



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

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

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

3 November 2019

Exactly five years ago around this time, I gave a homily on All Souls Day right here at Regina Coeli. I was an assistant priest then, and possibly a little more studious (I used to type up entire homilies in those days). The homily was a reflection on the topic of death – one approach among many. I share it again for those who have the patience! Please do remember to pray for holy souls during the month of November. All parish masses in November will be offered for those whose names are written in the holy souls book. - Fr Peter –

Death is a much neglected subject in our modern culture. Some people want to say that life is all about living on the fast-lane: restlessly eating, drinking, buying and consuming, like there was no tomorrow. This kind of life seems to work well, especially for the people who have a lot of money to spend or a lot of money to make. But the idea of death disturbs the peace of modern life by making people stop and ask, Is my life truly meaningful or is it tragically empty?

Death changes our perspective; and a change in perspective changes the way we live. Without death, we are only seeing an incomplete picture of life; therefore we cannot live well. If we want to live well, then we need to see the bigger picture; we need to take death into consideration and realise that every moment of living brings us one step closer to death. Therefore the art of living well is also the art of dying well. To live is to die. We cannot have a truly meaningful life if we are simply running away from death instead of embracing it.

There are two common responses to death. One is to become crushed by death, probably like the disciples on the way to Emmaus. They placed all their hope in Jesus; with him, they thought, they had a chance. But even Jesus appeared to be helpless against death - incapable of withstanding the cruelty of death. What would be the point? If death always has the last word, what would be the point of resisting, trying to find some meaning in life, before death devours everything?

The other common response to death is to become overconfident, trying to trivialise death and laugh it off. We see this in funerals where family members feel that they must celebrate and not grieve: 'Let us celebrate his life! He had a great life and therefore death means nothing by comparison. Surely, he is in "heaven", enjoying himself and wanting us to do the same!' But how do we know? After all, what happens to us after death depends on God's judgment; it does not depend on our "celebration", no matter how triumphantly it may be done.

The Christian response to death is something in the middle between the two responses. Christians recognise the crushing weight of death. We are meant to fear death and find it to be a source of pain, sadness, grief, anger, doubt, humiliation and more. After all, death is an aberration from how things are meant to be; it is a sign that something has gone wrong - humanity has fallen. Therefore we are meant to feel challenged and hurt by death and by all that death takes away from us.

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The Week Ahead

Sun 3 Nov 31st Sun in OT	8.30am Mass 10.00am Mass
Mon 4 Nov St Charles Borromeo Bishop	No Mass 7:00pm Funeral Rosary
Tues 5 Nov	8:30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass with Year 6 10.30am Funeral Mass
Wed 6 Nov	7.00am Mass
Thurs 7 Nov	9:15am Mass
Fri 8 Nov	8:30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9:15am Mass
Sat 9 Nov Dedication of the Lateran Basilica	9.00am Mass 4:25pm Reconciliation 5:00pm Vigil Mass
Sun 10 Nov 32nd Sun in OT	8.30am Mass 10.00am Mass

Please pray for...

Recently Deceased

Vincenza Oliveri, Edoviglio Perantuono

In Loving Memory

Maria Debono, Maria Linda, T.S Lim, Anton Shedden, James Roebuck, Donato Tozzi, Angelo Porcu, Angelo Mascolo, Maria Debono, Anita Abbey, Cono Reale, Colleen Bresnan, Patricia Atkins, Carmelo Algozzino, Vito Maida, Marc David Solazzo, artolo Tesoriero

Please remember those who are in ill health especially:

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.

Will the parishioner using planned giving envelope number 20 kindly contact Margaret at the parish office please. Many thanks.

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

November Masses

A book has been placed on a stand in front of the altar. Please write down the names of holy souls you wish to pray for. All of the Masses in November will be offered for those whose names are written in the book. Please do try to remember those who may not have anyone to pray for them, thank you!
- Fr Peter -

Life Ascending Meetings

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

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 **Charitable Works Fund (CWF) Pastoral Appeal** will run this weekend and next weekend.

The work of CWF's benefiting agencies represents our Christian values of mercy, social justice and compassion (visit www.cwf.org.au to find out more), giving your gift the power to change lives for the better.

Your parish will have special envelopes for your use or alternatively, visit the CWF website to donate securely by credit card (please remember to include your nominated parish as this helps them too). Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

To find out more, phone **1800 753 959** or email cwf@sydneycatholic.org. Thank you.

Rosary Statue

Mr & Mrs L Stillone

18 Rhonda Avenue
Ph: 9153 9339



Last Weekend
27 October 2019

2nd Collection \$1,788.40

1st Collection \$1,135.65

Attendance

5PM	
8.30AM	142
10AM	233
Total	?

Of course, for Christians, death means something far more than pure suffering. The Son of God himself suffered death and conquered it by the power of his love. As St Paul said: 'Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ.' This means that in Jesus death becomes not "bottomless grief" but the beginning of a new life. Death becomes our "stairway to heaven".

What is interesting here is that "new life" does not mean that we try to trivialise death and laugh it off. The fact is that we still cannot avoid death; we cannot jump over it or walk around it. We have to go right through the darkness of death in order to see the light of new life. Death is a prerequisite for heaven. One theologian said, 'The only way up is down.' Well, death brings us down like nothing else on earth.

Death reminds us of how fragile we are. Even the healthiest person can lose his life in a split second. Ultimately, life is a pure gift and we are at the mercy of the giver of life. Death breaks down the illusion of self-sufficiency - the false notion that we are complete masters over our own life, especially if we are rich and strong. But who can pretend to be rich and strong when death knocks on his door? There is a force far greater than what we can control - a mystery far beyond what we can comprehend. We are to pay attention and listen. In this way, death brings us down - down to earth and down to humility - by breaking down our pride - the sinful pride that stands in the way of love.

This is why death is such an important part of life that needs to be embraced - why God allows everyone to experience the sting of death. Death humbles the human heart and turns it into a fertile ground for new life by breaking it open - open to faith and love. By the way, death does not come to us all at once at the very end of life. It comes to us constantly in small doses: in our ageing process, setbacks, failures, misfortune, sickness, guilt, sorrow, loss of loved ones, all kinds of suffering, etc. We can learn to accept all these experiences of death as medicine for the soul. At times it is a very bitter medicine, but it will be good for us because of what comes after - new life with God, spiritual life, resurrection.

— Fr Peter —

One of the things that happened during my absence was Ignite Conference 2019 for Catholic youth which was held at , Bonnyrigg, from 3 to 6 October 2019. Several young people from Regina Coeli participated in it, with Freeman Collegethe help of a few devoted mums and some financial sponsorship from the parish. Here are a few of their reflections upon the experience. - Fr Peter -

The Ignite Conference was something I've never been to before. It was definitely unique, very loud and welcoming. The start of the day started as a morning rally, which was very very loud. It was sort of like a Catholic version of a very loud rock band. It was great to see so many people raising their hands and praising and glorifying God. Afterwards we went to a keynote session where we just played games and had fun. Then we had a twenty-five minute break and headed off to our workshops. Our workshops that had been selected: one was called 'Jesus and me' and another one had something to do with the Trinity. They were both very inspiring and the speakers both told us about their personal experiences. They were very honest and told us what they would do now if they could go back in time. Afterwards we went to something called small groups and our leader was very kind and told us we could ask her anything we were unsure about. She was also very welcoming. Overall the Ignite Conference was quite good but I would recommend to bring your own food!

By Bethany Lui, Year 7

We were greeted by a very warm welcome by all the staff! Everyone had a positive attitude right from the beginning. There was this one man who stood out to me however as he asked for all our names and giving us high fives! When we entered our classroom all the other children had a massive smile on their faces and were laughing. One of the teachers told us a story explaining how everyone is useful and how we all leave footprints wherever we go, meaning that we have a massive impact everywhere we go. We also had another classroom, our quiet space where we reflected and prayed. We were told to write on small mirrors what was unique about us. Looking around, everyone concentrated very hard! Another activity was art and we painted stones with either a butterfly or flower; we were told that these represent being new again, this year's theme.

At Ignite they had an expo where we could see all sorts of groups or companies give examples of what they do. There were a lot of freebies and we could participate and have fun. Some examples of this is that we had to write down what we would say if we went to heaven or make a bracelet for the children in Ghana. I also enjoyed going to the expo because I learnt about what people were doing to support others and how we have people who will always be with us and guide us. In the mass with the Archbishop, we were celebrating the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi. The homily that the Archbishop gave was so intriguing as he explained Saint Francis abandoned a life of luxury for the poor, swapping his costly clothes to the poverty-affected people. This is not something many people these days would do. The Archbishop explained how we didn't have to give our clothes to the poor as such, but we could share what we have and give what we don't need.

By Jasmine Zeng, Year 6

First Reading Wis 11:22-12:2

You have mercy on all things because you love everything that exists.

In your sight, Lord, the whole world is like a grain of dust that tips the scales, like a drop of morning dew falling on the ground.

Yet you are merciful to all, because you can do all things and overlook men's sins so that they can repent.

Yes, you love all that exists, you hold nothing of what you have made in abhorrence, for had you hated anything, you would not have formed it.

And how, had you not willed it, could a thing persist, how be conserved if not called forth by you?

You spare all things because all things are yours, Lord, lover of life, you whose imperishable spirit is in all. Little by little, therefore, you correct those who offend, you admonish and remind them of how they have sinned, so that they may abstain from evil and trust in you, Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 144:1-2. 8-11. 13-14. R. see v.1

(R.) I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

1. I will give you glory, O God my King,
I will bless your name for ever.
I will bless you day after day
and praise your name for ever. (R.)
2. The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. (R.)
3. All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,
and your friends shall repeat their
blessing.
They shall speak of the glory of your reign
and declare your might, O God. (R.)
4. The Lord is faithful in all his words
and loving in all his deeds.
The Lord supports all who fall
and raises all who are bowed down. (R.)

Second Reading 2 Thes 1:11-2:2

The name of our Lord Jesus Christ will be glorified in you and you in him.

We pray continually that our God will make you worthy of his call, and by his power fulfil all your desires for goodness and complete all that you have been doing through faith; because in this way the name of our Lord Jesus Christ will be glorified in you and you in him, by the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

To turn now, brothers, to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and how we shall all be gathered round him: please do not get excited too soon or alarmed by any prediction or rumour or any letter claiming to come from us, implying that the Day of the Lord has already arrived.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 3:16

Alleluia, alleluia!

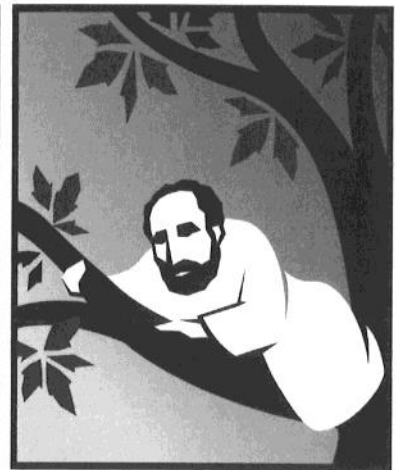
**God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son,
that all who believe in him might have eternal life.**

Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 19:1-10

The Son of Man came to seek and to find that which was lost.

Jesus entered Jericho and was going through the town when a man whose name was Zacchaeus made his appearance; he was one of the senior tax collectors and a wealthy man. He was anxious to see what kind of man Jesus was, but he was too short and could not see him for the crowd; so he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to catch a glimpse of Jesus who was to pass that way. When Jesus reached the spot he looked up and spoke to him: 'Zacchaeus, come down. Hurry, because I must stay at your house today.' And he hurried down and welcomed him joyfully. They all complained when they saw what was happening. 'He has gone to stay at a sinner's house' they said. But Zacchaeus stood his ground and said to the Lord, 'Look, sir, I am going to give half my property to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody I will pay him back four times the amount.' And Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because this man too is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek out and save what was lost.'



Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

The change of seasons is always an opportune time to marvel at the magnificence of the natural world of which we are a part. Its colours, its textures, its smells all reflect the limitless imagination of the creator. Perhaps the most marvellous feature of the world is the interconnectedness of all the elements of which it consists. Somehow the spirit of the creator is manifested through each and every aspect of this universe. And we are part of it all. The universe may be as a grain in the balance or a drop of morning dew, but each grain and each drop contains within it the possibilities of the future.

Offering hospitality is a profound social act. When we offer hospitality, we invite another into our world, into our lives. We shift our attention from our own cares and concerns to the needs and comfort of the other. By the act of hospitality we transform strangers into friends and intimates, just as Jesus did with Zacchaeus. The hospitality that Jesus offers dissolves all constraints. Relationships disregard the biased measures of propriety, forging bonds of reconciliation and issuing everyone an invitation to intimacy. The hospitality that Jesus offers recreates the world from one of insider versus outsider to one of universal inclusivity. Sinners become friends, the lost are found, and all are restored to the rightful place as children not merely of Abraham but of God. The creativity of the creator is matched by the compassion of the re-creator.

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