



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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Pentecost Sunday 31 May 2020

Day 70 After Church Closure

As you probably know, starting this week, up to fifty people will be allowed to attend Mass and therefore it would be fair to say that we are finally re-opening after 10 weeks of church closure (albeit still at a fraction of our usual capacity)! As you probably also know, this is a re-opening which nearly did not happen. Initially, as they were announcing the plan to allow cafes, restaurants and pubs to have up to fifty patrons, there was conspicuous silence about churches. But why were churches left out so very curiously? After already having singled out churches (rather unfairly if you ask me) by demanding that names and contact details of churchgoers be recorded for contact tracing, it seemed that the state government was reluctant to acknowledge that public worship was essential enough to warrant equal treatment when it came to the business of re-opening. Well, as already happened in some countries, our own bishops started to question the legitimacy of state-enforced-long-term-church-closure in the face of proliferative patterns of re-opening around the world. The Archbishop called for a petition to the Premier, on account of which I started to fancy myself gearing up to go on a "crusade" ;) But then, in less than 24 hours, the state government responded by choosing to be sensible instead of further causing unnecessary angst.

We have lost so much of the religious foundation which used to be taken for granted once upon a time in a place like Australia. This has meant that, perhaps without realising it, people started to turn to governments (and the mainstream media, etc.) almost as though they were turning to a divine and absolute authority: Surely, they are mostly right in their analysis of what is going on! Surely, they have the precise solution to whatever problem there is! Surely, if they cannot help us then no one else can! So, it seems to me that in our society the way of *hyper-regulation* has become the new norm - the sole and unquestioned means by which we are supposed to make progress and hope for a better future. Needless to say, much good has come out of all this, but, at the same time, it would be remiss of us not to think that there is another side to the story - a darker side. A friend once told me that, in the US, drug cartels were known to have infiltrated one of the very agencies which were set up by the government to counter drug trafficking and so it was no wonder that the empowering and trusting of this particular agency actually led to adverse outcomes! Likewise, the corona-crisis has been a startling reminder to many that the very governing bodies we tend to empower and trust (I won't name names here or say WHO or talk about Victoria!) can at times be part of the very problem we are trying to resolve. Anyway, all this has been a long-winded way of saying that it is good and necessary for us to have countervailing voices against powerful organisations including governments, for, otherwise, even chaos can be "mandated" with frightening efficiency. A healthy amount of pushback, led by the voice of reason, against the cult of hyper-regulation can bring about a more just outcome for all!

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Welcome to Regina Coeli Catholic Church

The Week Ahead

Sun 31 May Pentecost Sunday		Tickets (or bookings) are required at all Masses!
Mon 1 Jun Ordinary Time BVM Mother of the Church		
Tues 2 Jun	9.15am	Mass
Wed 3 Jun Charles Lwanga & companions, martyrs	7am	Mass
Thurs 4 Jun	9.15am	Mass
Fri 5 Jun St Boniface bishop, martyr	9.15am	Mass
Sat 6 Jun	9.00am 9:25-9:55am	Mass Adoration & Reconciliation
	4:15-4:45pm 5pm	Reconciliation Vigil Mass
Sun 7 Jun The Most Holy Trinity	8.30am	Mass
	10.00am	Mass (live-streamed on Facebook)

What does it mean that we are now re-opened?

- ⇒ Catholics in Sydney are still dispensed from their Sunday Mass obligation.
- ⇒ Those who are particularly vulnerable to infection are strongly encouraged to remain protected.
- ⇒ All parish masses and reconciliations are as advertised in the parish bulletin.
- ⇒ Please book, either in person or by phone or email, if you wish to attend one of the three weekend Masses.
- ⇒ Please do consider attending a weekday Mass instead so as to reduce "traffic" at weekend Masses. There is no need to book before coming to a weekday Mass.
- ⇒ Children and volunteers are not counted as part of 50 attendees and therefore do not need to book.
- ⇒ Please register (once and once only) and sign up (each time you enter the church) at the door.
- ⇒ Please uphold reasonable social distancing inside the church. Explore new, unoccupied seats! Please sanitise your hands and minimise physical contact. Please feel free to wear a mask if you think it prudent!

Please pray for...

Recently Deceased

Giuseppina Pasquale

In Loving Memory

Jeanette Cardoz, Jovito Canonizado,
Nadia Hobeika, Joseph Ghibely.

Please remember those who are in ill health

especially: Bob Handerson, Beven Kelly, Ann Mc Dowell, Christopher McDowell, Damiano Serravalle, Michelle Makin, Pat Johnson, George Dagher, Mrs Saba, Josephina Algozzina, 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,

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

My Jesus, I believe that You are present
in the Blessed Sacrament.

I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already here,
and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

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

Rosary Statue

Mr & Mrs R Sakr

8 Stoddart St
Ph: 0421 306 411



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So much has happened over the past ten weeks and more. Our existential landscape has changed in ways we could not have imagined. But we are seeing only the tip of the iceberg in the sense that we still cannot foresee the full aftermath of the corona-crisis, culturally, economically, socially, politically and religiously speaking. Some in the Church entertained the wishful thought that Catholics might return to Mass with increased fervour after a long period of government-enforced-church-closure. I hope I am wrong but I tend to think that for the majority their faith has been weakened rather than strengthened by the corona-crisis, at least in the short to medium term. After all, religious worship has been swiftly branded an inessential activity for the whole world to see (and then accepted as such without too much resistance including by me)! No doubt, our personal relationship with the Risen Lord has been put to the test, at times to the point of despair. The strength of Catholic faith in Australia has been found wanting among pastors and faithful alike. My own inadequacy as so-called Parish Priest has been revealed to be even worse than I suspected. And yet it is clearer to me than ever before that people need to hear the Gospel! They are in desperate need of real contact with the Kingdom of God, especially after having tasted the misery of spiritual isolation/fragmentation! What seems like bad news can become good news. Jesus suffered as he did in order to understand our problems inside out and therefore knows exactly what we need. The Holy Spirit makes the remedy of Jesus truly present in us and therefore transforms even terrible news into great news. With the help of the Holy Spirit, the moment of realising our own vulnerabilities and weaknesses can become the moment of a promising new beginning. So, let us pray: 'Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth.'

- Fr Peter -



ARCHBISHOP ANTHONY'S NEWSLETTER



YOU SPOKE UP, AND THE GOVERNMENT LISTENED!

Dear Friends

It was announced by the NSW Government this morning that churches and other places of worship will be treated equally with pubs and clubs, restaurants and cafes, museums and libraries.

From this coming Monday, places of worship will now be allowed to welcome 50 people at a time, instead of the limit of 10 that we have had over the past couple of weeks.

This wonderful result is because tens of thousands of you stood up and made your desire to return to church known. You weren't asking for special treatment, you were asking for equal treatment, and you prevailed.

Thank you for making your voices heard. Your swift and overwhelming response has demonstrated what can happen when we stand up for the freedom to practice our faith, and to be treated equally.

I will keep you updated with ways in which you will be able to stand up for the right to practice your faith freely and fairly.

There is still more work to do, however. While we have been fortunate in NSW, other states still have unequal restrictions on places of worship. So, we have revised the petition and are now calling on all state premiers and chief ministers to treat people of faith fairly and equally. Please continue to share the link with your friends and family: www.openourchurches.com.au.

I know the priests of Sydney are looking forward to welcoming you back in greater numbers to your parishes from next week. God bless you.

First Reading Acts 2:1-11

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak different languages.

When Pentecost day came round, the apostles had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.

Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished. 'Surely' they said 'all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; as well as visitors from Rome – Jews and proselytes alike – Cretans and Arabs; we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 103:1. 24. 29-31. 34. R. v.30

**(R.) Lord, send out your Spirit
and renew the face of the earth.**

or

(R.) Alleluia.

1. Bless the Lord, my soul!
Lord God, how great you are,
How many are your works, O Lord!
The earth is full of your riches. (R.)
2. You take back your spirit, they die,
returning to the dust from which they
came.
You send forth your spirit, they are
created;
and you renew the face of the earth. (R.)
3. May the glory of the Lord last for ever!
May the Lord rejoice in his works!
May my thoughts be pleasing to him.
I find my joy in the Lord. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Cor 12:3-7, 12-13

In the one Spirit we were all baptised, making one body.

No one can say, 'Jesus is Lord' unless he is under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose.

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Come, Holy Spirit; fill the hearts of your
faithful**

and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Alleluia!

Gospel Jn 20:19-23

As the Father sent me, so I send you: Receive the Holy Spirit.

In the evening of 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.'



Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

Pentecost celebrates the fullness of the Spirit and the great gathering of nations. It brings the Easter season to its conclusion. The Risen Lord has been exalted to his rightful place next to God and he has sent his Spirit to fill the earth with God's power. The world is charged with divine energy; it needs but a spark to ignite it with life and with excitement. This vitality explodes into the extraordinary. Tongues are loosed and speech overflows its linguistic constraints; charismatic gifts flood the valleys of human habitation; barred doors are burst open and frightened hearts are calmed. The Spirit of the Lord fills the whole world.

Once again we gather together for one reason, only to discover that God has gathered us for another. Through the Spirit of God, we are reconciled to each other and then together we spend ourselves for the common good. Through the Spirit of God the world is renewed, the community is revitalised, and we come to know the mysterious yet all pervasive peace of Christ.

The Spirit has been poured forth and works wonders wherever human hearts are open to its promptings. The earth is renewed each time rivalries are resolved, distinctions are recognised as merely expressions of diversity, peace is restored, comfort and solace are offered, and forgiveness is granted. We are immersed in the vigour of the Spirit of God. All we have to do is open ourselves to it and the reign of God will be born in our midst.

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