



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

19 April 2020

The first live-streaming of Mass from Regina Coeli was an experience worth reflecting upon. My first thought was an apology. I think I failed to see (or did not want to know) the full significance of the occasion. After all, this was the Easter Vigil - the high point in the Church's liturgical calendar - albeit under extremely unusual circumstances; furthermore it was the only opportunity for parishioners to participate in a local celebration of Easter. But I feel that I barely managed to crawl out of inaction or "early retirement," with the less-than-ambitious goal of ensuring that live-streaming could be done from Regina Coeli. So I felt some pain upon watching the recording of myself afterward and even more pain when I found out that quite a number of people tuned in, probably expecting to hear some very timely message of hope!

Other than that, the first live-streaming of Mass from Regina Coeli was a success. The music was top-notch! After an initial, potentially disastrous moment of technical difficulty (which meant that the Mass was delayed by a few minutes while even the priest was on the floor trying to figure out what went wrong with the long series of cables) the audio and video held up quite well - not bad for first attempt which required hardly any investment in proper equipment. The readers and acolyte were skilled and reverent. The entire ceremony - a simplified version of the Easter Vigil - took about an hour, which was almost an hour less than what the Easter Vigil took here last year. No doubt, parishioners enjoyed being able to see their beloved church again, more than 20 days after the government-enforced church lockdown.

Another thought on the first live-streamed Mass was philosophical in nature: What kind of participation is it when people are watching Mass on a screen? As the celebrant I felt somewhat unsure. There were about ten volunteers in the church who were present at Mass. And yet the main audience were supposed to be those who were behind a screen and not quite present in the same way. Was I supposed to imagine that they were all at Mass? Or was I to interact with the audience in a different manner, as though acknowledging the fact that they could be watching from anywhere - a livingroom, study, bedroom, who knows where else? What would be the most appropriate manner of participation for those watching Mass on a screen?

Since then I have been asking some lay people what live-streamed Masses meant from their perspective. One person said that they were the next best thing, given the current lockdown (Day 28!). Although there were other ways of praying, live-streamed Masses were a very helpful means of entering into prayer, especially for those who loved praying through the celebration of the Eucharist. Another person said that live-streamed Masses made them feel that their pastor cared about them (which instantly made me feel at least a little bit guilty!). Finally, someone said that, even though they felt a sense of distance when watching Mass on a screen, that very distance actually helped them appreciate even more what it was they were longing for, namely, communion with Christ who is truly present in the Eucharist!

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The Week Ahead

Sun 19 Apr
Second Sun
of Easter

Mon 20 Apr

Tues 21 Apr

Wed 22 Apr

Thurs 23 Apr

**Private Masses by Fr Peter,
offered for the whole parish,
hopefully everyday at 7.30pm!**

Fri 24 Apr

Sat 25 Apr

Sun 26 Apr
Third Sunday
of Easter

**8.30am Parish Mass live-streamed
On Facebook**

My husband and I came to live in the Beverly Hills Parish in 1962. We had been married for 2 years. We wanted to have a family but time passed and I was becoming very sad. At the time I was helping the priest at Mascot Parish, Fr Leen, do the paper work for direct giving in the parish. One day Fr. noted that I was not my normal happy self and I explained that after 3 years I was feeling sad we had no family. I told Fr. I was praying to Our Lady and he asked me did I have a statue of her and I said I did. He told me to put flowers in front of the statue everyday, said he would say Mass for me in the Mascot church and I was to go to Mass at Regina Coeli. He said, when you want something ask God first. So I did this for the week he told me and put a candle in front of my statue of Our Lady with flowers. Time passed and in a couple of months I was not feeling well when I was working with him. I was pregnant with our first child. So ever since when I needed something badly I have Mass said and everyday I have flowers in front of Our Lady. Fr. said she was a lady and loved flowers!

- Jan Henderson -

Rosary Statue

Mr & Mrs B Murray

**4 Leon Avenue
Ph: 9750 0776**



Bob and Jan Henderson met 64 years ago in 1956. At the time Jan was part of C.Y.O. (Catholic Youth Organisation) and helping to direct a musical. Bob was in the army and not yet a Catholic but came along with a friend to help paint the backdrops for the musical. When he saw Jan on the stage teaching younger girls how to dance, he told his friend, 'I am going to ask her out!' The friend replied, 'Good luck mate, you will have to go through her mother first!' Apparently, Jan had a strict (Irish Catholic) mother. Well, Bob rose to the challenge and was able to charm Jan's mother who, undoubtedly, recognised a good man in Bob.

About three and a half years later they got married on 18 April 1960 at St Paul of the Cross, Dulwich Hill. The celebrant was Fr William Murray who went on to become Bishop of Wollongong. Bishop Murray was able to bless Bob and Jan on the 25th anniversary of their wedding, as well as on the 50th. But he passed away a few years later. In spite of these very unusual circumstances we are currently in, **Bob and Jan are grateful to be able to celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary in some meaningful way!**

A parishioner once wrote, 'I always pray for courage on the 1st of January to face all that God wills for me throughout the year, but in my wildest imaginings I could not have envisioned this situation that we all face.' Something else that also surpasses our 'wildest imaginings' is God's ability to find a way to reach us even during a time a crisis, ever so graciously and creatively. In the gospel reading for this weekend, the disciples had locked themselves up in a room out of fear. But the Risen Lord was able to enter not only the room with closed doors but also the petrified or frozen hearts of the disciples. Jesus who loved us to the end, suffering, dying and rising from the dead in the process, has the perfect key to all the isolated places in our hearts, and that key is Divine Mercy.

- Fr Peter -



The Lenten Book has been great. I find the New Testament readings easier to understand than the Old Testament. The comments are very good from these learned people. I particularly liked Sr. Anastasia Reeves spiritual direction reading on - If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live. She quotes from Fr. Roman Kilgannon who preached the homily at her grandmother's funeral. She said he spoke eloquently of death, not as a full stop, but as a comma. In death we do not cease to exist. Life does not come to an end. Rather, as friends of Christ, death is a momentary pause as we prepare to meet God - the One who has Loved us always, the One who is the Resurrection and the Life. This really stirred my thinking and gave me a lot of comfort. It's not that I haven't heard similar homilies and explanations but this seemed to hit the spot.

- Patricia McCoy -



(A photo taken from Beverly Hills by a parishioner: Someone knew how to social-distance and still share the Good News!)

Can't believe how the world at large has changed so dramatically so quickly. It seems like a bad dream we never seem to be waking up from...I sincerely hope and pray that the faithful will truly sense a 'void' in their lives in these challenging times without the weekly nourishment of the sacraments and in this regard, when that day finally arrives when the Church doors re-open, that parishioners would flock back to Church in greater numbers with a renewed hunger & thirst for the sacraments; for that spiritual awakening in all of us, an awakening we all so desperately need. As the saying goes, you can only really appreciate something, only when it has been taken away from you - like the dark night of the soul experience which is necessary in order to fully appreciate the light and God's consolation when we do eventually receive it.

- Joseph Capra -

Some suggestions from parishioners at Regina Coeli during the church lockdown:

Streaming Services

- * St Mary's Cathedral Sydney <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZxfrykD8iSWExFBdM7fpRg/featured>
- * Our Lady of the Way North Sydney <https://www.youtube.com/user/cathnews> (Alternatively, you can go to their website <https://www.northsydneycatholics.com/> and follow the link)
- * St Declan's Penshurst Parish <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMUpiYTtBvI-1M3Uj-3b9Vg/featured> (Alternatively, you can go to their website <http://www.stdeclanspenshurst.org/> and follow the link)

Parish Facebook Page

If nothing else, the parish Facebook page allows you to watch the live-streaming of Mass from Regina Coeli!
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Catholic-Church/Regina-Coeli-Catholic-Church-696738427074740/>

Other online resources

- * The most in-demand Catholic online - Bishop Robert Barron <https://www.wordonfire.org/>
- * Sacred Space prayer site (the Irish Jesuits) <https://www.sacredspace.ie/>
- * Preachers Exchange prayer site (Dominican preachers) <https://www.preacherexchange.com/>
- * Daily Reflection and online retreat <https://pray-as-you-go.org/>

Please keep the suggestions coming!

First Reading Acts 2:42-47

The faithful lived together and owned everything in common.

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone.

The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed.

They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 117:2-4. 13-15. 22-24. 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. I was thrust, thrust down and falling
but the Lord was my helper.
The Lord is my strength and my song;
he was my saviour.
There are shouts of joy and victory
in the tents of the just. (R.)
3. 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.)

Second Reading 1 Pt 1:3-9

He has given us a new birth as his children, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead.

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which has been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold – only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire – and then

you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

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 themes for the second Sunday of Easter set the tone for the entire Easter season. They are all directed toward mystagogical instruction, primarily of the neophytes who were baptised during the Easter Vigil, but also of the whole Christian community. The readings for this season provide us an extended meditation on the resurrection and on our own incorporation into it through the mysteries of initiation.

Most of us are like Thomas who looked for some tangible evidence of the resurrection. We do not find it any easier to live by faith than he did. However, when we do live by faith, we actually discover tangible proof. This proof can be seen in the way the community reaches out in care and support to others. Jesus extends his wounded hands to us as he did to Thomas, and the community is invited to touch his wounds as we touch the wounds of our world. We find a similar situation in the reading from Acts where the fledgling Christian community grew in number as a result of the teaching of the apostles. So it has always been. Those who are not eye witnesses of the actual events are called, through the teaching of others, to witness to the power of the resurrection.

Although the blessings that we derive from the resurrection are clearly gifts from God, they are nonetheless costly gifts. They have been won through the blood of Christ, and we too may have to pay dearly for having received them.