



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

Second Sunday
of Easter - Year C

Bulletin

24th April 2022

Entrance Antiphon : Acts 5:12-16

The numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily.

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 117:2-4, 22-27. R. v.1

(R.) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

1. Let the sons of Israel say:
'His love has no end.'
Let the sons of Aaron say:
'His love has no end.'
Let those who fear the Lord say:
'His love has no end.' (R.)
2. The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad. (R.)
3. O Lord, grant us salvation;
O Lord grant success.
Blessed in the name of the Lord is he who comes.
We bless you from the house of the Lord; the true God is our light. (R.)

Second Reading: Rv 1:9-13, 17-19

I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever.

Gospel Acclamation : Jn 20:29

Alleluia, alleluia!
You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!
Alleluia!

Gospel : Jn 20:19-31

After eight days Jesus came in and stood among them.

Communion Antiphon: Cf. Jn 20:27

Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

This passage can be seen as the gospel writer's version of the Pentecost that was previously recorded by the writer of Luke-Acts. As the account of Pentecost in the book of Acts was already in existence, the gospel writer felt no concern about alluding to it in his version of the gospel story. The inclusion of this event in the gospel of John adds a 'completeness' to the gospel text – from the Word with God in chapter 1 through the ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus to this moment of charging his disciples with the task of carrying on his work and breathing on them the Holy Spirit. It seems that the gospel writer wanted to bring the story to its conclusion. The idea of Jesus 'breathing' the Holy Spirit onto the disciples is an interesting one. The Greek word *pneuma* carried two meanings: breath and spirit. So to deliberately breathe on someone was to share one's spirit with them. Jesus gives this act a greater meaning by declaring the spirit to be the Holy Spirit that will empower the disciples for the mission he is entrusting to them.

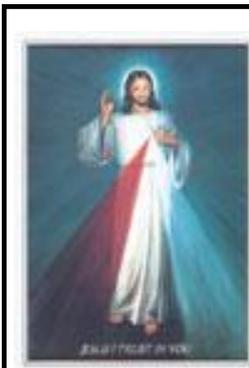
The disciple Thomas has received a pretty raw deal from history. The phrase, *doubting Thomas*, has found its way into our everyday language and condemns Thomas as the one who wouldn't take the word of his fellow disciples but wanted to see the Risen Lord himself. However, rather than remembering Thomas for his doubt, we should remember Thomas as the one who makes the extraordinary declaration of faith, 'My Lord and my God!' It is Thomas, alone amongst all those who recognise the greatness of Jesus across the four gospels, who acknowledges Jesus as not just the Messiah, but God.

Scriptural context – Holy Spirit

In the Gospel of John, during the Last Supper discourse, Jesus repeatedly assures his disciples that the Father will provide them with another Advocate to guide them. This advocate (or paraclete) is to be the Holy Spirit. Although 'advocate' carries a certain legal meaning, the gospel writer uses it to mean one who represents the continued presence of Jesus, just as Jesus was the advocate or paraclete of God. In the Holy Spirit that Jesus breathes on the disciples we see the final element of the Trinitarian experience of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Have you thought? – Does he mean us?

When Thomas made his declaration of faith, Jesus said, 'You believe because you can see me. Happy (or Blessed) are those who have not seen and yet believe.' (v29) Because this gospel was written 60 years or so after the time of Jesus, there were indeed many who believed but had not ever seen him. The blessing is on all those who believe without the benefit of a physical encounter of Jesus. Whilst the gospel was written as an acknowledgement of those at the end of the 1st Century, it is also a blessing and encouragement for believers of today!



Today, we celebrate **Divine Mercy Sunday**. Its origin stems from St. Faustina who had private revelations concerning Divine Mercy. Her Diary records 14 occasions when Jesus requested that a Feast of Mercy {Divine Mercy Sunday} be observed.

"Be merciful to others –

The Merciful shall be shown Mercy ... "three ways of exercising mercy – by deed, by word, by prayer. In these three degrees is contained the fullness of mercy..." Diary # 742

"Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song." - Pope John Paul II

MASS TIMES

	St Raphael Church	Mater Dei Church
Tuesday		9:15am Mass
Wednesday		8:45am Rosary, Novena 9:15am Mass
Thursday	9:15am Mass	
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

Death Anniversary: Rudolf Sossinka

Pray for good health of : Analiza Torres Zapata, John and Shirley Wakefield, Yin Kwan Tsang.



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.

Annual Ecumenical ANZAC Commemoration

All are invited to join others in the community to commemorate those lost in World War I and other conflicts, on Sunday 24 April at 2pm at St Mark's Anglican Church, The Mall, South Hurstville. The service includes participation from local clergy, South Hurstville RSL, the Turkish and NZ communities and Georges River Councillors. Enquiries Bruce Cooke 0412 680 430.

This week we warmly welcome at Mater Dei church



Lucas Kansara

(Son of Lisa and Rajesh)

Congratulations to the families.

23rd/ 24th Apr (4th Sun)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.30am	6.15pm V	10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Norman / Michael F	Br Michael	Volunteer
Readers	Rosie Gould Volunteer	Annie / JP	Volunteer	Lucy Mitry Phil M

30th/1st May (1st Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.30am	6.15pm V	10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Max / Gary	Tony Oscuro	Paul Watson
Readers	Pavia Family	Lappen Family	Fran Oscuro	Gail Abbott Luisa Galea

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

Confirmation 2022

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



ANZAC DAY Mass

Monday 25th April 2022

St Raphael's Church 6:30am

Mater Dei Church 9:15am

ROSARY at Mater Dei

There will be rosary at 9:30am before the Sunday 10:00am Mass at Mater Dei Church.

PARISH DIRECTORY

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Thomas Alukka
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MATER DEI CATHOLIC CHURCH
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Parish Secretary: Juliana Widjaja

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Michael Fernandes

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Mater Dei Primary School: (02) 9546 7298
 Principal: Mrs Melanie Headley
St. Raphael Primary School: (02) 9546 4898
 Principal: Mrs Annette McKenzie

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	666.30	1013.05
Second: loose	1335.70	1061.65
Envelopes	450.00	450.00

Mater Dei Home Rosary

26-4-22 Nives Care
 33 Church Street Blakehurst. 11-00 AM
 03-5-22 Nives Care
 33 Church Street Blakehurst. 11-00 AM

The Bottom Line - On a wintry day, Myra's 90-year-old father was in the supermarket trying to pay for his groceries. Bundled up against the cold, his gloved hand were having trouble retrieving and counting the exact change. The transaction evidently took too long for the man standing behind him in the line, who muttered a curse. Dad stopped counting, turned around, and warned him, "Be quiet or I'll write a cheque."



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