



# 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:

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### Sixth Sunday of Easter 17 May 2020

**The “re-opening” that never was!** Are you enjoying some of the newly reclaimed freedoms? Hopefully you are doing so calmly and prudently. As for the parish, given the strict conditions attached to the so-called re-opening of churches, we could hardly say that Regina Coeli has been re-opened. So I am apprehensive about using the word ‘re-opening’ which is misleading by way of promising more than what it actually delivers. All in all, it might be better for us to assume that churches are still closed and that a few new exceptions have been made since Friday 15 May 2020 (Day 54 After Church Closure).

The new exceptions mean that up to 10 people can enter the church for liturgical celebrations or private prayer; however they need to be supervised and their contact details must be recorded *every time* for the sake of potential *contact tracing*. My guess is that this precautionary measure will prove to have been of little or no use in the end for more reasons than one, not least of which is that social distancing among 10 people at Regina Coeli will be as good as it gets! But I guess that, as good citizens, we ought to comply with government-enforced-restrictions as much as possible. Besides, collecting more contact details could help enhance our own communication networks for pastoral purposes. Before I go on to explain how Regina Coeli will remain open at this time, here are a few important preambles:

- \* Catholics in Sydney are still dispensed from their Sunday Mass obligation.
- \* Those who are particularly vulnerable to infection are strongly encouraged to remain protected.

#### Entering the church

- Anyone who wishes to enter the church must register (i.e. provide contact details) *once and once only*. There is no need to register again in the future.
- Once registered, the person must record their name and time of visitation on ‘Visitor Log’ *each time they enter the church*.
- No more than 10 visitors are allowed in the church at any given time.

#### Parish Mass

- Tickets must be acquired (or booked via phone calls) by those who wish to attend parish Mass.
- 10 tickets are available for each parish Mass.
- Tickets can be picked up (or booked via phone calls) one week in advance, starting on every Tuesday at the parish office.

#### Reconciliation

- Please follow the same procedure as ‘Entering the church.’
- Reconciliation is available each Saturday as per usual.
- Reconciliation can also be arranged by private appointment.

Unfortunately, I am unable to leave the church open unless I (or a delegate) am there to monitor what is going on (a terrible glitch in the so-called re-opening!). This means that the church cannot remain open at all times. Week by week, we can work toward a better system that produces maximum benefit. For now, I wondered if we could aim for ‘**All day Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**’ on **Saturday 23 May 2020 between the 9am & 5pm Mass**. I will put out a roster during the week which might require a new adorer every half an hour. As far as I am concerned the most exciting development in all this is that parishioners are finally able to visit the House of God—something they were sadly deprived of during this rather dispiriting time. I hope that the church of Regina Coeli will once again glow with the warmth of those whose beautiful faith God knows and holds dear!

- Fr Peter -

Welcome to Regina Coeli Catholic Church

## The Week Ahead

Sun 17 May Sixth Sunday of Easter		<b>Tickets (or bookings) are required at all Masses!</b>
Mon 18 May		
Tues 19 May	9.15am	Mass
Wed 20 May	7am	Mass
Thurs 21 May	9.15am	Mass
Fri 22 May	9.15am	Mass
Sat 23 May	9.00am 9.30am	Mass Adoration (All day?) & Reconciliation
	4:15-4:45pm 5pm	Reconciliation Vigil Mass
Sun 24 May Ascension of the Lord	8.30am	Mass
	10.00am	Mass (live-streamed on Facebook)



### Happy 66th!

On Friday - the first day of "re-opening" - Pam and Bevan Kelly celebrated their 66th Wedding Anniversary. Congratulations!

Pam and Bevan were married on 15th May 1954 in Our Lady of Fatima Church Kingsgrove (Pam's parish). They took up residence at their current address (down the road from Regina Coeli) on 27th May 1954 immediately after their honeymoon. So, they have been parishioners for as long as they have been married. We could almost say that they are married to the parish as well as to one another! They write:

*It has been a wonderful and event-filled 66 years, both as a resident of Beverly Hills and Parishioners of Regina Coeli.*

*We have many happy memories and experiences during this time. None more than witnessing the building of a magnificent new church after years of services being conducted in what is now the school hall. Our eldest son, Anthony, was a member of the inaugural First Communion Class in our new church, on opening day in November 1962. Together with his two brothers and sister, they all received an excellent educational grounding in Primary School at Regina Coeli and all completed High School and University.*

*We are very grateful for the wonderful support and spiritual guidance given us by our Parish Priests and the many Administrators and Assistant Priests over this time. We will cherish the memories and the friendships made and look forward to remain among you for some time to come. Our thanks go to everyone for helping to make our time here so memorable.*



### Rosary Statue

Mrs T Pezzutti

208 Moorefields Road  
Ph: 0403 060 376





### **The “Stella Caeli Extirpavit” Chant in Time of Pestilence\***

The Star of Heaven that nourished the Lord drove away the plague of death which the first parents of man brought into the world. May this bright Star now vouchsafe to extinguish that foul constellation whose battles have slain the people with the wound of death. O Glorious Star of the Sea, preserve us from pestilence; hear us, O Lady, for Thy Son honours Thee by denying Thee nothing. Save us, O Jesus, for whom Thy Virgin Mother supplicates Thee. O most pious Star of the Sea, preserve us from pestilence; hear us, O Lady, for Thy Son honors Thee by denying Thee nothing.

Save us, O Jesus, for whom Thy Virgin Mother supplicates Thee.

*\*Ancient hymn asking for an end to pestilence, within the Franciscan tradition.*

### **‘A WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE CATHOLIC PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA FROM THE BISHOPS OF AUSTRALIA.’ (excerpts)**

Australia has certainly suffered because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but not as grievously as some other countries. For that we thank God and we congratulate public health authorities and governments on their prompt and prudent responses. Australians in general have also shown the solidarity and good sense, the generosity and kindness needed in such a time. In our healthcare workers particularly we have seen an exceptional spirit of self-sacrifice, and for that we are all grateful.

The Churches and other religious communities have played their part, which has meant the suspension of public worship and the closure of places of worship. This has been a real deprivation, and the bishops understand not only your anxiety about the virus and shutdown but more especially your deep desire to return to the sacraments and to resume public worship. There is a real hunger in this. It is something we all feel, and we long for the time when our hunger will be satisfied as together we return to the feast of the Lord.

Even when our doors are closed, our hearts are still open. The churches may not yet be fully open, but the heart of the Church, which is the heart of Christ, is wide open. The celebration of Mass has never ceased. Though we and our brother priests cannot yet offer Mass with the people, we are still offering Mass day by day for the people – for all of you who are “flesh of our flesh and bone of our bone” (cf Genesis 2:23). The Church which is the Body of Christ still glows with the life of Easter, “thought to be dying, yet we are alive...to be sorrowful, yet still rejoicing...to have nothing, yet possessing everything” (2 Corinthians 6:9-10).

At the heart of the community of disciples, there is always Mary the mother of Jesus (cf Acts 1:14). In this month of May, Pope Francis has urged us to look to her to intercede for us in this time of affliction; and to Mary we will entrust our homeland later this month, looking to a mother’s unfailing love. May she who is Health of the Sick and Help of Christians pray for us now, that we may see Jesus with her eyes, the eyes of Easter, and love him with her heart, which is the heart of faith: “O Mother of the Word incarnate, despise not our petitions but in your mercy hear and answer us” (Memorare)...

One important service which people of faith provide to the wider community in this time is an unceasing prayer of intercession. So we ask you all to continue praying in the power of faith for those who have died, who are sick or at risk from COVID-19, for our healthcare professionals, essential service providers and researchers, for all who are isolated and anxious, and for our civic leaders and health authorities.

In the hope born of faith we look forward to the time when the crisis will pass and we will be able to resume fully the Church’s worship and mission, even in a landscape which may be quite changed...The season of Lent may be behind us, but this time of shutdown has been a kind of long Lent. Now, we pray, Easter is dawning as our country recovers from the pandemic and looks to build the future. There is no room for complacency but there is certainly room for the hope that Easter brings to birth, the hope that “after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen and establish you” (1 Peter 5:10-11). Looking to the God of all grace, we send to you our blessing of peace and all consolation.

### **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.

*Saint Alphonsus Liguori*

**First Reading Acts 8:5-8, 14-17**

*They laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.*

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 65:1-7. 16. 20. R. see v.1**

**(R.) Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.**

or

**(R.) Alleluia.**

1. Cry out with joy to God all the earth,  
O sing to the glory of his name.  
O render him glorious praise.  
Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds! (R.)
2. 'Before you all the earth shall bow;  
shall sing to you, sing to your name!' Come and see the works of God,  
tremendous his deeds among men. (R.)
3. He turned the sea into dry land,  
they passed through the river dry-shod.  
Let our joy then be in him;  
he rules for ever by his might. (R.)
4. Come and hear, all who fear God.  
I will tell what he did for my soul:  
Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer  
nor withhold his love from me. (R.)

**Second Reading 1 Pt 3:15-18**

*In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.*

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong.

Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

**Gospel Acclamation Jn 14:23**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**All who love me will keep my words,  
and my Father will love them and  
we will come to them.**

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel Jn 14:15-21**

*I shall ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate.*

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If you love me you will keep my commandments.  
I shall ask the Father,  
and he will give you another Advocate  
to be with you for ever,  
that Spirit of truth  
whom the world can never receive  
since it neither sees nor knows him;  
but you know him,  
because he is with you, he is in you.  
I will not leave you orphans;  
I will come back to you.  
In a short time the world will no longer see me;  
but you will see me,  
because I live and you will live.  
On that day  
you will understand that I am in my Father  
and you in me and I in you.  
Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them  
will be one who loves me;  
and anybody who loves me will be loved  
by my Father,  
and I shall love him and show myself to him.'

**Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA**

We live in hope because we have been blessed with the opportunity of participating in the exaltation of Jesus. This hope is based on promises: the promise that we will not be left orphaned when Jesus returns to his Father; the promise that we will be comforted by the Spirit whom Jesus will send. It is trust in God that enables us to live in this world as if the promises have already been fulfilled, for in fact, it is precisely such living that fulfils them.

We have not celebrated the Ascension, and yet all three readings speak of the Spirit. The same Spirit, who quickened the resurrected life of Jesus, enlivens us. This Spirit strengthens, comforts, guides and inspires us. Life in the Spirit requires that we conform our lives to the commandments of God, not in a legalistic or constraining way but out of love. The love that comes to us through the Spirit will then overflow into the lives of others, and we will be agents of God's love in the world.

The Spirit given by Christ is mediated through the laying on of hands. This still happens in our day in the gentle touch of friends, in the loving touch of parents, in the healing touch of those who cure both the body and the spirit. The liturgical year is preparing us for the Ascension of Jesus into heaven, and Jesus is preparing us for life in the Spirit here on earth. This is the reason for our hope.

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