



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

Second Sunday of Advent Year A      *Bulletin*      4th Dec 2022

## **Entrance Antiphon:** Cf. Is 30:19,30

O people of Sion, behold,  
the Lord will come to save the na-  
tions, and the Lord will make the  
glory of his voice heard in the  
joy of your heart.

## **First Reading:** Is 11:1-10

He judges the poor with justice.

## **Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17. R. cf. v.7

(R.) Justice shall flourish in his time,  
and fullness of peace for ever.

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 the earth's bounds. (R.)
3. 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.)
4. May his name be blessed for ever and endure like the sun. Every tribe shall be blessed in him, all nations bless his name. (R.)

## **Second Reading:** Rom 15:4-9

Christ, the hope of all people.

## **Gospel Acclamation** Lk 3:4, 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

## **Gospel:** Mt 3:1-12

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.

## **Communion Antiphon:** Bar 5:5; 4:36

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

## 2nd 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 God, let our prayers rise up like incense before you, as at this Advent time we are reminded of the beauty and goodness you have brought into our world.

We pray that Jesus' coming, which we are awaiting will give our spirits new life and energy as we try to follow his way. May these two candles remind us of the need we have to open our hearts and minds to the light and warmth of your love.



## REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

When John the Baptist performed baptism it was for the forgiveness of sin. The baptism he gave was a mark of the desire to enter into a new life of right action. It was not a baptism of initiation into community that is the case today. John had two key words that he is recorded as preaching: repent and prepare. His call for repentance was a call to turn away from sin; a call to have a change of heart; a call to turn one's life around and make a fresh start. His call for preparation is in the long line of prophets that includes the great prophet Isaiah from whom we take today's first reading. All of the prophets urged the people towards hope in the future. Isaiah and others spoke specifically of a person – a Messiah – who would bring that hope to reality. But the tradition demanded a readiness for the Messiah and that was the call to preparation that John the Baptist echoed at the beginning of the public life of Jesus.

John's taunting of the Pharisees and Sadducees is an indication of this need for preparation and readiness. He accuses them of being too confident of their own rightness. He demands proof from them of their honest repentance: 'but if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit'. Rather, he suspects that they think that salvation is assured for them by virtue of being a Jew; a son of Abraham. He warns them that an axe hangs poised to cut down any part of the Jewish tradition that is failing to produce good fruit. This is a theme that is picked up later by Jesus himself; you can't be complacent about your own position, you have to welcome the new truth revealed by Jesus and give yourself wholeheartedly to God.

### Living the Gospel – Prepare Ye!

John the Baptist's call to 'Prepare the way of the Lord' is a summary of the purpose of the season of Advent. Every year, as we celebrate the Nativity, we celebrate once again the presence of God in our world. God became incarnate in the world through Jesus but also always was and continues to be incarnate in the world through each person. If we are to accept this reality and live it out, we need to remind ourselves this Advent to prepare the way for the Lord to be present in and through us every day of our lives.

### Scriptural context – Brood of Vipers!

The gospel of Matthew in particular casts the Pharisees in a very dim light. John's insult to them, calling them a brood of vipers, is indeed echoed by Jesus later in this gospel. In this gospel, Jesus describes the Pharisees as hypocrites and blind guides. The community for whom this gospel was written were predominantly Jewish Christians. However, at the time of writing serious cracks were appearing in the relationship between the Jewish community and the Christian sect. This gospel aligns closely with the Jewish tradition but is very critical of the inflexibility of the Pharisees.

"Although the life of a person is in a land full of thorns and weeds, there is always a space in which the good seed can grow. You have to trust God."

- 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	
Friday	7:30pm Adoration	8:45am Adoration 9:15am Mass, Cenacle
Saturday	4:30pm Reconciliation 5:00pm Vigil Mass	<b>6:15PM FAMILY MASS</b>
Sunday	<b>8:00am MASS</b> 6:00pm Croatian Mass	10:00am Mass

**Recently Deceased:** Joseph Manlucu

**Death Anniversary:** Jeffrey Bishop, Lucy & Joseph Yong, Marjorie & Myles Coleman.

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

**Pray for the deceased:** Jeanette McGloin, Shirley McGrath, Antonius Widjaja, Gavin, Rosie and Serena Entwistle, Coral Howse, Souls in purgatory.

3rd /4th Dec (1st Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.00am	6.15pm V	10.00am
<b>Acolytes</b>	Greg Driver	Max Gary	Tony Oscuro	Paul Watson
<b>Readers</b>	Lovat Family	Annie Rose T	Family Mass	Gail Abbott Luisa Galea
10th /11th Dec (2nd Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.00am	6.15pm V	10.00am
<b>Acolytes</b>	Greg Driver	Michael B	No Mass	Volunteer
<b>Readers</b>	Pavia Family	Yenson Family		Joan Hanson Jean Dorahy

### 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

06-12-2022 Nives Care  
33 Church Street Blakehurst 11-00 AM

13-12-2022 Nives Care  
33 Church Street Blakehurst 11-00 AM

All are welcome

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

Thurs 8/12/22	SR School Christmas Concert 6:30pm	SR
Sun 11/12/22	MD Parish Christmas Get together after morning mass	MD
Tue 13 /12/22	MD Pastoral Council Mtg 7 pm	MD

### 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**

### Christmas Reconciliation

Weekdays before and after 9:15am Mass.

**24th Dec 3:30pm at St Raphael's and**  
**25th Dec 9:30am at Mater Dei Church.**

### BAPTISMS



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

**Wendy Han, Shihong Wang,**  
**Kun Hu & Yan Song.**

Congratulations to the families.

### The Catholic Weekly PULPIT POINTS 4th Dec 2022

- Back on the Streets. Fr Chris Riley opens up about his 'Miracle' recovery
- Our game plan is Heaven. Gynea launches Labouré lecture
- The atheist who entered the Church
- Faith in the marketplace
- Get ready for ... The Catechism in a Year
- The goodness of wine

### COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	201.20	443.70
Second: loose	197.10	358.60
Envelopes	365.00	380.00

### Vinnies Christmas Hampers



Vinnies are running our Christmas Hamper appeal and are asking for non-perishable items to be placed into hampers for distribution to local families who are struggling to manage at the moment with the high cost of living.

Some suggestions include pasta, rice, pasta sauce, cereal, biscuits, crackers, tinned fruit, salmon, tuna, tea, coffee, long life custard, Christmas cakes or puddings or other Christmas treats. Could donations please be kept at the Church by **18th December** so we can make up the hampers for distribution on the 19th it would be greatly appreciated.

Merry Christmas and thank you for your continued support.

### Mater Dei Church Christmas BBQ

**11th Dec 2022 after the 10am mass.**

There will also be commissioning of Our Lady's shrine outside the church. As it is the 3rd Sunday of Advent kindly wear rose or pink clothes to get into the spirit of Rejoicing Sunday.

### Christmas at the Cathedral

Archbishop Fisher invites us to the launch of *Christmas at the Cathedral* on Thursday 8th December. **The church will hire a bus if there are sufficient attendees.**

A festival evening at St Mary's:

4pm—Confessions, 5:30pm—Mass, 7pm—Christmas festivities, 8pm—Christmas display and official launch. To register your attendance, please go to [Register here.](#)

Please contact Michael 0437 517 758 to book a place in the bus.

Also, they would like to know if there is a choir, singer or musical group who would like to perform on the opening night.

### PARISH DIRECTORY

**PARISH PRIEST:** Fr Thomas Alukka

**M:** 0469 236 118 **E:** tomyalukka@gmail.com

### MATER DEI CATHOLIC CHURCH

1008 King Georges Road, Blakehurst 2221, NSW

### ST. RAPHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

84 George Street, South Hurstville

**Parish Secretary:** Juliana Widjaja

Office hours: Tues & Wed 9:30am - 2:30pm

Phone: 02 9546 2605

Email: admin@materdei-straphael.org.au

Two kids went into their parents bathroom and noticed the weighing scale in the corner. "Whatever you do," cautioned one youngster to the other. "Don't step on it!" "Why not?" asked the sibling. "Because every time mom does, she lets out an awful scream!"



"Daddy, Mom or N... It makes you cry!"

so FUNNY