



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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT  
YEAR A

Bulletin

26th March 2023

**Entrance Antiphon:** Cf. Ps 42:1-2

Give me justice, O God,  
and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

**First Reading:** Ez 37:12-14

I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 129. R. v.7

(R.) With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, Lord, hear my voice! O let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading. (R.)
2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive? But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you. (R.)
3. My soul is waiting for the Lord, I count on his word.  
My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak. (Let the watchman count on daybreak and Israel on the Lord.) (R.)
4. Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption, Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity. (R.)

**Second Reading :** Rom 8:8-11

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he will give life to your own mortal bodies.

**Gospel Acclamation :** See Jn 11:25. 26

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will not die for ever.  
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

**Gospel :** Jn 11:1-45

I am the resurrection and the life

**Communion Antiphon:** Cf. Jn 11:26

Everyone who lives and believes in me will not die for ever, says the Lord.

## REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

The third, fourth and fifth Sundays of Lent in Year A feature significant passages from the gospel of John. The first of the three readings was the story of the Samaritan woman at the well, to whom Jesus described himself as Living Water. The second was the healing of the blind man and Jesus declaring himself to be the Light of the World. In today's passage about the death and raising of Lazarus, Jesus declares, 'I am the resurrection and the life.' Living Water; Light of the World; and the Resurrection and the Life – three important images of Jesus that all emerge from the gospel of John. Each of the events relate to Jesus' response to some physical need: thirst; blindness; and death. However, in each case, Jesus not only responds to the physical need but also reveals a truth about himself that leads people to belief.

The raising of Lazarus marks a turning point in the gospel of John. Chapter 11 concludes with the Jewish authorities plotting to arrest Jesus and then Chapter 12 begins the final week of Jesus' life in Jerusalem. The significance of this episode is highlighted by the disciples who question Jesus about the wisdom of going back to Judea when the people there had wanted to stone Jesus to death. In going to save the life of his friend, Lazarus, Jesus knows that he is journeying towards his own death. In fact, the end of Chapter 11 makes clear that it is some of the witnesses to the raising of Lazarus who go and complain to the authorities and precipitate the action against Jesus. In the gospel of John, it is the episode with Lazarus that effectively signs Jesus' death warrant. The gospel makes clear that Jesus gives up his own life so that Lazarus may live.

### Scriptural context – Jesus wept

'Jesus wept' is the shortest verse in the New Testament. Just two little words carry a world of emotion and speak volumes about Jesus. Pope Leo I used this verse to highlight the two natures of Jesus, pointing out that in his humanity, Jesus wept for the death of his friend, but in his divinity Jesus raised Lazarus to life. Lazarus and his sisters were close friends of Jesus and Jesus is clearly emotional about the death and its effect on Martha and Mary. That Jesus is about to restore Lazarus to life does not deny the grief and mourning at Lazarus' death.

### Living the Gospel – Unbind him, let him go free

To see a man bound up for burial suddenly come walking from his tomb must have been an unnerving experience to say the least. However, Jesus calmly commands the astonished onlookers to 'unbind him, let him go free'. These words speak to us today as we come to the end of the Lenten season and approach the celebration of Easter. What are the things that 'bind' us? From what do we need to be released so that we may 'go free'? Are they bindings placed by ourselves or others? What will it take to be unbound?

### Gospel Focus – Death for Life

The gospel writer paints the picture that Jesus is fully conscious of the implications of his return to Judea. As the events of the Passion unfold through this gospel, the reader has a very clear impression in their mind that if Jesus had not come to Judea; had not raised Lazarus; then he would not have been arrested and crucified. The reader is also drawn into the revelation that the sacrifice of Jesus was not solely for Lazarus but rather for all humanity. This realisation leads the reader to the ultimate humbling conclusion that if the sacrifice of Jesus was for people then the reader themselves is also the recipient of that sacrifice.



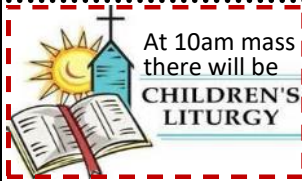
Please bring palm leaves next week, preferably cut into small pieces, for each person to take. Please place them in the church veranda or foyer.

### HOLY WEEK MASS TIMING 2023

Date and Time	Mater Dei Church	St Raphael's Church
<b>Holy Thursday</b> 6-04-2023	7:00 PM	
<b>Good Friday</b> 7-04-2023	Stations of the Cross 10:00 AM	
	The Lord's Passion 3:00 PM	The Lord's Passion 3:00 PM
<b>Holy Saturday</b> 8-04-2023	6:00 PM (RCIA Confirmations)	8:00 PM
<b>Easter Sunday</b> 9-04-2023	10:00 AM	8:00 AM
<b>Holy Week Reconciliation</b>	Wed 5th April 7pm – 8pm Holy Sat 8th April 4pm-5:30pm	Only at Mater Dei

### PASSION SUNDAY

Next Sunday is Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday). On this day the Church celebrates Christ's entrance into Jerusalem to accomplish his paschal mystery. According to Christian belief, Jesus rode into Jerusalem where people gave him a hero's welcome during the Jewish Passover celebration. Palm Sunday service involves distributing palms to the congregation. The palm branch is traditionally a symbol of joy and victory. Have we prepared ourselves to receive our Lord?



At 10am mass there will be **CHILDREN'S LITURGY**

**HOLY WEEK MINISTRIES ROSTER**  
Please write your names in the Holy Week Roster posted at the entrance of the Church or phone or text Michael on 0437 517 758.



### Cleaner Required

Cleaner required to clean Mater Dei Church and Presbytery. Please contact Michael on 0437 517 758 if you are interested or if you know anyone who can provide this service.

### MASS TIMES

	St Raphael Church	Mater Dei Church
Tues		9:15am Mass
Wed		8:45am Rosary, Novena 9:15am Mass
Thurs	9:15am School and Parish Mass	
Friday	7pm Stations of the Cross 7:30pm Adoration	8:45am Adoration 9:15am Mass and Stations of the Cross
Sat	4:30pm Reconciliation 5:00pm Vigil Mass	Every 1st and 3rd Sat (No vigil Mass on 25th Mar)
Sunday	8:00am Mass 6:00pm Croatian Mass	10:00am Mass

**Death Anniversary:** Thelma Fox, George Beater, John Beater, Matthew Cuta

**Pray for good health of :** Monica O'Brien, Anne Lo, Sunga Family, Adele Shehata, Anna Liza Torres Zapata, Yin Kwan Tsang.

**Pray for the deceased:** Eric Fox, Vivian Sorial, Margaret Ratcliffe, Jeffrey Bishop, Fr Isidore, Antonius Widjaja, Holy Souls in purgatory.

This week we warmly welcome at Mater Dei church  
**Mia Chu**  
(d/o Cindy & Cheung-Yuan)  
Congratulations to the family



### The Stations of the Cross on Friday

St Raphael's: 7:00pm followed by Holy hour  
Mater Dei Church: After 9:15am Mass

World Storytelling Day at Mater Dei will be held on the 28th of March. If you would like to read in a classroom to the children, could you please indicate your Availability on the [form](#).



25th/26th Mar (4th Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.00am		10.00am
<b>Acolytes</b>	Greg Driver	Michael Norman		Volunteer
<b>Readers</b>	Volunteers	Rounds Family		Lucy Mitry Phil M
1st/2nd April (1st Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.00am	6.15pm	10.00am
<b>Acolytes</b>	Greg Driver	Gary, Max	Tony Oscuro	Paul Watson
<b>Readers</b>	Barry Lovat Volunteer	Maria C Ronnie C	Frances O Volunteer	Gail Abbott Luisa Galea

### The Catholic Weekly PULPIT POINTS 26th March 2023

- Violence and staff shortages triggers stress for principals
- Bishop Meagher commissions 13 young catechists for Sydney
- New York speakers to lead marriage renewal retreat and course in May
- New Bishop installed for Newcastle diocese
- Students rally for fun, faith and family

### COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	455.35	328.20
Second: loose	465.35	497.20
Envelopes	295.00	505.00

### ROSARY

St Raphael's Church	Mater Dei Church
Every Monday at 7:30pm with Blessed Sacrament	Every Sunday 9:30am before the 10am mass

### Mater Dei Home Rosary

28-3-2023	Nives Care 33 Church Street Blakehurst 11-00 AM
4-4-2023	Nives Care 33 Church Street Blakehurst 11-00 AM All are welcome

### The Substitute Organist

The priest was preoccupied with thoughts of how he was going to ask the congregation to come up with more money than they were expecting for repairs to the church building. Therefore, he was annoyed to find that the regular organist was sick and a substitute had been brought in at the last minute. The substitute wanted to know what to play. "Here's a copy of the service," he said impatiently. "But you'll have to think of something to play after I make the announcement about the finances." During the service, the priest paused and said, "Brothers and Sisters, we are in great difficulty; the roof repairs cost twice as much as we expected, and we need \$4,000 more. Any of you who can pledge \$100 or more, please stand up." At that moment, the substitute organist played the National Anthem ... and that is how the substitute organist became the permanent organist!



### Reconciliation during Lent

**Mater Dei:** Wed 5th April 7pm – 8pm & Holy Sat 8th April 4pm-5:30pm  
**St Raphael:** Every Sat 4:30pm to 5pm (except on Holy Sat it will be at Mater Dei)

### 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  
Website: <https://www.materdei-straphael.org.au/>

**Parish Secretary:** Juliana Widjaja  
Office hours: Tues & Wed 9:30am - 2:30pm  
Phone: 02 9546 2605  
Email: admin@materdei-straphael.org.au

**Parish Ministry Coordinator & Safeguarding Officer** Michael Fernandes  
Office hours: Tues, Wed & Fri 10am – 2:30pm  
M: 0437 517 758 E: mc@materdei-straphael.org.au

**Pastoral Ministry Coordinator:** Br. Ben Krupowicz  
Phone: 02 95462544 Email: strsh@outlook.com

**Fr. Jan Chrzczonowicz :** Phone: 0412 786 245

**Mater Dei Primary School:** (02) 9546 7298  
Principal: Ms Melanie Headley

**St. Raphael Primary School:** (02) 9546 4898  
Principal: Mrs Annette McKenzie