



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

Fifth Sunday of Easter -
Year A

Bulletin

7th May 2023

Entrance Antiphon : Cf. Ps 97:1-2

O sing a new song to the Lord,
for he has worked wonders; in the
sight of the nations he has shown
his deliverance, alleluia.

First Reading: Acts 6:1-7

They elected seven men filled with
the Spirit and wisdom.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 32:1-2, 4-5, 18- 19. R. v.22

(R.) Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.

1. Ring out your joy to the Lord, O
you just; for praise is fitting for
loyal hearts. Give thanks to the
Lord upon the harp, with a ten-
stringed lute sing him songs.
(R.)
2. For the word of the Lord is faith-
ful and all his works to be trust-
ed. The Lord loves justice and
right and fills the earth with his
love. (R.)
3. The Lord looks on those who
revere him, on those who hope
in his love, to rescue their souls
from death, to keep them alive in
famine. (R.)

Second Reading: 1 Pt 2:4-9

You are a chosen race, a royal
priesthood.

Gospel Acclamation : Jn 14:6

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the way, the truth, and the life,
says the Lord; no one comes to the
Father, except through me.

Alleluia!

Gospel : Jn 14:1-12

I am the way, the truth, and the life.

Communion Antiphon: Cf. Jn 15:1,5

I am the true vine and you are the
branches, says the Lord. Whoever
remains in me, and I in him, bears
fruit in plenty, alleluia.

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

The gospel readings for this week and next week shift the focus away from the resurrection and begin to set us up for the departure of Jesus from the earth – the Ascension – and the sending of the Holy Spirit – the Pentecost event.

Today's gospel passage comes from the very long Last Supper discourse in the gospel of John. When Jesus speaks about 'going away' for a time it could be interpreted as the period of his death and rising that are about to occur in the chronology of the story. However, the gospel of John is written a very long time after the death of Jesus; perhaps as much as 70 years after Jesus. Given this period of time between the events and the writing, we know that the writer was also referring to this longer time of Jesus 'going away'. By the time of the writing of this gospel the early Christians were starting to come to terms with the fact that Jesus probably wasn't going to return in their lifetime. They had seen the devastating destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple by the Romans in 70CE which they thought had signalled the end of all time. However, here they were, still alive and still no sign of Jesus' return.

The theme of being present and being absent is very strong in this gospel. The discussion about Jesus and the Father being one is part of this theme. Jesus is God present in the world. God has come to dwell among the people. When Jesus speaks of preparing rooms in the Father's house, it is a reference to preparing the disciples to 'live' in God; to dwell in God just as God has dwelt in the people.

Historical Context – It is for the best...

At the time of this gospel's writing, some 70 years after the events it describes, amazing things have taken place in the early Christian community. Rather than everything falling apart with the death of Jesus, the message of Jesus has spread further than he himself could ever have accomplished. It is the departure of Jesus from their midst and the sending of the Spirit that really prompts the disciples to act on what they had experienced while Jesus lived among them. The gospel writer has Jesus saying that he has to go away so that the disciples can reach their potential.

Scriptural context – The gospel of John

The gospel of John is very different from the other three 'synoptic' gospels. The other three have a very narrative style and can be seen together as different recounts of the same events. Whilst the gospel of John also has some beautifully narrated stories, it is better known as a more theologically reflective piece of writing. It assumes that the readers of this gospel are already familiar with one or more of the others, so it doesn't need to tell the story again. Rather, it presents a sweeping image of God, through Jesus, reaching out, in, through, and with love to the people.

Living the Gospel – The Way, the Truth and the Life

When Thomas asks, 'we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus answers by saying, 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.' The reader of the gospel has known this truth all along from the opening line of the gospel, 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.' Our aim, as Christian people, is to be one with God, not only by sharing in the resurrection but also in the way we live. Jesus makes clear that the way to be with God is by following his example.

Charisms: Sherry Weddell's talk

Monday 22 May 2023 6:00pm – 9:00pm Liverpool Catholic Club,
Wednesday 24 May 2023 6:00pm—9:00pm Australian Catholic University Strathfield
 Helping to build up our parish. Please contact Michael 0437 517 758 to register via [register now](#).



Novena of Rosaries to Our Lady Help of Christians, Patroness of Australia since 1844.



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

Called to LOVE
 An opportunity to enrich your marriage and renew your vows

12TH MAY EVENING EVENT, LEWISHAM | 13TH MAY DAY RETREAT, RYDE | 14TH MAY DAY RETREAT, PUNCHBOWL

With guest speaker **Chris Pagett**
 FOUNDER OF THE CENTRE OF HOLY MARRIAGE

More information and registrations at www.trybooking.com/CEPKJ

IN THE MONTH OF MARY

National Shrine of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

For over 130 years, this National Shrine has honoured Mary as Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. Come to learn about the beautiful history of this special place and seek the intercession of Blessed Mary the Mother of God.

WEDNESDAY 17 MAY
 9:30AM
 @ OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH
 193 AVOCA ST, RANDWICK

Special Guest: Fr Pat Mara MSC (Parish Priest / Chaplain of Marist College)

Morning Tea afterwards at a local cafe

RSVP: Monday 15 May
 bernice.wong@syd.catholic.edu.au



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.



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
13th /14th May (2nd Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5:00pm	8.00am		10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Michael B	No Mass	Volunteer
Readers	Fernandes Family	Maria C JP Moral		Joan Hanson Jean Dorahy

Funeral of Monica O'Brien will be held at St Raphael's Church on Tuesday 9th May at 10:00am. May her soul rest in Peace.

Pray for good health of : David Derrig, 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

09-5-2023	Nives Care 33 Church Street Blakehurst 11-00 AM
16-5-2023	Nives Care 33 Church Street Blakehurst 11-00 AM

The Catholic Weekly 6 May 2023 PULPIT POINTS

- Vaping crackdown welcomed by Catholic agencies and parents
- Four hundred and fifty men take to the streets for St Joseph's Camino
- The Christian meaning of King Charles' coronation service
- New baptism resource brings the sacrament alive
- Fr Dan McCaughan: bring back the family rosary
- Fatima procession and Corpus Christi doco show power of walking together

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	367.90	214.35
Second: loose	348.75	332.95
Envelopes	370.00	530.00

Donate via envelopes on the pews or directly via <https://www.ourfaithourworks.org/>

PARISH DIRECTORY

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Thomas Alukka
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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

In the Lord's Army Secret Service?

A friend was in front of me coming out of church one day, and the vicar was standing at the door, as he always was, to shake hands with the worshippers. He grabbed my friend by the hand and pulled him aside. The vicar said to him, 'You need to join the army of the Lord.'
 My friend replied, 'I'm already in the army of the Lord, Father.'
 So the vicar enquired, 'Then how come I don't see you except at Christmas and at Easter?'
 My friend whispered back, 'I'm in the secret service.'

