



# 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



#### Pastoral Team:

Fr Peter Kwak PP

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#### Parish Office Address:

5 Tarrilli Street

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### Third Sunday in Advent 15 December 2019

Repentance is not a form of some undignified punishment. Rather, it is a *grace* that leads us on the pathway toward freedom, joy and peace. Whatever we do, let us not give up on repentance, because if we did, then, a whole world of beautiful potential would be lost! Imagine if I, especially as a priest, were to give up on repentance. The small faults which used to bother me will no longer even register on the radar of my conscience. Even though others will see them in me, I myself will be tragically oblivious to the ways in which I scandalise others. Furthermore, my blindness toward the small faults might eventually create the ideal environment in which major forms of corruption can thrive! All this is a frightening thought but not a far fetched one, that is, once the towel has been thrown in.

Are there better/wiser ways in which I can live my life? There is no need to tackle everything all at once. A gentle and gradual approach would be more commendable. What are the most pressing issues I need to work on? How much quiet misery is there in my life as result of these issues? How serious am I about wanting to do something about them? Why not, then, bring them out into the open by, humbly and simply, *naming* them? At first there will be the joy of being forgiven and healed - our strength to fight for integrity will be renewed. Then our judgment will be enhanced. We might fall again into the same old sin, but we will be far more likely to call it what it really is, instead of trying to come up with excuses for it. Finally, we will have a clearer goal - a clearer vision. We will know on whose side we want to be and what is at stake in the fight. We will be unwavering in our knowledge that repentance is an indispensable component in our fight for all those whom we love!

Apart from the usual times for reconciliation, that is, 9:25-9:55am & 4:15-4:45pm on every Saturday, additional times for reconciliation (in our confessional that allows for anonymity) will be offered in the lead-up to Christmas:

- 6:30-8:30pm on Thursday 19 December 2019
- 3:00-5:00pm on Sunday 22 December 2019

'I wish to encourage the beautiful family tradition of preparing the nativity scene in the days before Christmas, but also the custom of setting it up in the workplace, in schools, hospitals, prisons and town squares. Great imagination and creativity is always shown in employing the most diverse materials to create small masterpieces of beauty. As children, we learn from our parents and grandparents to carry on this joyful tradition, which encapsulates a wealth of popular piety. It is my hope that this custom will never be lost and that, wherever it has fallen into disuse, it can be rediscovered and revived.' (Pope Francis)

- Fr Peter -



## The Week Ahead

<b>Sun 15 Dec</b> Third Sunday in Advent	8.30am Mass 10.00am Mass
<b>Mon 16 Dec</b>	No Mass
<b>Tues 17 Dec</b>	8:30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9:15am Whole School Graduation Mass
<b>Wed 18 Dec</b>	7.00am Mass
<b>Thur 19 Dec</b>	9:15am Mass 12.00pm School Staff Mass
<b>Fri 20 Dec</b>	8:30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9:15am Mass
<b>Sat 21 Dec</b>	9.00am-4:25pm Mass Reconciliation 5:00pm Vigil Mass
<b>Sun 22 Dec</b> Fourth Sunday in Advent	8.30am Mass 10.00am Mass

## Please pray for...

### Recently Deceased

Sr Mary Britt OP, Genevieve Shedden,  
Lucy Yonatan,

### In Loving Memory

Jovito Canonizado, Donato Tozzi, Maria Addolorata  
Tesoriero

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

Michelle Makin, Pat Johnson, George Dagher, Mrs Saba, Josephina Algozzina, 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.



*'Why wasn't my photo included in last week's bulletin?'*

*The Other Cake ☺*

### 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

## Christmas Mass Times

### Tuesday 24 December 2019

Christmas Vigil Family Mass  
Christmas Eve at 7:00pm  
Christmas Midnight Mass  
commencing with Carols—11:30pm



### Wednesday 25 December 2019

Christmas Day Masses  
8:30am & 10:00am

### Reconciliation—First Rite

Thursday 19 December 6:30pm-8:30pm  
Sunday 22 December 3:00pm-5:00pm

## 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 -

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

19 Dec at 6.00pm in Church

22 Dec at 9.30am in Church

*On behalf of the St Vincent de Paul Ladies Conference I would like to sincerely thank the parishioners who so generously donated to our Christmas appeal. An amount of \$3,780 was collected.*

*- Anne Kensey -*

## Rosary Statue

Mr & Mrs R Xuereb  
7 Rhonda Ave

Ph: 9153 9101



## Last Weekend 8 December 2019

### 2nd Collection \$2,189.90

1st Collection	\$1,183.10
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### Attendance

5PM	
8.30AM	
10AM	185
<b>Total</b>	<b>?</b>





Until quite recently, Genevieve Shedden had been joining us at the 10am Mass whilst battling cancer. She passed away on 3 December and her funeral Mass was held at Rookwood on 10 December 2019. May she rest in peace. The following observations were made by her daughter during Words of Remembrance:

*At this point of the story (the final stage of her life), instead of going into details about her dark days let me share some of the triumphs:*

- *When the doctors gave her 2 weeks to live in December 2018, she defiantly stayed an extra 12 months*
- *When they told her that her spinal fractures were worsening, she stopped using her wheelchair*
- *When she felt sick and ugly, she dressed up and looked beautiful and nowhere near as sick as what her scans indicated*
- *When she was readmitted into hospital for the final time, almost a year to the date, the nurses greeted her fondly and joked with her about not being able to stay away (she was known for her great personality and sense of humour).*



### 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. Final rehearsal will be held on 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)) -

### 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>



*My Choir, Endeavour Harmony Chorus is singing Christmas Carols on the steps of St Mary's Cathedral on Sunday 15th December from 7.30pm, prior to the Lights of Christmas being turned on at 8.30pm.*

*It's a wonderful experience for all the family and shows off our amazing Cathedral at this special time of the year!*  
- Geraldine Zacka -

**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.

**First Reading Is 35:1-6, 10**

*God himself will come and save us.*

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,  
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,  
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,  
let it rejoice and sing for joy.  
The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,  
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;  
they shall see the glory of the Lord,  
the splendour of our God.  
Strengthen all weary hands,  
steady all trembling knees  
and say to all faint hearts,  
'Courage! Do not be afraid.  
'Look, your God is coming,  
vengeance is coming,  
the retribution of God;  
he is coming to save you.'  
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
the ears of the deaf unsealed,  
then the lame shall leap like a deer  
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy,  
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.  
They will come to Zion shouting for joy,  
everlasting joy on their faces;  
joy and gladness will go with them  
and sorrow and lament be ended.

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 145:6-10. R. see Is 35:4**

**(R.) Lord, come and save us.**

*or*

**(R.) Alleluia!**

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,  
who is just to those who are oppressed.  
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,  
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. (R.)
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,  
who raises up those who are bowed down,  
the Lord, who protects the stranger  
and upholds the widow and orphan. (R.)
3. It is the Lord who loves the just  
but thwarts the path of the wicked.  
The Lord will reign for ever,  
Zion's God, from age to age. (R.)

**Second Reading Jas 5:7-10**

*You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon.*

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the

spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

**Gospel Acclamation Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;**

**he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.**

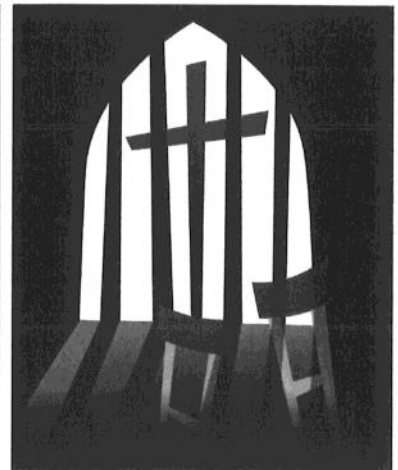
**Alleluia!**

**Gospel Mt 11:2-11**

*Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?*

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'



**Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA**

Half way through Advent we pause for a moment to celebrate Gaudete Sunday, a Sunday for rejoicing. Isaiah paints a picture of regeneration. The desert that once seemed to be dead is now bursting with life; eyes that lacked sight, ears incapable of capturing and holding sound, limbs without strength, and tongues devoid of speech are all given new life. There will be no death in that age of fulfilment, no limitations, no mourning. As we move deeper and deeper into the reality of God's presence in our midst, we will discover the meaning of true fulfilment.

John the Baptist is a standard for judging the privilege of entering here and now, the kingdom of heaven. He was the herald of the coming of Jesus, the one who prepared for him, but John himself died before the death and resurrection of Jesus opened the flood gates of the eschatological tide. By comparison, even the least in the kingdom of God is far greater than this prophetic herald. John also serves as a model of patience in suffering. His circumstances teach us that moving toward eschatological fulfilment is not without cost.

Just as Matthew presents us with the example of John the Baptist, so James describes the patience required of those who await the age of fulfilment. That age of fulfilment will dawn in its time; all we can do is discharge our responsibilities regardless of how demanding they might be, and wait for that day patiently, convinced that it will come in God's due time.

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