



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

Third Sunday of Easter  
Year B

Bulletin 14th April 2024

**Entrance Antiphon:** Cf. Ps 65:1-2

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth; O sing to the glory of his name. O render him glorious praise, alleluia.

**First Reading:** Acts 3:13-15. 17-19

Peter calls the people to reform.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 4:2. 4. 7. 9. R.  
v.7

**(R.) Lord, let your face shine on us.**

1. When I call, answer me, O God of justice; from anguish you released me, have mercy and hear me! (R.)
2. It is the Lord who grants favours to those whom he loves; the Lord hears me whenever I call him. (R.)
3. 'What can bring us happiness?' many say. Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord. (R.)
4. I will lie down in peace and sleep comes at once, for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety. (R.)

**Second Reading:** 1 Jn 2:1-5

To know Jesus, keep his commandments.

**Gospel Acclamation :** See Lk 24:32  
Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us: make our hearts burn with love when you speak.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel :** Lk 24:35-48

Jesus appears to the disciples gathered together.

**Communion Antiphon:** Lk 24:35

The disciples recognized the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread, alleluia.

## REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

This week we again see something of the quirky nature of the selection of readings for the Sunday lectionary. This passage from the gospel of Luke immediately follows the magnificent story of the road to Emmaus and the risen Jesus' appearance to two disciples. Rather than hearing that story we have this account that follows; an account that is very similar to the passage of last week in which Jesus appeared to the gathered disciples and dispelled the doubts of Thomas. This week's reading is almost identical except that it does not place the blame of doubt on just one single disciple. Why select this reading as opposed to the Emmaus story? Perhaps the decision focused on the fact that this passage shows the risen Jesus appearing to all of the disciples and not just two.

However, what this account gives us that last week's account from the gospel of John did not, is a powerful message about understanding scripture. In the final verses of the passage, Jesus reveals to the disciples that his presence with them is what he'd been talking about when he'd spoken about the fulfilment of the scriptures. And then, 'He opened their minds to understand the scriptures.' This is an important gospel indication that the scriptures are to be read for understanding and for meaning. It is an imperative that we delve into the scriptures and look for meaning rather than a surface, literal interpretation that is prominent in much of society today. When we only read the scriptures 'literally' i.e. accepting the exact wording as literally true, we deny the depth and breadth of the scriptural messages that are conveyed through image, metaphor, irony and other forms of figurative speech as well as ignoring the rich contextual information that is often hidden within and behind the text. Jesus' enlightenment of the disciples makes plain the importance of 'understanding' scripture not just blindly accepting it.

### Scriptural context – Post-resurrection accounts

All four gospels include post-resurrection appearances of the risen Jesus. The gospel of Mark – historically, the first written – gives the briefest account of the resurrection discovery and it is only in a later addition to the gospel that a post-resurrection account appears. However, by the time the gospel of John was written, some 20-30 years later, the theological importance of the resurrection had gained more significance as it became more obvious that Jesus' return to the world was not going to happen within the foreseeable future. The gospel of John devotes two whole chapters to the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus.

### Gospel Focus – Peace be with you

When Jesus appears in the midst of the disciples, his first words to them are, 'Peace be with you!' His appearance among them obviously agitated the disciples who were already hiding, in fear of their lives and devastated by the loss of their leader days earlier. Jesus' calming and reassuring words, 'Peace be with you!' recognise the reality of what state the disciples are in. The words demonstrate that Jesus is meeting the disciples 'where they are' – he recognises their distress and fear and responds with words that accept what they're feeling but reassure them of his love and care. They are words that Jesus speaks to us too!

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	No Mass
Wed		9:00am Novena 9:15am Mass
Thurs	No Mass	9:15am Mass
Friday	7:30pm Adoration	8:45am Adoration, Rosary & Mass
Sat	4:30pm Reconciliation 5:00pm Vigil Mass	Vigil mass 1st and 3rd Sat. No mass during holidays. Next mass is on 4th May.
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 18 "Salvation" Fr Brian Steele  
Apr 25 "New Life" Fr George Gorzkowski  
May 2 "Receiving God's Gifts" Fr George Sigamony

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

13th /14th Apr (2nd Sun)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	4:30pm	8.00am		10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Earl	No Vigil Mass	Volunteer
EMOHC	Gail	Ronnie		
Readers	Volunteers	Sienna/Zac/ Annie		Joan Hanson Jean Dorahy
20th /21st Apr (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 Wendy E

### 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: Felice & Josephine De Fina

**Pray for good health of:** Vanessa Yenson, Benjamin Ross, Dave Derrig, Matthew Smith, Nicolas Zapata, Norma Gum, Yvonne Amy, Gisselle Clark (Oscurio), 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 14 April 2024

- Neocat ordinands walk through "valley of death" to diaconate
- Vatican publishes document on human dignity p9
- St George icons exhibited by painter Michael Galovic 1,21
- Mathoura Carmel veils first local sister p4-5
- Disciple Diaries: God taught Quyen love p7
- Rome calls for worldwide ban on surrogacy p12-13



**Children's Liturgy** at St Raphael's Church will resume after the school holidays on Sat 4th May 2024

Mater Dei—St Raphael

### COMBINED PARISHES DINNER DANCE

Fri 14th June 2024 at Doltone House, Sylvania

### Mater Dei Home Rosary

16-4-2024 Nives Care  
33 Church St Blakehurst 11:00 AM  
23-4-2024 Nives Care  
33 Church St Blakehurst 11:00 AM  
All are welcome

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

19-04-2024	Catechist Southern Area Mass 11am Thomas More Ch.	
7-05-2024	Mater Dei First Eucharist Information night 5:30pm	MD
8-05-2024	St Raphael Confirmation info night 5:30pm	SR

### COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	423.75	904.45
Second: loose	400.70	1405.00
Envelopes	430.00	310.00

### Exodus

To rile up his Christian friends, the atheist in the high school class was always looking for scientific speculation that would throw doubt on God or the Bible. Scouring the Internet he discovered research from a student at an obscure university who hypothesized that due to weather and wind patterns, the Red Sea was less than a foot deep when Moses led the Hebrews across it.

"It wasn't even up to their knees," the atheist sneered. One of the Christian friends exclaimed, "It's a miracle!"

"What miracle?" the atheist asked. "Anybody could have waded across it!"

The Christian grinned. "Simple. God drowned Pharaoh's entire army in less than a foot of water!"

### CROSSING THE RED SEA



### PARISH DIRECTORY

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### MATER DEI CATHOLIC CHURCH

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### ST. RAPHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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