



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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Fourth Sunday of Lent 22 March 2020

This is a front page I had to rewrite several times. Each day was different, quite drastically at times. It seems all but impossible at the moment to envision what life is going to look like in the near-distant future. Last Thursday was the feast of St Joseph whose life had to be radically altered because of a few dreams: relinquishing a chance to become a biological father, leaving everything behind and taking his pregnant wife on long journeys, etc. St Joseph trusted in God and faithfully responded to the calling, in spite of facing the impenetrable darkness of the unknown. He worked with what little signs had been given to him, taking it one step, one day at a time, and practising the art of 'walking by faith' which eventually became the source of his great joy. Archbishop Anthony Fisher said that this distressful time of the pandemic could become like a *retreat* for us. I too believe that these dark days/nights we seem unable to wake from can draw us more deeply into a truly spiritual journey - the kind that St Joseph made with Jesus and Mary, and helped to bring joy and liberation into the world! From now on, apart from using parish bulletins, I will also be utilising *the front page of our parish website* (<https://www.reginacoeliparish.org.au>) to communicate latest updates ASAP. **During the corona-pandemic at Regina Coeli:**

1. Catholics (across Sydney Archdiocese) are dispensed from the Sunday Mass obligation. This means that Sunday Masses are *optional* like weekday Masses. Those who are unwell, vulnerable to or anxious about the coronavirus are strongly encouraged to stay home. Please contact the parish if you would like to be visited by me (Fr Peter).
2. All our Masses will be celebrated as scheduled. But once the limit of 100 attendees (stipulated by the federal government) has been reached, anyone else who arrives must stay outside in the carpark. Holy Communion will be brought out to them.
3. Parishioners are invited to consider coming to one of the weekday Masses instead in order to ease the pressure on weekend Mass attendance. Alternatively, they can engage in spiritual activities such as 'paying a visit,' prayer/meditation/reading, watching Mass on a screen, etc.
4. Whilst inside the church, parishioners are asked to spread out as much as possible. No more than 2~3 persons are to sit on the same pew. There are approximately 54 pews at Regina Coeli. It is imperative that we do not exceed the limit of 100 attendees at any given time.
5. '...the Body of Christ should only be administered in the hand and the Chalice should only be received by the celebrant...' (Archbishop Fisher)
6. There will be no more collections at Mass until further notice. The reason for this is twofold: to improve hygiene and to remain in solidarity with those who are suffering financially. If you still wish to give to the parish financially, please do so on our parish website under 'Support us -> Make a donation -> Planned Giving / General Donation.'
7. Archbishop Anthony is calling for 'creativity and prudence' in how parish life is to be not only maintained but also enriched during the challenging time of the corona-pandemic. Please feel free to share your concerns, comments and suggestions with me all throughout. Peace be with you all!

- Fr Peter -

The Week Ahead

Sun 22 Mar Fourth Sunday in Lent	8.30am Mass 10.00am Mass
Mon 23 Mar	No Mass
Tues 24 Mar	8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass with Year 5 10.30am Funeral Prayers Isabelle Ann Haberecht RIP
Wed 25 Mar Annunciation of the Lord	7.00am Mass 10.30am Funeral Mass Giuseppe Graniero RIP
Thurs 26 Mar	9.15am Mass
Fri 27 Mar	8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass
Sat 28 Mar	9.00am: Mass, Adoration and Reconciliation 4.15pm Reconciliation 5.00pm Vigil Mass
Sun 29 Mar Fifth Sunday in Lent	8.30am Mass 10.00am Mass

Please pray for...

Recently Deceased

Luigia (Gina) Ponticello, Isabelle Ann Haberecht, Giuseppe Graniero, Carole Bilton

In Loving Memory

Jovito Canonizado,

Please remember those who are in ill health especially:

Beven Kelly, Ann Mc Dowell, Christopher McDowell, Damiano Serravalle, Michelle Makin, Pat Johnson, George Dagher, Mrs Saba, Josephina Algozina, 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 -

EASTER LITURGY TIMES 2020 TBC

Holy Thursday: 7.00pm - Mass of the Lord's Supper and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass.

Reconciliation available during Adoration

There will be no Mass at 9.15am on Holy Thursday

Good Friday: 10.00am - Stations of the Cross followed by Reconciliation
3.00pm - The Lord's Passion followed by Reconciliation

Holy Saturday: No morning Mass or Reconciliation

Easter Vigil
Mass: 7.00pm

Easter Sunday
Masses: 8.30am & 10.00am

Rosary Statue

Mrs Jessica Markos

18 Albion Street
Ph: 0409 091 771



Last Weekend
15 Mar 2020

2nd Collection \$1,744.65

1st Collection \$ 1,011.95

Attendance

5PM
8.30AM 141
10AM
Total ?

What's with the flowers in the church during Lent? It is a story worth sharing. A request came in for a funeral. The family wanted it on last Monday. Gina Ponticello was the name of the deceased. At first I had no idea who she was. But I was told that she had been a regular worshipper here at Regina Coeli. Then the day before the funeral I got to see her photo in the booklet prepared by the family. My heart sank.

Gina was one of those very familiar faces here at Regina Coeli - the kind of face you could count on seeing at Mass every Sunday. She had been a parishioner here for over forty years. I was confident that I myself had known her since my first stint here as assistant priest in 2013. The trouble is, however, that I do not always notice it when someone quietly falls off the radar.

The first time I really came face to face with Gina was only a few months ago. This was just before the 10am Mass. I was standing near the choir and talking to a parishioner. We were both shocked when Gina appeared in order to sit near us. She was not how either of us had remembered her. One side of her face was now droopy on account of a stroke. She looked very frail - tragically worn out - as though she had been through enormous suffering too sad for anyone to fully recount. But I had to get ready for Mass and could not talk to her any longer.

The second time I encountered Gina was also just before Mass, but this time with a little more time to spare, at the church entrance. I tried to tell her what I did not get to say to her the previous time, namely, that we would be there for her and that she needed not hesitate to ask for help. But something told me that her concern went much deeper than what words could describe and that there was no easy solution for it. The elderly lady who stood before my eyes appeared to be undergoing a severe test - one which cut to her very core. Furthermore, she seemed terrified of the fact that her days of being able to come to church might be highly numbered.

In that moment I thought I saw how utterly dependent Gina was on her faith, which, for her, was expressed through being able to come to church every Sunday. She was in an unbelievably vulnerable state and perhaps precisely because of that her faith shone out simply and powerfully. The encounter left an unforgettable impression on me. Little did I know then that this was going to be the last time I saw her alive. It was Gina's wish to donate some flowers upon her passing away and these were her farewell message to us:

GOODBYE MY BEAUTIFUL CHURCH, PLEASE PROTECT MY FAMILY
ALWAYS, LOVE FROM GINA PONTICELLO xxx



On a lighter note: A parcel arrived, in a huge Christmas gift bag, from a mystery donor whom I never got to meet. Inside were a box of hand-sanitisers, another box of simple masks and a handful of more "high-tech" masks. I will set aside what the parish might need for use in common, but I am going to assume that the donor will be happy if some were made available to those who are in urgent need. So, please come and see me if you are in need of a hand-sanitiser or a mask. Thank you, Good Samaritan! Would it not be very amusing if we returned to the ancient custom (not so ancient in some places around the world) of donating basic goods to the church instead of money? Imagine coming to Sunday Mass with rolls of toilet paper (a hot item right now) as offerings! FYI, I am currently doing perfectly fine in the toilet paper department, lest you start to wonder.

Probably for the first time in more than two weeks, I went grocery shopping last Monday. I chose my favourite time, that is, around 9pm when supermarkets are usually nice and quiet. But it became immediately clear that something was different this time. The carpark itself was way too busy for a Monday night. Trolleys full of grocery bags were continuously coming out of the building and being manoeuvred through the gaps in anxious traffic. Once inside the supermarket, one could easily discern a little sense of panic in the air. What happened? Were we in the middle of a war I was not aware of? My curiosity got the better of me and I could not resist walking down the toilet paper aisle, even though I was not looking for any. It felt like I was a tourist, visiting a must-see-place in some renowned foreign country. Needless to say, there was no toilet paper, just empty shelves, exactly like how they described it on "TripAdvisor" ;)

- Fr Peter -

Next Weekend: 29 March 2020

	Welcomers	Readers	Extraordinary Ministers
5PM	<i>Eliz C, M H, L Phillips</i>	<i>Eliz M, Eliz G,</i>	<i>Elizabeth, Charles</i>
8.30AM	<i>Brian M, Frances J, Rose C</i>	<i>Brian M, Judy Z,</i>	<i>Judy, Laura</i>
10.00AM	<i>Gloria L, I H, RH</i>	<i>Jim W, Josephine B</i>	<i>Maria T, Jessica M</i>

First Reading 1 Sm 16:1, 6-7, 10-13

In the presence of the Lord God, they anointed David king of Israel.

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

Responsorial Psalm**Ps 22 R. v.1**

(R.) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

1. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. (R.)
2. He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your
staff;
with these you give me comfort. (R.)
3. You have prepared a banquet for me
In the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
My cup is overflowing. (R.)
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall
follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. (R.)

Second Reading Eph 5:8-14

Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said:

Wake up from your sleep,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 8:12

**Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!**

**Gospel Jn 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38
or longer form Jn 9:1-41**

The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored.

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.'

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man.

'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

**Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA**

Humans see and judge by appearances, but God looks into the heart, and there finds the real person. God's standards are not superficial, as are so many of the standards of the world. It is not age, beauty or physical strength that is important; it is not social position or religious role that is preferred. God chooses whom God chooses. God saw in David, the insignificant shepherd, the potential for being the chief shepherd of his people. The man who was born blind became the one through whom others would see the mighty works of God. Yet, neither young David nor the man in the gospel made the initial step; each simply responded with openness to God's choice of him.

By what criteria do we judge others? Do we consider some people too insignificant for greatness? Are we overly concerned with status? Do we categorise people according to the disease or physical limitation that they must endure? Do we sometimes blame them for their disability? Do our eyes perceive life in accord with the standards of a materialistic, body-orientated, pleasure-seeking society? Or do we look into the other's heart, as God does?

As with the other scrutiny Sundays, catechumens and long-standing members alike are exhorted to make a choice. Jesus is the one who gives sight to blind eyes and religious insight to those open to receive it. However, there is a price to pay. Will it be the standards of the world, or the power of God in Jesus Christ?

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