



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

Second Sunday of Easter

28 April 2019

To think that people could have walked into a church with the noblest of desires, namely, to be part of the celebration of divine love - a love that triumphed over sin and death by rising from the dead - only to be suddenly and mortally disrupted by the detonation of an insidious bomb...

Not long after the atrocious attack in Christchurch last month, I was at a dinner table one night and started to hear whispers of concern about *retaliation*. What do we call a place where nightmares aren't just dreams but realities?

What was excruciatingly senseless about the so-called retaliation in Sri Lanka was that, firstly, what happened in Christchurch was not committed even remotely in the name of *Christianity*; secondly, as others have pointed out, it seems that the murderous plot - and others like it - might have already been underway regardless of the Christchurch massacre.

To say that Christians are the most persecuted religious group in the world would be an understatement. A recent study - widely respected, apparently - undertaken by *Pew Research Centre* seems to have a peculiar weakness, namely, placing perceived or sentimental persecutions almost at the same level as actual or material persecutions. Even then, however, Christians are still identified as the most persecuted religious group in the world.

It is rather unpopular if not politically incorrect to speak about persecutions of Christians. After the bombing in Sri Lanka, some "renowned" leaders started to express their sympathy for 'Easter worshippers.' Other commentators noticed in this a notable reluctance to use the word 'Christians.' Why not? Probably because portraying Christians as victims would run against the ideologically propagated narrative (especially in the West) that Christians are a privileged class of backward people who ought to be chastised and silenced.

To be honest, however, the inclination not to hear the cry of persecuted Christians exists in me too. Maybe because actual or material persecutions of Christians tend to take place away from where I am and I think I am overwhelmed by my own problems to worry about. Or maybe because it's rather uncomfortable to admit that what seems unthinkable in my own world may in fact be a living reality for some of my brothers and sisters in Christ, and so it is easier for me to deny certain spaces within my heart by placing a *stone* over them.

- Fr Peter -

Pastoral Team:

Fr Peter Kwak

beverlyhillspriest@gmail.com

Parish Office Address:

5 Tarrilli Street

Postal Address:

PO Box 100

Beverly Hills NSW 2209

Telephone: 9554 8155

Email: reginaparish@gmail.com

Web: reginacoeliparish.org.au



The Week Ahead

Sun 28 Apr Second Sun of Easter	8.30am Mass 10.00am Mass
Mon 29 Apr St Catherine of Siena	No Mass
Tues 30 Apr St Pius V pope	8:30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass
Wed 1 May St Joseph the Worker	7.00am Mass 9.15am Whole School Mass - Easter Special
Thurs 2 May Saint Athanasius	9:15am Mass
Fri 3 May Sts Philip & James	8:30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9:15am Mass
Sat 4 May	9.00am Mass 4:25pm Reconciliation 5:00pm Vigil Mass
Sun 5 May 3rd Sunday of Easter	8.30am Mass 10.00am Mass

Please pray for...

Recently Deceased

In Loving Memory

Maria De Bono, Mary Crawford, Antonia Falzon, Sam Xerri, Edward Cantwell, Ugo Buracchi, Joseph Ovens, Carl John Sollazzo, Irene Hall, Neville Gittany, Margherita Campisi, Jim Campisi, Giovanni Battiato, Alfia Cocco, Giuseppa Leotta, Rossa Leotta, Donato Tozzi, Angela Maria Pinto, Nicola Repole, Peter Repole, Doris Micallef, Judith Partlin, Annamaria Cicuto, Vicko Hrdalo, Kate Hrdalo, Joe Poolice, Mara & Ivan Puljic, Lambert Glaudemans, Vicky Brown, Carmelo Algozzino, Vito Maida, Patricia Freeman, Henry Walter Bullock, Christopher Pezzuti, Tony Tesoriero.

Please remember those who are in ill health especially:

Geraldina Civitarese, Pat Mortimer, Greg Weekes, Mrs Donald Burch, Mary Daniels, Geoff McDowell, Peter Campbell, Greg Daniels, Elena Mura, Carmen Aquilina, 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.

An excerpt from Pope Francis' Easter Message 2019

"Christ is alive! He is our hope, and in a wonderful way, he brings youth to our world. Everything he touches becomes young, new, full of life. The very first words, then, that I would like to say to every young Christian are these: Christ is alive and he wants you to be alive! He is in you, he is with you and he never abandons you. However far you may wander, he is always there, the Risen One. He calls you and he waits for you to return to him and start over again. When you feel you are growing old out of sorrow, resentment or fear, doubt or failure, he will always be there to restore your strength and your hope" (Christus Vivit, 1-2).

Dear brothers and sisters, this message is also addressed to every person in the world. The resurrection of Christ is the principle of new life for every man and every woman, for true renewal always begins from the heart, from the conscience. Yet Easter is also the beginning of the new world, set free from the slavery of sin and death: the world open at last to the Kingdom of God, a Kingdom of love, peace and fraternity.

Charitable Works Fund 2019 Pastoral Appeal

For the appeal next weekend (4/5 May), *Regina Coeli* has been asked by the head office to raise \$1825. As usual these donations will be 100% tax deductible. Envelopes will be put out for all the Masses next weekend.

The Charitable Works Fund (CWF) Pastoral Appeal, our premier charity...Let us show our Christian solidarity for one another by sharing what we can with our neighbours.

Rosary Statue

Mr & Mrs V Cardoz
67 Melvin Street North

Ph: 9591 9402



Parish Secretary

Mrs Margaret Doherty-Brady
9554 8155
Tues, Wed, 8.30-3.30
Fri 8.30am-2.30pm
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

Last Weekend 21 April 2019

2nd Collection \$2859.80

1st Collection \$3052.90

Attendance

5PM ?

8.30AM 304

10AM 572

Total ?

Sacristans Wanted!

There is a remarkable lady in our parish whose name is an entire Mass part - the one which we have just returned to using after having abstained from it during Lent. Each morning (during the week) she opens the church, sets up for Mass and ensures that Mass can be celebrated on the day and beyond; in other words, she is the *sacristan*. Well, she is about to go on a well deserved holiday and will be away for about a month. So, I am looking for more parishioners (especially among those are open to attending Mass during the week) who can learn the role of sacristan.

I have to be honest: I feel quite spoilt at times. It is a great luxury to be able to have the wonderful support of a sacristan. The truth is that I could probably do it myself on most days if necessary. Sometimes the fact of having a sacristan can even make it more tempting for me to become lazy, which is certainly an ongoing struggle of mine. Nevertheless, in all humility, I think I can still ask for more sacristans for the following reasons:

- Not being the sole person responsible for opening the church and setting up for Mass every day will take a good amount of pressure off me.
- There are definitely days when I cannot do it myself e.g. when I am unavailable (in which case a visiting priest cannot be expected to open the church and set up for Mass) or when I have another duty to perform in the lead-up to Mass which does happen not infrequently.
- Not a small number of parishioners would have noticed the church being left open at “ungodly” hours. I am sorry! This happens at times firstly because it is important for the church to be made accessible to those who wish to pay a visit; secondly because I am not always around to lock up when night falls. Therefore it would be helpful to have more parishioners who are capable of opening/closing our beautiful house of God.

Therefore I hope we can have a network of sacristans (myself included) at all times and not just while Gloria is away (oops, did I just say her name?) so that, as a general rule, no one has to do it more than once a week and it is not at all stressful to organise a replacement whenever necessary. So, if you are open to spending quality time in the church (starting from 45-60 minutes before Mass) once a week and being at the service of others who are also drawn to the gentle/quiet power of weekday Mass, then, please let me know and hopefully there will be at least a handful of us. Thank you for your kind attention. - Fr Peter -

PS: 73 *Expression of Interest* forms (for roles other than sacristan) have been returned to me so far. I will be in touch with you as soon as I can get myself organised, thank you!

An excerpt from Pope Francis' Easter Vigil Homily 2019

What is the *stone* that I need to remove, what is its name? Often what blocks hope is the stone of discouragement. Once we start thinking that everything is going badly and that things can't get worse, we lose heart and come to believe that death is stronger than life. We become cynical, negative and despondent. Stone upon stone, we build within ourselves a monument to our own dissatisfaction: the sepulcher of hope. Life becomes a succession of complaints and we grow sick in spirit. A kind of tomb psychology takes over: everything ends there, with no hope of emerging alive. But at that moment, we hear once more the insistent question of Easter: Why do you seek the living among the dead? The Lord is not to be found in resignation. He is risen; he is not there. Don't seek him where you will never find him: he is not the God of the dead but of the living (cf. Mk 22:32). Do not bury hope!

There is another stone that often seals the heart shut: the stone of sin. Sin seduces; it promises things easy and quick, prosperity and success, but then leaves behind only solitude and death. Sin is looking for life among the dead, for the meaning of life in things that pass away. Why do you seek the living among the dead? Why not make up your mind to abandon that sin which, like a stone before the entrance to your heart, keeps God's light from entering in? Why not prefer Jesus, the true light (cf. Jn1:9), to the glitter of wealth, career, pride and pleasure? Why not tell the empty things of this world that you no longer live for them, but for the Lord of life?

First Reading Acts 5:12-16

The numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily.

The faithful all used to meet by common consent in the Portico of Solomon. No one else ever dared to join them, but the people were loud in their praise and the numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily. So many signs and wonders were worked among the people at the hands of the apostles that the sick were even taken out into the streets and laid on beds and sleeping-mats in the hope that at least the shadow of Peter might fall across some of them as he went past. People even came crowding in from the towns round about Jerusalem, bringing with them their sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and all of them were cured.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 117:2-4. 22-27. R. v.1

**(R.) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
his love is everlasting.**
or

(R.) Alleluia.

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 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.)
3. O Lord, grant us salvation;
O Lord grant success.
Blessed in the name of the Lord
is he who comes.
We bless you from the house of the Lord;
the true God is our light. (R.)

Second Reading Rv 1:9-13, 17-19

I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever.

My name is John, and through our union in Jesus I am your brother and share your sufferings, your kingdom, and all you endure. I was on the island of Patmos for having preached God's word and witnessed for Jesus; it was the Lord's day and the Spirit possessed me, and I heard a voice behind me, shouting like a trumpet, 'Write down all that you see in a book.' I turned round to see who had spoken to me, and when I turned I saw seven golden lamp-stands and, surrounded by them, a figure like a Son of man, dressed in a long robe tied at the waist with a golden girdle.

When I saw him, I fell in a dead faint at his feet, but he touched me with his right hand and said,

'Do not be afraid; it is I, the First and the Last; I am the Living One. I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and of the underworld. Now write down all that you see of present happenings and things that are still to come.'

Gospel Acclamation Jn 20:29

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

Gospel Jn 20:19-31

After eight days Jesus came in and stood among them.

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me,
so am I sending you.'
After saying this he breathed on them and said:
'Receive the Holy Spirit.
For those whose sins you forgive,
they are forgiven;
for those whose sins you retain,
they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me.
Happy are those who have not seen
and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.



Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

The readings for the Sundays after Easter all provide mystagogical catechesis for the entire church, with a special emphasis for the newly baptised. This instruction is meant to help us recognise the presence of the Risen Lord in our midst. The overarching theme for the Second Sunday of Easter is the celebration of this presence in several manifestations.

While we might seek some obvious, tangible manifestation, each reading speaks of the presence of Christ in a way that we would not expect Christ to be present. He is there in the very throes of sickness, in fear and doubt, in the celebration of the liturgy. These presences challenge us to go beneath appearances, beneath the mundane and banal of life, and there discover the risen Lord in personal mystical experience, in the ministry of the believing community, and in the transformative possibilities of the liturgy.

Experiences of the Risen Lord are not reserved for extraordinarily holy people. Any one of us can be invited into a deep personal encounter when we least expect it, in the most unlikely places, with effects that overwhelm us. In fact, the Risen Christ is always just around the next corner, eager to enter our lives with the transforming power of the resurrection. Being part of a community of believers in prayer can be one of the most profound religious experiences. It not only transforms the present, but it also entrusts us with a vision of what is yet to be, an eschatological hope for a glorious future.