



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

The Ascension of the Lord -

Year A

Bulletin

21st May 2023

Entrance Antiphon : Acts 1:11

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens? This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

First Reading: Acts 1:1-11

Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 46:2-3. 6-9. R. v.6

(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

1. All peoples, clap your hands, cry to God with shouts of joy! For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear, great king over all the earth. (R.)
2. God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast. Sing praise for God, sing praise, sing praise to our king, sing praise. (R.)
3. God is king of all the earth. Sing praise with all your skill. God is king over the nations; God reigns on his holy throne. (R.)

Second Reading: Eph 1:17-23

He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 28:19. 20

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world.
Alleluia!

Gospel : Mt 28:16-20

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Communion Antiphon: Mt 28:20

Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia.

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

The short gospel passage for today is taken from the final words of the gospel of Matthew. It is known as 'The Great Commission' as Jesus is portrayed commissioning his disciples to go out to the world and spread the good news. They are charged to 'Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations.' This is the basis of much of the missionary work of the Church that has gone on ever since then.

However, the focus of today's feast is much more on the first reading than the gospel. The opening verses of the Book of Acts, from the author of Luke-Acts, describe the final instructions of Jesus to his disciples and then his 'lifting up'. The Luke-Acts writer is the only gospel writer to actually describe the Ascension. The fact that the other gospels don't discuss the Ascension in any detail at all is a good indication that this description should not be taken literally.

However, the message of the Ascension is a powerful one. It reminds us that Jesus, the human incarnation of God on earth, was limited to a specific time and place in history. Despite the physical limitations of his life on earth, Jesus ensured that his message and ministry would continue through those he had taught. Knowing that the disciples would need time to grieve and come to terms with all that had occurred in a relatively short space of time, Jesus promised that the Spirit would come upon them in the days to come. That visiting of the Spirit upon the disciples at Pentecost was the motivation to set about doing what Jesus had charged them to do. Without the Ascension, there is no Pentecost.

Historical Context – To the ends of the earth

In both the gospel passage from Matthew and the passage from the Book of Acts, Jesus commissioned his disciples to go out to the whole world. In Matthew, it is to 'all the nations' and in Acts it is 'to the ends of the earth'. Both writers make it abundantly clear that the message of Jesus is not exclusively for the people of Israel but for all people everywhere. Within only a very few years, early Christian communities had sprung up all around the Mediterranean. Once Christianity became the religion of Rome it spread to all the corners of the Roman Empire.

Scriptural context – Not the only Ascension

The description of Jesus being taken up into heaven is a close parallel to the description of the great prophet Elijah also being taken up to heaven. Chapter 2 of 2 Kings describes Elijah speaking to his disciple Elisha in similar words to those used by Jesus to his disciples. The Jewish tradition had no belief in an individual resurrection and so the idea of Ascension was to recognise the greatness of the prophet. He was to be united with God in Heaven rather than having to wait for the great resurrection of all people at the end of time.

Living the Gospel – You will be my witnesses

A witness in a court of law is called to give evidence about a matter; to 'testify' to the truth of what they have seen or what they know to be true. Some people are very good at being a 'witness' to their faith by testifying to others about what they believe. Many others provide witness to their faith by simply living what they believe. Living a life based on Christian principles, including regular prayer and worship in your life, working for justice in the world and taking time to celebrate the beauty of everyday life is a powerful witness to others.

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 (Next mass is on 20th May)
Sunday	8:00am Mass 6:00pm Croatian Mass	10:00am Mass

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
27th /28th May (4th Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5:00pm	8.00am	6:15pm	10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Michael F Norman	No Mass	Volunteer
Readers	Volunteers	Rounds Family		Lucy M, Phil Monaghan


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

Recently Deceased: Briege Robson

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.


Obituary

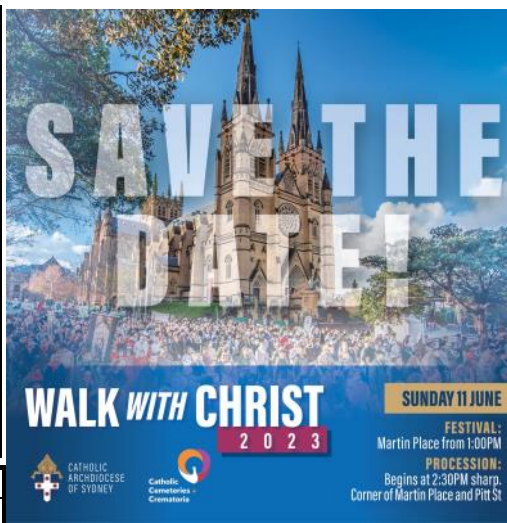
 Briege Robson passed away a week ago. The funeral will be held at St Catherine Leboure Catholic Church Gynea on Wed 24th May 2023 at 11:00am. May her soul rest in Peace.

Mater Dei Home Rosary		
23-5-2023	Josephine & Tony Ledonne 61 Castle Street Blakehurst	7:00PM
30-5-2023	Marguerite & Denis Derrig 32 Waratah St Kyle Bay	11-00 AM
All are welcome		

Creation of Woman

Adam was hanging around the garden of Eden feeling very lonely. So, God asked him, "What's wrong with you?" Adam said he didn't have anyone to talk to. God said that He was going to make Adam a companion and that it would be a woman. He said, "This pretty lady will gather food for you, she will cook for you, and when you discover clothing, she will wash it for you. She will always agree with every decision you make and she will not nag you, and will always be the first to admit she was wrong when you've had a disagreement. She will praise you! She will bear your children and never ask you to get up in the middle of the night to take care of them. Adam asked God, "What will a woman like this cost?" God replied, "An arm and a leg." Then Adam asked, "What can I get for a rib?" Of course, the rest is history....





SAVE THE DATE!

WALK WITH CHRIST 2023

SUNDAY 11 JUNE

FESTIVAL: Martin Place from 1:00PM
PROCESSION: Begins at 2:30PM sharp, Corner of Martin Place and Pitt St

CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY
Catholic Communities - Grenville

LAUDATO SI' WEEK 2023

**HOPE FOR THE EARTH.
HOPE FOR HUMANITY.**

May 21-28, 2023

Mater Dei & St Raphael Parish Calendar 2023		
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

The Catholic Weekly
21 May 2023 PULPIT POINTS

- Let there be light: Fatima procession illuminates St Mary's
- ACT Government mounts takeover of Calvary Public Hospital
- Monica Doumit: Shutting hospitals and schools won't keep them Catholic
- Saintly spray: Danny Mulyono brightens up Catholic schools
- Tassie Benedictine makes final vows
- Should we pray the Our Father with hands outstretched? Fr Flader weighs in


COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND		
TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	378.35	169.90
Second: loose	330.00	394.40
Envelopes	325.00	705.00

The Archbishop would like to encourage as many people to attend as possible the annual event—WALK WITH CHRIST. If there are sufficient parishioners who would like to attend then a bus can be arranged to take us there and back.

Take action during the Laudato Si' Week 2023

Watch a movie: <http://www.theletterfilm.org/watch/>

Host other events: <https://laudatosiweek.org/events-2023-april-en/>

 There will be morning tea at Mater Dei Church on Sun 28th May after the 10am mass

PARISH DIRECTORY

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MATER DEI CATHOLIC CHURCH

1008 King Georges Road, Blakehurst 2221, NSW

ST. RAPHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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