



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

Fourth Sunday of Easter  
Year B

Bulletin 21st April 2024

**Entrance Antiphon:** Cf. Ps 32:5-6

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

**First Reading:** Acts 4:8-12

Peter heals by the power of Jesus.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 117:1. 8-9.

**The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone.**

1. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in men: it is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes. (R.)

2. I will thank you for you have given answer and you are my saviour. The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. (R.)

3. Blessed in the name of the Lord is he who comes. We bless you from the house of the Lord; I will thank you for you have given answer and you are my saviour. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; for his love has no end. (R.)

**Second Reading:** 1 Jn 3:1-2

We are children of God.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Jn 10:14

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me. Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Jn 10:11-18

The Good Shepherd.

**Communion Antiphon:**

The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.

## REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

The image of Jesus as the good shepherd is such a familiar image that it can sometimes become over-familiar and cease to engage us. Countless works of art have presented this image literally, picturing Jesus as a shepherd with a crook and surrounded by sheep or even with a lamb draped around the back of his neck. The image from this week's gospel often gets merged with the image from the parable of the lost sheep that appears in the gospels of Luke (15:1-7) and Matthew (18:10-14) where artists frequently place Jesus as the hero of his own parable and portray him as the 'good shepherd' going out to retrieve the one lost sheep. Such amalgamations of different gospel images can become very confusing. Some of this confusion and literal interpretation stems from the gospel writer's choice of metaphoric language. In the gospel, Jesus says, 'I am the good shepherd', not 'I am like the good shepherd'. The writer's use of metaphor, rather than simile, provides a much more compelling image but can result in a more literal interpretation.

The emphasis of the image is on the adjective. Jesus is the good shepherd. Shepherds generally were not regarded as particularly good people – more like the scum of the earth! – so the choice of image is a deliberate one to unsettle the listeners. Unlike their normal expectation of shepherds – cut-throats who would run away at the first sign of danger – Jesus is the good shepherd: the one who does not abandon his flock; the one who has concern for his sheep; the one who will lay down his own life for his sheep. The final verses of the passage make an interesting extension to the image of shepherd and sheep. Unlike the 'sacrificial lamb', the good shepherd chooses to lay down his life and also has the power to take it up again.

### Historical Context – The GOOD Shepherd?

The John gospel writer's use of the image of Jesus as the good shepherd would have been a confronting image for the initial audience. Shepherds in first century Palestine were far from the idyllic pastoral image that we generally associate with the image. They occupied one of the lowest steps on the social ladder – men of such poor reputation that they could only be trusted to herd sheep; they certainly couldn't be trusted around other people! Jesus' use of the image cut two ways: it was a confronting image for the audience; but it was also a challenge to those leaders who had been charged to 'shepherd' their people and behaved no better than thieves – Jesus was giving them an image of what it means to be a good shepherd.

### Scriptural context – The Shepherd Messiah

The gospels go to great lengths to affirm the lineage of Jesus and associate him with the house of David, the first great Jewish king. David began life as a simple boy tending his father's flock of sheep. When the line of kings was instigated through David they were charged with being 'shepherds' of their people. However, down through the line of kings, this care for the people was lost and they ceased to be 'shepherds'. Jesus' claim to be the good shepherd is his claim to be in the line of the true kings of Israel – a shepherd of the people.

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                                |   |
| Wed        |  | 9:00am Novena<br>9:15am Mass  |
| Thurs      |  | 9:15am Mass   |
| Friday     | 7:30pm Adoration                           | 8:45am Adoration, Rosary & Mass   |
| Sat        | 4:30pm Reconciliation<br>5:00pm Vigil Mass | Vigil mass 1st and 3rd Sat.<br>No mass during holidays.<br>Next mass is on 4th May. |
| Sunday     | 8:00am Mass                                | 10:00am Mass  |

| 20th /21st Apr<br>(3rd Sun) | St. Raphael's |               | Mater Dei     |                       |
|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------|
|                             | 4:30pm        | 8.00am        |               | 10.00am               |
| Acolytes                    | Greg Driver   | Carl          | No Vigil Mass | Volunteer             |
| EMOHC                       | Susi          | Henriette     |               |                       |
| Readers                     | Volunteers    | Rounds Family |               | Jolly Jose<br>Wendy E |

| 27th /28th Apr<br>(4th Sun) | St. Raphael's   |                   | Mater Dei     |                       |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
|                             | 4:30pm          | 8.00am            |               | 10.00am               |
| Acolytes                    | Greg Driver     | Norman            | No Vigil Mass | Volunteer             |
| EMOHC                       | Gail            | Rosie G           |               |                       |
| Readers                     | Karen Volunteer | Maria C<br>Rose T |               | Lucy Mistry<br>Phil M |

#### Death Anniversary:

**Pray for good health of:** Rupeni Fabiano, Vanessa Yenson, Benjamin Ross, Matthew Smith, Nicolas Zapata, Yvonne Amy, Gisselle Clark (Oscuro), Joan Rounds, Anne Lo, Sunga Family, Adele Shehata, Anna Liza Torres Zapata.

**Pray for the deceased:** Peter Smith, Rafael Monserrat, 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.

#### PULPIT POINTS 21 April 2024

Sydney's week of sorrow and fear ...

- Assyrian cleric stabbed at altar in Wakeley p2-3
  - Bondi Junction attack leaves six dead p4-5
  - Archbishop Fisher: Do not be afraid to worship p3
- But life will prevail
- Love, family and life at Day of the Unborn Child p12-13
  - Two new deacons for Sydney p6-7
  - Sisters of Life Tour p8

#### Mater Dei Home Rosary

|           |   |          |
|-----------|---|----------|
| 23-4-2024 | Tiziana Olivieri<br>11 Louisa St Oatley | 11:00 AM |
| 30-4-2024 | Nives Care<br>33 Church St Blakehurst   | 11:00 AM |

All are welcome

#### AWFUL TIME

"I've had an awful time," a boy told his friends. "First, I got angina pectoris, then arteriosclerosis. Just as I was recovering, I got psoriasis. They gave me hypodermics and, to top it all, tonsillitis was followed by appendectomy."

"Wow!" sympathised his friends.

"How did you pull through."

"I don't know." the boy replied.

"It was the toughest spelling test I've ever had."

**FUNNY**

#### ST MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

Every Thursday night **MATER DEI CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**6:30 pm** Rosary, **7:00 pm** Praise and Worship and Reconciliation, **7:30 pm** Talk or Mass or Adoration



#### Dates to Remember

|        |                              |                      |
|--------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Apr 25 | "New Life"                   | Fr George Gorzkowski |
| May 2  | "Receiving God's Gifts"      | Fr George Sigamony   |
| May 9  | "Baptism in the Holy Spirit" | Fr Hugh Thomas       |

Please Note: Confession will be available from 6:30pm—7pm

## DINNER DANCE WITH A TOUCH OF SPARKLE

Date: Friday 14th June 2024 6:30PM

Venue: Doltone House—223 Belgrave Esplanade Sylvania Waters

Dine / Dance / Drink

Tickets \$90.00pp

Contacts: MD Marguerite Derrig 0420 523 592.

SR Yvette 0413 319 948



#### Mater Dei Church



Morning tea after mass  
on 28th April 2024

#### Confirmation 2024

Mater Dei - Tues 14 May @ 6 PM  
Wed 15 May @ 6 PM  
St Raphael's - Thurs 13 Jun @ 7 PM

#### CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL NSW CELEBRATING PENTECOST EVE "ANOINTING"

Please join the Catholic Charismatic Renewal NSW in celebrating Pentecost Eve "Anointing" on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May at Servants of Jesus Centre 15 Park Road Seven Hills for an afternoon of Praise & Worship, Testimonies and Prayer Ministry from 4-7pm hosted by youth from different streams.

Booking is essential, register with link. [https://www.trybooking.com/CPMXQ?](https://www.trybooking.com/CPMXQ?qr=true)

[qr=true](https://www.trybooking.com/CPMXQ?qr=true) .

Any inquires email: [email@ccrnsw.org.au](mailto:email@ccrnsw.org.au)

#### Mater Dei & St Raphael's Parish Calendar 2024

|            |  |    |
|------------|--|----|
| 7-05-2024  | Mater Dei First Eucharist Information night 5:30pm | MD |
| 8-05-2024  | St Raphael Confirmation info night 5:30pm          | SR |
| 13-05-2024 | Mater Dei Council meeting                          | MD |

#### COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

| TYPE             | St Raphael's | Mater Dei |
|------------------|--------------|-----------|
| First            | 469.05       | 164.30    |
| Second:<br>loose | 698.40       | 272.30    |
| Envelopes        | 370.00       | 550.00    |

#### PARISH DIRECTORY

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Thomas Alukka

M: 0469 236 118 E: [tomyalukka@gmail.com](mailto:tomyalukka@gmail.com)

#### MATER DEI CATHOLIC CHURCH

1008 King Georges Road, Blakehurst 2221, NSW

#### ST. RAPHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

84 George Street, South Hurstville

Website: <https://www.materdei-straphael.org.au/>

Parish Secretary: Juliana Widjaja

Office hours: Tues & Wed 9:30am - 2:30pm

Phone: 02 9546 2605

Email: [admin@materdei-straphael.org.au](mailto:admin@materdei-straphael.org.au)

Parish Ministry Coordinator & Safeguarding Officer Michael Fernandes

Office hours: Tues, Wed & Fri 10am - 2:30pm

M: 0437 517 758 E: [mc@materdei-straphael.org.au](mailto:mc@materdei-straphael.org.au)