



# Regina Coeli Parish

Beverly Hills - In the Archdiocese of Sydney



## Weekly Newsletter

### Second Sunday in Advent 8 December 2019

#### 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

How astonishing it is that something so free can turn out to be so incredibly precious and critical to our wellbeing! When I was in the seminary, an overly enthusiastic seminarian filled the chapel with so much incense one morning that we could *taste* it in the air (or so we thought). Well, this past week, Sydney has been filled with so much bushfire-smoke that it was definitely more than our sense of smell that reacted to it. I think we had at least a small taste of what a post-apocalyptic world might feel like - a world in which fresh air can no longer be taken for granted.

On Thursday I helped out with a Year 12 retreat in Tahmoor. This allowed me the strange experience of, after driving for 40 minutes or so, actually breaking out of the cloud of smoke and beholding the delightful sight of blue sky for what seemed like the first time in a while. When I got out of the car and breathed in what reminded me of the fresh air of old, tears were nearly brought to my eyes. I started the Mass by saying that a retreat is like climbing to a mountain top where we can breathe in God's fresh air - something which was also literally true for those who left Sydney in order to participate in the retreat. I added: Let's remember not to take fresh air for granted!

The parish Christmas party is now less than a week away. Food is being organised, tables & chairs have been ordered and the booking for a jumping castle is all but confirmed. Weather-permitting, it will be held under the shade cloth between the church and the school. But in case of uncleared smoke or rain - we will be quite happy if the latter were the case - the event will still go on in the hall. Now may be a good time to ask, 'why do we have a parish Christmas party?' Certainly not because there is any shortage of Christmas parties! Rather, I think it is a meaningful way for us to come together as a faith community and *socialise*! As a naturally shy person, I have to intentionally counter, over and over again, my tendency to remain only where I feel comfortable; it would be detrimental to me as a priest and a human being to succumb to the desire not to venture out of my comfort zone (I must admit though that I do succumb to it more often than I should).

We could say that a parish that no longer works on connecting to one another in ever new ways is a poor parish. No amount of cosmetic improvement can change the fact that such a parish is in fact dying. Our forebears worked hard to build up the parish as many of us have come to know it. But one of the things we really cannot afford to take for granted these days is...parish life! Let's not wait until we miss it in order to start caring about it!

- Fr Peter -

#### Pastoral Team:

Fr Peter Kwak PP

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## The Week Ahead

<b>Sun 8 Dec</b> Second Sun- day in Advent	8.30am Mass 10.00am Mass
<b>Mon 9 Dec</b> Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary	No Mass
<b>Tues 10 Dec</b>	8:30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass
<b>Wed 11 Dec</b> St Damasus 1 pope	7.00am Mass
<b>Thurs 12 Dec</b> Our Lady of Guadalupe	9:15am Mass
<b>Fri 13 Dec</b> St Lucy virgin, martyr	8:30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9:15am Mass
<b>Sat 14 Dec</b> St John of the Cross priest, doctor	9.00am Mass 4:25pm Reconciliation 5:00pm Vigil Mass Parish Christmas Party
<b>Sun 15 Dec</b> Third Sunday in Advent	8.30am Mass 10.00am Mass

## Please pray for...

### Recently Deceased

Kay Zaronias, Maria Amoruso

### In Loving Memory

Edoviglio Perantuno, Jovito Canonizado, Louis Govea, Edaline Rodrigues, Khac Hoang, Mai Hoang, Huy Hoang, Viet Dinl, Donato Tozzi, Maria Debono, Donato Carnevale,

### 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 9.15 Mass.

#### 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

## 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 -

## Catechist Required

Next year, our Parish will be in need of catechists for the following classes-

Year 5 & Year 6 Beverly Hills North Public School on Wednesdays at 11.50am.

Year 4 Narwee on Thursday at 10.05am.

If you have a little time and are interested in becoming a catechist or a catechist helper, please speak to Fr. Peter or contact the Parish office. Also, if you have a WWC check, you are most welcome to attend and observe a class with another catechist to see if this ministry may be for you! Training courses and teaching materials are provided by the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine.

**Please contact Elizabeth Gooley, Tues & Thurs.**

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

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.**

## Rosary Statue

**Mrs Carmel Woodford**  
**31 Elouera Street**

**Ph: 0418 251 947**



**Last Weekend**  
**1 December 2019**

**2nd Collection \$2,467.85**

1st Collection \$1,274.10

### Attendance

5PM	131
8.30AM	124
10AM	261
<b>Total</b>	<b>516</b>





### 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)) -

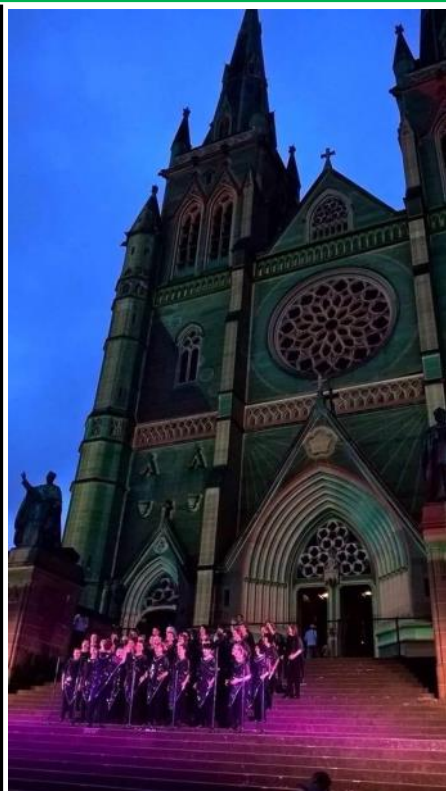
### Archdiocese of Sydney Safeguarding Training and WWCC

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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 11:1-10**

*He judges the poor with justice.*

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse,  
a scion thrusts from his roots:  
on him the spirit of the Lord rests,  
a spirit of wisdom and insight,  
a spirit of counsel and power,  
a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.  
(The fear of the Lord is his breath.)  
He does not judge by appearances,  
he gives no verdict on hearsay,  
but judges the wretched with integrity,  
and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land.

His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless,  
his sentences bring death to the wicked.  
Integrity is the loincloth round his waist,  
faithfulness the belt about his hips.  
The wolf lives with the lamb,  
the panther lies down with the kid,  
calf and lion cub feed together  
with a little boy to lead them.  
The cow and the bear make friends,  
their young lie down together.  
The lion eats straw like the ox.  
The infant plays over the cobra's hole;  
into the viper's lair  
the young child puts his hand.  
They do no hurt, no harm,  
on all my holy mountain,  
for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord

as the waters swell the sea.  
That day, the root of Jesse  
shall stand as a signal to the peoples.  
It will be sought out by the nations  
and its home will be glorious.

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17. R. cf. v.7**

**(R.) Justice shall flourish in his time,  
and fullness of peace for ever.**

1. O God, give your judgement to the king,  
to a king's son your justice,  
that he may judge your people in justice  
and your poor in right judgement. (R.)
2. In his days justice shall flourish  
and peace till the moon fails.  
He shall rule from sea to sea,  
from the Great River to the earth's bounds. (R.)
3. For he shall save the poor when they cry  
and the needy who are helpless.  
He will have pity on the weak  
and save the lives of the poor. (R.)
4. May his name be blessed for ever  
and endure like the sun.  
Every tribe shall be blessed in him,  
all nations bless his name. (R.)

**Second Reading Rom 15:4-9**

*Christ, the hope of all people.*

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

**Gospel Acclamation Lk 3:4, 6**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Prepare the way of the Lord, make  
straight his paths:**

**all people shall see the salvation of God.**

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel Mt 3:1-12**

*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.*

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness:  
Prepare a way for the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'



**Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA**

Today's readings are like Chaucer's Canterbury Tales. The biblical authors sketch profiles of individuals after whom we can model our lives as we embark on our pilgrimage to eschatological fulfilment. Isaiah depicts the righteous messianic king; Paul provides us with a glimpse of Jesus, the one who ministers to all; and Matthew describes John the Baptist, the prophet who prepared for the Advent of Christ.

The gifts Isaiah attributes to the messianic king are the same gifts that we receive with the anointing of the Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord. The image of the messianic king may have been fulfilled in Jesus, but it is also offered to us as a model after which we can pattern our lives.

Paul declares that Christ came for all. Just as the Canterbury tales describe pilgrims of all backgrounds and characters, so our companions on the pilgrimage come from diverse circumstances. Since the invitation was extended to all, we are expected to welcome all. Some of Chaucer's characters were quite unpleasant, but they were part of the group. Many of the people to whom Jesus ministered were quite unpleasant, but this did not deter him. His example is set before us today.

John the Baptist lived a life of radical self-denial, but he did not require this of others. He preached repentance or change of heart, not a rejection of the circumstances of life. He called for a return to righteousness, to relationships rooted in honesty and respect. He condemned presumption and arrogant reliance on one's religious origin, complacency and the shirking of responsibility, disinterest in the welfare of others.