



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

Third Sunday of Advent Year A *Bulletin* 11th Dec 2022

Entrance Antiphon : Phil 4:4-5

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

First Reading: Is 35:1-6, 10

God himself will come and save us.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 145:6-10. R.
see Is 35:4

(R.) Lord, come and save us.

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free.

(R.)

2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan.

(R.)

3. It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age.

(R.)

Second Reading: Jas 5:7-10

You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon.

Gospel Acclamation Is 61:1 (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 : Mt 11:2-11

Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?

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 by Greg Sunter

Why would John the Baptist send messengers to question Jesus? We recall from last week's gospel passage that John had a somewhat 'fire and brimstone' perception of what Jesus would be like. Perhaps as he sat in his prison cell John began to wonder whether Jesus was indeed the Messiah that John believed him to be. Perhaps the question was not for himself but rather for his disciples that he sent to Jesus. Given the answer that Jesus provided them, perhaps John's intention was for the disciples to recognise that Jesus was in fact the one that John had proclaimed and that the disciples should switch their allegiance to Jesus. John probably guessed that he would not be leaving that prison alive and may have been leading his disciples to the next step in their discipleship by having them go and scrutinise Jesus.

The indirect answer that Jesus provides to the query would have not sounded like such a roundabout response as it does to us. The picture Jesus describes of the blind seeing, the lame walking, lepers cleansed, and the deaf hearing would have been very familiar to those who were listening and the first audience of this gospel. These were signs of the coming of the Messiah that had been foretold by the prophets. In his answer, Jesus effectively says, 'Well, all the things that are supposed to happen when the Messiah comes are happening now with me. There's your answer!'

The reading continues to build on the Advent themes of anticipation, preparedness and hope. As we draw closer to the celebration of the Nativity, in this reading is confirmation that our hope is not misplaced. Today's readings emphasise the joy that lies in the anticipation and expectation of what is coming.

Living the Gospel – Gaudete!

The third Sunday of Advent was traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday. The word, gaudete, (pronounced gow-day-tay) is from Latin and means *Rejoice!* The name was given to this Sunday because the entrance antiphon for the day is: 'Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near.' When Advent was observed as a more penitential season, this third Sunday was a break from the sombre mood and was more celebratory. The rose-coloured candle in the Advent wreath and rose-coloured vestments convey a mood of joy and celebration.

**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)

We desire to be able to welcome Jesus at Christmas-time, not in a cold manger of our heart, but in a heart full of love and humility, in a heart so pure, so immaculate, so warm with love for one another." St Teresa of Calcutta.

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 Mass Sat Evening
Sunday	8:00am MASS 6:00pm Croatian Mass	10:00am Mass

Recently Deceased: Joseph Flores Manlucu

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

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

10th /11th Dec (2nd Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.00am	6.15pm V	10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Michael B Minh N	No Mass	Volunteer
Readers	Pavia Family	Yenson Family		Joan Hanson Jean Dorahy
17th /18th Dec (3rd Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.00am	6.15pm V	10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Earl Carl	Ray Low	Volunteer
Readers	Volunteer	Maria Cheung	Br Michael Nina M	Jolly Jose Wendy E

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

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

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.

Blessing of Our Lady's Shrine

At Mater Dei Church after the 10am mass on Sunday 11th Dec 22. There will also be the inauguration of the beautiful new mosaic backdrop.
Also, as it is the 3rd Sunday of Advent let's dress up in rose or pink coloured clothes to get into the spirit of the "Rejoicing Sunday".

The Catholic Weekly

PULPIT POINTS 4th Dec 2022

- Bossley Park lights up for Mary
- Jane Austen: LIFE COACH?
- Disability: Welcoming everyone
- Sydney Parishes set to welcome Theology of the Body
- Territories legislation. Euthanasia spreads

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	415.50	164.80
Second: loose	442.15	228.15
Envelopes	320.00	910.00

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.



Christmas BBQ Mater Dei Church

11th Dec after the 10am mass.

All are welcome

No Vigil mass at Mater Dei on 10th 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 introductory video [here](#)

PARISH DIRECTORY

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Thomas Alukka
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MATER DEI CATHOLIC CHURCH
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Watch out!

A drunkard was staggering down the street with blisters on both ears. "What caused those blisters on both ears?" asked a friend. "My wife left her hot iron near the phone; so when the phone rang, I picked up the iron by mistake," explained the drunkard. "Okay, but how about the other ear?" continued the friend. "That fool phoned a second time!"

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