



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

Fourth Sunday of Lent
Year B

Bulletin

10th March 2024

Entrance Antiphon: Cf. Is 66:10-11

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

First Reading: 2 Chr 36:14-16. 19-23

The wrath and the mercy of the Lord are revealed in the exile and liberation of his people

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 136.R. v.6

(R.) Let my tongue be silenced, if ever I forget you!

1. By the rivers of Babylon there we sat and wept, remembering Zion; on the poplars that grew there we hung our harps. (R.)
2. For it was there that they asked us, our captors, for songs, our oppressors, for joy. 'Sing to us,' they said, 'one of Zion's songs.' (R.)
3. O how could we sing the song of the Lord on alien soil? If I forget you, Jerusalem, let my right hand wither! (R.)
4. O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not, if I prize not Jerusalem above all my joys! (R.)

Second Reading: Eph 2:4-10

When we were dead through sins, he brought us to life.

Gospel Acclamation: Jn 3:16

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel: Jn 3:14-21

God sent his Son into the world that we might be saved through him.

Communion Antiphon:

Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one together. It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, to praise the name of the Lord.

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

To fully understand this week's gospel passage, it is important to take the first reading into consideration as well. The account from 2 Chronicles describes the way in which the people began to neglect their relationship with God. Despite prophets and messengers being sent to them, they turned their backs on God. At about this time the Israelites were conquered, the Temple in Jerusalem destroyed and the survivors taken into exile in Babylon. For many, this was seen as a punishment from God because of their neglectful and selfish behaviour. But the reading demonstrates God's infinite patience with humankind. God gives the people another chance and calls on them to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem. God is willing to wipe the slate clean and start afresh. It is in this context that we must understand the gospel passage. In yet another attempt to demonstrate love and forgiveness, God's only Son – the Word made Flesh – is sent into the world to lead the people from darkness to light. Despite the many, many attempts by God to demonstrate love and foster a relationship with humankind, the people have repeatedly rejected the relationship with God and preferred to live a life of selfishness and darkness. Yet we see through both of these readings the unquenchable nature of God who keeps giving humankind one more chance.

In our day to day relationships, it is true that we often seek to test the limits of the love that is expressed. Young people in particular often test the boundaries of their parents' love and the boundaries of others who care for them. It is often a test to reassure themselves of this love – will you still love me, even if I do this? Today's readings portray the people of God as adolescents constantly testing out the limits of God's love. In a remarkable act, God's own Son is sent into the world to die as a sign of the lengths to which God will go to assure humanity of the love that is theirs for the taking.

THE ROAD TO CALVARY
HOLY WEEK RETREAT FOR MEN

SAT 23 MARCH 2024 10.00 AM - 4.00 PM
ST CATHERINE LABOURÉ PARISH GYMEA

HOLY MASS | TALKS | EUCHARISTIC ADORATION | BROTHERHOOD

REV DR GREGORY MORGAN
FR NOEL CUSTODIO

GUEST SPEAKER: TOMASZ JUSZCZAK

Tomasz is a dynamic Catholic presenter and co-founder of Donum Ministries, an apostolate which seeks to bring people closer to Christ through the Church's message of love and life. He has a background in evangelisation in both a parish and diocesan setting with over 15 years' experience in youth ministry. Tom holds a Master of Arts (Theological studies) from the University of Notre Dame in Sydney.

Originally from Poland, Tom grew up in Sydney where he currently resides with his wife, Sarah, and their four beautiful children. He loves movies, theatre and sports, which regularly comes out in his talks and presentations.

donuministries.com

REGISTER
STCATHS.ORG.AU/MENSRETREAT
02 9525 1138

A \$10 donation on the day will be appreciated

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

9th /10th Mar (2nd Sun)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5:00pm	8.00am	6:15pm	10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Carl Pavia	No Mass	Volunteer
EMOHC	Gail	Ronnie		
Readers	Pavia Family	Sienna/Zac/ Rose T		Joan Hansen Jean Dorahy
16th /17h Mar (3rd Sun)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5:00pm	8.00am	6:15pm	10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Earl Lappen	Ray Low	Volunteer
EMOHC	Susi	Henrietta		
Readers	Pavia Family	Yenson Family	Br Michael Nina M	Jolly Jose Wendy E

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

12-3-2024	Marguerite and Denis Derrig 32 Waratah St Kyle Bay	7-00 PM
19-3-2024	Nives Care 33 Church Street Blakehurst	11-00 AM

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	417.00	505.95
Second: loose	461.20	408.95
Envelopes	1450.00	490.00

Hymns for People Over 50

Give Me the Old Timers Religion
Precious Lord, Take My Hand, And Help Me Up
Just a Slower Walk with Thee
Go Tell It on the Mountain, But Speak Up
Nobody Knows the Trouble I Have Seeing
Guide Me O Thou Great Lord God, I've Forgotten Where I've Parked The Car
Count Your Many Birthdays, Count Them One By One
Blessed Insurance
It Is Well With My Soul, But My Knees Hurt



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

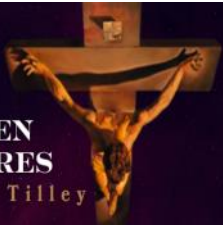
Register your interest here:



@ Mater Dei Catholic Church 1008 King Georges Road, Blakehurst

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
Holy Week Reconciliation	Wed 27th March 7-8 PM Sat 30th March 4-5:30pm	Only at Mater Dei



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

