



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

Sixth Sunday of Easter -
Year A

Bulletin

14th May 2023

Entrance Antiphon : Cf. Is 48:20

Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

First Reading: Acts 8:5-8. 14-17

They laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 65:1-7. 16. 20. R. see v.1

(R.) Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

1. Cry out with joy to God all the earth, O sing to the glory of his name. O render him glorious praise. Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds! (R.)
2. 'Before you all the earth shall bow; shall sing to you, sing to your name!' Come and see the works of God, tremendous his deeds among men. (R.)
3. He turned the sea into dry land, they passed through the river dry-shod. Let our joy then be in him; he rules for ever by his might. (R.)
4. Come and hear, all who fear God. I will tell what he did for my soul: Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer nor withhold his love from me. (R.)

Second Reading: 1 Pt 3:15-18

In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them.

Alleluia!

Gospel : Jn 14:15-21

I shall ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate.

Communion Antiphon: Jn 14:15-16

If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, alleluia.

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

Although this week's gospel passage comes from the Last Supper discourse, it is the perfect reading for this time in the liturgical cycle. In next week's liturgy we celebrate the Ascension of the Lord and the following week we celebrate Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples. This week's reading is the perfect precursor to these coming weeks. Prior to this section of the Last Supper discourse, Jesus has told the disciples that he will be leaving them. He alludes to that fact again in this section but also spells out that he will ask the Father to send to the disciples another advocate (sometimes translated as paraclete or counselor). By referring to the Spirit as 'another' advocate or paraclete, Jesus names himself as having been an advocate. The Spirit is to continue the work that Jesus has begun in and with the disciples, standing as witness and strength for them to help them when the world turns against them.

Jesus says to the disciples that 'In a short time the world will no longer see me; but you will see me, because I live and you will live.' Christian people believe that Christ continues to be present in the world even though he is no longer physically present. Jesus' reference to 'the world' is a reference to those who do not believe. It is only those who believe who continue to recognise and affirm his ongoing presence in the world. Whilst the Spirit, the advocate or paraclete, will act in the world to bring about the reign of God, it is in the hearts and minds of those who believe where the Spirit will act most strongly.

From the perspective of ... The disciples

The words of Jesus in this gospel passage were addressed to the disciples at the Last Supper. They had almost no inclination of what was about to befall them, nor the heart-wrenching loss that they would feel. Yet Jesus tried to prepare them and reassure them that they would not be abandoned by him. In the days after his death, the disciples struggled to remember these words and they were caught up by despair. Even once they had witnessed the Risen Lord, he told them that he would again be leaving them. They must have been so confused and afraid.

Living the Gospel – Live in love

Throughout the gospel of John, we are reminded of the enduring relationship between Jesus and the Father. A number of times, Jesus announces that he and the Father are one. In today's passage, Jesus also says to the disciples that they can share in this relationship of love. When Jesus speaks about anyone who 'loves' him, he speaks about anyone who lives by his message and seeks to be like him. Anyone who does that will share in the love that exists between the Father and the Son. That invitation is open for each of us today as well.

Gospel Focus – Paraclete

The Greek word, *parakletos*, is translated into a number of different terms in English translations of the gospel. Its technical use was for a lawyer or attorney. However, its use in scripture is like the broader meaning of advocate that we use today: someone who stands up for another; someone who speaks up for another; someone who intercedes on behalf of another. An advocate is one who lends strength and support to someone who is disempowered. That is exactly what Jesus did for many people during his ministry and it is also what the Holy Spirit is sent to do.

**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)**



Rosary Crusade Details:
Commencing 15 May 2023 till 23 May 2023, the vigil of the Feast of Mary Help of Christians
Please scan code for more info



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



MASS TIMES		
	St Raphael Church	Mater Dei Church
Tues		9:15am Mass
Wed		8:45am Rosary, Novena 9:15am Mass
Thurs	9:15am Mass	
Friday	7:30pm Adoration	8:45am Adoration 9:15am Mass
Sat	4:30pm Reconciliation 5:00pm Vigil Mass	Vigil mass on 1st & 3rd Sat (No mass on 13th May)
Sunday	8:00am Mass 6:00pm Croatian Mass	10:00am Mass

Mater Dei & St Raphael Parish Calendar 2023		
14/5/2023	SR Confirmation lessons start for Sacrament of Confirmation on 9th June	St Raphael
30&31/5/23	MD Sacrament of Confirmation	Mater Dei
1/6/2023	SR Parish Council Meeting	St Raphael
13/6/2023	MD First Eucharist Parent Info evening (for Parish Children)	Mater Dei
21/6/2023	SR First Eucharist Parent Info evening	St Raphael

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

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](#).

20th /21st May (3rd Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5:00pm	8.00am	6:15pm	10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Earl, Carl	Ray Low	Volunteer
Readers	Pavia Family	Rose T Monica F	Br Michael Nina M	Jolly Jose Wendy E

Safeguarding Children
The Safeguarding and Child Protection documents can be found on our website at <https://www.materdei-straphael.org.au/safeguarding/> and the Safeguarding policy is displayed in both the churches entry / foyer.

ROSARY	
St Raphael's Church	Mater Dei Church
Every Monday at 7:30pm with Blessed Sacrament	Every Sunday 9:30am before the 10am mass

The Catholic Weekly
14 May 2023 PULPIT POINTS

- From atheist to catechist: How becoming Catholic saved Bruce Missen's life
- Checking in with the bush Carmelites
- Mother's Day: Breakfast in bed with the saints
- Fr Bob Maguire remembered at State funeral

Pray for good health of : 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	
16-5-2023	Nives Care 33 Church Street Blakehurst 11-00 AM
23-5-2023	Nives Care 33 Church Street Blakehurst 11-00 AM
All are welcome	

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND		
TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	447.85	301.05
Second: loose	244.80	367.00
Envelopes	300.00	100.00

God is left handed

"Little Philip was spending the weekend with his grandmother after a particularly trying week in infant school. His grandmother decided to take him to the park on Saturday morning. It had been snowing all night and everything was beautiful. His grandmother commented:
'Doesn't it look like an artist painted this scenery? Did you know God painted this just for you?'
'Yes,' replied Philip, 'God did it and he did it left handed.'
This confused his grandmother so she asked him, 'What makes you say God did this with his left hand?'
'Well,' said Philip, 'we learned at Sunday School last week that Jesus sits on God's right hand.' "

FUNNY

PARISH DIRECTORY

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Thomas Alukka
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Principal: Ms Melanie Headley

St. Raphael Primary School: (02) 9546 4898
Principal: Mrs Annette McKenzie