



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

Fourth Sunday
of Easter - Year C

Bulletin

8th May 2022

Entrance Antiphon : Cf. Ps 32:5-6

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

First Reading: Acts 13:14, 43-52

We are now turning to the gentiles.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 99:1-3. 5. R. v.3

(R.) We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

1. Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.
Serve the Lord with gladness.
Come before him, singing for joy. (R.)
2. Know that he, the Lord, is God.
He made us, we belong to him,
we are his people, the sheep of his flock. (R.)
3. Indeed, how good is the Lord,
eternal his merciful love.
He is faithful from age to age.
(R.)

Second Reading: Rv 7:9, 14-17

The Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water.

Gospel Acclamation : Jn 10:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me. Alleluia!

Gospel : Jn 10:27-30

I give my sheep eternal life.

Communion Antiphon: Lk 24:35

The Good Shepherd has risen,
who laid down his life for his sheep
and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

Gospel Reflection

Shepherds in the first century did not have a particularly good reputation. Whilst the task itself was a responsible one, it was usually undertaken by hired help – usually young men or even boys. Being hired help, they had little allegiance to the flock and were generally regarded as basically untrustworthy and often accused of illicitly selling off the sheep's milk and even the occasional lamb. They lived for months at a time out in the hills with the sheep; often risking their lives in defence of their flock, yet still regarded with suspicion. Shepherds were held in such low regard that they could not appear in court as a witness. Yet, despite this grim picture of shepherds, Jesus described himself as the *Good Shepherd*. With that one word, he acknowledged the reputation of shepherds but utterly dismissed it by describing himself as a shepherd – but a good shepherd. He chose to describe himself as the worst of all occupations but raised the status to unimpeachable heights.

In describing himself as the good shepherd, Jesus joined a distinguished list of biblical shepherds: Abraham, his son Isaac, and grandson Jacob were all shepherds; Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, when God appeared to him in the burning bush and revealed God's name; and the great King, David, began life as a humble shepherd-boy. So, despite the poor reputation of shepherds in Jewish society, some of the greatest leaders of the Jews began life as shepherds.

Today's gospel passage follows the famous 'good shepherd' passage in the gospel of John and continues on the image. The passage portrays Jesus as 'claiming' his flock; guaranteeing them not only safety but also eternal life. This oath of loyalty and commitment is all the stronger and more remarkable in light of Jesus' rehabilitation of the status of shepherds.

Scriptural context – The Father and I are one

The final sentence of today's passage has Jesus declaring, 'The Father and I are one.' It seems a fitting way to finish the gospel reading for liturgical use in the Easter season. However, the passage in John's gospel continues on. Immediately upon hearing these words, the listening crowd grab rocks and are about to stone Jesus to death! They were horrified by his apparent blasphemy – claiming to be one with God. Such a bold declaration of oneness with the Father was no doubt used by the gospel writer to try to eradicate emerging questions about the divinity of Jesus.

Gospel Focus – Eternal life

In the gospel passage, Jesus says of the sheep that belong to him, 'I give them eternal life.' He does not say, I give them the promise of eternal life. The message that comes through the gospel of John is clear that eternal life is not some future existence, but rather a new way of being in the here and now. But that is not to suggest that there is not an 'eternal' quality to eternal life. The gospel of John makes clear that eternal life begins in the here and now but has no end.

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)

A good Catholic meddles in politics, offering the best of himself, so that those who govern can govern. But what is the best that we can offer to those who govern? Prayer! - 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	
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.

7th/8th May (2nd Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.30am	6.15pm V	10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Minh	Michael B	Volunteer
Readers	Barry L Volunteer	Yenson Family	Louise Tapp	Joan Hanson Jean Dorahy
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

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

Rosary

St Raphael's Church

Every Monday at 7:30pm with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Mater Dei church

Every Sunday 9:30am before the 10am mass

All are welcome

Mater Dei Home Rosary

10-5-22 Nives Care
33 Church Street Blakehurst. 11-00 AM
17-05-22 Josie and Denis Kocina
45 Townson Street Blakehurst 11-00 AM



CWF May Parish Appeal

The next Charitable Works Fund (CWF) Parish Appeal will be held on Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th of May.

Your generosity will benefit the good works of the Good Shepherd Seminary, our chaplaincies, the

Ephpheta Centre for the deaf and hearing impaired, CatholicCare, the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith, and so much more. Appeal envelopes will be provided for your use, so please keep an eye out for them! You can also make a donation and find out more at www.ourfaithhourworks.org/cwf



(d/o Silvana and Robert)

Congratulations to the family!

SACRAMENTAL COORDINATORS

Mid-Year Retreat



Date: Saturday, 28th May 2022
Time: 8:45am to 2 pm (incl Mass)
At Mount Schoenstatt Shrine, Mulgoa
This is part of Go Make Disciples

The **Sydney Archdiocese Committee**, of the World Apostolate of Fatima invite you to our May Celebration in St. Mary's Cathedral on Saturday May, 14th Honouring our Lady and intercede for peace in the World and the welfare of Australia. To commence at 11.30am with entrance procession (inside the Cathedral) with the Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima (with the Immaculate Heart) Rosary, Litany of Loreto & Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary followed by Holy Mass at Noon. We look forward to you joining us in Prayer, especially for this recent outbreak in Ukraine.
Further enquiries please contact us on - 0403578994.



Wed 11th May 2022 at 7:30PM

in St Raphael's Harmony Hall.
Any queries please contact
Graeme Dorahy
on 0421 420 497

The Catholic Weekly

8 May 2022 PULPIT POINTS

- Families reveal real issues of the election
- Life Law: Is the US Supreme Court about to set the record straight?
- Men on the march
- New science backs Shroud
- Movie review: Sonic the Hedgehog 2
- Pacific Islanders celebrate

Mt Schoenstatt, Mulgoa - May Pilgrimage Sun 15th May 2022

We are excited to announce the Annual Schoenstatt May Pilgrimage will be held for the first time since 2019. The program begins at 9.30 am to approx. 3.30 pm. Bishop Vincent will celebrate Holy Mass at 10.30 am outside, please bring your own chairs. Come for an hour or come for the day, everyone is welcome. Food is available to purchase or bring a picnic lunch. Details available at www.schoenstatt.org.au

PARISH DIRECTORY

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MATER DEI CATHOLIC CHURCH

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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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Parish Ministry Coordinator & Safeguarding Officer Michael Fernandes

Office hours: Tues, Wed & Fri 10am - 2pm
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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



Hospital regulations require a wheel chair for patients being discharged. However, while working as a student nurse, I found one elderly gentleman already dressed and sitting on the bed with a suitcase at his feet, who insisted he didn't need my help to leave the hospital. After a chat about rules being rules, he reluctantly let me wheel him to the elevator.

On the way down I asked him if his wife was meeting him. "I don't know," he sad. "She's still upstairs in the bathroom changing out of her hospital gown."

HUNNY