



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

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time 1 September 2019

Happy Father's Day! St Pope John Paul II once said that Original Sin was an attack on fatherhood. When Adam and Eve, at the prompting of the evil one, disobeyed God, they looked away from the *real* world and conjured up a *fake* world in which God no longer existed as Father who could be trusted absolutely. This meant that they deprived not only themselves but also entire humanity of the profound security that comes from knowing God as Heavenly Father. A good father wants his children to thrive, but he also knows that human flourishing is only possible when it is founded on truth. By contrast, a bad father misleads his children with promises which turn out to be false and empty. A case in point is the evil one - the "father" of lies - who has the appearance of a progenitor of many offsprings but, ultimately, betrays his own "children" by feeding them lies which, sooner or later, will be exposed as having no lasting substance. The problem of fatherlessness expresses itself in young people who feel like perpetual victims to chaos and meaninglessness because they have no solid grounding in life. But there will be no such grounding for as long as Divine Fatherhood is rejected and rebellious children go on believing whatever they fancy instead of what is illuminated by the light of truth. Perhaps what we need more than ever, in these days of severe lack of solidity, are fathers who are willing to carry the cross of witnessing to truth because they truly love their children and would rather die young than to live long as bad fathers.

As forewarned last week, I am now going to comment on a very controversial matter, namely, the 2-1 rejection of the appeal made by Cardinal Pell (who, as we know, is now taking the matter to the High Court, as he rightly should). I do not expect anyone to blindly agree with me; in fact, I wish everyone could read at least some of the key sections of 'Pell versus The Queen' (the legal document written by the three judges who assessed the appeal - accessible online thanks to 'Google'! - especially the second half written by Judge Weinberg) and see it for themselves: what has happened here is rather staggering for reasons that go far beyond just the person of George Pell. Our society has recently redefined marriage; it is now trying to redefine...justice!

Both the defence and prosecution agreed that the first alleged incident, if true, must have occurred on either 15 or 22 December 1996 in the sacristy of St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne. But these also happened to be the very first time when George Pell (not yet a cardinal then) celebrated Sunday Mass there as the new Archbishop. No one disputed the fact that it was customary for the Archbishop to be accompanied by at least one other person for as long as he was still vested (as required by church law, among other considerations); in fact, a number of witnesses testified to the effect that they were confident he was accompanied at all times on his first major liturgical events. It was also customary for the Archbishop to greet parishioners at the end of Mass before returning to the sacristy; at least one witness claimed to remember serving at those first masses, at the end of which the Archbishop, sure enough, spent time talking to parishioners, including to the witness' own mother.

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The Week Ahead

Sun 1 Sept 22nd Sun in OT	8.30am Mass 10.00am Mass
Mon 2 Sept	No Mass
Tues 3 Sept St Gregory the Great	8:30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9:15am Mass with Yr 4
Wed 4 Sept	7.00am Mass
Thurs 5 Sept	9:15am Mass
Fri 6 Sept Spring Ember Day	8:30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9:15am Mass
Sat 7 Sept	9.00am Mass 4:25pm Reconciliation 5:00pm Vigil Mass
Sun 8 Sept 23rd Sun in OT	8.30am Mass 10.00am Mass

Please pray for...

Recently Deceased

In Loving Memory

Carmelo Algozzino, Vito Maida, Marc David Solazzo, Damia & Assia Dagher, Bartolo Tesoriero, Donato Tozzi, Peter Repole, Charlie Lo Russo, Joe Poolice, Ivan & Mara Puljic, Vicko & Kate Hrdalo, Maurice Haddad, Maria Giuseppa Mascolo, Amy Kathleen Caren, Elizabeth Dang, Bernie Crawford, Anna Maria Cicuto, Patricia Gates, Viet Dinh, Pio Gonano,

Please remember those who are in ill health especially:

Pat Johnson, George Dagher, Mrs Saba, Josephina Algozzina, Genevieve Shedden, Geraldina Civitarese, Pat Mortimer, Greg Weekes, Mrs Donald Burch, Mary Daniels, Geoff McDowell, Greg Daniels, 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.

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/

PSO

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

First Holy Communion

The Sacrament of First Holy Communion is to be celebrated on Saturday 14 September 5.00pm Mass & Sunday 15 September 10.00am Mass.



Father's Day Humour

If you ask your father, "What's on the TV," what would his answer be?
Dust

Why are Fathers like parking spaces?
The good ones are already taken!

What do you call a father who was kidnapped in Iraq?
A Baghdad

What did the daddy tomato say to the baby tomato?
Catch up!

What did baby corn say to mama corn?
Where's popcorn?

Why don't some fathers have a mid-life crisis?
They're stuck in adolescence.

While having their evening dinner together, a little girl looked up at her father and asked, "Daddy, you're the boss in our family, right?" The father was very pleased to hear it and confidently replied, "Yes my little princess." The girl then continued, "That's because mommy put you in charge, right?"

A little boy asked his father, "Daddy, how much does it cost to get married?" Father replied, "I don't know son, I'm still paying."

Rosary Statue

Michael & Elizabeth Moore
67 Tallawalla Street

Ph: 9502 1755



Last Weekend
25 August 2019

2nd Collection \$2,077.85

1st Collection \$1,182.90

Attendance

5PM	110
8.30AM	139
10AM	223
Total	472

It was a truism to say that the sacristy was a 'hive of activity' after a solemn Mass, with or without a newly installed Archbishop. Other witnesses testified that the Cathedral Choir, which consisted of both children and adults, were highly regimented and therefore invulnerable to mischief while still in liturgical procession; also, written records showed that they were scheduled for a rehearsal immediately after Mass on both those occasions.

Here was where the defence and prosecution started to differ: the defence argued that each of the aforementioned factors (there were several others not mentioned here) made it highly improbable that there was even an opportunity for anything like the first incident to occur; moreover, all of the improbable scenarios would have needed to coincide, like "planets aligning," thereby compounding improbabilities to the level of *extreme unlikelihood*. Just then, two boys, allegedly (according to only one of them, since the other has deceased, although not before telling his mum he had never been abused), decided to do something they had never done before - 'swigging' sacramental wine in the sacristy. As if by some horrible fate, the Archbishop, allegedly, stumbled precisely into this rarest of situations, not only unwatched but also so reckless as to try to take advantage of what was surely one of the most inopportune moments ever - all five minutes of it, in the hive of activity, against two witnesses who could corroborate one another. But the prosecution argued that it was still possible - 'entirely possible' - that there was an opportunity for the first incident to take place exactly as described by the complainant. ['Entirely possible' was quite a misleading expression because what they should have said was that, even though highly improbable, it was still a real possibility, just as 0.001 is a real number.] Less talked about is the second incident which, according to the complainant's own testimony, occurred in the corridor, filled with possibly up to fifty people, none of who noticed that the newly installed Archbishop, apparently, assaulted a 13 year old in broad daylight. This sort of happening too was said to be 'entirely possible.'

The conviction of Cardinal Pell, as well as the 2-1 verdict at the Court of Appeal, hinged on one thing and one thing alone: the supposed 'credibility' of the complainant who came across as 'someone who was telling the truth.' Now, the jury that convicted the Cardinal only got to watch the recorded testimony of the complainant whose identity has been possibly one of Australia's best kept secrets. But how reliable is our ability to tell the truthfulness of a person's claim by observing the manner in which he speaks for a limited span of time? Should *perception* have been allowed to override the fact that, objectively speaking, there was strong circumstantial evidence indicating that, in all likelihood, it did not happen in the way described by the complainant? If these horrible crimes were what the Cardinal really committed at such inopportune moments, then, where is the barrage of complaints about what he might have done at incomparably more opportune moments in his life (no doubt, *opportunity* has a lot to do with how real predators operate)? Speaking of the Cardinal, how is it that his categorical claim of innocence is so easily disbelieved by many, whilst, when it comes to the complainant, the same people seem willing to participate in what I can only describe as 'suspension of disbelief'? As a matter of fact, belief or disbelief is actually of secondary importance here. The jury did not have to believe the complainant over the Cardinal, or vice versa. Neither do we. An honest position for us to take might be to remain agnostic and say that we don't know what really happened. But given what we do know - based on objective evidence and evidence from those other than the complainant and the accused - there is simply not enough here to convict a person of a very serious crime *beyond reasonable doubt*. And that is justice, as good as it gets sometimes, 'on this side of paradise.'

*Before I forget, the letter from Archbishop Anthony Fisher has arrived and it says that I am appointed Parish Priest of Regina Coeli, Beverly Hills, from 1 September 2019 (Father's Day, funnily enough) for a term of six years. The letter also instructs me to contact the Archbishop's secretary to organise an installation Mass. Trust me, I am probably more scared than you are! Your prayers will be appreciated and, quite frankly, indispensable, thank you!

- Fr Peter -

Priests Retirement Fund

This Father's Day, please consider donating to the Priests' Retirement Foundation, and support our spiritual Fathers who have sacrificed and given so much to us. Your donation will assist our retired Priests to live with dignity, and support their basic needs like meals, accomodation and medical expenses. Please support those who have been there for us and donate today. Envelopes will be left around the parish this weekend, and next. Happy Fathers Day.

First Reading Sir 3:17-20, 28-29

Humble yourself and you will find favour with the Lord.

My son, be gentle in carrying out your business,
and you will be better loved than a lavish giver.

The greater you are, the more you should behave humbly,
and then you will find favour with the Lord;
for great though the power of the Lord is,
he accepts the homage of the humble.
There is no cure for the proud man's malady,
since an evil growth has taken root in him.
The heart of a sensible man will reflect on parables,
an attentive ear is the sage's dream.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 67:4-7. 10-11. R. v.11

(R.) God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor.

1. The just shall rejoice at the presence of God,
they shall exult and dance for joy.
O sing to the Lord, make music to his name;
rejoice in the Lord, exult at his presence. *(R.)*
2. Father of the orphan, defender of the widow,
such is God in his holy place.
God gives the lonely a home to live in;
he leads the prisoners forth into freedom. *(R.)*
3. You poured down, O God, a generous rain:
when your people were starved you gave them new life.
It was there that your people found a home,
prepared in your goodness, O God, for the poor. *(R.)*

Second Reading Heb 12:18-19, 22-24

You have to come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God.

What you have come to is nothing known to the senses: not a blazing fire, or a gloom turning to total darkness, or a storm; or trumpeting thunder or the great voice speaking which made everyone that heard it beg that no more should be said to them. But what you have come to is Mount Zion and the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem where the millions of angels have gathered for the festival, with the whole Church in which everyone is a 'first-born son' and a citizen of heaven. You have come to God himself, the supreme Judge, and been placed with spirits of the saints who have been made perfect; and to Jesus, the mediator who brings a new covenant.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 11:29

Alleluia, alleluia!

Take my yoke upon you;

learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart.

Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 14:1, 7-14

All who exalt themselves shall be humbled and all who humble themselves shall be exalted.

On a sabbath day Jesus had gone for a meal to the house of one of the leading Pharisees; and they watched him closely. He then told the guests a parable, because he had noticed how they picked the places of honour. He said this, 'When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take your seat in the place of honour. A more distinguished person than you may have been invited, and the person who invited you both may come and say, "Give up your place to this man." And then, to your embarrassment, you would have to go and take the lowest place. No; when you are a guest, make your way to the lowest place and sit there, so that, when your host comes, he may say, "My friend, move up higher." In that way, everyone with you at the table will see you honoured. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the man who humbles himself will be exalted.'

Then he said to his host, 'When you give a lunch or a dinner, do not ask your friends, brothers, relations or rich neighbours, for fear they repay your courtesy by inviting you in return. No; when you have a party, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; that they cannot pay you back means that you are fortunate, because repayment will be made to you when the virtuous rise again.'



Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

The goodness of God is seen in the extravagant generosity with which God gives gifts. This is described in the psalm in the boundlessness and universal scope of God's generosity. Like the rain that falls on the entire landscape, the blessings of God are showered on all. These blessings are true gifts. They have not been earned, nor can they be repaid. God's openness is also seen in the reading from the Letter to the Hebrews and in the gospel. All are invited to approach the heavenly city; the heavenly banquet will be open to the poor and to those who have no way of repaying.

Only the humble can receive the gifts of God. Only those who can admit their neediness are open enough to realise that God's blessings are gifts freely given, not compensation for a job well done. Without a humble spirit we are unable to receive gifts as gifts. This is either because we are too proud or we do not know how to receive with the open hearts of children, who never think that they must return in kind. This is the kind of humility recommended by Sirach. This is the kind of humility possessed by the disadvantaged pictured in the gospel.

As we have received from the bounty of God, so we are called to give to others. Only those who have received with a humble spirit can give with the generosity of God, for they know that they do not deserve God's goodness and they do not require anything in return.

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