



# 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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### The Ascension of the Lord 24 May 2020

The importance of having right expectations cannot be overstated. Anyone who falsely expects an apple from a mango tree will not only be disappointed by the mango when it is produced, they will also fail to appreciate the mango for what it truly is. And so with right expectations we are far less likely to suffer from unnecessary misery and far more likely to thoroughly benefit from the blessings at hand including those which are still to come. Perhaps the most classic example of the problem of having false expectations was seen in the religious authorities around the time of Jesus. They had been given God's Revelation (the Old Testament) which meant that they were ideally placed to recognise and welcome the Son of God when he finally came. Nevertheless, their expectations had become so corrupted (and therefore false) that some of them not only failed to appreciate Jesus but also rejected him with frightening hatred.

Even Jesus' own disciples were not immune to the problem of having false expectations. Judas might have wanted to see Jesus "the Warrior" pushed into an absolute corner and provoked to fight back. Other disciples lost faith and courage upon witnessing their hero surrender himself seemingly helplessly into the hands of apparent enemies. The disciples on the road to Emmaus required personal and intensive tuition from the risen Jesus himself in order to be purified in their expectations to the point of finally being able to recognise him. When our expectations are false we are involved in a drama which can only end in tragedy. Furthermore, when we keep denying that our expectations are false (out of a desperate/stubborn desire to get what we falsely expect), we only worsen the anxiety and chaos in our world which has been made unnecessarily fragile. The pain of implosion or explosion would be a blessing in disguise if it helped us humbly let go of false expectations in order to adopt right expectations which are in line with God's plan.

Now may be a good time to ask, why am I going on and on about 'expectations'? Well, I am concerned about what seem like false expectations regarding the coronavirus (without claiming that I am definitely right here). As I said before (3 week ago), *flattening the curve* means *slowing down* the spread so as to prevent rapid outbreaks which our healthcare system cannot handle; it has never meant maintaining lockdowns until there were no new infections. But some of our political leaders seem to be using the kind of language that inculcates in people false expectations. For example, a Queensland politician reportedly said, 'We won't be lectured to by the worst-performing state in Australia (i.e. NSW)...There were 33 times the number of active cases in NSW compared to Queensland...NSW needs to get its act together and get community transmission down, and we will all be better off throughout this nation, including in Queensland.' In other words, *any* transmission is bad and our goal should be *zero* transmission. If so, then, why reopen at all? Furthermore, is this even the right expectation to have in the first place, or could it actually be a false expectation?

The proliferative pattern of reopening all around the world demonstrates two things: firstly that the coronavirus is not as deadly as it was initially feared to be; secondly that the most prudent approach to the coronavirus may be not to attempt to eradicate it at all cost (for, then, the so-called "cure," apart from being a practical impossibility, can easily end up being worse than the disease itself) but to manage/minimise harm by protecting the vulnerable, caring for the sick and allowing the rest of the community to safely grow resistant. After all, the scientific consensus is that 80% of those infected with the coronavirus are asymptomatic and that children are less likely to die from the coronavirus than from seasonal flu. In other words, the real concern is not whether or not there are transmissions in our communities but *what percentage of those transmissions are deadly*. The goal of keeping this percentage as low as possible could be the right expectation - something which we can and should aspire to, without falling victim to fear or doom and gloom.

- Fr Peter -

Welcome to Regina Coeli Catholic Church

## The Week Ahead

Sun 24 May Ascension of the Lord		
Mon 25 May Our Lady Help of Christians		
Tues 26 May St Philip Neri priest	9.15am	Mass
Wed 27 May	7am	Mass
Thurs 28 May	9.15am	Mass
Fri 29 May	9.15am	Mass
Sat 30 May	9.00am 9:30-10am  4:15-4:45pm 5pm	Mass Adoration & Reconciliation  Reconciliation Vigil Mass
Sun 31 May Pentecost Sunday	8.30am  10.00am	Mass  Mass (live-streamed on Face- book)

**Tickets (or bookings) are required at all Masses!**

### COMMON PRAYER for the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Laudato Si'

Loving God,  
Creator of heaven and earth and all that is in them,  
You created us in your own image and made us  
stewards of all your creation.  
You blessed us with the sun, water and bountiful land  
so that all might be nourished.

Open our minds and touch our hearts,  
so that we may attend to your gift of creation.  
Help us to be conscious that our common home  
belongs not only to us, but to all of your creatures and to  
all future generations, and that it is our responsibility to  
preserve it.  
May we help each person secure the food and  
resources that they need.

Be present to those in need in these trying times,  
especially the poorest and those most at risk of being  
left behind.  
Transform our fear and feelings of isolation into hope  
and fraternity so that we may experience a true  
conversion of the heart.

Help us to show creative solidarity in addressing the  
consequences of this global pandemic,  
Make us courageous to embrace the changes that are  
needed in search of the common good.  
Now more than ever may we feel that we are all  
interconnected and interdependent.  
Enable us to listen and respond to the cry of the earth  
and the cry of the poor.  
May the present sufferings be the birth pangs of a more  
fraternal and sustainable world.

Under the loving gaze of Mary Help of Christians, we  
make this prayer through Christ our Lord.  
Amen

LAUDATO SI'  
WEEK 2020

DICASTERIO PER IL SERVIZIO  
DELLO SVILUPPO UMANO INTEGRALE

## Pentecost is coming, share a photo!

During these days of restricted and subdued *life* (including parish life) the role of domestic church has become more important than ever before. Do you want the Holy Spirit to come upon your family and renew them in their sense of identity and mission? Well, prayer is the indispensable portal through which the power of the Holy Spirit is poured into our hearts, thereby rekindling in us the fire of love.

*Do you pray at home? Do you pray as a family? Is there a place at home where you're more likely to gather as a family and pray together?*

Please share a photo of your prayer space, preferably with someone in it! To commemorate Pentecost 2020 (next week), it is hoped that another music video will be produced and uploaded on our Facebook page, featuring photos of the many domestic churches here at Regina Coeli. Hopefully, the music video will be a reminder to us all of the importance of praying at home (especially as a family), as well as enabling us to stay connected over the regenerative feast of Pentecost! Also, please share a Pentecost story e.g. about the Holy Spirit if you have one!

*Please bring a photo to the parish office (for scanning) or email a digital copy to Fr Peter ([beverlyhillspriest@gmail.com](mailto:beverlyhillspriest@gmail.com)) by the end of Thursday 28 May, thank you!*



## Rosary Statue Mr & Mrs T Saify

107 Taylor St  
Ph: 0405 323 974







O Immaculate Mary, Help of Christians, Queen of heaven and earth, and tender Mother of humanity, at this time when a pandemic threatens all your children, we entrust to you our nation, Australia, and all who live in this country.

We commit to your intercession all the members of our community, beginning with the weakest ones, from the unborn to the sick, the disabled and the elderly.

We commit to you our families, our young and old, and all who are vulnerable, those who are quarantined or anxious.

We entrust to your Immaculate Heart those who have lost their livelihood or employment, our pastors and other essential service workers, and our leaders at this time.

We implore your intercession especially for the protection of doctors and nurses and those who minister to the contagious sick in this crisis.

Reign over us, Mother of God, and teach us how to make the Heart of Jesus reign and triumph in us and around us, as it has reigned and triumphed in you!

24 / 25 May 2020

## Pope Francis Prayer for protection from Coronavirus

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick. At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith. You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need. We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us: He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen. We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our pleas - we who are put to the test - and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.



**Clarification from last week.** Every time I rush to write the bulletin front page in order to meet the "deadline," I always find things which, it seems in hindsight, could have been better expressed. Usually I just go, 'Oh well, hopefully I will finish a little early next time and review it before printing it.' Last weekend, however, I wrote something which, I thought, could really do with some clarification:

*My guess is that this precautionary measure [of recording every visitor's name and contact details] will prove to have been of little or no use 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!*

Lest anyone thinks that I was being unjustifiably dismissive of government directives about a critical issue, I wish to explain a few things which might demonstrate that, yes, I might have shown an attitude but hopefully upon at least some justifiable basis! Social distancing among 10 people at Regina Coeli (a beautifully spacious church!) is evidently going to be far superior to social distancing at other venues such as supermarkets, retail shops, cafes, restaurants, and, yes, even pubs (not to mention public transport)! In most of these places social distancing is bound to become compromised far more frequently than at Regina Coeli. And yet none of these places are required to record the names and contact details of their patrons! So what would be the point of painstakingly preparing for potential contact tracing if the same kind of preparatory work was not being done in places which have far higher levels of human traffic?

As you might know, the recording of names and contact details is required not just for Mass attendees but also for casual visitors throughout the day. In other words the implication here is that everyone who has been in the same church building, even though they were visiting at different times, all warrant contact tracing, should one of them test positive to the coronavirus. But even as we speak Australia is full of anonymous individuals (and groups) who are endlessly coming into contact with one another (far more so than at Regina Coeli), the tracing of which is all but impossible! Furthermore, there is a scientific consensus that at least 80% of all corona-cases are asymptomatic, the fact of which makes one wonder how effective contact tracing really is, because most of the asymptomatic carriers will never even know that they once had the coronavirus until antibody-testing becomes available to them. So, in conclusion, I am led to wonder if churches are being singled out because governments, after all their radical decisions which have come at great costs, are in desperate need to be seen to be extremely cautious and, as usual, churches make an easy target. But this is not to say that we ought to complain. Perhaps the fact that they can tolerate more is a compliment to Christians. Nevertheless I believe that it is good for us to keep these things in perspective!

## First Reading Acts 1:1-11

*Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.*

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

## Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 46:2-3. 6-9. R. v.6**

**(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:  
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**  
or

**(R.) Alleluia.**

1. All peoples, clap your hands,  
cry to God with shouts of joy!  
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,  
great king over all the earth. (R.)
2. God goes up with shouts of joy;  
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.  
Sing praise for God, sing praise,  
sing praise to our king, sing praise. (R.)

3. God is king of all the earth.  
Sing praise with all your skill.  
God is king over the nations;  
God reigns on his holy throne. (R.)

## Second Reading Eph 1:17-23

*He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.*

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

## Gospel Acclamation Mt 28:19. 20

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Go and teach all people my gospel.**

**I am with you always, until the end  
of the world.**

**Alleluia!**

## Gospel Mt 28:16-20

*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.*

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commandments I gave to you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'



## Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

The feast of the Ascension is really a kind of liminal moment in the Easter season. It is a time between times, a moment when we have left one place in our journey but have not yet arrived at a second. The glory of the Risen Christ has already been revealed in us, but not yet totally. The feast itself celebrates the exaltation of Jesus. Today we stand awestruck, watching Jesus ascend into the clouds of heaven, there to be enthroned at the right hand of God. Today we are overwhelmed by the reality of the divinity of the one whom we have known in his humanity. Like the conquering creator-god, he has overcome his enemy (death) and now reigns over his new creation (the church).

Christ who ascended into heaven in his body carries on what he began on earth through his new body, the church. He teaches through its apostles and evangelists. He ministers through its prophets and pastors. In and through the church, Jesus continues to heal and to comfort; to forgive and to include. We have not been left alone; we have his power, the same power with which he performed marvels when he walked the earth. We have not been left alone; we have each other. Together we make up the new body of Christ. Together we await the fullness of this body. It is this new body that stands in between the times, secure in what we have, confident of what we will be given.

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