



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

Fourth Sunday of Advent Year C

Bulletin

19th Dec 2021

4th Sunday of Advent

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

CELEBRANT: Jesus Christ is the light of the world

CONGREGATION: A light no darkness can overpower.

CELEBRANT: Lord let our prayers rise up like incense before you, as we pray that you would bless these candles, that they might remind us of the fulfilment of your promises. For out of our human family, so ordinary and at times so violent, your Son was to be born. We can so often be petty and sinful. May the birth of Jesus be the cause of change and growth in our lives.



Entrance Antiphon: Cf. Is 45:8

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

First Reading:

Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel.

Responsorial Psalm:

(R.) Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

1. O Shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne.

O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help. (R.)

2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see.

Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. (R.)

3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength. And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name. (R.)

Second Reading:

I am coming to do your will.

Gospel Acclamation :Lk 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

Gospel : Lk 1:26-38

Why should it happen that I am honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?

Communion Antiphon: Is 7:14

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

It's Christmas again - a time to rejoice and remember the peace and joy that Jesus Christ brought to the world. Though born in a lowly manger, He stirs us to show compassion for those in need. May He bless you in all the ways you reflect God's light and love as you inspire your family, friends & community through your words and action.

I wish each one of you and your loved ones a Blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with the benevolence of Our Lord.

May EMMANUEL God-with-us enlighten us all through our journey of faith!

God Bless. Fr Thomas Alukka, Parish Priest



REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

Life in the Womb

This little gospel story tells us that 'the baby in Elizabeth's womb leaped' and not merely leaped, but leaped 'for joy'. Is this just poetic hyperbole?

We know that beautiful music can have a wonderful effect on life in the womb. Good vibrations. Here, the presence of Jesus, being carried by Mary in her pregnancy, had a wonderful effect on the life carried by Elizabeth. Very good vibrations.

From the moment of the conception of Jesus, good vibrations reverberated out to all human beings. The good news is that you and I and every human life ever conceived is visited by Our Risen Lord Jesus Christ, and we receive that visit as Original Blessing.

There is a further and consoling truth. Every mother or father who has lost a baby too early needs to know that the same extraordinary sense of Our Lord's presence was felt by your baby. That Divine Presence conferred a powerful Original Blessing on that little life within the womb, and that same Presence accompanied your baby into the everlasting embrace of Divine Love in Heaven.

We could pause a moment to pray using the very words of Elizabeth, reciting:

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.

Blessed art thou among women,

and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

"May God put the Spirit of the Shepherds and the Spirit of the Wise Men and the spirit of Mary and Joseph in us. But, most important of all, May God put the Spirit of Jesus in us. He wants to do that.... He wants to come into our hearts, but we have to let Him in" -Fr Anthony Kadavil

MASS TIMES		
	St Raphael Church	Mater Dei Church
Tuesday		9:15am Mass
Wednesday		8:45am Rosary, Novena 9:15am Mass
Thursday	There is no 9:15am Mass on 23rd Dec	
Friday	Adoration resumes on Fri 28th Jan at 7:30pm	There is no 9:15am Mass on 24th Dec
Saturday	Reconciliation 4:30pm 5:00pm Vigil Mass	6:15pm Vigil Mass
Sunday	8:30am Mass 6:00pm Croatian Mass	10:00am Mass

Ministry 18th/19th Dec (3rd Sun)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.30am	6.15pm V	10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Earl, Carl	Michael B	Volunteer
Readers	Saab Family	Maria Cheung	Br Michael Nina M	Jolly Jose Wendy E
Ministry 25th/26th Dec (4th Sun)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.30am	6.15pm V	10.00am
Acolytes	No Mass	Volunteer	No Mass	Volunteer
Readers	No Mass	Volunteer	No Mass	Volunteer

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

CHRISTMAS 2021 MASS TIMES		
	St Raphael	Mater Dei
Fri 24th Dec	4:00pm Carols	6:15pm Mass
	4:30pm Mass	11:30pm Carols
		12:00am Mass
Sat 25th Dec	8:30am	10:00am
	11:00am Croatian	
	No Vigil Mass	No Vigil Mass
Sun 26th Dec	8:30am	10:00am
Sat 1st Jan 2022		9:00am
	5:00pm	6:15pm

Christmas Confessions: Fri 24th Dec 3:30 pm at St Raphael's Church

Sacramental Life – Christmas

Archbishop Anthony has formally advised that from now on all Catholics within the Archdiocese should participate in Sunday Mass whenever this is reasonably possible. With the greater majority of people vaccinated and the numbers permitted in churches substantially increased, it is no longer difficult for people to attend Mass or receive other Sacraments.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED DURING CHRISTMAS BREAK

The parish office will be closed from 22nd Dec to 4th Jan 2022.
There will be no weekday masses from 27th Dec to 31st Dec 2021
There will be no bulletin on the weekend of 1st / 2nd Jan 2022

Death Anniversary: Mark Moran, Wilhelmine Adele Lesleigh Rudd, Marie Stapleton

Pray for good health of : Terisa Dawson, John and Shirley Wakefield, Yin Kwan Tsang.

Mass Offered: Fr Isidore Anantharaj, Elias Haddad, Jeffrey Bishop

Also pray for: Holy Souls in Purgatory



Congratulations

Fr Thomas on the 37th Anniversary of your Ordination on 18th Dec 2021.

Thank you for your faithful service to the people of God.

The Lord bless you, and keep you; The Lord make his face shine on you, and be gracious to you *(Numbers 6:24-25)*

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND		
TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	380.70	472.30
Second: loose	784.55	417.25
Envelopes	320.00	765.00

- COVID Regulations - From 15th Dec 2021**
- Churches are open to all people regardless of vaccination status.
 - There is now no density limit for churches.
 - Masks are no longer compulsory while inside a church, though they are still strongly encouraged in settings where social distancing is not possible.
 - All members of the congregation are permitted to sing. QR Codes and our established check-in procedures, however, are to continue.
 - Weddings and Funerals: Anyone can now attend a wedding or funeral, regardless of vaccination status, and there is no longer a number or density limit.

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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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

The nativity play was going as planned and Joseph and Mary were going from house to house knocking on the doors and asking if there was any room for them. As they continued to get "no room" answers a little voice called from the back "YOU SHOULD HAVE BOOKED!" bringing the house down.

FUNNY

