



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

The Epiphany of the Lord

Bulletin

8th Jan 2023

**Entrance Antiphon:** Cf. Mal 3:1; 1 Chr 29:12

Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

**First Reading:** Is 60:1-6

The glory of the Lord shines upon you.

**Responsorial Psalm :** Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 10-13, R. see v.11

(R.) Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

1. O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. (R.)
2. In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds. (R.)
3. The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts shall pay him tribute. The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts. Before him all kings shall fall prostrate, all nations shall serve him. (R.)
4. For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. (R.)

**Second Reading:** Eph 3:2-3. 5-6

The revelation means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Mt 2:2

Alleluia, alleluia!  
We have seen his star in the East;  
and have come to adore the Lord.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel :** Mt 12:1-12

We have come from the East to worship the king.

**Communion Antiphon:** Cf. Mt 2:2

We have seen his star in the East,  
and have come with gifts to adore  
the Lord.

## REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

The gospel of Mark, the first of the four canonical gospels to be written, does not bother at all with the question of the birth of Jesus. Written some ten or more years later, the gospels of Luke and Matthew both present a version of the circumstances surrounding the birth of Jesus. The gospel of John, written later still, also avoids details of Jesus' birth. The two accounts of the infancy that we do have from the gospels tell very different stories because they have each been used to place the rest of the gospel in a particular context. Unfortunately, the two stories have been mashed together so much that we now have one notion of the Christmas story that is a poor amalgam of the two unique narratives.

In the gospel of Luke, Joseph and Mary are living in Nazareth and travel to Bethlehem and are forced to give birth out in a field because there is no room at the only inn in Bethlehem. The ones who bear witness to the birth in this account are shepherds – some of the lowest of the low – as the gospel of Luke identifies Jesus as having a preferential option for the lowly ones. In the gospel of Matthew, Joseph and Mary are living in Bethlehem and give birth in their own house. They later flee to Egypt and then settle in Nazareth. The two towns need to be included in both accounts because they are named in some of the ancient prophecies about the Messiah. In the gospel of Matthew, the witnesses to the birth are wise men, dignitaries from another land. The Matthew writer wants to emphasise the 'kingship' of Jesus and it is fitting that foreign dignitaries present gifts on the birth of a king. The two stories deserve to be dealt with uniquely and should be unravelled from the muddled, entwined version that dominates our Christmas imagery.

### Historical Context – The Magi

In some translations, the 'wise men' of this passage are referred to as 'Magi'. Magi was the name given to the Persian priestly caste. Persia (now, Iran) lies to the east of Israel. These wise men are also sometimes portrayed as astrologers, but that is largely because of the reference 'We saw his star as it rose'. It is interesting that the passage describes 'some' wise men; tradition has developed a specific number of three – based on the three gifts presented. These anonymous (and purely literary) figures have been given names and their 'relics' lie in honour beneath the Cathedral of Cologne.

### Have you thought? – Epiphany

The feast of the Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus to humankind. The wise men are the representatives of humanity bearing witness to this revelation. However, the Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus as not only the Messiah of Israel but the Saviour of the whole world. Interestingly, in this gospel that emphasises the 'Jewish-ness' of Jesus, the witnesses to the birth are gentiles from a foreign land. Their inclusion is a powerful declaration that the revelation of Jesus is for all people. Regardless of the liturgical year, this reading is always used on the feast of the Epiphany to celebrate this pivotal moment.

### Gospel Focus – Going home

The wise men, or Magi, are warned in a dream not to go back to Herod and they go home by a different way. How could they do anything but go home another way – indeed, go home as different people? They are changed by their encounter with the child Jesus and they go home a different way; in a different state; in a whole different frame of mind. When we genuinely encounter Jesus – in scripture, in life, in prayer, in ourselves – then we cannot go home the same way; we must go home by a different way as the Magi did.

*"If you follow the will of God, you know that in spite of all the terrible things that happen to you, you will never lose a final refuge. You know that the foundation of the world is love, so that even when no human being can or will help you, you may go on, trusting in the One that loves you." Pope Benedict XVI*

MASS TIMES		
	St Raphael Church	Mater Dei Church
Tuesday		9:15am Mass
Wednesday		8:45am Rosary, Novena 9:15am Mass
Thursday	Mass will be at Mater Dei instead of St Raphael in January 2023	9:15am Mass
Friday	Adoration will recommence on 27th January	8:45am Adoration 9:15am Mass
Saturday	4:30pm Reconciliation 5:00pm Vigil Mass	<b>No Vigil Mass in January 2023.</b>
Sunday	8:00am Mass 6:00pm Croatian Mass	10:00am Mass

**Recently Deceased:** John Campbell & Iolanda Micallef (Both from Aged Care Cheddar St)

**Death Anniversary:** Sr Benedicta Deraup Masf, P Teddy Aer MSF

**Pray for good health of :** Sunga Family, Adele Shehata, Anna Liza Torres Zapata, Yin Kwan Tsang.

**Pray for the deceased:** Joseph Flores Manlucu, Jeffrey Bishop, Jeanette McGloin, Shirley McGrath, Antonius Widjaja, Souls in purgatory.

7th /8th Jan (2nd Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	4.30pm	8.00am		10.00am
<b>Acolytes</b>	Greg Driver	Michael B Minh	No Vigil mass until 4th Feb 23	Volunteer
<b>Readers</b>	Volunteers	Volunteers		Joan, Jean
14th/15th Jan (3rd Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.00am		10.00am
<b>Acolytes</b>	Greg Driver	Earl, Carl	No Vigil Mass until 4th Feb 23	Volunteer
<b>Readers</b>	Volunteers	Volunteers		Jolly Jose Wendy

### Divine Renovations Conference

The conference will feature talks and workshops from speakers including Fr. James Mallon, Fr. Chris Ryan MGL and Daniel Ang among many others, on the topics of evangelisation and creating an invitational and missionary church. This is also an opportunity to connect with other parish leaders and hear inspiring stories of parishes that have seen transformation by prioritising mission.

**Date:** 10-12 February 2023

**Location:** St Declan's Parish Penshurst and Marist Catholic College Penshurst

**Register:** online via [this link](#)

### Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

*'Humble worker in the vineyard of the Lord'*

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI passed away on 31 December 2022 in his residence at the Vatican's Mater Ecclesiae Monastery at the age of 95.

This weekend's Catholic Weekly will contain a special 4-page article devoted to Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI which can be purchased at the back of the church for \$2. The following weekend's Catholic Weekly (15 January) will come with a special commemorative magazine featuring articles by Archbishop Fisher and Catholic Weekly contributors such as Cardinal George Pell - and others - reflecting on their association with and memories of our beloved pope emeritus and his significance in the life of the modern Church.



A Pontifical Requiem Mass for the late Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI will be held on Thursday 12 January 2023 at St Mary's Cathedral at 5.30 pm. (Please be seated by 5.15 pm). For those who are unable to attend, the Requiem Mass will be live-streamed on the St Mary's Cathedral YouTube Channel.

*We give thanks for his lifetime of service to the Church, for the example of his integrity and humility, and pray that he be welcomed into the loving embrace of the God he served so well. May he rest in peace.*

St Raphael Monday evening rosary will continue every Monday in January at 7:30pm with Exposition.

St Raphael Church Friday evening Adoration will recommence on 27th January 2023

### Weekday 9:15am Mass:

There will be 9:15am mass at Mater Dei on Tue, Wed, **Thurs** and Friday and no mass at SR from 3rd Jan until the school reopens.

### The Catholic Weekly PULPIT POINTS 8th Jan 2023

- Pope Benedict XVI: Walking the walk of Christ
- Antonia Salzano: The Secret of my Son
- Resolutions you'll want to keep
- The Catechism in a year—Fr Mike Schmitz
- WWI and it's DARKEST DAYS

### COLLECTIONS LAST 2 WEEKENDS

TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	940.95	926.70
Second: loose	943.05	1229.75
Envelopes	300.00	720.00

### Mater Dei & St Raphael's Parish Calendar 2023

30-01-23	Schools re-open	MD & SR
30-01-23	Catechist Meeting	MD & SR
21-02-23	MD Council Meeting 7:00pm	MD Church
28-02-23	SR Council Meeting 7:00pm	SR Church

### PARISH DIRECTORY

**PARISH PRIEST:** Fr Thomas Alukka  
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**ST. RAPHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
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**Website:** <https://www.materdeistraphael.org.au/>

**Parish Secretary:** Juliana Widjaja  
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**Parish Ministry Coordinator & Safeguarding Officer** Michael Fernandes

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A man who had too much to drink decides to walk home on New Year's Eve. A policeman stopped the man and asked where he was going. "I'm on my way to a lecture," the man replied. The cop scoffed, "Who gives lectures on New Year's Eve?" The man answered: "My wife."

*FUNNY*

