of God's
love when we recognise just how pervasive the commercial and artistic
expressions of love have become. As Christian people, the challenge that
faces us is to imbue these expressions with a richer, deeper notion of love.

MASS TIMES		
	St Raphael Church	Mater Dei Church
Tuesday		9:15am Mass
Wednesday		8:45am Rosary, Novena 9:15am Mass
Thursday	9:15am	
Friday	7:30pm Adoration	8:45am Adoration 9:15am Mass
Saturday	4:30pm Reconciliation 5:00pm Vigil Mass	6:15pm Vigil Mass
Sunday	8:30am Mass 6:00pm Croatian Mass	10:00am Mass

Recently Deceased: Stephen O'Brien

Death Anniversary: Lee Pangan Espejo, Jose Luis Ynfante, Stan O'Brien

Pray for good health of : Analiza Torres Zapata, Yin Kwan Tsang.

14th/15th May (3rd Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.30am	6.15pm V	10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Earl /Carl	Ray Low	Volunteer
Readers	Fernandes Family	Maria C JP	Br Michael Nina M	Jolly Jose Wendy E
21st/22nd May (4th Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.30am	6.15pm V	10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Norman / Michael F	Br Michael	Volunteer
Readers	Pavia Family	Rose / Monica	Volunteer	P Monaghan Lucy Mitry

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

SACRAMENTAL COORDINATORS

Mid-Year Retreat

Date: Saturday, 28th May 2022
Time: 8:45am to 2 pm (incl Mass)
At Mount Schoenstatt Shrine, Mulgoa



Wed 18th May 2022 at 7:30PM
in St Raphael's Harmony Hall. **RCIA**
Any queries please contact Graeme Dorahy
on 0421 420 497

ROSARY

St Raphael's Church	Mater Dei Church
Every Monday at 7:30pm with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Every Sunday 9:30am before the 10am mass

Mater Dei Home Rosary

17-05-22 Josie and Denis Kocina
45 Townson Street Blakehurst 11-00 AM

PARISHIONERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND A WOMEN'S RETREAT

DATE: Wed 8th June 2022

VENUE: Elouera Club, 80 Mitchel Rd Cronulla.

It is a beautiful venue overlooking the ocean. There is plenty of parking available. The Day starts at 9:30 check in with coffee/tea and biscuits. The session begins at 10:00am. The day is fully catered for so you just need to bring yourselves and an open mind. One of the topics will focus on 'Sustaining Your Life Rhythm', linking with wellbeing and our faith journey. Next term I hope to have one at night for those who work during the week. Please register here [survey](#) if you would like to attend. Sonia Reilly FE Mater Dei School P (02) 95467298 Sonia.reilly@syd.catholic.edu.au

Illumination of stained glass

A number of parishioners have expressed their desire to see the two stained glass windows on the sanctuary at St Raphael's Church suitably illuminated and have come forward with donations towards it. We would welcome any further donations from interested parishioners so that we can take on this project.



SVDP Winter Appeal will be on 29th May 2022

Didaskó – Online Catholic Adult Faith Formation

The Parish Renewal Team is offering Sydney Catholics an opportunity to grow in their faith with spiritual, intellectual, human and practical formation. With a new short course on offer each month, **Didasko** seeks to respond to Christ's Great Commission to "teach them the commands I have given you" (Mt 28:20), by building a culture of formation in our parishes. Courses are delivered online over three evenings by some of Sydney's best Catholic formators including Rev. Dr Gregory Morgan and Prof. Tracey Rowland. Cost: \$25 per course. **Bishop Umbers** will present the first **Didaskó** course on **Wednesdays 1 and 8 June, and Tuesday 14 June** from 7:30pm – 8:45pm, with the topic "What Catholic Christians Believe: An Introduction to the Catechism." Register at www.gomakedisciples.org.au/cas-events/. For more information, contact Helen Wagner at parishrenewal@sydneycatholic.org.

Mass for Public School Scripture children

will be held on Sat 21st May at 6:15 pm at Mater Dei Church. This will be combined with the vigil mass.

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	359.95	228.65
Second: loose	454.05	136.95
Envelopes	512.50	505.00

CONFIRMATION 2022

St Raphael 31st July 12:30pm
Mater Dei 31st July 3:30pm
At St Mary's Cathedral

PARISH DIRECTORY

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Thomas Alukka
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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
Phone: 9546 2605

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: trsh@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

A taxi passenger tapped the driver on the shoulder to ask him a question. The driver screamed, lost control of the car, nearly hit a bus, went up on the footpath, and stopped centimetres from a shop window. For a second everything went quiet in the cab, then the driver said, "Look mate, don't ever do that again. You scared the daylight out of me!"

The passenger apologised and said, "I didn't realise that a little tap would scare you so much." The driver replied, "Sorry, it's not really your fault. Today is my first day as a cab driver—I've been driving a funeral van for the last 25 years."

