



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

The Transfiguration of the Lord

Bulletin

6th Aug 2023

Entrance Antiphon : Cf Matthew 17:5

In a resplendent cloud the Holy Spirit appeared. The Father's voice was heard: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased. Listen to him.

First Reading: Daniel 7:9-10. 13-14

His raiment was as white as snow.

Responsorial Psalm:

Ps 96:1-2. 5-6. 9. R. vv.1. 9.

(R.) The Lord is king, the most high over all the earth.

1. The Lord is king, let earth rejoice, let all the coastlands be glad. Cloud and darkness are his raiment; his throne, justice and right. (R.)
2. The mountains melt like wax before the Lord of all the earth. The skies proclaim his justice; all peoples see his glory. (R.)
3. For you indeed are the Lord most high above all the earth exalted far above all spirits. (R.)

Second Reading: 2 Peter 1:16-19

We heard this voice from out of heaven.

Gospel Acclamation Matthew 17:5

Alleluia, alleluia!
This is my Son, my beloved, in whom is all my delight: listen to him.
Alleluia!

Gospel : Matthew 17:1-9

His face was shining like the sun.

Communion Antiphon: Cf 1 John 3:2

When Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.



REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

Jesus takes his most trusted disciples up a high mountain to allow them to share in what he knows is about to occur. It is a very clear teaching moment in which Jesus hopes the disciples are going to finally grasp the truth about him. As the disciples stand by, Jesus is transformed before them – suddenly bathed in light and his clothes become dazzlingly white. The disciples also see Moses and Elijah standing and talking with Jesus. Moses was the great Law-giver of Jewish tradition and Elijah the great prophet. Together, they represent the Law and the Prophets – the combined wisdom that make up the tradition of Jewish teaching and Jewish scripture. It is the Law and the Prophets that Jesus' life and ministry brings to fulfilment. It is fitting that Moses and Elijah appear beside Jesus, as the three figures combined represent the fullness of Jewish tradition – the Law of Moses; the challenge and promise of the Prophets; and the compassion of Jesus that completes the other two.

Sadly, the disciples don't really get the point of what they see before them. Peter, caught up in the moment, wants to build tents on the spot to mark the moment and to continue to dwell in the moment. Jesus, however, leads them back down the mountain – back into the valley; back into the reality of life; back into the tragedy that he knows lies before them. No matter how powerful a religious experience may be, Jesus shows us that we always have to return to real life. It is not possible to remain on the 'mountaintop' as Peter would have liked to do; we have to take the experience back into the everyday of our lives.

Historical Context – Moses and Elijah

Both Moses and Elijah had powerful encounters with God on the top of a mountain – it is appropriate that it is they who appear beside Jesus in the transfiguration account. Moses travelled up Mt Sinai to receive the Law from God in the form of the Ten Commandments. When Elijah was fleeing for his life from Queen Jezebel he fled to Mt Horeb. The word of the Lord came to Elijah and told him to stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord was about to pass by. Elijah experienced the Lord in the whisper of a gentle breeze.

Pilgrimage to Holy Land and Rome (April 2024)

Some parishioners attended a meeting with Rome Pilgrimages company and noted the following details:

- a) It is a 13 days tour beginning with Holy Land (8 days) followed by Rome (5 days).
- b) Current cost (2023 price) is \$,4995.00 per person twin share with minimum 21 people.
- c) Includes accommodation, breakfast daily and most dinners. (Air Fare is not included).
- d) The tour can be extended by 5 days for an additional \$1330.00, to include Assisi and Florence (with minimum 10 people).

Proposed itinerary, starting on 8 April 2024 - depart Sydney; Tues 9 – Tues 16 April Holy Land; Tues 16- Mon 22 April Rome; Mon 22- Wed 24 April Assisi; Wed 24- Sat 27 April Florence.

HOLY LAND: Sites: Nazareth//Sea of Galilee//Bethlehem//Jerico//Jordan River//Judean Dessert//Mount Tabor//Bethlehem//Ein Karem//Jerusalem//Mount of Olives//Mount Zion//Holy Sepulchre//Old Jerusalem//Via Dolorosa//Western Wall//Old Jerusalem.

ROME: Sites: Vatican Museums//Sistine Chapel//Angelus and Audience with the Holy Father//Four major Basilicas//Night walking tour: Spanish Steps, Piazza Navonna, Trevi Fountain//St Peter's Basilica//Colosseum//Roman Forum//Catacombs.

ASSISI: Sites: St Damiano/Eremo delle Carceri//St Maria degli Angeli and Porziuncola//Basilica of St Claire//Basilica of St Francis.

FLORENCE: Sites: Uffizi Gallery//City Walking Tour: Il Duomo//Giotto's Bell Tower//Academy of Florence//Leonardo da Vinci Museum//Ponte Vecchio//Basilica of the Holy Cross.

Here is a link to Rome pilgrimages: <https://www.ourfaithourworks.org/rome-pilgrimages/>. Please contact Michael Fernandes for any queries: 0437 517 758



MASS TIMES		
	St Raphael	Mater Dei Church
Tues		9:15am Mass
Wed		8:45am Rosary, Novena 9:15am Mass
Thurs	9:15am Mass	6:30pm Rosary 7:00pm Praise and worship 7:30pm Talk or healing Mass
Friday	7:30pm Adoration	8:45am Adoration 9:15am Mass
Sat	4:30pm Reconciliation 5:00pm Vigil Mass	1st and 3rd Sat 6:15pm only (Next Vigil mass is on 5th Aug)
Sunday	8:00am Mass	10:00am Mass

5th/6th Aug (1st Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5:00pm	8.00am	6:15pm	10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Gary/Max	Tony Oscuro	Paul Watson
EMOHC	Volunteer	Volunteer	Susi F.	Annie M
Readers	Fernandes Family	Rose T Maria C	Fran Oscuro	Gail Abbott Volunteer
12th/13th Aug (2nd Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5:00pm	8.00am		10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Carl Pavia	No Vigil Mass	Volunteer
EMOHC	Volunteer	Volunteer		Annie M
Readers	Pavia Family	Sienna, Zac, Annie		Joan Hanson Jean Dorahy

Recently Deceased: Nolene Uptin

Pray for good health of : Graeme Dorahy, Anne Lo, Sunga Family, Adele Shehata, Anna Liza Torres Zapata, Yin Kwan Tsang.

Pray for the deceased: Mary Toohey, Briega Robson, Monica O'Brien, Jeffrey Bishop, Fr Isidore, Antonius Widjaja, Holy Souls in purgatory.

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

For WYD Lisbon 2023 update




Please read the Catholic weekly or go to [Next stop Lisbon as two WYD pilgrims are confirmed in the Holy Land](#)

Mater Dei Home Rosary		
8-8-2023	Nives Care 33 Church Street Blakehurst	11-00 AM
15-8-2023	Nives Care 33 Church Street Blakehurst	11-00 AM
All are welcome		

ST MICHAEL'S CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP
Every Thursday night **MATER DEI CATHOLIC CHURCH**

6:30 pm Rosary
7:00 pm Praise & Worship, (Reconciliation)
7:30 pm Talk, Mass or Adoration

DATES TO REMEMBER:
August 10 **HEALING MASS** Fr George Gorzkowski
August 17 **If anyone is in Christ he is a new creation - Abraham George**
August 24 **Putting on the armour of God** Ron Maldigri



Donate at www.ourfaithourworks.org/give-to-cwf/

Donate to the Charitable Works Fund August 2023 Appeal
5th & 6th August 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.org/give-to-cwf/
Or complete the parish envelope.




Painting of Mater Dei Church
Painting of the inside of Mater Dei church will commence on 14th Aug 2023 for a duration of two weeks. There will be no week day masses during this time

Fr Thomas will be on holidays from 14th Aug to 14th Sept 2023.
Fr Geoffrey Plant will be celebrating the Sunday morning masses and
Fr Jan will be celebrating the vigil masses.



Mater Dei Parish Council Meeting is on Tuesday 8th August 2023 7:00pm

The **Catholic Weekly**
6th Aug 2023 Pulpit points

- God is calling: Vocations Guide 2023
- Universities & Colleges Open Days 2023
- Phones banned in Sydney Catholic Schools
- **Archbishop confirms two pilgrims at Nazareth**
- **Pilgrims engaged, renew vows, at WYD**
- Dallas McInerney: Sinead O'Connor remembered

Morning Tea at St Raphael's Church.
There will be morning tea and games after the 8:00am mass on Sun 6th August in St Raphael's Church hall. Play—Socialise—Have fun.
All are welcome.



COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND		
TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	410.40	623.40
Second: loose	246.85	698.75
Envelopes	445.00	210.00

PARISH DIRECTORY
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The Florist

Joe was opening a new business, and one of his friends decided to send flowers for the occasion. The flowers arrived and Joe read the card. It said, "Rest in Peace." Joe, enraged, called the florist to complain. The florist replied, "Sir, I'm really sorry for the mistake, but rather than getting angry, you should imagine this: somewhere there is a funeral taking place today, and they have flowers with a note saying, "Congratulations on your new location."

