

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent Year A *Bulletin* 18th Dec 2022



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: Is 7:10-14

Prediction of Immanuel, born of a virgin.

Responsorial Psalm : Ps 23:1-6. R.

see vv 7. 10

(R.) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples. It is he who set it on the seas; on the waters he made it firm. (R.)

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place? The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things. (R.)

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him. Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob. (R.)

Second Reading: Rom 1:1-7

Paul spreads the news of the Son of God.

Gospel Acclamation: Mt 1:23

Alleluia, alleluia! A virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us. Alleluia!

Gospel : Mt 1:18-24

An angel visits Joseph, who takes Mary as his wife.

Communion Antiphon: Is 7:14

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

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

We will see throughout the coming liturgical year that the gospel of Matthew places a great deal of emphasis on the importance of the Law and upon its proper application. Indeed, the gospel writer casts Jesus in the role of the 'new Moses' – Moses was the great Law-giver of the Old Testament and Jesus is portrayed in this gospel as bringing a new Law to the people of Israel. In this gospel, the proper application of the Law is as important as the Law itself. In today's passage, Joseph provides an example of the proper application of the Law. His betrothed wife was pregnant; she would have been subject to the Law against adultery and probably would have been stoned to death. Under the Law, Joseph was obliged to divorce her, and yet he determines that he will do so quietly and protect Mary from too much shame and possibly save her life. Joseph did not intend to ignore the Law, but he sought to carry it out in such a way as to bring the least shame and the least hurt to all involved.

The role of Joseph is often overlooked. There is no mention of him during the public ministry of Jesus. In fact the latest mention in any of the gospels is the account of Jesus in the Temple at the age of 12. After that, Joseph disappears and we can only assume that he has passed away by the time Jesus takes up his ministry. Yet Joseph is truly a man of great faith. By rights he should have divorced Mary and walked away. But he trusts in the word of the God that is addressed to him in a dream and from that point on he goes to great lengths to protect and care for his family.

Living the Gospel – Advent

Emmanuel; God-is-with-us – that's what we celebrate through Christmas and that's what we've been preparing for during Advent. We celebrate God-with-us in a particular time and place through our celebration of the birth of Jesus. But we remember it every year because we also use the Christmas celebration to remind ourselves that God continues to be with us. That is what is so remarkable about the Christmas season: that God-is-with-us **now**, not just in a stable in Palestine so many years ago, but now! Advent is the time to remind ourselves of this incredible truth and prepare ourselves to acknowledge it once again.

Pope Francis explains that once we realize that God is kind and merciful, we are able to see life from a different perspective. He says it's a perspective that opens a door to hope, which helps us face problems with a different attitude.

"Hope is always on the move, and it makes us be on the move. We can ask ourselves, 'Do I journey in hope, or is my interior life stopped, shut down? Is my heart a closed drawer or an open drawer, open to the hope that helps us journey, not alone, but with Jesus?' It is a good question to ask ourselves."

Pope Francis warned against reducing Christmas to a gift exchange. He says it is so much more. "Christmas is preferring the silent voice of God to the turmoil of consumerism. This is the invitation for Christmas. Take some time, stand in front of the manger and be silent."

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, Cenacle
Saturday	4:30pm Reconciliation 5:00pm Vigil Mass	No Vigil mass on 17th Dec 2022
Sunday	8:00am MASS 6:00pm Croatian Mass	10:00am Mass

Recently Deceased:

Pray for good health of : Anne Lo, 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, Gavin, Rosie and Serena Entwistle, Coral Howse, Souls in purgatory.

17th /18th Dec (3rd Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.00am		10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Earl Carl	No Vigil Mass	Volunteer
Readers	Volunteer	Maria Cheung		Jolly Jose Wendy E
24th /25th Dec (Christmas)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	4.300pm	8.00am	6.15pm V	10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer
Readers	Volunteers	Volunteers	Volunteers	Volunteers

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

Mater Dei Home Rosary

20-12-2022 Marguerite & Denis Derrig
32 Waratah St Kyle Bay 7:00 PM
Christmas party rosary. Everyone Welcome.

Merry Christmas to everyone.
Rosary will resume on 31 January 2023.

Safeguarding Children

The Safeguarding and Child Protection documents can be found on our website at <https://www.materdei-straphael.org.au/safeguarding/>

The Gift

Thanks for the electric guitar you gave me for Christmas," little Chris Cody said to his uncle the first time he saw him after the holidays. "It's the best present I ever got."
"That's great," said his uncle. "Do you know how to play it?"
"Oh, I don't play it," the little fellow said. "My mom gives me a dollar a day not to play it during the day and my dad gives me five dollars a week not to play it at night."

a FUNNY

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMINGS 2022

SATURDAY, 24TH DECEMBER

ST. RAPHAEL'S
4:00 PM Carols followed by
4:30 PM Mass
MATER DEI
6:15 PM Mass
11:30 PM Carols followed by
Midnight mass

SUNDAY, 25TH DECEMBER

St. Raphael's 8:00 AM
Mater Dei 10:00 AM
Croatian Mass 11:00 AM
at St Raphael's

NEW YEAR MASS TIMINGS 2022

SUNDAY, 1ST JANUARY

St Raphael's 8:00 AM
Mater Dei 10:00 AM

Congratulations

to Fr Thomas on his 38th Anniversary of Ordination on 18th Dec 2022
We thank Fr Thomas for his faithful service to the people of God



We thank the Principals, teaching and non-teaching staff, and students of St Raphael's & Mater Dei Primary Schools for another successful academic year of learning and teaching, outstanding pastoral care and guidance! We wish our graduating year 6 students a bright future ahead! We thank the Lord for the parents and carers for their support and wish all, the joy of Christmas & safe holidays!

Vinnies Christmas Hampers



It will be greatly appreciated if the donations are kept at the Church by

18th December so we can make up the hampers for distribution on the 19th.

Merry Christmas and thank you for your continued support.

Christmas Reconciliation

Weekdays before and after 9:15am Mass.

24th Dec 3:30pm at St Raphael's

25th Dec 9:30am at Mater Dei Church.

BAPTISM



This Sunday the Catholic Church of St Raphael's warmly welcomes

Baptism Alina Xuan Thanh Do
(d/o Hoa Thom Teresa & Quang Hung)
Congratulations to the family.

The Catholic Weekly

PULPIT POINTS 18th Dec 2022

- SPECIAL WRAP AROUND Go Make Disciples: Two year anniversary.
- Christmas at the Cathedral
- Beloved Bishop retires
- Marist Milestone
- It's not just about sex
- More equal than others

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	236.00	201.85
Second: loose	283.65	335.60
Envelopes	425.00	260.00

No Vigil mass at Mater Dei on 17th Dec 2022

CHRISTMAS AT THE CATHEDRAL

8th—25th Dec. Festivities begin at 7pm with: Christmas market stalls, food, fun activities for the kids and live entertainment

View the Day 1 video (fastforward a bit) [here](#)

PARISH DIRECTORY

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