



# Regina Coeli Parish

Beverly Hills - In the Archdiocese of Sydney



## Weekly Newsletter

### Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time 21 June 2020

#### 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



Jesus said, 'Do not be afraid. For everything that is now covered will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear.' (Matthew 10:26) In other words, *all will be revealed!* But is this good news or bad news? I guess the answer would depend on the *context*. What is the context of our existence? Who is in charge of our universe and beyond, is it a merciful judge or a vindictive accuser? If the former, then, we would have reasons not to be afraid. A merciful judge will not deceive or be deceived; he will not turn a blind eye toward corruption but instead pursue truth and justice to the end. Nevertheless, the merciful judge will also have our best interest at heart and desire nothing else than that we be saved, ultimately, even if through the purifying means of some salutary lessons. But if a vindictive accuser was in charge of our universe, then, we would have reasons to be very afraid indeed. Why be transparent with someone who is only out to get you? Being able to run, hide or cover up would be a desirable skill to have. The notion that all will be revealed (in a universe ruled by a vindictive accuser) would be an absolute nightmare!

To say that context is critically important would be a huge understatement and yet the unfortunate practice of taking things out of context has become all too common in our contemporary culture. Words are taken out of context so as to change what was actually meant. Statistics are taken out of context so as to induce emotional responses. Videos are taken out of context so as to support skewed narratives. Even history is taken out of context so as to depict an unjust portrayal of the past. There is virtually no limit to what can be taken out of context in our digital age which allows almost everything to be recorded and stored (seemingly forever!). The mountainous bodies of our footprints in this life, both physical and virtual, are growing every day and it won't be difficult at all for an "enemy" to show us in a bad light by taking things out of context. As a matter of fact, even Jesus himself could be portrayed as the devil when taken out of context, for example, imagine the headline: 'JESUS SAYS IT'S OK TO STONE A WOMAN CAUGHT IN ADULTERY!'

Our contemporary culture has turned vindictive. No one is safe from its vindictiveness. Anything "unorthodox" (by today's fast-evolving standards) that someone said or did even decades ago can be used against them. They are placed under immense pressure to do public penance. But even then they are probably still not "forgiven." Our contemporary culture has turned incredibly vindictive as though the context of the merciful judge has been all but forgotten and the context of the vindictive accuser has overtaken it. Truth has become unbearable because, in the absence of a merciful judge, we have no faith that truth will set us free. Fear begets fear and the cowardly practice of taking things out of context proliferates, in the vain hope that someone else's exaggerated fault might protect *me* from condemnation. We subscribe to ideologies ("low-resolution thinking" according to Jordan Peterson) or simplistic reductionism ("dividing everything into two camps - good or evil, black or white" according to Pope Francis) in order to try to defend the indefensibly false narratives which, out of desperation, start to take on more extreme forms. Our worldview becomes increasingly narrow and fundamentalist, until, eventually, there is simply no place left to retreat into except...madness!

- Continued on Page 3 -

#### 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

## The Week Ahead

Sun 21 Jun  
12th Sunday  
Ordinary  
Time

Mon 22 Jun  
Sts John  
Fisher, bishop  
& Thomas  
More, martyrs

Tues 23 Jun

9.15am Mass with children

Wed 24 Jun  
Nativity of St  
John Baptist

7am Mass  
9am-1pm Adoration with children

Thurs 25 Jun

9.15am Mass with children

Fri 26 Jun

9.15am Mass

Sat 27 Jun

9.00am Mass  
9:25-9:55am Adoration & Reconciliation

4:15-4:45pm Reconciliation  
5pm Vigil Mass

Sun 28 Jun  
13th Sunday  
Ordinary  
Time

8.30am Mass (live-streamed on Face-  
book)  
10.00am Mass



### Excerpts from the Words of Remembrance of Greg Weekes, by Trish Weekes (daughter)

Gregory Patrick Weekes was born on the 29th of March, 1935... When Dad left school, at the age of 16, he joined the Commonwealth Bank... One of Dad's bank postings took him to Papua New Guinea and the small town of Goroka... [where] in December 1964, he met a young woman named Thelma McCarthy. Thelma lived in Rockhampton but was in Goroka visiting her sister Margaret who was a nurse there. Margaret later married David, also working in New Guinea. Thelma and Greg married a year later in Rockhampton in December 1965.

Dad enjoyed family gatherings and he loved a good conversation and telling long jokes. He particularly enjoyed sharing very good red wine, with his brother Ray... In later years, Dad enjoyed talking to his nephews and nieces and also to their children. He would always come back after a family gathering, telling me how he had talked to this one or that one and had a really good conversation.

Dad was very intelligent. He had a wide vocabulary and he was an expert at doing crosswords. Every morning, he and mum would do the crossword while they had a coffee. He knew the meanings of the most arcane and rare words that I had never heard of. I write literacy books for schools, and for many years, dad was my editor. He would read all of my draft pages and tell me where I had gone wrong, and where my own grammar and expression were lacking. He read the Sydney Morning Herald from cover to cover every day it was printed, for his entire adult life.

Dad was happy to help people and he was an active member of the Saint Vincent DePaul Society after he retired. He was always willing to help out neighbours or friends who needed a hand. He volunteered for Bankstown Golf Club as a rules official and a judge, and he was on the Parish Finance Committee. Dad would compose very carefully-worded letters to the Catholic Education Office or the Archdiocese about what should happen with parish property and I typed them up for him. He was an excellent writer.

Dad had a strong faith. He came to Mass in this church every week. While in the nursing home, every week, he led the rosary.

## Please pray for...

### Recently Deceased

Alice Nelson, Greg Weekes

### In Loving Memory

Fouad Attia, Carmen Aquilina,

### Please remember those who are in ill

**health especially:** Matt Nugent, 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, Georgia Brown, Luke Compton, Paul Camelotti, Anne Maree Michels, Slavica Markotic.

## Rosary Statue Mrs J Vincent

14 Warrawee Place



### 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 Web-

No doubt, humanity has been here before, we have been on this trajectory before. I am personally familiar with the experience of taking things out of context (or ignoring the inconvenient aspects of reality) and constructing narratives of my own making, only to find cracks appearing in all directions on account of the untenable contradictions inherent in such a concocted worldview. But this late-teen experience turned out to be quite instrumental to one of the most important conversions in my life. When you realise that no amount of cleverness can rescue you from the chaos and meaninglessness caused by *not listening*, you begin to wake up to the fact that truth might exist and that only truth might be the dependable basis for salvation. For Christians the fact that all will be revealed is undoubtedly good news. After all, Jesus who died and rose from the dead is the full revelation of the best possible context, namely, the context of the merciful triune God. This is the Christian context - the Christian foundation - which ought to instil in us the confidence to become uncovered and transparent. Yes, there are still some shadows in our past and hidden places in our soul, but even then we still want to be forgiven and healed, so as to be liberated; in other words, we still want *all to be revealed!* So Jesus said, 'Do not be afraid. For everything that is now covered will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the daylight; what you hear in whispers, proclaim from the housetops.' (Matthew 10:26-27) - Fr Peter -

***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.
- ⇒ **Please contact Fr Peter if you wish to receive Holy Communion at home.**
- ⇒ All parish masses and reconciliations are as advertised in the parish bulletin.
- ⇒ 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!
- ⇒ **From the 1st of July the church of Regina Coeli will be allowed to accommodate up to 130 people at Mass. It will be no longer be necessary to book then!**

**For Families in Need**

Are you experiencing difficulties in providing your family with those extra needs you hadn't expected, especially due to the current crisis relating to COVID-19? There are many ways in which we can help you, so please do not feel shy or embarrassed by your needs. We are just a phone call away, waiting to assist you. Confidentiality is guaranteed at all times. If you would like to chat with us just ring any of the telephone numbers listed below. God bless.

Anne 02 9759 2357 & Joy 02 9150 4996

- The Ladies Conference of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society, Regina Coeli Parish -

**Day of Conscience - June 17**

"Today is the 'Day of Conscience', inspired by the witness of the Portuguese diplomat Aristides de Sousa Mendes, who around 80 years ago decided to follow the voice of his conscience and saved the lives of thousands of Jews and other persecuted peoples," Pope Francis said on June 17. He evoked the memory of Sousa Mendes as an exemplar of upholding one's conscience. "May freedom of conscience be respected always and everywhere, and may every Christian give the example of the consistency of an upright conscience enlightened by the Word of God," the Pope said.

In 1940, Sousa Mendes served as the Portuguese consul in Bordeaux, which received an outpouring of refugees fleeing the Nazi regime. Many of them sought refuge in Portugal, a neutral nation in World War II, which offered the possibility of safe travel across the Atlantic. Overwhelmed with refugees, the Portuguese government issued a directive that barred refugees from entering the country...Confronted by the suffering of the refugees, Sousa Mendes found that he could not obey both his conscience and this directive. Sousa Mendes is believed to have granted at least 10,000 visas in June and July of 1940, before being recalled to Lisbon. Sousa Mendes' act of conscience, for which the "Day of Conscience" is recognized, cost him dearly. He was expelled from the diplomatic corps, and his family at times went to a refugee soup kitchen for food. Yet his suffering did not compromise the clarity of his conscience. "I could not have acted otherwise," Sousa Mendes said, "and I, therefore, accept all that has befallen me with love." Although he died in poverty in 1954, Sousa Mendes has since gained attention as an exemplar of an uncompromising conscience. In 1966, Sousa Mendes joined the list of the Righteous Among the Nations, a recognition by Israel of non-Jews who heroically saved Jews during the Holocaust. Portugal posthumously promoted him to ambassador and formally apologized to his family. Postage stamps and statues in memory of Sousa Mendes now proliferate his image.

\*The entire article has been sourced from: <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/pope-francis-praises-ww2-era-portuguese-diplomat-on-day-of-conscience-36716>



**First Reading** Jer 20:10-13

**A reading from the prophet Jeremiah**

*He has delivered the soul of the needy from the hands of those who are evil.*

Jeremiah said:

'I hear so many disparaging me,  
"Terror from every side!  
Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"  
All those who used to be my friends  
watched for my downfall,  
"Perhaps he will be seduced into error.  
Then we will master him  
and take our revenge!"  
But the Lord is at my side,  
a mighty hero;  
my opponents will stumble, mastered,  
confounded by their failure;  
everlasting, unforgettable disgrace  
will be theirs.  
But you, Lord of Hosts, you who probe  
with justice,  
who scrutinise the loins and heart,  
let me see the vengeance you will take  
on them,  
for I have committed my cause to you.  
Sing to the Lord,  
praise the Lord,  
for he has delivered the soul  
of the needy  
from the hands of evil men.'

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 68:8-10. 14. 17. 33-35. R. v.14

**(R.) Lord, in your great love,  
answer me.**

1. It is for you that I suffer taunts,  
that shame covers my face,  
that I have become a stranger to my  
brothers,  
an alien to my own mother's sons.  
I burn with zeal for your house  
and taunts against you fall on me.  
(R.)
2. This is my prayer to you,  
my prayer for your favour.  
In your great love, answer me, O God,  
with your help that never fails:  
Lord, answer, for your love is kind;  
in your compassion, turn towards me.  
(R.)
3. The poor when they see it will be glad  
and God-seeking hearts will revive;  
for the Lord listens to the needy  
and does not spurn his servants in  
their chains.  
Let the heavens and the earth give  
him praise,  
the sea and all its living creatures.  
(R.)

**Second Reading** Rom 5:12-15

**A reading from the letter of St Paul  
to the Romans**

*God's gift to us is nothing like our sin against him.*

Sin entered the world through one man,  
and through sin death, and thus death  
has spread through the whole human race  
because everyone has sinned. Sin existed  
in the world long before the Law was given.  
There was no law and so no one could be  
accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet  
death reigned over all from Adam to Moses,  
even though their sin, unlike that of Adam,  
was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but  
the gift itself considerably outweighed the  
fall. If it is certain that through one man's  
fall so many died, it is even more certain  
that divine grace, coming through the one  
man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an  
abundant free gift.

**Gospel Acclamation** Jn 15:26. 27

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**The Spirit of Truth will bear witness  
to me, says the Lord,  
and you also will be my witnesses.  
Alleluia!**

**Gospel** Mt 10:26-33

**A reading from the holy Gospel  
according to Matthew**

*Do not fear those who can kill the body.*

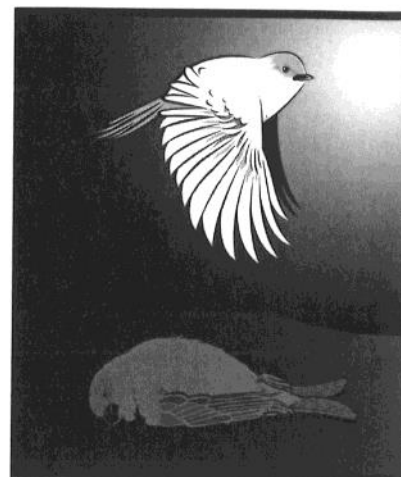
Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows:  
'Do not be afraid. For everything that is now  
covered will be uncovered, and everything  
now hidden will be made clear. What I say to  
you in the dark, tell in the daylight;  
what you hear in whispers, proclaim from  
the house-tops.

'Do not be afraid of those who kill the body  
but cannot kill the soul; fear him rather  
who can destroy both body and soul in hell.  
Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny?  
And yet not one falls to the ground without  
your Father knowing. Why, every hair on  
your head has been counted. So there is no  
need to be afraid; you are worth more than  
hundreds of sparrows.

'So if anyone declares himself for me in  
the presence of men, I will declare myself  
for him in the presence of my Father in  
heaven. But the one who disowns me in  
the presence of men, I will disown in the  
presence of my Father in heaven.'

The psalm responses are from the English Translation of the  
Lectionary for the Mass ©1981 International Committee on  
English in the Liturgy Inc.(ICEL). All rights reserved. The psalm texts,  
from The Psalms, A New Translation, ©1963 by The Grail, England  
and used by permission of the publishers. The scriptural quotations  
are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966,  
1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday  
& Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers.

© Creative Ministry Resources Pty Ltd  
All use must be in accordance with your user licensing agreement.



**Reflection** by Dianne Bergant CSA

The demands of discipleship can be  
very difficult. The strength that is  
needed to continue on the chosen  
path despite its hardships can come  
only from God. We live in a world that  
desperately needs to hear the call to  
conversion, but it is a world that is  
subject to the death that entered it  
through the sin of Adam. Those who  
answer the call of God may have to  
face the hostility of this world,  
because their values and their  
commitment to righteousness  
threaten its moorings. To commit  
oneself to the reign of God is to  
challenge the reign of the world, and  
this can make one very unpopular. In  
the midst of this suffering we can  
find strength in the promises of God,  
and we believe that God is faithful to  
these promises.

Only half of today's picture is bleak.  
The other half is radiant with hope.  
Paul assures us that the gracious gift  
that God offers us is far greater than  
the transgressions brought on by sin.  
This gracious gift is Jesus Christ  
himself. The gift exceeds anything for  
which we might have hoped. He is  
the comfort that will carry us through  
our disappointments. He is the  
strength that will enable us to endure  
the misunderstanding and hardship  
that come with discipleship. We are  
called to acknowledge him before  
the world, and we are promised that  
if we do, he will acknowledge us  
before God. There is light even in the  
midst of darkness. There is hope  
even in the midst of suffering.