



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

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE
RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

Bulletin

9th April 2023

Entrance Antiphon : Lk 24:34; cf. Rv 1:6

The Lord is truly risen, alleluia.
To him be glory and power
for all the ages of eternity, alleluia,
alleluia.

First Reading: Acts 10:34. 37-43

We have eaten and drunk with him
after his resurrection from the dead.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 117:1-2. 16-17.
22-23. R. v.24

(R.) This is the day the Lord has
made; let us rejoice and be
glad.

1. Give thanks to the Lord for he is
good, for his love has no end.
Let the sons of Israel say: 'His
love has no end.' (R.)
2. The Lord's right hand has tri-
umphed; his right hand raised
me up. I shall not die, I shall live
and recount his deeds. (R.)
3. The stone which the builders
rejected has become the corner
stone. This is the work of the
Lord, a marvel in our eyes. (R.)

Second Reading: Col 3:1-4

Look for the things that are in heav-
en, where Christ is.

Gospel Acclamation : 1 Cor 5:7-8

Alleluia, alleluia!
Christ has become our paschal sac-
rifice; let us feast with joy in the
Lord.

Gospel : Jn 20:1-9

The teaching of scripture is that he
must rise from the dead.

Communion Antiphon: 1 Cor 5:7-8

Christ our Passover has been sacri-
ficed, alleluia; therefore let us keep
the feast with the unleavened bread
of purity and truth, alleluia, alleluia.

My dear Parishioners,

Every day in little ways we fight a battle between good and evil, between caring and ignoring, between virtue and vice – such is the stuff of life. But Easter reminds us that, in the end, Good can – and will – triumph. Christ in his costly death and resurrection has made us all one! Our efforts should be to protect those who are vulnerable and give special tender care to refugees, the poor, the unborn, the aged and our children.

The Risen Christ met his disciples with the simple words "Peace to you". I pray that our Risen Lord be revealed to you in the love of your family, friends, the Church and the community at large.

Easter blessings and prayers

Yours in Christ,

Fr Thomas Huskka

Parish Priest



REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

On this, the most important celebration in the Christian calendar, it is a shame that the reading chosen for the Lectionary is something of a let down. Certainly, within the gospel reading we have the discovery of the empty tomb by Mary of Magdala; the disbelieving disciples running to find things exactly as Mary had described; and the dawning realisation of what Jesus had meant when he so frequently spoke about rising from the dead. However, if the editors of the Lectionary had chosen to also include the next nine verses of the gospel we would have also heard the magnificent encounter between Mary and the risen Lord, confirming that it was a woman, Mary Magdala, who was the first witness to Christ's resurrection. As it is, we never hear this account as part of the cycle of Sunday readings.

The discovery of the empty tomb – although so simply told – is an astounding event that completes the Paschal Mystery: the passion, death AND resurrection of Jesus. Whilst Christ's willingness to go to his death on the cross was an extraordinary statement of God's love for humankind, it is his rising again from death that offers all Christian people hope. It is the second disciple – the one whom Jesus loved – who is the first to grasp the meaning of what has happened inside the tomb. The gospel tells us that upon entering the tomb and seeing Jesus' burial cloths lying there, 'he saw and he believed'. Unlike the later encounters with the risen Lord, this disciple recognised the truth and significance of what he saw in the empty tomb. He didn't need to see the risen Lord to believe. Perhaps it is he that we today can best identify with. Not in a position to physically encounter the risen Christ, we are capable of seeing the signs of his resurrection and continuing presence in the world and choose to believe.

Historical Context – Mary Magdalene, or Mary of Magdala, plays an important role in the gospel accounts of the resurrection. She was obviously a significant follower of Jesus, being named as a witness to the crucifixion, discovering the empty tomb and the first to encounter the risen Christ. One would think that she would hold a prestigious place in the Church, but for many years she was confused with another character identified in the gospels and was portrayed as a prostitute and sinner. Mary is named in each of the four gospels and not once is it indicated that she was a sinner or prostitute. She has been a victim of mistaken identity for 2000 years.

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)

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 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.

MASS TIMES

	St Raphael Church	Mater Dei Church
Tues		11th April No Mass
Wed		12th April No Mass
Thurs	13th April No Mass	
Friday	7:30pm Adoration	14th April No Mass
Sat	4:30pm Reconciliation	No Mass during School Holidays
Sunday	8:00am Mass 6:00pm Croatian Mass	10:00am Mass



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

Recent survey from NCLS shows that Nearly half of all Australians would come to church this Easter, if only someone would invite them.

Sacrament of Confirmation

Mater Dei: 30th and 31st May.
St Raphael: 9th June. Info night Wed 3rd May 2023 5:30pm

Holy Week	Please refer to Holy Week Roster in the Church			
15th/16th April (3rd)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.00am	6.15pm	10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Earl, Carl	No Mass	Volunteer
Readers	Pavia Family	Yenson		Jolly Jose

The Catholic Weekly PULPIT POINTS 9th April 2023

- Feeding the Masses. How Sydney's Catholics have made Easter a feast of faith.
- A peace like no other. Archbishop's Easter message.
- The face of God? The evidence for the Shroud.
- Healing, faith & relics. Maronites mark 50 years.
- Christ the tiger.
- Prayer is like glue, make it stick.

Annual Ecumenical ANZAC Commemoration

At St Mark's Anglican Church
On 23rd April 2023 at 2:00pm
The annual commemoration is distinguished by the involvement of local churches, as well as representatives from NZ and Australian-Turkish communities, in remembering all, friend and foe, who served in the Gallipoli Campaign. All are welcome.

RCIA Warm Welcome to **Crystal Tuohy, Tong Wang, Chi Kit Chao, Xinyi Wang (Cindy), Lu Yin, Kun Hu (Kevin), Wendy Han, Maggie Shihong Wang and Yan Song** as fully initiated Christians into our St Raphael's & Mater Dei Catholic community. Let's continue to love, support and pray for them. *Thank you Graeme & Jean Dorahy for your time & support!*

Mater Dei Home Rosary

11-4-2023	Nives Care 33 Church Street Blakehurst 11-00 AM
18-4-2023	Nives Care 33 Church Street Blakehurst 11-00 AM All are welcome

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	481.40	452.05
Second: loose	478.80	478.80
Envelopes	400.00	385.00

Priest and Rabbi

A priest and a rabbi are in a car crash and it's a bad one. Both of their cars are demolished but amazingly neither one of them is hurt. After they crawl out of their cars, the rabbi says, "So you're a priest. That's interesting; I'm a rabbi. Wow, just look at our cars! There's nothing left, but we're unhurt. This must be a sign from God that we should meet and be friends and live together in peace." The priest replies, "Oh, yes, I agree. It's a miracle that we survived and are here together." "And here's another miracle," says the rabbi. "My car is destroyed but this bottle of wine didn't break. Surely God wants us to drink the wine and celebrate our good fortune," he says, handing the bottle to the priest. The priest nods in agreement, opens the wine, drinks half of it, and hands it back to the rabbi. The rabbi takes it and puts the cap back on. "Aren't you going to have any?" asks the priest. "Not now. I think I'll wait until the police come and write their report."

FUNNY

PARISH DIRECTORY

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MATER DEI CATHOLIC CHURCH
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Principal: Ms Melanie Headley

St. Raphael Primary School: (02) 9546 4898

Principal: Mrs Annette McKenzie