



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

Third Sunday of Advent Year C

Bulletin

12th Dec 2021

Entrance Antiphon: Phil 4:4-5

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near

First Reading: Zep 3:14-18

With gladness the Lord will rejoice over you.

Responsorial Psalm: Is 12:2-6 R. v.6

(R.) Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

1. Truly, God is my salvation, I trust, I shall not fear. For the Lord is my strength, my song, he became my saviour. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. (R.)
2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name! Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples! Declare the greatness of his name. (R.)
3. Sing a psalm to the Lord for he has done glorious deeds, make them known to all the earth! People of Zion, sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. (R.)

Second Reading: Phil 4:4-7

The Lord is near.

Gospel Acclamation :Lk 4:18

Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

Gospel : Lk 3:10-18

What then must we do?

Communion Antiphon: Cf. Is 35:4

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

3rd 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: Let our prayer rise up like incense before you, as we recall that John the Baptist came out of the desert to proclaim the coming of the Promised One. Our experience tells us how dry and parched our earth can become without refreshing rain. Lord, without your coming, the poor, the lame, the sick, will not experience the refreshment brought by the Good News of your love. Just as the eyes of the blind are opened to your coming and your light, let these candles remind us of your promise as they light up our lives.

REFLECTION

We are at the midpoint of Advent. Today we celebrate *Gaudete* Sunday. The principal theme of the day is joy. According to Paul, joy is one of the fruits of the Spirit (cf. Gal 5:22). Such joy is a religious sentiment, not emotional happiness. Along with gratitude, it is the heart's response to God's goodness. Zion is told to shout for joy because it has been saved by God from its enemies and because God is in the midst of the people. The psalm response proclaims the same message; the reading from Philippians announces that the Lord is near. This is cause for joy.

Advent is a time for joy, not primarily because we are anticipating the anniversary of the birth of Christ, but because God is already in our midst (Immanuel). The readings for this Sunday assure us that God is with us, not as a judge but as a Saviour. We rejoice over the saving acts of God that make us confident of God's care and unafraid of whatever may cross our paths. We rejoice in the peace of God that surpasses all understanding. Advent joy is like the delight that fills a woman who has just given birth, even if it occurred in the throes of birthpangs. Advent joy springs from the realisation that the presence of God in our midst can so transform our lives that the promises of peace and security will be fulfilled. Advent joy is the way we live in the tension between already and not yet.

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Thank You to our teachers and students for another excellent term of learning and teaching, outstanding pastoral care and guidance! We wish our graduating year 6s a bright future ahead! We thank the Lord for the parents and carers for their support & love and wish all the joy of Christmas & safe holidays!

CONGRATULATIONS

to the children who received their First Reconciliation and First Eucharist at Mater Dei Church and First Reconciliation at St Raphael Church. May the love of Jesus shine in your heart now and forever.

UNITED IN FAITH, GUIDED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT NOURISHED BY THE EUCHARIST, COMMITTED TO PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL WE STRIVE TO LIVE AS GOD ASKS

"to act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with our God" (Micah 6:8)

"To be happy is good, yet joy is something more. It's another thing, something which does not depend on external motivations, or on passing issues: it is more profound. It is a gift from the Lord."
— Pope Francis

MASS TIMES

	St Raphael Church	Mater Dei Church
Tuesday		9:15am Mass
Wednesday		8:45am Rosary, Novena 9:15am Mass
Thursday	9:15am Mass is now open to general public as the school is on holidays.	
Friday	No adoration from 24/12/21—21/01/2022	8:45am Adoration 9:15am Mass
Saturday	Reconciliation 4:30pm 5:00pm Vigil Mass	6:15pm Vigil Mass
Sunday	8:30am Mass 6:00pm Croatian Mass	10:00am Mass

Ministry 11th/12th Dec (2nd Sun)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.30am	6.15pm V	10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Michael B Minh	Ray Low	Volunteer
Readers	Pavia Family	Yenson Family	Louise Tapp	Joan Hanson Jean Dorahy
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

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

Adoration will finish on Fri 17th Dec for 2021 and resume on Fri 28th Jan at St Raphael's

SVDP Christmas Appeal We are asking for donations of non-perishable food items to be distributed to families and others in our community who struggle to afford the little extras we all enjoy at this time of year. Some suggestions are tinned ham, salmon, cordial, Juice, canned fruit, sweet or savoury biscuits, long life custard, puddings, cakes or mince tarts, pasta, rice etc. Your gift should be left at the Church before December 19th for distribution by us on 22nd. Many thanks and Merry Christmas. **Envelopes are in the foyer.**



Christmas midnight mass choir practice is on Sat 11th and 18th Dec at 4:45pm before the vigil mass. All are welcome

Congratulations to Greg Driver, the nominee for 2021 Banks Volunteer of the Year Award

Federal Member for Banks, David Coleman honoured and recognised volunteers in the Banks electorate who have gone above and beyond their call of duty. Greg Driver from St Raphael's Church was one of 25 people nominated for this Award. The award ceremony took place on 4th Dec 2021 at Panania Diggers Club. We congratulate Greg Driver on this achievement and thank him for his generous voluntary service to our two parishes.



Wed 15th Dec, 2021 7:30PM
Meet in St Raphael's Harmony Hall.
Topic: Mass and the Eucharist
Any queries please contact Graeme Dorahy on 0421 420 497.

Recently Deceased: John Hetherton, Lorraine Borean, Wajid Dahman

Death Anniversary: George and Therese Mir

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

CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

Sunday 12th December, 2021
7:30pm at St Mary's Cathedral.

Presided by Bishop Terence Brady.

After the service, please join us to view the Lights of Christmas.

All visitors to the Cathedral must check in with a QR code and wear a mask.

If you are unable to attend, please livestream from St Mary's Cathedral at

www.catholiccemeteries.com.au

CATHOLIC WEEKLY

PULPIT POINTS 12 DECEMBER 2021

- Labourers for the vineyard. New priests fruit of Neocatechumenal Way.
- Death by a thousand cuts. Activists target religious exemptions.
- The cross behind bars. Prison Memoirs Vol 3.
- The subversion of the universities.
- Movie review: Westside Story
- Tired of the Church? Turn to St Francis.

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	300.80	263.65
Second: loose	404.30	261.00
Envelopes	410.00	666.00

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



As Toni and Leo were putting out cookies for Santa on Christmas Eve, Toni accidentally dropped one. "No problem," she said, picking it up and dusting it off before placing it back on the plate. "You can't do that," argued the four-year-old. "Don't worry. Santa'll never know." said Toni. Leo shot her a look. "So he knows if I've been bad or good, but he doesn't know the cookie fell on the floor?"

HUNNY