



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

*The Ascension  
of the Lord - Year C*

*Bulletin*

*29th May 2022*

## **Entrance Antiphon :** Acts 1:11

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens? This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

## **First Reading:** Acts 1:1-11

Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven

## **Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 46:2-3. 6-7. 8-9. R. v.6

(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

1. All peoples, clap your hands, cry to God with shouts of joy! For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear, great king over all the earth.
2. God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast. Sing praise for God, sing praise, sing praise to our king, sing praise.
3. God is king of all the earth. Sing praise with all your skill. God is king over the nations; God reigns on his holy throne

## **Second Reading:** Eph 1:17-23

He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.

## **Gospel Acclamation :** Mt 28:19-20

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Alleluia!

## **Gospel :** Lk 24:46-53

While blessing them, he was taken to Heaven.

## **Communion Antiphon:** Mt 28:20

Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia.

## **REFLECTION by Greg Sunter**

### **Gospel Reflection**

The author of the gospel of Luke is also recognised as the author of the Acts of the Apostles. The works are regarded as originally being intended as a two volume single work sometimes referred to as Luke-Acts. Their separation occurred in the development of the canon of the Bible. In today's gospel and first reading we get the very end of the first volume and the very beginning of the second volume of the Luke-Acts work – the very point of intersection between the two books. The gospel of Luke is the only one of the four canonical gospels that describes the Ascension of Jesus and, to reiterate it, the writer begins with the same event at the beginning of Acts.

If we regard the two volumes of Luke-Acts as a single work, we see the events as all part of the one story. The life and ministry of Jesus is only the first half of the story. The story continues through the Book of Acts as the disciples and believers enter into a new way of witnessing to the ministry of Jesus – attempting to take on that ministry themselves and spread the message even further than Jesus was able to do in his life. Seen in this light, the gospel account of Jesus' ministry establishes a model and a pattern for the ministry that the followers of Jesus seek to emulate in their own lives after his Ascension. The Ascension is the pivotal event between the two volumes but it was also the pivotal event in the ministry of Jesus. The Ascension, and the subsequent events of Pentecost, was essential for the shift in emphasis from the ministry being carried on by Jesus to the same ministry carried on by millions of people throughout time.

### **Scriptural context – Luke-Acts**

The two works of Luke and Acts, ascribed to the same writer, are both addressed to the same person, Theophilus. However, the Greek name, Theophilus, means 'Friend of God' or 'Beloved of God'. Theophilus may have been a particular person or may have been a literary device by the author – using the name to imply that the books were written to any 'Friend of God'. There is a common style employed in the writing of the two works and a common theology runs through both works and it is these commonalities that lead scholars to conclude that the two works share the same author.

### **Gospel Focus – A message for all people**

One of the defining features of the Gospel of Luke is the fact that the message preached and practised by Jesus made salvation available to all people. At times in the gospel some of the Jewish audience became quite angry at Jesus because he said that pagans and gentiles were also included in the salvation he promised – something they regarded as exclusive to the 'chosen' people. The two accounts of the Ascension make very clear that the message and ministry of Jesus are to be carried to *all* nations – even to the ends of the earth!

### **Living the Gospel – You will be my witnesses**

Organisers of the twenty-third World Youth Day hosted by Sydney in 2008 took as its theme verse 8 of the passage from Acts 1 that is today's first reading: 'You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be my witnesses.' The choice of this theme for a worldwide gathering of young people of faith is a significant reminder of the call of Jesus to go out to the ends of the earth and to bear witness to his message. These are the final words on earth attributed to Jesus and they echo to us through time.

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

**Death Anniversary:** Frank & Maria Turiano, Anna Maria Turiano, Johnny Luigi Santelli

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

28th/29th May (5th Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.30am	6.15pm V	10.00am
<b>Acolytes</b>	Greg Driver	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer
<b>Readers</b>	Volunteer	Rounds Family	Bessy C Deborah A	Nina Milazzo Lorraine B
4th/5th June (1st Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.30am	6.15pm V	10.00am
<b>Acolytes</b>	Greg Driver	Max M Gary C	Tony Oscuro	Paul Watson
<b>Readers</b>	Barry Lovat Volunteer	Maria C Ronny C	Fran Oscuro	Gail Abbott Luisa Galea

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

### Baptisms this weekend

**Raphael's:** William & Lucas Ongqiu

**Mater Dei:** Emery Walsh

Congratulations to the families.



### 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 1st June 2022 at 7:30PM**

in St Raphael's Harmony Hall.

Any queries please contact Graeme Dorahy on 0421 420 497



### The Catholic Weekly PULPIT POINTS 29 May 2022

- Euthanasia: Leaders' failure a drop dead disgrace
- How euthanasia will affect Palliative Care
- Election 2022: Times toughen for Christians
- North Korea: A church of silence
- Book reviews
- Heavenly hymns - Richard Connolly



### Vinnies Winter Appeal (Mater Dei & St Raphael)

Vinnies Winter Appeal is this weekend. 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. Donation envelopes are on the pews.

### Go Make Disciples: Fr Mike Schmitz this weekend!

This Saturday we will welcome yet another stellar speaker to our *Reclaiming Evangelisation* series. Join us on Saturday 28 May at 10:00am as **Fr Mike Schmitz** considers 'Why Make Disciples? What our Tradition Tells us About Calling and Forming Disciples.' Places are limited. **Register here.**



## WALK with CHRIST

Sunday 19th June 2022

Entertainment in Martin Place from 1.30pm  
Procession begins at 2.30pm sharp  
Corner of Martin Place and Pitt St.

[www.sydneycatholic.org/walkwithchrist](http://www.sydneycatholic.org/walkwithchrist)



### Didaskō – Online Catholic Adult Faith Formation

**Bishop Umbers** will present the first *Didaskō - Online Catholic Adult Faith Formation* course on Wednesdays 1 and 8 June, and Tuesday 14 June from 7:30pm – 8:45pm, on the topic "What Catholic Christians Believe: An Introduction to the Catechism."

With a new short course on offer each month, *Didaskō* provides an opportunity for Sydney Catholics to receive **ongoing Catholic faith formation**. All courses will be delivered online via Zoom. Read more about *Didaskō* [here](#). Register [here](#). Cost: \$25 per course (includes three sessions). Please share this **Didaskō flyer** with your family and friends.

### Mater Dei Home Rosary

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

### 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

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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



A couple had just gone to bed when they hear a strange noise coming from downstairs. When they got up to investigate they discovered a burglar. Caught red-handed, he pulls out a gun and says, "This means I have to kill you." Before pulling the trigger, he pauses and asks the wife, "What's your name?" Trembling, she says, "Elizabeth."

"Oh no." he says, "that was my mother's name. I can't kill you." Pointing his gun at the husband he asks, "And what's your name?"

The man answers,

"My name is Jack....but everyone calls me Elizabeth."

**FUNNY**