



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

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER
YEAR A

Bulletin

16th April 2023

Entrance Antiphon : 1 Pt 2:2

Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

First Reading: Acts 2:42-47

The faithful lived together and owned everything in common.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 117:2-4. 13-15. 22-24. R. v.1

- (R.) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.
1. Let the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end.' Let the sons of Aaron say: 'His love has no end.' Let those who fear the Lord say: 'His love has no end.' (R.)
 2. I was thrust, thrust down and falling but the Lord was my helper. The Lord is my strength and my song; he was my saviour. There are shouts of joy and victory in the tents of the just. (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. This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad. (R.)

Second Reading: 1 Pt 1:3-9

He has given us a new birth as his children, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead.

Gospel Acclamation : Jn 20:29

Alleluia, alleluia!
You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!
Alleluia!

Gospel : Jn 20:19-31

After eight days Jesus came in and stood among them.

Communion Antiphon: Cf. Jn 20:27

Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

Because the focus of this week's gospel passage is usually placed on poor old doubting Thomas, we sometimes overlook the way the passage begins. The disciples are huddled in a room, 'for fear of the Jews'. Just a couple of weeks earlier they had been on top of the world. Jesus was enormously popular with the people, and the disciples, by association, were caught up in that affection. Their man, the one they had chosen to follow, was making waves and stirring the authorities – thumbing his nose at the rules. This, of course, made the disciples feel good to be around Jesus. However, in the space of just a few short days, their world had turned upside down. They'd gone from riding the crest of a wave to being utterly dumped! They were cowering in a closed up room, afraid for their lives in case those who handed Jesus over for death came for them as well.

They'd already had an experience of the resurrected Jesus yet they were still hiding and afraid. Into this fear and uncertainty steps Jesus who says, 'Peace be with you'. It is a reminder of Jesus calming the storm out on the lake – in the midst of turmoil and anxiety he brings peace and calm.

Thomas has received a pretty bad rap for the last 2000 years, forever labelled as 'Doubting Thomas' because he wasn't prepared to take someone else's word for the fact that Jesus had risen. However, despite his demand for evidence, once Jesus is before him, he abandons all his thoughts about placing his fingers in the wounds and proclaims, 'My Lord and my God!' This is an absolutely extraordinary statement of faith. For the very first time, someone recognises Jesus, not as Messiah, prophet or Lord, but as God.

Historical Context – My Lord and my God

This extraordinarily clear statement of belief about the divinity of Jesus appears nowhere else in any of the four gospels. Why does the Gospel of John make this statement and not any of the other gospels? It must be remembered that the Gospel of John was the last of the four gospels to be written – at least 20 years after the Gospel of Mark and some 60 to 70 years after the death of Jesus. The early Christians had been cast out of the Jewish tradition and were making sense of how their own beliefs could stand apart from Jewish tradition. With the break from Judaism, Christians felt able to express their developing belief that Jesus was God.

Have you thought? Those who have not seen

Jesus says to Thomas, 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' That's us! Jesus' words in the gospel are meant for people like us living today. We are not in the position of Thomas and the other disciples who were able to see the risen Lord face to face and so convince themselves of his rising. The gospel recognises that to believe in the resurrection without that physical, personal encounter with Jesus is to be celebrated even more. Happy are we – blessed are we – who have not seen and yet still believe!

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:

Thursday 20 April | 7:30 – 8:30pm

Wednesday 3 May | 2 – 3pm

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



Today, we celebrate **Divine Mercy Sunday**. It's origin stems from St. Faustina who had private revelations concerning Divine Mercy. Her Diary records 14 occasions when Jesus requested that a Feast of Mercy (Divine Mercy Sunday) be observed.

"Be merciful to others – The Merciful shall be shown Mercy ... "three ways of exercising mercy – by deed, by word, by prayer. In these three degrees is contained the fullness of mercy..." Diary # 742

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY 16 APRIL 2023.

ST RAPHAEL'S CHURCH

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

Sacrament of Confirmation

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

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	7:30pm Adoration	8:45am Adoration 9:15am Mass
Sat	4:30pm Reconciliation 5:00pm Vigil Mass	No mass during School Holidays
Sunday	8:00am Mass 6:00pm Croatian Mass	10:00am Mass

Camino of St Joseph: Overnight Walking Pilgrimage for Men

Starts Friday 28 April | 8:30pm | St Mary's Cathedral
with Mass celebrated by Bishop Richard Umbers.
Confession from 7:30pm. Pilgrimage across 9 churches in Sydney's inner west.
Concludes Saturday 29 April | 6:30am | St Joseph's Enfield with Mass followed by BBQ breakfast and celebration.
Adoration at each church followed by a short reflection on St Joseph.
Register [here](#).

Charisms: The Power of the Holy Spirit Unleashed

Presented by Sherry Weddell

Monday 22 May 2023 | 7:00pm – 9:00pm (Doors open at 6:00pm)
Liverpool Catholic Club | 424 – 458 Hoxton Park Rd, Prestons NSW 2170
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. (This event is for those aged 18 years and above).

Also on Wed 24 May 2023 | 6 – 9pm | Australian Catholic University Strathfield

Cost: \$30 plus booking fees.
Refreshments served from 6:00 – 6:45pm. Talk commences at 7:00pm.

Places are limited - [register now](#).

15th /16th Apr (3rd Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.00am		10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Earl, Carl	No Vigil Mass	Volunteer
Readers	Pavia Family	Yenson Family		Jolly Jose Wendy E
22nd /23rd Apr (4th Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5:00pm	8:00am		10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Michael F	No Vigil Mass	Volunteer
Readers	Volunteers	Annie M JP Moral		Lucy Mistry Phil M

Recently Deceased: Linda Rangel

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.

Mater Dei Home Rosary

18-4-2023 Josephine and Tony Ledonne
61 Castle Street Blakehurst 7:00PM
25-4-2023 Nives Care
33 Church Street Blakehurst 11-00 AM
All are welcome

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	521.25	810.65
Second: loose	1052.75	1154.30
Envelopes	335.00	375.00

Two Short Ones Both Funny

The Sunday School teacher was describing that when Lot's wife looked back at Sodom she turned into a pillar of salt, when Bobby interrupted. "My mommy looked back once while she was driving," he announced, "and she turned into a telephone pole."



Another Sunday School teacher said to her children, "We have been learning about how powerful the kings and queens were in Biblical times. But there is a higher power. Who can tell me what it is?" Tommy blurted out, "I know, Aces."



Volunteer Auditor Required

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

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