

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

Fourth Sunday of Easter -
Year A

Bulletin

30th April 2023



Entrance Antiphon : Cf. Ps 32:5-6

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

First Reading: Acts 2:14. 36-41

God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 22:1-6. R. v.1

(R.) The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.

1. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. (R.)
2. He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort. (R.)
3. You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. (R.)
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. (R.)

Second Reading: 1 Pt 2:20-25

You had gone astray but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Gospel Acclamation : Jn 10:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me.

Alleluia!

Gospel : Jn 10:1-10

I am the gate of the sheepfold.

Communion Antiphon:

The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

The fourth Sunday of Easter is sometimes known as Good Shepherd Sunday. In the three different cycles of the liturgical year, the gospel on this Sunday comes from John, chapter 10 – an extended discourse by Jesus on the image of himself as the good shepherd. This year the reading is the beginning of the chapter and stops just immediately before the words, 'I am the good shepherd'.

Our understanding of this whole image and the scene that is set in today's passage is very dependent upon a contextual understanding of the times. Whilst shepherds were generally regarded as being little better than criminals, they often put their lives in danger to tend to their flocks. Of a night time, several flocks of sheep would be penned in a communal sheepfold, usually made of stone walls. There was only one entrance to the sheepfold and one of the shepherds would effectively become the gate by sleeping across the entranceway. This was to keep the sheep in but also to guard against thieves. Thieves might climb over the wall into the sheepfold but the sheep were trained to respond to their shepherd's voice alone so thieves could only steal what sheep they could carry off or those that were not sufficiently trained to their shepherd's commands.

When Jesus described himself as the gate of the sheepfold, his audience would have immediately understood the analogy. For a shepherd to become the gate to the sheepfold of a night was to risk his life for not only his own sheep but all the sheep in the fold overnight. It took courage and demonstrated utter commitment.

Historical Context – A line of shepherds

When Jesus used the image of himself as a shepherd, he named himself as belonging to a Jewish ancestry that associated itself with shepherds. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Moses were all shepherds. David, the second King of Israel, was regarded as the greatest king in Jewish history. His humble beginning, captured magnificently in the sculpture by Michelangelo, was as a shepherd boy guarding his flock with a slingshot. The kings of Israel were charged to 'shepherd' their people rather than to lord it over them as the pagan kings did.

Scriptural context – Psalm 22

Today's responsorial psalm uses Psalm 22 (sometimes referenced as Psalm 23), 'the Lord is my shepherd'. It is a very popular psalm and is often reproduced on Christian posters and other artworks. It was also a popular psalm and image at the time of Jesus. For Jesus to describe himself as the good shepherd caused great distress among the Jewish officials. They saw Jesus as being blasphemous for the psalm makes clear that *the Lord* is the shepherd. Jesus quite deliberately makes clear that he and the Father are one: the Lord is the shepherd and Jesus is the good shepherd.

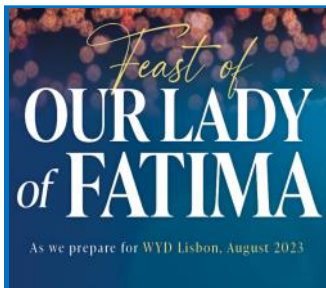
Seasons of Renewal: Pentecost

Join us online as we explore practical ideas that parishes can implement in preparation for Pentecost, so that others may come to share in the joy and hope that the Holy Spirit gives. All welcome!

Sessions available are as follows:

Wednesday 3 May | 2 – 3pm

Thursday 4 May | 7:30 – 8:30pm. Register [here](#).



Sat 13 May 2023.
6pm Mass at St Mary's Cathedral, followed by procession to Cathedral Forecourt as we prepare for WYD at Lisbon in Aug 2023

MASS TIMES

	St Raphael Church	Mater Dei Church
Tues		9:15am Mass
Wed		8:45am Rosary, Novena 9:15am Mass
Thurs	9:15am Mass (at MD during school holidays)	
Friday	7:30pm Adoration	8:45am Adoration 9:15am Mass
Sat	4:30pm Reconciliation 5:00pm Vigil Mass	Vigil mass on 1st and 3rd Sat (mass on 6th May)
Sunday	8:00am Mass 6:00pm Croatian Mass	10:00am Mass

29th /30th Apr (5th Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5:00pm	8.00am		10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Volunteer	No Vigil Mass	Volunteer
Readers	Pavia Family	Lappen Family		Nina Milazzo
6th /7th May (1st Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5:00pm	8.00am	6:15pm	10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Gary & Max	Tony Oscuro	Paul Watson
Readers	Barry L Volunteer	Yenson Family	Frances Volunteer	Gail Abbott Luisa Galea

Recently deceased : Monica O'Brien

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.

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

02-5-2023 Nives Care
33 Church Street Blakehurst 11-00 AM
09-5-2023 Nives Care
33 Church Street Blakehurst 11-00 AM
All are welcome

The Only Pearly Gates Story I Ever Liked

A man dies and goes to heaven. Of course, St. Peter meets him at the pearly gates. St. Peter says, "Here's how it works. You need 100 points to make it into heaven. You tell me all the good things you've done, and I give you a certain number of points for each item, depending on how good it was. When you reach 100 points, you get in."
"Okay," the man says, "I was married to the same woman for 50 years and never cheated on her, even in my heart."
"That's wonderful," says St. Peter, "that's worth three points!"
"Three points?" he says. "Well, I attended church all my life and supported its ministry with my tithe and service."
"Terrific!" says St. Peter, "that's certainly worth a point."
"One point? Golly. How about this; I started a soup kitchen in my city and worked in a shelter for homeless veterans."
"Fantastic, that's good for two more points," he says. "TWO POINTS!!" the man cries, "At this rate the only way I'll get into heaven is by the grace of God!" St Peter says, "Come on in!"

Charisms: The Power of the Holy Spirit Unleashed

Presented by Sherry Weddell

Monday 22 May 2023 6:00pm – 9:00pm Liverpool Catholic Club, and also **Wed 24 May 2023** 6:00pm—9:00pm Australian Catholic University Strathfield
Join Sherry Weddell, international speaker and author of 'Forming Intentional Disciples: The Path to Knowing and Following Jesus', for an evening dedicated to exploring the power of the Holy Spirit working in our lives and renewing the Church for mission. Endowed with spiritual gifts, each of us is chosen by God in a special way to witness to Christ in the world and to build His Kingdom here on earth.

Fr Thomas would like you to attend this talk as it will help build up our parish. Please contact Michael 0437 517 758 to register via [register now](#).



Donate to the Charitable Works Fund May 2023 Appeal

6th & 7th May 2023 is our parish appeal.

Help keep alive vital ministries of the Church in service to those who need it most. In hospitals, churches, schools, communities and families, your donation is making our world a loving, caring and compassionate place.

Give generously. Your tax-deductible gift changes lives. Thank you!

Donate at www.ourfaithourworks/give-to-cwf Or complete the parish envelope.



With Deepest Sympathy



We sadly announce the passing away of our long time parishioner **Monica O'Brien** on 27th April 2023. We extend our heartfelt condolences and prayers to her daughter Cathy, all family members, relatives and friends.
The funeral is on Tues 9th May 2023 at 10:00am at St Raphael's Church, South Hurstville.
Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord and may her soul rest in peace!



Palms Australia Mission: Transform Lives - theirs...and yours

Palms Australia is offering Australian Catholics the opportunity to enter Global Mission and they are inviting you to join their overseas placements program in communities e.g. Africa, Asia or the Pacific from a variety of professions and trades to share their skills and knowledge with those who have few other chances for training. For more information contact Palms Australia: 02 9560 5333 or 0422 472 567. www.palms.org.au

The Catholic Weekly

30 April 2023 PULPIT POINTS

- A Cross fit for a King
- Podcast of faith for students
- Father Bob, a beloved larrikin
- Gifts that renew parishes
- Remembering Anzac
- Why I became Catholic

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	363.40	195.95
Second: loose	326.70	270.00
Envelopes	360.00	350.00

PARISH DIRECTORY

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Thomas Alukka

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MATER DEI CATHOLIC CHURCH

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ST. RAPHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

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Office hours: Tues & Wed 9:30am - 2:30pm
Phone: 02 9546 2605

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Parish Ministry Coordinator & Safeguarding Officer Michael Fernandes

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St. Raphael Primary School: (02) 9546 4898

Principal: Mrs Annette McKenzie