



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

Fifth Sunday of Lent
Year B

Bulletin

17th March 2024

Entrance Antiphon: Cf. Ps 42:1-2

Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

First Reading: Jer 31:31-34

The days are coming when I will make a new covenant with Israel and I will forgive their iniquity.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 50:3-4. 12-15. R. v.12

(R.) Create a clean heart in me, O God.

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. In your compassion blot out my offence. O wash me more and more from my guilt. and cleanse me from my sin. (R.)
2. A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit. (R.)
3. Give me again the joy of your help; with a spirit of fervour sustain me, that I may teach transgressors your ways and sinners may return to you. (R.)

Second Reading: Heb 5:7-9

He learnt to obey and became for all the source of eternal salvation.

Gospel Acclamation: Jn 12:26

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord; and where I am, my servant will also be.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel: Jn 12:20-33

If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.

Communion Antiphon: Jn 12:24

Amen, Amen I say to you: Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains a single grain. But if it dies, it bears much fruit.

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

This week's first reading from Jeremiah is a very powerful image and a foreshadowing of the message and ministry of Jesus. In the Jeremiah reading, the Lord announces that (yet again) a new covenant will be made between the people and their God. This time, however, the covenant will not be a collection of rules written in stone as was the case with the covenant of the Ten Commandments after the people had been led out of slavery in Egypt. The people have demonstrated that they are not able to uphold that covenant. This time, God declares that the covenant will be 'planted deep within them' and 'written on their hearts'. This is a wonderful image: I will write my covenant on your heart! It is the message that Jesus tried to convey over and over again – the Law of God is not to be found in a multitude of rules and regulations but it is a Law of the heart, calling for compassion and love.

This message is no better demonstrated than in this week's gospel passage. Jesus declares that, 'unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest.' He is speaking of course about his own life, but he is speaking also to those around him and those of us who read the words today. Unless we are prepared to let go of our ego, our status, our 'reputation', for the sake of others and respond to them from the heart then we can never experience the breadth and depth of what it means to belong to a community. When we are prepared to let go of our hang-ups and reservations to make a difference in the lives of others then the 'harvest' that will be gathered from those actions will be great indeed!

HOLY WEEK MASS TIMING 2024

Date and Time	Mater Dei Church	St Raphael's Church
Holy Thursday 28-03-2024	7:00 PM. Church will be open till midnight	Only at Mater Dei
Good Friday 29-03-2024	Stations of the Cross 10:00 AM	
	The Lord's Passion 3:00 PM	The Lord's Passion 3:00 PM
Holy Saturday 30-03-2024	6:00 PM (with RCIA Confirmations)	8:00 PM
Easter Sunday 31-03-2024	10:00 AM	8:00 AM
Easter Sunday Croatian Mass		6:00 AM
Holy Week Reconciliation	Wed 27th Mar 7-8 PM Sat 30th Mar 4-5:30pm	Only at Mater Dei

Palm Sunday - 24 March 2024

Please bring any green palm leaves and leave them near the church doors on days leading up to Palm Sunday.



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 God" (Micah 6:8)

MASS TIMES		
	St Raphael Church	Mater Dei Church
Tues	9:15am Mass (new Mass timing)	No Mass
Wed		9am Novena 9:15am Mass
Thurs	No Mass	9:15am Mass (new mass timing)
Friday	7:00 pm Stations 7:30pm Adoration	8:45am Adoration, Rosary & Mass
Sat	4:30pm Reconciliation 5:00pm Vigil Mass	Vigil mass 1st and 3rd Sat. Next mass is on 16th March 2024.
Sunday	8:00am Mass	10:00am Mass

16th /17h Mar (3rd Sun)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5:00pm	8.00am	6:15pm	10.00am
Acolytes	Carl Pavia	Earl Lappen	Ray Low	Volunteer
EMOHC	Susi	Henriette		
Readers	Pavia Family	Yenson Family	Br Michael Nina M	Jolly Jose Wendy E
23rd /24th Mar (4th Sun)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5:00pm	8.00am	6:15pm	10.00am
Acolytes	Carl Pavia	Norman Y	No Mass	Volunteer
EMOHC	Gail	Rosie		
Readers	Karen Volunteer	Lappen Family		Lucy Mitry P Monaghan

Death Anniversary: Edmond Vahanian, Anna Maria Turiano, Teresa Fallucchi.

Pray for good health of : Norma Gum, Yvonne Amy, Gisselle Clark (Oscuro), Joan Rounds, Anne Lo, Sunga Family, Adele Shehata, Anna Liza Torres Zapata.

Pray for the deceased: Peter Smith, Rafael Monserat, Souls of all the departed Legionaries and their Families. Antonius Widjaja, Jeffrey Bishop, Fr Isidore Anantharaj, Fr Kennedy, Fr Kerr, all priests, Holy Souls in purgatory.



St Raphael's Church
Stations of the Cross 7:00pm
followed by
Adoration (Holy Hour) 7:30pm—8:30pm

ROSARY

St Raphael's Church	Mater Dei Church
Every Monday at 7:30pm with Adoration.	Every Sunday 9:30am followed by 10:00am mass

Mater Dei Home Rosary

19-3-2024	Nives Care 33 Church Street Blakehurst 11-00 AM
26-3-2024	Josephine and Tony Ledonne 61 Castle St Blakehurst 7-00 PM

Where's my TV remote

Mrs. Smartt was fumbling in her purse for her offering when a large television remote fell out and clattered into the aisle. The curious usher bent over to retrieve it for her and whispered, "Do you always carry your TV remote to church?"

"No," she replied, "but my husband refused to come with me this morning, and I figured this was the most evil thing I could do to him legally."

so funny

St Michael's Catholic Charismatic Prayer Group Presents:
A Chance for a renewed encounter with God

Life in the Spirit Seminar

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full"
John 10:10

What is a Life in Spirit seminar?

It is an opportunity to deepen in your faith and to activate the gifts of the Holy Spirit you have received in the Sacrament of Baptism. It is a time to grow and meet others on the journey.

Pope Francis has called on all parishes to run the Life in the Spirit seminars annually.

1) April 4th
"Preparing for Life in the Spirit"
Anne Marie Gatenby

2) April 11th
"God's Love"
Fr. Anthony Bernard

3) April 18th
"Salvation"
Fr. Brian Steel

4) April 25th
"New Life"
Fr. George Gorzkowski

5) May 2nd
"Receiving God's Gifts"
Fr. George Sigamony

6) May 9th
"Baptism in the Holy Spirit"
Fr. Hugh Thomas

7) May 16th
"Growth and Transformation"
Fr. Tony Alex

8) May 23rd
"Testimony, Adoration and Fellowship"



6:30PM Rosary
7:00PM Praise + Worship
7:30PM Talk

Register your interest here:



@ Mater Dei Catholic Church 1008 King Georges Road, Blakehurst

THE ROAD TO CALVARY HOLY WEEK RETREAT FOR MEN



10.00 AM - 4.00 PM

ST CATHERINE LABOURÉ PARISH GYMEA

Mater Dei Church

Sat 16h Mar
6:15pm: Family
mass
Sun 17th March
8:45am:
Sacrament of Con-
firmation Lesson 1

Feast of St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary—19th March

A carpenter, though born of the royal house of David, Joseph was an upright man who, as husband of the Virgin Mary, cared for Mary and the child Jesus.

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	384.15	165.50
Second: loose	391.10	164.60
Envelopes	370.00	405.00

LENTEN LECTURES
Dr Robert Tilley

**THE CROSS THAT SETS US FREE:
FROM SELF-DECEPTION
TO AUTHENTICITY**

Wednesday 7-8:30PM
6, 13 & 20 March 2024
@ Regina Coeli Church