



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

Sixth Sunday
of Easter - Year C

Bulletin

22th May 2022

Entrance Antiphon : Cf. Is 48:20

Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

First Reading: Acts 15:1-2. 22-29

It has been decided by the Holy Spirit and ourselves not to burden you beyond what is essential.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 66:2-3. 5-6. 8. R. v.4

O God, let all the nations praise you!

1. O God, be gracious and bless us and let your face shed its light upon us. So will your ways be known upon earth and all nations learn your saving help. (R.)
2. Let the nations be glad and exult for you rule the world with justice. With fairness you rule the peoples, you guide the nations on earth. (R.)
3. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. May God still give us his blessing till the ends of the earth revere him. (R.)

Second Reading: Rv 21:10-14, 22-23

He showed me the holy city coming down out of heaven.

Gospel Acclamation : Jn 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!
All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them.
Alleluia!

Gospel : Jn 14:23-29

The Holy Spirit will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you.

Communion Antiphon: Jn 14:15-16

If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, alleluia.

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

Gospel Reflection

Just like last week's gospel, this passage also comes from the Last Supper discourse in the Gospel of John. Again, although its original context was pre-crucifixion, the language works in the post-resurrection Easter season as we anticipate the celebration of the Ascension next week. This double purpose language is, of course, no accident. The gospel was written 60 or more years after the death and resurrection of Jesus and so the writer was consciously conveying the double meaning of 'going away': Jesus going to his death; and Jesus going back to the Father. But Jesus also promises his return in this speech. Continuing the double meaning, the gospel writer knew that Jesus had come good on his promise to return after his death and so conveys to the gospel audience, and to us, a sense of confidence and hope that the second promised return will also be fulfilled at the right time.

In the meantime, Jesus promises to send the Holy Spirit to the disciples and to the world. The Holy Spirit is to be the Advocate (the Paraclete) of the Father and the Son. The Holy Spirit performs a dual purpose: firstly, to carry on the teaching; and secondly, to continue to remind the believers of all that Jesus said and did. The action of the Holy Spirit continues in the world today – inspiring and teaching those who are open to hearing and keeping alive the memory of Jesus, his teaching and his compassion. We talk about being full of school spirit and team spirit but these feelings of loyalty and commitment are only a distant echo of what it is to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Historical Context – The time of absence

At the time of writing of the Gospel of John (during the last decade of the 1st Century), the community of believers were beginning to come to terms with the continued absence of Jesus. In the earlier gospels, particularly Mark, there is a feeling of expectation evident in the writing – an expectation that Jesus' promised return was imminent. By the time of John's community, there was an acceptance that the glorious return of Jesus still lay some time in the future. They wrestled with keeping alive the memory and message of Jesus when there was no end in sight.

Gospel Focus – Advocate

In the text, Jesus describes the Holy Spirit as the Advocate, sometimes translated as Paraclete. Both words have very similar meanings. Today when we describe someone as an advocate we usually mean that they stand up for and speak out for someone else or a particular cause. Advocate also has a legal meaning where the advocate bears witness and attests to the validity of another. The Holy Spirit is the Advocate of Jesus in that the action of the Holy Spirit continues to bear witness to the message of Jesus.

Different View – Peace

Jesus promises his peace to the disciples in today's gospel passage. However, some people argue that the world has not known that peace in the time since then. Some Jewish people cite this as one of their arguments against Jesus being regarded as the promised Messiah. One of the prophecies about the Messiah was that there would be universal peace once the Messiah arrived. Those who argue against Jesus as the Messiah point to the fact that since the time of Jesus, not a single day has gone by in our history in which there has not been some war or conflict occurring somewhere on earth.

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.

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
28th/29th May (5th Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.30am	6.15pm V	10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer
Readers	Volunteer	Rounds Family	Bessy C Deborah A	Nina Milazzo Lorraine B

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

Baptisms this weekend

St Raphael's: Boaz Radocaj and Parker Bobby Sabljak-Dexter

Mater Dei: Isabella Castro

Congratulations to the families.



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.



Vinnies Winter Appeal



Vinnies are holding their Winter Appeal on Sat 28th and Sun 29th May. All proceeds will go towards providing warm blankets, clothing and food for those in need in our local community as well as regional areas affected by recent floods. The need is great so please give what you can. Your generosity is most appreciated.

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.

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

Wed 25th May 2022 at 7:30PM

in St Raphael's Harmony Hall.

Any queries please contact Graeme Dorahy on 0421 420 497



Mater Dei Home Rosary

24-5-22 Nives Care 33 Church St
Blakehurst. 11-00 AM

31-5-22 Nives Care 33 Church St
Blakehurst. 11-00 AM

MD Council Meeting

Mater Dei Council meeting is on Monday 23rd May 2022 at 7pm Michael Kennedy Centre

Thanksgiving mass for Public School children will be held on Sat 21st May at 6:15 pm at Mater Dei Church.

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	317.65	369.30
Second: loose	368.05	412.05
Envelopes	522.50	565.00

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
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Website: <https://www.materdei-straphael.org.au/>

Parish Secretary: Juliana Widjaja

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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



One night a lady came home from her weekly prayer meeting, found she was being robbed, and she shouted out, "Acts 2:38: 'Repent & be baptized & your sins will be forgiven.'" The robber quickly gave up & the lady rang the police. While handcuffing the criminal, a policeman said, "Gee

mate, you gave up pretty easily. How come you gave up so quickly?"

The robber said, "She said she had an axe and two 38's!"

