



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

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER  
YEAR A

Bulletin

23rd April 2023

**Entrance Antiphon :** Cf. Ps 65:1-2

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth; O sing to the glory of his name. O render him glorious praise, alleluia.

**First Reading:** Acts 2:14, 22-33

It was impossible for him to be held by the power of Hades.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 15:1-2. 5. 7-11.  
R. v.11

(R.) Lord, you will show us the path of life.

1. Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you. I say to the Lord: 'You are my God. O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup; it is you yourself who are my prize.' (R.)
2. I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel, who even at night directs my heart. I keep the Lord ever in my sight: since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. (R.)
3. And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad; even my body shall rest in safety. For you will not leave my soul among the dead, nor let your beloved know decay. (R.)
4. You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence, at your right hand happiness for ever. (R.)

**Second Reading:** 1 Pt 1:17-21

The ransom that was paid to free you was the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ.

**Gospel Acclamation :** See Lk 24:32

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us: make our hearts burn with love when you speak.

Alleluia!

**Gospel :** Lk 24:13-35

They recognised him at the breaking of the bread.

**Communion Antiphon:** Lk 24:35

The disciples recognized the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread, alleluia.

## REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

One of the remarkable things about the Risen Jesus is that his friends and followers almost always fail to recognise him at first. In the instance on the road to Emmaus, two of the disciples are walking the road feeling sorry for themselves when Jesus joins them. It is, perhaps, an experience that is not unfamiliar in our own lives: so absorbed by what is happening to us that we fail to recognise the presence of Christ walking the journey with us – in spirit or in the guise of someone around us. Jesus allows the disciples to share their woes and their grief and then he slowly but surely relates all of what had happened to the scriptures and demonstrates to the disciples that the events of the previous few days were all part of God's plan. The disciples felt that their hopes and beliefs had been misplaced in Jesus; he hadn't delivered all that they had dreamed. But the Risen Jesus makes them realise that their hopes were not misplaced; they were right to trust and hope in Jesus and that belief will still bear fruit.

It is not until Jesus re-enacts the Last Supper breaking of bread that the disciples suddenly recognise him, but at that moment of recognition, Jesus vanishes from their midst. It must have been tantalising and frustrating for the two disciples – when they finally realised who they had been talking with and they could celebrate his presence Jesus disappeared. But the truth of what they had realised didn't abandon them. They reminded one another of the passion they had felt: 'Didn't our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road?' They are saying to each other, how stupid must we have been not to recognise Jesus? Only he could make us feel like that!

### Living the Gospel – Living the journey

The story of the road to Emmaus is a perfect model for our Christian life. It reminds us first of all that none of us walk the journey alone. Even when we don't recognise his presence, Jesus joins us in the everyday realities of life. The breaking open and interpretation of scripture is essential to making sense of our life experiences and through the celebration of Eucharist and table fellowship we are nourished to not only continue the journey but to share the good news with others. Where do you find yourself in the events of this story?

### Gospel Focus – Hearts on Fire

The disciples recognised Jesus in the breaking of the bread and at that moment he disappeared. The immediate reaction of the disciples might have been to dismiss the notion that Jesus had been with them as wishful thinking. However, they remind each other that their hearts had been set on fire by Jesus as he spoke to them along the road. It is an extraordinarily powerful image; to set hearts on fire. Yet, that experience is not locked in the pages of the gospel; Jesus continues to set hearts of fire, inspiring everyday people to do extraordinary things.

## 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](#).

# VOLUNTEER AT CAMP DAVID MAY 2023

CCC HAWKESBURY | 21st-26th MAY

A camp experience for adults with an intellectual disability. Our week includes, music, outings, games, crafts, bible stories, singing, dancing, making friends, and having an amazing time away.

REGISTER AT [handsandfeet.com.au/disability-camps](http://handsandfeet.com.au/disability-camps)



Be a part of this incredible ministry, sharing Christ's love with this amazing group of people.

Volunteer with us



## ANZAC DAY Mass

Tuesday 25th April 2023

St Raphael's Church 6:30am

Mater Dei Church 9:15am



There will be morning tea after the Sunday morning Mass at Mater Dei Church. All are welcome!!

## 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](#).

## 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](#).

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	No mass during School Holidays
Sunday	8:00am Mass 6:00pm Croatian Mass	10:00am Mass

22nd /23rd Apr (4th Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5:00pm	8.00am		10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Michael F Norman Y	No Vigil Mass	Volunteer
Readers	Volunteers	Annie M JP Moral		Lucy Mitry Phil M
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

**Death Anniversary:** Rudolf Sossinka, John Reid

**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

25-4-2023 Nives Care  
33 Church Street Blakehurst 11-00 AM

2-5-2023 Nives Care  
33 Church Street Blakehurst 11-00 AM

All are welcome

### COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	399.05	240.55
Second: loose	279.85	219.05
Envelopes	365.00	320.00

### The Catholic Weekly PULPIT POINTS 23rd April 2023

- Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP: From death to life
- David's Place celebrate the Easter Triduum
- The Easter things we love
- Editorial: Catholicism's tenacity
- Berlin's 'wild' Catholics
- Pope Francis: Break with sin!

### 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.

### PARISH DIRECTORY

**PARISH PRIEST:** Fr Thomas Alukka  
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**ST. RAPHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
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Website: <https://www.materdei-straphael.org.au/>

**Parish Secretary:** Juliana Widjaja

Office hours: Tues & Wed 9:30am - 2:30pm  
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**Parish Ministry Coordinator & Safeguarding Officer** Michael Fernandes

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### Dead Church Story

The new pastor of a church spent the first four days making personal visits to each of his prospective congregation inviting them to come to his inaugural services.

The following Sunday the church was all but empty. Accordingly, the pastor placed a notice in the local newspapers, stating that, because the church was dead, it was everyone's duty to give it a decent Christian burial. The funeral would be held the following Sunday afternoon.

Morbidly curious, a large crowd turned out for the 'funeral'. In front of the pulpit they saw a closed coffin which was covered in flowers. After the priest had delivered the eulogy, he opened the coffin and invited his congregation to come forward and pay their final respects to their dead church.

Filled with curiosity as to what would represent the corpse of a 'dead church', all the people eagerly lined up to look in the coffin. Each 'mourner' peeped into the coffin then quickly turned away with a guilty, sheepish look.

In the coffin, tilted at the correct angle, was a large mirror.

