



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

Second Sunday of Easter
Year B

Bulletin 7th April 2024

Entrance Antiphon: 1 Peter 2:2

Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 4:32-35

The whole group was united, heart and soul.

Responsorial Psalm:

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

1. Let the sons of Israel say:
'His love has no end.'
Let the sons of Aaron say:
'His love has no end.'
Let those who fear the Lord say:
'His love has no end.' (R.)
2. The Lord's right hand has triumphed; his right hand raised me up. I shall not die, I shall live and recount his deeds. I was punished, I was punished by the Lord, but not doomed to die. (R.)
3. The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad. (R.)

Second Reading: 1 John 5:1-6

Anyone begotten by God has already overcome the world.

Gospel Acclamation: John 20:29

Alleluia, alleluia!
You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy are those who have not seen me, but still believe!
Alleluia!

Gospel: John 20:19-31

After eight days, Jesus came in and stood among them.

Communion Antiphon: Cf John 20:27

Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.



Today, we celebrate **Divine Mercy Sunday**. It's origin stems from St. Faustina who had private revelations concerning Divine Mercy. Her Diary records 14 occasions when Jesus requested that a Feast of Mercy (Divine Mercy Sunday) be observed.

"Be merciful to others –

The Merciful shall be shown Mercy ... "three ways of exercising mercy – by deed, by word, by prayer. In these three degrees is contained the fullness of mercy..." Diary # 742

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

Because the focus of this week's gospel passage is usually placed on poor old doubting Thomas, we sometimes overlook the way the passage begins. The disciples are huddled in a room, 'for fear of the Jews'. Just a couple of weeks earlier they had been on top of the world. Jesus was enormously popular with the people, and the disciples, by association, were caught up in that affection. Their man, the one they had chosen to follow, was making waves and stirring the authorities – thumbing his nose at the rules. This, of course, made the disciples feel good to be around Jesus. However, in the space of just a few short days, their world had turned upside down. They'd gone from riding the crest of a wave to being utterly dumped! They were cowering in a closed up room, afraid for their lives in case those who handed Jesus over for death came for them as well. They'd already had an experience of the resurrected Jesus yet they were still hiding and afraid. Into this fear and uncertainty steps Jesus who says, 'Peace be with you'. It is a reminder of Jesus calming the storm out on the lake – in the midst of turmoil and anxiety he brings peace and calm.

Thomas has received a pretty bad rap for the last 2000 years, forever labelled as 'Doubting Thomas' because he wasn't prepared to take someone else's word for the fact that Jesus had risen. However, despite his demand for evidence, once Jesus is before him, he abandons all his thoughts about placing his fingers in the wounds and proclaims, 'My Lord and my God!' This is an absolutely extraordinary statement of faith. For the very first time, someone recognises Jesus, not as Messiah, prophet or Lord, but as God.

Have you thought? Those who have not seen

Jesus says to Thomas, 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' That's us! Jesus' words in the gospel are meant for people like us living today. We are not in the position of Thomas and the other disciples who were able to see the risen Lord face to face and so convince themselves of his rising. The gospel recognises that to believe in the resurrection without that physical, personal encounter with Jesus is to be celebrated even more. Happy are we – blessed are we – who have not seen and yet still believe!

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	No Mass on 9th April	No Mass
Wed		No Mass on 10th April
Thurs	No Mass	No Mass on 11th April
Friday	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 6th April 2024.
Sunday	8:00am Mass	10:00am Mass

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 11	God's Love	Fr Anthony Bernard
Apr 18	"Salvation"	Fr Brian Steele
Apr 25	"New Life"	Fr George Gorzkowski

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

6th/7th April (1st Sun)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5:00pm	8:00am	6:15pm	10:00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Gary, Max	Tony O	Paul Watson
EMOHC	Susi	Annie M		
Readers	Pavia Family	Ronnie C JP Moral	Family Mass	Gail Abbott Luisa Galea
13th /14th Apr (2nd Sun)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	4:30pm	8:00am		10:00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Carl	No Vigil Mass	Volunteer
EMOHC	Gail	Ronnie		Joan Hanson Jean Dorahy
Readers	Volunteers	Sienna/Zac/ Annie		

Parish Pastoral Council Formation

Parish Priests and their Parish Pastoral Councils are invited to this evening. This will be an opportunity for Parish Pastoral Councils to receive formation on the importance and role of Parish Pastoral Councils; this will include formation on the complementarity of clergy and laity, as well as discussing the new archdiocesan guidelines for Parish Pastoral Councils.

There will be three evening offerings across the archdiocese to make it accessible for all. One of them is at St Raphael's:

Date: Thursday 6 June 2024

Venue: St Raphael's Hurstville South Parish Hall

Start at 7pm, doors opening 6.30pm, and conclude at 9pm.

Register at: <http://trybooking.com/CPMEU>

Death Anniversary: George & John Beater & Mathew Cuda

Pray for good health of: Dave Derrig, Matthew Smith, Nicolas Zapata, 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.



Daylight saving ends Sunday 7th April 2024 at 3am.
Clock backwards.

Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration (7 April) (at St Raphael's):

12 noon beginning of the Adoration with confessions from 2:00 to 3:00pm, concluding with Solemn Mass at 3pm.



We are commencing **Children's Liturgy** at St Raphael's Church at this Sat Vigil Mass.
Please bring your children.

Save the Date

Mater Dei—St Raphael COMBINED PARISHES DINNER DANCE

Fri 14th June 2024 at Doltone House, Sylvania

NO WEEKDAY MASS

There will be no week day masses on **Tue 9th, Wed 10th and Thursday 11th April 2024**

Mater Dei Home Rosary

9-4-2024	Josephine and Tony Ledonne 61 Castle St Blakehurst	7-00 PM
16-4-2024	Nives Care 33 Church St Blakehurst	11:00 AM

All are welcome

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	590.45	904.45
Second: loose	953.45	1405.40
Envelopes	355.00	310.00

MORNING TEA

Mater Dei Church after 10:00am mass and St Raphael's after the 8am mass.



Prayer at Sea

As the storm raged, the captain realized his ship was sinking fast. He called out, "Anyone here know how to pray?"

A pastor stepped forward. "Captain, I know how to pray."

"Good," said the captain, "you pray while the rest of us put on our life jackets – we're one short."

☺ FUNNY

PARISH DIRECTORY

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Thomas Alukka

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Parish Ministry Coordinator & Safeguarding Officer Michael Fernandes

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