



# Regina Coeli Parish

Beverly Hills - In the Archdiocese of Sydney



## Weekly Newsletter

### Liturgy Times

#### SUNDAY:

8:30am, 10:00am.

Children's Liturgy during school term

**TUESDAY:** 8:30am Adoration, 9.15am Mass

**WEDNESDAY:** 7:00am

**THURSDAY:** 9:15am

**FRIDAY:** 8:30am Adoration, 9.15am Mass

**SATURDAY:** 9:00am

(Adoration and Reconciliation after Mass)

5:00pm (Vigil Mass)

#### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 9:30-10:00am; 4:25-4:50pm

### First Sunday in Advent

1 December 2019

By a surprising coincidence I once came across a person of utmost prominence at a retreat centre. Unbeknownst to the rest of the world, he was quietly making a retreat in preparation for being installed in a role of utmost magnitude (hint: this person visited us in August). That and the fact that I was yet to make a retreat this year prompted me to go away for a few days of "retreat" in the lead-up to my own installation as Parish Priest (PP). I was not a very good retreatant though, breaking silence by writing numerous emails and making phones, etc. But I still hoped that God's grace would somehow crack through the hardened shell of my habitualised chaos.

When I finally started to feel a little more settled, I asked myself, 'Why am I being installed, especially when I am already PP on paper, in a parish I am already familiar with?' Then a joke came to mind: Why did the priest ask to be installed? Because he was hoping that the bishop might bring along a user's manual - 'Parish Priesthood for Dummies!' One of the things I have come to realise since being appointed PP is just how little I seem to have in terms of *vision* for the parish. But it is famously written in Scripture, 'Without vision people perish!' (Proverb 29:18)

This brings me to the next uncomfortable point: What kind of PP keeps telling his parishioners such uninspiring things? Does he not understand leadership? Is he in trouble and crying out for help? Or is he...just an idiot? I am afraid that all of the above are at least partially true. But the primary reason for me - the one I am most conscious of anyway - is this: I wish there to be as little discrepancy as possible (within reason) between where I am and where my parishioners think I am. Unconventional, I know, to start a relationship on such unflattering grounds. But something tells me that the final outcome might be better in this way.

We live in a highly sophisticated world. But with sophistication comes sophisticated dangers. For example, even liars are using so called "fact-checking" in order to convince others that they are telling the truth! And it is deeply unsettling to be surrounded by the milieu of sophisticated corruption - it is like seeing the cracks appear on apartments built in haste during the boom. I believe that in order for us to build something truly great there is need to return to basics first, for example, something as basic as me telling you how things really are and...you doing the same for me too! Here is something Pope Francis wrote to young people but I think it applies to all parishioners of good will: 'If you see a priest at risk, because he has lost the joy of his ministry, or seeks affective compensation, or is taking the wrong path, remind him of his commitment to God and his people, remind him of the Gospel and urge him to hold to his course.' (*Christus Vivit* 100) —> **Pge 3**

#### Pastoral Team:

Fr Peter Kwak PP

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## The Week Ahead

<b>Sun 1 Dec</b> First Sunday in Advent	8.30am Mass 10.00am Mass
<b>Mon 2 Dec</b>	No Mass
<b>Tues 3 Dec</b> St Francis Xavier	8:30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass 10:00 Reconciliation with Year 4
<b>Wed 4 Dec</b> John Damascene priest, doctor	7.00am Mass
<b>Thurs 5 Dec</b>	9:15am Mass
<b>Fri 6 Dec</b> St Nicholas bishop	8:30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9:15am Mass
<b>Sat 7 Dec</b> St Ambrose priest, doctor	9.00am Mass 4:25pm Reconciliation 5:00pm Vigil Mass
<b>Sun 8 Dec</b> Second Sun- day in Advent	8.30am Mass 10.00am Mass

On behalf of our parishioners, our gracious volunteers and our staff, we joyfully extend our congratulations to Fr Peter on his Installation as Parish Priest of our beloved Regina Coeli Community. We are blessed and honoured to have Fr Peter as our shepherd.

We look forward to many wonderful years of working together for our spiritual and temporal growth into the best people we can possibly be.

### For Families in Need

Are you experiencing difficulties in providing your family with those extra needs you hadn't expected, for example, uniforms, shoes, shirts suddenly too small or maybe sports gear, etc.? There are many ways in which we can help you, so please do not feel shy or embarrassed by your needs. We are just a phone call away, waiting to assist you. Confidentiality is guaranteed at all times. If you would like to chat with us just ring any of the telephone numbers listed below. God bless.

Anne 02 9759 2357

Joy 02 9150 4996

- The Ladies Conference of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society, Regina Coeli Parish -

## Please pray for...

### Recently Deceased

Jill Margaret Struthers, Joan Mc Gee

### In Loving Memory

Jovito Canonizado, Donato Tozzi

### Please remember those who are in ill health especially:

Lucy Yonatan, Michelle Makin, Pat Johnson, George Dagher, Mrs Saba, Josephina Algozzina, Genevieve Shedden, Geraldina Civitarese, Pat Mortimer, Greg Weekes, Mrs Donald Burch, Mary Daniels, Geoff McDowell, Elena Mura, Mr TD (Terry) Wall, Kim Delaney, Mary Emery, Lauren Sotano, Sam Hy, Mary Sortwell, Georgia Brown, Luke Compton, Paul Camelotti, Anne Maree Michels, Slavica Markotic.

### Life Ascending Meetings

Third Thursday at 7:30pm  
Second and fourth Fridays after the 9.15Mass.

#### Parish Secretary

Mrs Margaret  
Doherty-Brady  
9554 8155  
Tues 8:30am - 1:30pm  
Wed & Fri 10.30am-  
3.30pm  
**Business Manager**  
Mr Peter Crawford

#### Sacramental Coordinator/

**PSSO**  
Mrs Elizabeth Gooley  
9554 8155  
reginasacramental@gmail.com  
Tuesday **and** Thursday from  
11.30am - 3.30pm

#### School Principal

Mr Chris Egan  
Asst. Principal  
Mr Peter Busch  
**REC**  
Mrs Elizabeth Webster

### Would you like to become a Catholic, finally?

Regina Coeli Catholic Parish will soon start the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults Program (a.k.a. the RCIA program). This is what allows non-Catholics to formally become Catholics. It consists of a series of group sessions in which Catholicism will be explored culturally, intellectually and spiritually. "Already Catholics" who wish to gain a deeper understanding of the faith they profess are most welcome to join the RCIA program too. The journey will culminate at the Easter Vigil next year when new baptisms and/or receptions into the Church will take place, hopefully with a lifetime of spiritual adventure to follow afterward. Please contact Fr Peter for inquiries: [beverlyhillspriest@gmail.com](mailto:beverlyhillspriest@gmail.com) / (02) 9554 8155

### Rosary Statue

Mrs M Weeks  
73 Yoorami Road

Ph: 9554 3250



Last Weekend 24 November 2019		Attendance	
2nd Collection \$2,223.45		5PM	153
		8.30AM	137
		10AM	
1st Collection	\$1,095.80	<b>Total</b>	<b>?</b>

Not having even thought about the need for a vision until recently, my strategy thus far has been to try to be consistent in regard to the basic virtues of truth and justice - what I hoped would be the fertile ground on which things of substance could grow someday. There are two other things that seem indispensable for any real growth in our parish: the first is YOU! Parishioners! Any vision in which you don't have a main role is inconceivable. *Growing together* is going to be the underlying essence of what I envision. The other - the deficiency of which always haunts me deep down - is love. Ever since my ordination in 2010/2011, I have been moving to a new post at least once every two years. And so the idea of longterm commitment has come as a greater surprise than I expected. But I think I am happier now than ever before about the possibility of a longterm commitment growing into a loving one and feel privileged that my first experience of this might start here at Regina Coeli.

- Fr Peter -

### **Archdiocese of Sydney Safeguarding Training and WWCC**

The Archdiocese of Sydney Safeguarding Office requires all parish volunteers to complete the "Online Safeguarding Induction Training for Volunteers". A number of our volunteers have completed this Archdiocese Safeguarding training in 2017. If you are a new volunteer or did not complete the training in 2017, it is essential you complete the training.

The "Online Safeguarding Induction Training" will provide you with the expected behaviours of all volunteers and also how our parish can create a safer environment for children and young people. To register to complete this training please follow this link: <https://goo.gl/forms/wSkRi3ZO6PzkRfbo1>

Also, all volunteering in liturgical and child related ministries in the parish must provide a "Working With Children Check" (WWCC) number to the parish, together with your name and date of birth so that the parish can verify the status of the clearance. This includes Acolytes, Ministers of the Word (readers), Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and children's liturgy. If you haven't as yet provided this number to the parish, you may follow this link to obtain your WWCC:

<https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-working-children-check>

### **Christmas Choir Practice times for the 8:30am Mass:**

3 Dec at 6.00pm in Church

10 Dec at 6pm in Church

15 Dec at 9.30am in Church

17 Dec at 6.00pm in Church

22 Dec at 9.30am in Church

**8 Dec at 9.45am will be the choir breakfast.**

### **Christmas Wishing Well 2019**

The St Vincent de Paul Ladies Conference will be collecting at all Masses on 23/24 November and on 30/31 November and on 7/8 December, for the Christmas Appeal.

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Cards & 2020 Columban Art Calendars will be available at the Piety Stall from this weekend.

Christmas Cards are \$5.50 for a pack of 10 cards and Calendars \$7.00 per calendar. Good quality & value for money as well as assisting St Vincent de Paul Men's Conference in their work in the Parish area.

### **The Annual Parish Christmas Party is going to be held on Saturday 14 December after the 5PM Mass.**

It worked well last year to have the party on the carpark/school playground, and so we might do the same this year. Food, water, tea and coffee will be provided as usual. BYO soft drinks please. Some tables/chairs will be set up, especially for the elderly; others are encouraged to bring their own tables/chairs or picnic mats. For those who are able to, please bring a plate of dessert to share (but don't worry if you cannot, who wants a sugar-overload anyway?). Finally, the Jumping Castle - a big hit last year with children - will be back! Over the next several weekends, signup sheets will be placed at church doors for those who wish to attend, as well as for those who also wish to help out as volunteers.

**Please sign up by 8 December 2019.**



### **Christmas Play 2019**

Dear parish community, we warmly invite all children who would like to be part of the Christmas play for the 7pm Christmas Vigil Mass (a.k.a. Family Mass) on 24<sup>th</sup> December to please come to the Church on **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December for our first meeting from 11-11.45am** following the 10am mass. Rehearsals will be held on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> of December from 4pm-4.45pm before the 5pm Saturday night vigil mass. Many thanks. - Tina and Rosetta ([rosetta.p@outlook.com](mailto:rosetta.p@outlook.com)) -



**First Reading Is 2:1-5**

*The Lord will gather all nations in eternal peace in the kingdom of God.*

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz,  
concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In the days to come  
the mountain of the Temple of the Lord  
shall tower above the mountains  
and be lifted higher than the hills.  
All the nations will stream to it,  
peoples without number will come to it;  
and they will say:

'Come, let us go up to the mountain of  
the Lord,  
to the Temple of the God of Jacob  
that he may teach us his ways  
so that we may walk in his paths;  
since the Law will go out from Zion,  
and the oracle of the Lord from  
Jerusalem.'

He will wield authority over the nations  
and adjudicate between many peoples;  
these will hammer their swords into  
ploughshares,  
their spears into sickles.  
Nation will not lift sword against nation,  
there will be no more training for war.  
O House of Jacob, come,  
let us walk in the light of the Lord.

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 121:1-2. 4-5. 6-9. R. see v.1.**

*(R.) Let us go rejoicing to the house  
of the Lord.*

1. I rejoiced when I heard them say:  
'Let us go to God's house.'  
And now our feet are standing  
within your gates, O Jerusalem. (R.)
2. It is there that the tribes go up,  
the tribes of the Lord.  
For Israel's law it is,  
there to praise the Lord's name.  
There were set the thrones of  
judgement  
of the house of David. (R.)
3. For the peace of Jerusalem pray:  
'Peace be to your homes!  
May peace reign in your walls,  
in your palaces, peace!' (R.)
4. For love of my brethren and friends  
I say: 'Peace upon you!'  
For love of the house of the Lord  
I will ask for your good. (R.)

**Second Reading Rom 13:11-14**

*The time has come, our salvation is near.*

You know 'the time' has come: you must  
wake up now: our salvation is even nearer  
than it was when we were converted. The  
night is almost over, it will be daylight soon  
– let us give up all the things we prefer  
to do under the cover of the dark; let us  
arm ourselves and appear in the light.  
Let us live decently as people do in the  
daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity  
or licentiousness, and no wrangling or  
jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus  
Christ.

**Gospel Acclamation Ps 84:8**

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*Lord, show us your mercy and love,  
and grant us your salvation.*

*Alleluia!*

**Gospel Mt 24:37-44**

*Stay awake, you must be ready.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in  
Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of  
Man comes. For in those days before the  
Flood people were eating, drinking, taking  
wives, taking husbands, right up to the day  
Noah went into the ark, and they suspected  
nothing till the Flood came and swept all  
away. It will be like this when the Son of  
Man comes. Then of two men in the fields  
one is taken, one left; of two women at the  
millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

'So stay awake, because you do not know  
the day when your master is coming.  
You may be quite sure of this that if the  
householder had known at what time of  
the night the burglar would come, he would  
have stayed awake and would not have  
allowed anyone to break through the wall  
of his house. Therefore, you too must stand  
ready because the Son of Man is coming at  
an hour you do not expect.'



**Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA**

We may be accustomed to think of  
Advent as the time when we prepare  
for the coming of God, but the  
readings also train our attention on  
our own journey to God. We see this  
most clearly in this first Sunday with  
readings that tell us the identity of  
the pilgrims, the destination toward  
which they travel, and the way of life  
that is required of them on their  
journey. As the Vatican Council has  
proclaimed: We are a pilgrim people.

Both the reading from Isaiah and the  
psalm response speak of the  
pilgrimage to the mountain of the  
Lord, the place where God can be  
found. Although the psalm speaks  
about Jerusalem and refers to the  
temple there, the broader theological  
significance of the mountain, the city  
and the temple is one and the same.  
They represent the presence of God  
in our midst, and this presence is the  
goal of our striving. There are clear  
directions about how we are to live  
while we are on this pilgrimage to  
God. In Isaiah we learn that we must  
put away our instruments of violence  
and hatred, our swords and our  
spears. Lest we pick them up again,  
we are told to convert them into life-  
producing implements, into ploughs  
and pruning hooks. Paul exhorts us  
to put away our deeds of darkness  
and self-indulgence and to clothe  
ourselves instead in the deeds of  
Jesus Christ. Matthew points out the  
need for alertness, attentiveness, a  
disposition that is open to a change  
of heart.