



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

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

Fifth Sunday of Easter 10 May 2020

Happy Mother's Day! (Day 49 After Church Closure)

These are unusual times and likewise it is an unusual Mother's Day. Generally speaking, mothers are peacemakers at home and they must have been working over-time these past few months. 'Normal' became an antiquated word from a forgotten past. Husbands became like displaced refugees who felt strangely powerless having been taken out of the world they used to know. Children struggled to comprehend why their world had to change so much all of a sudden. The curse of self-enclosure started to descend upon each member of the family, exploiting their weakness and attempting to break them from within. Mothers who had their own vulnerabilities to the crisis could not afford the luxury of becoming even a little derailed; instead they had to continue to be the vital antidote to the poison of doom and gloom.

In a war against an invisible enemy mothers had to be in the front line perhaps even more than men! It is easy to look back and laugh at the phenomenon of 'panic buying' most of which turned out to be unwarranted. To be sure, some of it did go overboard and shockingly so. But for mothers who knew what it took to feed an entire family for two weeks ensuring that they had enough stock of food (and other basic necessities) was potentially a matter of life and death - or at least a matter of wellbeing and destitution, dietarily speaking. We could say that their maternal instinct kicked in, exponentially increasing their power to perceive oncoming threats to the brood and enabling them to respond faster than what the human brain (in particular the male brain) could process and translate into words.

School mums had to transform into home-school teachers overnight. Like trained professionals they had to abide by the curriculum and timetable provided by the "head office." They had to be both teachers and students, painstakingly undergoing hours of content with their children and making sure that what was expected and what was being learned were in accord. Poor mothers who had completed 12 years of schooling themselves had to, as it were, go back to school and motivate themselves with sheer will. On top of everything else they were doing *before* the duty of home-schooling was imposed on them, mothers now had to be full time tutors as well as full time carers to their children, at no financial recompense! And, starting this week, school mums are facing the opposite challenge of sending their children back to school whilst knowing that the danger of the coronavirus still lurks, albeit at a minimal risk to children.

Elderly mothers had to suffer the acute pain of being separated from their children and grandchildren, for whom they still had an ocean of affection. Grandchildren grow up so fast that everyday counts and it isn't always the case that grandparents have unlimited access to their grandchildren. But days, weeks and months have gone by during which time it was maintained that grandparents were to be left alone for their own good (which was true to a large extent). The tragic state of familial separation became the new normal, which was exacerbated by the fact that so many uncertainties still remained in regard to the coronavirus. Perhaps the most tragic of all is the fact some mothers have been prevented from being able to say proper goodbye.

(Continued on page 3)

The Week Ahead

Sun 10 May
Fifth
Sunday
of Easter
Mon 11 May

Tues 12 May 9.15am Mass

Wed 13 May 7am Mass
Our Lady
of Fatima

Thurs 14 May 9.15am Mass
St Matthias,
apostle

Fri 15 May 9.15am Mass

Sat 16 May 9am Mass

Sun 17 May 8.30am Parish Mass live-streamed
Sixth On Facebook
Sunday



Prayer for Liberation from the Epidemic to Our Lady of Divine Love

O Mary, You shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who, at the cross, united with Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm. You know what we need and we trust that you will provide for those needs so that, as at Cana of Galilee, joy and celebration may return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the will of the Father and to do what Jesus tells us. He who took our sufferings upon Himself and burdened Himself with our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of Resurrection. **Amen.**

Weekday Masses to return to normal times

The premier of NSW may or may not announce that religious gatherings of up to 10 people are to be allowed in churches. Either way, weekday Masses will return to normal times from this week. I really do hope that churches will be allowed to re-open at the very least for private prayer!

This poem is dedicated to the mothers of the Parish. On behalf of Fr Peter, the Youth Group Leaders and myself, we all wish you a very Happy Mother's Day! May this day be an enjoyable one with family and loved ones, that will mark this cherished occasion. To all the Youth and loved ones, make sure you keep this day extra special for your mothers or grandmothers and give back something to them.

Your Gift by Stephanie Boccanfuso

Before I came into your arms,
I still felt your loving embrace.
Your motherly instinct had no harms,
that no one could replace.

'Mama' was the first word I mumbled,
you even helped me to walk when I stumbled.
Everyday is filled with hugs and kisses,
everyday being with you blissess.

Sometimes we may not see eye to eye,
but I know that no matter what, you care for me
deep down inside.

Whene'er I face trouble or if I fall,
your smile and warm touch conquers all.

Unimaginable strength and love can be taken for
granted,
underneath her mask shows beautiful scars.
Memories of us two will be planted,
they are as numerous as the stars.

Your gift to me is priceless,
and unfortunately time is passing away.

I only can feel helpless,
in saying to you more than a thousand times, 'I love
you' on Mother's Day.

PROJECT COMPASSION BOXES

Many of you will be holding onto Project Compassion boxes and wondering what to do with them so here are a few options:

- Drop it off at the Parish Office during business hours
- Ring Jim Weeks 9554-3250 who will come & collect it off you
- Hold onto it until the Church re-opens

Rosary Statue

Mrs M Pettit

2 Ponyara Road
Ph: 9502 3036



(Continued from page 1)

We know the Gospel story in which the child Jesus goes missing for three days before being found in the Temple. The question that begs to be asked is, Why didn't he *warn* Mary beforehand so as to save her from three days of agony which, in hindsight, seemed easily preventable? When asked, the child Jesus replied, 'How is it that you sought me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's House?' To us it seems like the child Jesus could have easily done both - letting Mary know as well as going about his Father's business. So it is a mystery why he did only the latter and not the former. But perhaps the whole episode itself was *the* warning to Mary: Time will come when we will both have to let go and surrender before the apparent incomprehensibility of what is allowed to unfold. You'll love me more than ever and yet I will be taken as far away from you as physically possible. A sword will pierce your heart a thousand times over and there will be not a single thing you could do except wait in hope - hoping against hope. And then on the third day...

A heart that loves more grieves more when interrupted by apparent absence. This allows the focus to shift from a desire for perfect communion in this life (which is never going to be realised) to a desire for perfect communion in heaven (which is precisely what God promises us). In the process our hearts are purified and we come to a deeper understanding of what we are truly made for. We learn not only to love more tenderly but also to let go in the short-term for the sake of greater love in the long-term. True love is what orients us to the ultimate destination, namely, Heaven (a.k.a. the Father's House) where we hope to be *together* once and for all. Mothers are expert gatherers (like hens gathering their brood under their wings) and therefore probably suffer more when they are unable to gather as they would love to. But the sacrifice of letting go at the right moments by trusting in God will undoubtedly increase the likelihood that their quest for love will come to be fulfilled. Happy Mother's Day!

- Fr Peter -

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things and desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Nadia Hobeika R.I.P.

Once again my heart sank when I saw the photo of the deceased. I realised that it was the very Nadia I knew. I thought I remembered the last time I saw her at Mass. I was made aware that she was struggling with some severe health issues at the time. But I had no idea that she would be leaving us so soon. Her brother passed away two days after. The extreme social distancing measures currently in place must have added to the weight of her cross during the last days. No doubt, there are parishioners who, like me, feel the sadness of having been unable to accompany her from closer proximity, including on the day of her funeral.

I imagine that when Jesus spoke about the beatitudes he might have meant something like the following: 'Happy are those who find themselves in the most vulnerable of situations. The One whose name is mercy will be intimately present to them and make up for what they have suffered, especially those aspects of their suffering which were beyond their control.' The following has been written by Andy, Nadia's only child:

Husband: Habib Hobeika 1922-2003

Mum was Born 7th February 1937 in Cairo, Egypt and she passed away on the 25th April, 2020 at St George Hospital just before 11 pm.

Mum was well educated, and she taught French and Mathematics in an all-girls Catholic School in Egypt in the late 1950's and 60's. She maintained her love of the French language all her life.

Mum has been a parishioner at Regina Coeli for almost 50 years. The church at Beverly Hills had a special place in her heart. My mum was a very caring and generous person. And in the past year of her life she showed great strength and courage. Our immediate family as well as those that met her in her life will miss her greatly.

- Andy Hobeika -



First Reading Acts 6:1-7

They elected seven men filled with the Spirit and wisdom.

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 32:1-2. 4-5. 18-19. R. v.22

**(R.) Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.**

or

(R.) Alleluia.

1. Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.
Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp,
with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. (R.)
2. For the word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love. (R.)
3. The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Pt 2:4-9

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood.

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 14:6

Alleluia, alleluia!

**I am the way, the truth, and the life, says
the Lord;**

**no one comes to the Father, except
through me.**

Alleluia!

Gospel Jn 14:1-12

I am the way, the truth, and the life.

Jesus said to his disciples:

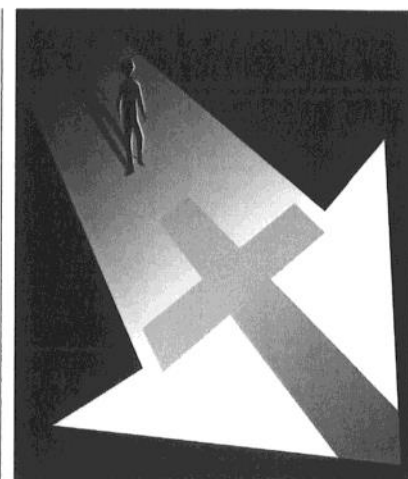
'Do not let your hearts be troubled.
Trust in God still, and trust in me.
There are many rooms in my Father's house;
if there were not, I should have told you.
I am now going to prepare a place for you,
and after I have gone and prepared you a place,
I shall return to take you with me;
so that where I am
you may be too.
You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said:

'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.
No one can come to the Father except through me.
If you know me, you know my Father too.
From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me?

'To have seen me is to have seen the Father,
so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"?
Do you not believe
that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?
The words I say to you I do not speak as from
myself:
it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work.
You must believe me when I say
that I am in the Father and the Father is in me;
believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no
other reason.
'I tell you most solemnly,
whoever believes in me
will perform the same works as I do myself,
he will perform even greater works,
because I am going to the Father.'



Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

The gospel readings for the Sundays just before the feast of Pentecost are all taken from Jesus' last discourse in the Gospel of John. In them, Jesus prepares his followers for his death and resurrection and his ultimate exaltation.

This Sunday Jesus says that it is through his death that he goes to God. However, it is as he is raised up in crucifixion that he is exalted. The author of the epistle declares him 'chosen and precious in the sight of God' but it is as the stone that was rejected that he is so honoured. If we ever wonder how the exaltation of Jesus will effect us, we have Jesus' own words of explanation. He promises to go ahead of us and make arrangements for us to share in his exaltation in the house of the one he calls Father. All we need do is follow him.

Today's readings suggest that the exaltation of Jesus is most dramatically manifested in the character of the community of those called by his name. It is revealed in the way Christians settle their differences so that all parties are treated fairly. Jesus is the cornerstone upon which this community is built, and the community mirrors his influence in its life. Christians also participate in the exaltation of Jesus by spreading the good news to others. In Acts we see how the witness of life and the preaching of the word of God increased the number of believers.