



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

**PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION
OF THE LORD YEAR A**

Bulletin

2nd April 2023

Entrance Antiphon : Mt 21:9

Hosanna to the Son of David;
blessed is he who comes in the name of
the Lord, the King of Israel.
Hosanna in the highest.

First Reading: Is 50:4-7

I did not cover my face against insult and I
know I will not be ashamed.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 21:8-9. 17-20. 23- 24. R. v.2

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

1. All who see me deride me.
They curl their lips, they toss their
heads. 'He trusted in the Lord, let him
save him; let him release him if this is his
friend.' (R.)

2. Many dogs have surrounded me,
a band of the wicked beset me. They
tear holes in my hands and my feet.
I can count every one of my bones (R)

3. They divide my clothing among
them. They cast lots for my robe.
O Lord, do not leave me alone, my
strength, make haste to help me! (R)

4. I will tell of your name to my brethren
and praise you where they are assembled.
'You who fear the Lord give him
praise; all sons of Jacob give him
glory. Revere him, Israel's sons.' (R.)

Second Reading: Phil 2:6-11

Jesus made himself lowly and was exalted.

Gospel Acclamation : Phil 2:8-9

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of
endless glory! Christ became obedient
for us even to death dying on the cross.
Therefore God raised him on high and
gave him a name above all other
names. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
king of endless glory!

Gospel : Lk 22:14 – 23:56

The Passion.

Communion Antiphon: Mt 26:42

Father, if this chalice cannot pass without
my drinking it, your will be done.

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

The Passion narrative, as described in the gospel of Matthew, is keen to drive home two particular points. Firstly, throughout this gospel, the gospel writer is at pains to demonstrate Jesus as fulfilling the prophecy of scripture. At the time of the arrest and the use of the thirty pieces of silver, we are reminded that these things took place to fulfil scripture. Secondly, this particular gospel emphasises the innocence of Jesus throughout the passion narrative: he is 'sold out' by one of his followers; his trial before the Sanhedrin is a farce; his most loyal follower denies association with him; Pilate declares himself innocent of Jesus' blood and the crowd accepts the consequences of their actions. At no point is any hint of guilt cast over Jesus. He is an innocent whose fate has been manipulated by others. In this gospel there is no conversation between Jesus and the criminals between whom he is crucified. There is no suggestion that Jesus too is a criminal who is deserving of his fate. His innocence is manifest.

These two themes merge together in this gospel. The manner of Jesus' arrest, trial and death are all in accordance with the prophecy of scripture (i.e. in accordance with God's will), and yet it is emphasised throughout that Jesus is innocent. There can be no accusation that Jesus is in any way deserving of his treatment and yet what befalls him is in keeping with God's plan. It emphasises the sacrificial act made by Jesus: a proven innocent giving his life for the good of others. The actions of those who plot against Jesus to seek his downfall actually serve to bring about his purpose. No other outcome was possible. The writer assures the audience that the death of Jesus was no accident; it was intended from the very beginning.

Scriptural context – Passion narratives

Towards the end of the 19th Century, the German scholar, Martin Kähler, described the gospels as 'passion narratives with lengthy introductions'. Over time, this description was more commonly applied to the gospel of Mark, but it is quite true of all four gospels. The passion elements are the climax of each gospel narrative and were probably written first to establish the unique interpretation of each of the gospel communities. The remainder of the gospel was written to 'set the scene' for the culmination of the message in the passion. Reading the four accounts of the passion reveal the unique styles and themes of the different gospel writers.

Different View – The Blame Game

This Passion narrative has been used in the past as justification for persecution of Jews. The text has the people of Jerusalem calling out, 'his blood be on us and on our children!' This has been interpreted (poorly) as reason to condemn all subsequent generations of Jews for the death of Jesus. However, this gospel was written in the aftermath of the fall of Jerusalem and destruction of the Temple in 70 CE. The gospel writer sought some explanation for this disaster in the story of Jesus' life and death: it is the children of the crowd at Jesus' death who suffered in the fall of Jerusalem.

Chrism Mass on Holy Thursday

You are invited to the Chrism Mass which will be held at **10:30am on Holy Thursday** (6 April), at St Mary's Cathedral.

Join with the priests, deacons and parish representatives for the blessing of the Holy Oils for use in the sacraments over the coming year.

HOLY WEEK MASS TIMING 2023

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

Holy Land Good Friday Collection (7th April 2023)

The annual collection for the support of the church in Holy Land takes place on Good Friday. This collection promotes the missionary work of the Church in the Holy Land by providing welfare assistance to local Christians in areas such as health, education, employment and housing. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Please pray that peace & harmony becomes a reality in Jesus' birthplace.

For more info about Christians in the Holy Land, visit [Good Friday](#)

You can donate at this link: [Donation Holy Land](#)

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY 16 APRIL 2023. ST RAPHAEL'S CHURCH :

12:00 - 3:00 PM - Blessed Sacrament Adoration
3:00 PM - Eucharist Celebration
2:00 PM onwards— Sacramental Reconciliation

Pray for good health of : Monica O'Brien, Anne Lo, Sunga Family, Adele

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

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 (There is mass on 1st April)
Sunday	8:00am Mass 6:00pm Croatian Mass	10:00am Mass

NO MASS at Mater Dei

There will be no week day masses at Mater Dei church during the week after EASTER 11th April to 14th April 2023

The Catholic Weekly PULPIT POINTS 2nd April 2023

- Faith groups respond to Labor win in NSW
- Monica Doumit: What to expect from the Minns government
- Sherry Wadell to explore the power of the Holy Spirit
- The blessing of a dog's breakfast
- Reflections for Palm Sunday
- Day of the Unborn Child draws record numbers

Volunteer Auditor Required

To audit Parish Financial Report. Please contact the Parish office on 9546 2605 if you can assist

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	233.70	246.65
Second: loose	449.90	424.00
Envelopes	355.00	470.00

HOLY WEEK MINISTRIES ROSTER

Please write your names in the Holy Week Roster posted at the entrance of the Church or phone / text Michael on 0437 517 758.

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)

St Raphael's Church - on Good Friday - Veneration at the Tomb & Start of Divine Mercy Novena at 7:30pm

Morning Tea St Raphael Church



There will be morning tea after the 8am Mass at St Raphael's church. All are welcome!!

PARISH DIRECTORY

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Thomas Alukka
M: 0469 236 118 E: tomyalukka@gmail.com

MATER DEI CATHOLIC CHURCH
108 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

REASON FOR HAVING A COMMON MASS ON HOLY THURSDAY.

Mater Dei and St. Raphael are considered to be one parish with one parish priest and as per the pastoral note in the ORDO (liturgical calendar), "Mass apart from the Chrism Mass and the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, all Masses are prohibited".

Mater Dei Home Rosary

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

You Gotta be dead

A teacher was testing the children in her Sunday school class to see if they understood the concept of getting to heaven. She asked them, "If I sold my house and my car, had a big garage sale and gave all my money to the church, would that get me into Heaven?" "NO!" the children answered. "If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the yard, and kept everything neat and tidy, would that get me into Heaven?" Again, the answer was, "NO!" Now she was smiling. Hey, they're getting it, she thought! "Well, then, if I was kind to animals and gave candy to all the children, and loved my husband, would that get me into Heaven?" she asked. Again, they all answered, "NO!" She was just bursting with pride for them. "Well," she continued, "then how can I get into Heaven?" A five-year-old boy shouted out, "YOU GOTTA BE DEAD."

RUNNY