



Regina Coeli Parish

Beverly Hills - In the Archdiocese of Sydney



Weekly Newsletter

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 2 August 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

'For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.' (Romans 8:38-39)

We live in a time of severe uncertainty. I am not sure how "unprecedented" the current level of uncertainty really is, historically speaking, but it sure feels like it has never been worse, at least not in my own lifetime. We feel quite uncertain about how 2020 is going to end, let alone how the pandemic is going to end. Will there be a second lockdown in NSW? Will churches and schools be closed down again? Will mask-wearing become mandated? Will we ever find out the true extent of the infection? Will there be a vaccine for the coronavirus? Will the vaccine work with better success rates than, say, flu vaccines? What other unforeseen "catastrophes" might be waiting for us around the corner before we can cross the finishing line of 2020 with a big sigh of exhausted relief?

If St Paul was our contemporary could he still have claimed that he was 'certain' that nothing could ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord? Or would he have succumbed, as we probably have at least to some extent, to a sense of hopelessness in the face of all the modern challenges which appear to be constant and unrelenting? I can almost picture St Paul saying, 'For a start, stop paying so much attention to the mainstream media!' More than a few people have said to me that the quality of their lives improved when they switched off from news. I imagine that basic things like taking care of our family or fulfilling our duties go a long way in keeping us relatively grounded such that viral headlines do not end up dictating our outlook on life. But the relentlessness of it all still takes its toll on us.

St Paul was speaking from a great depth of experience when he said that nothing could come between us and the love of God - not even being 'troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked.' (Romans 8:35) Upon hearing about the problem of boasting among Christians in Corinth, St Paul recalled some of his own sufferings as if to say, like a reluctant hero, 'Do you really want to compare? Are you sure? Well, you asked for it.' He wrote: 'Five times I have received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. Three times I have been beaten with rods; once I was stoned. Three times I have been shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been adrift at sea; on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brethren; in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure upon me of my anxiety for all the churches.' (2 Corinthians 11:24-28)

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The Week Ahead

Sun 2 Aug 18th Sunday Ordinary Time		No need to book for Mass!
Mon 3 Aug St Dominic priest	10.30am	Funeral Mass for Charles Lo Sudo
Tues 4 Aug St John Vianney priest	9.15am	Mass
Wed 5 Aug	7am	Mass
Thurs 6 Aug The Transfigura- tion of the Lord	9.15am 2.00pm	Mass Afternoon Tea
Fri 7 Aug	9.15am 10.00am	Mass School Mass—Mary MacKillop Special
Sat 8 August St Mary of the Cross	9.00am 9:25-9:55am	Mass Adoration & Reconciliation
	4:15-4:45pm 5pm	Reconciliation Vigil Mass
Sun 9 Aug 19th Sunday Ordinary Time	8.30am 10.00am	Mass (live-streamed on Face- book) Mass

Recently Deceased

Charles Lo Sudo, Raffaella Micallef

In Loving Memory

Peter Campbell, Spiro & Josephine Bajada

Please remember those who are in ill

health especially: Matt Nugent, Bob Handerson, Beven Kelly, Ann Mc Dowell, Christopher McDowell, Damiano Serravalle, Michelle Makin, George Dagher, Mrs Saba, Josephina Algozzina, Geraldina Civitarese, Pat Mortimer, Mrs Donald Burch, Mary Daniels, Geoff McDowell, Elena Mura, Mr TD (Terry) Wall, Kim Delaney, Lauren Sotano, Sam Hy, Mary Sortwell, Georgia Brown, Luke Compton, Paul Camelotti, Anne Maree Michels, Slavica Markotic.

Rosary Statue

Mr & Mrs F Capra

168 Moorefields Road

Ph: 0490 532 693



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

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 sign in 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 refrain from loud speaking or singing so as to reduce the spread of respiratory droplets.
- ⇒ **Under the latest rules, we are allowed to have up to 100 people at Mass There is no need to make a booking.**

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 -

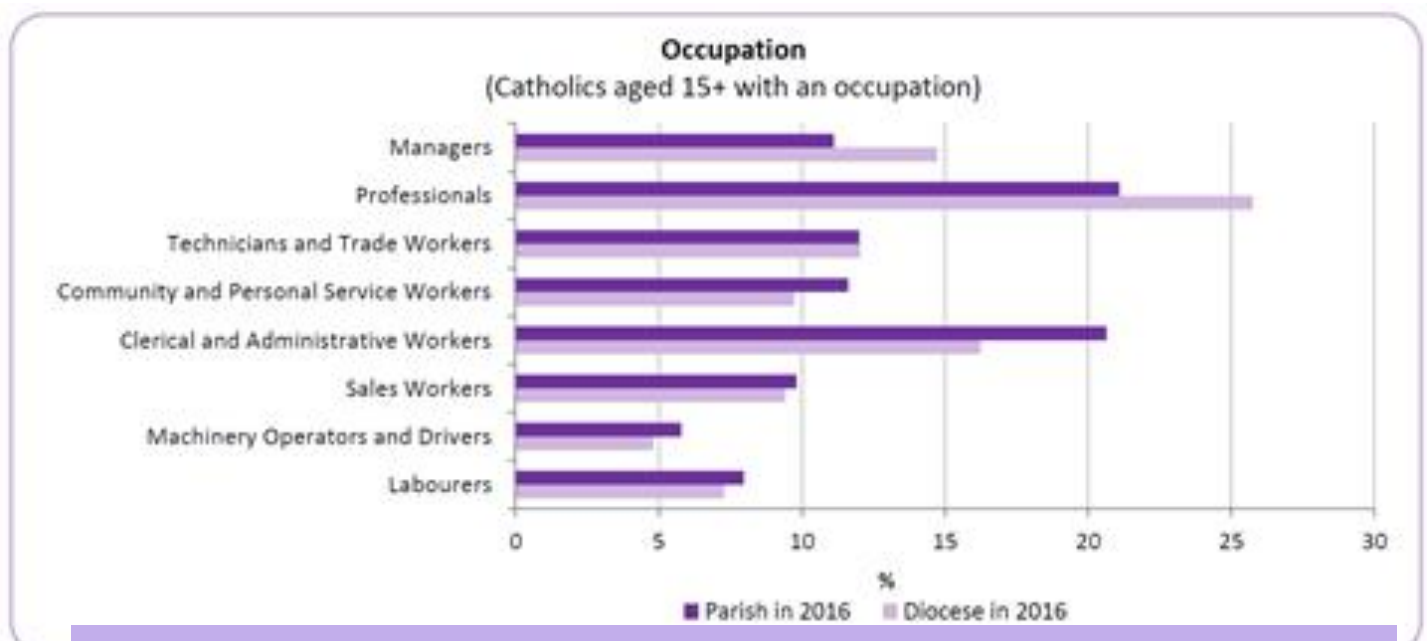
St Mary of the Cross MacKillop on the cross

- Value your crosses as the most precious presents from a good and loving God. (26.2.1890)
- The Cross is my portion – it is also my sweet rest and support. (26.2.1872)
- Look upon your crosses as stepping stones to the eternal life of happiness. (28.2.1890)
- We may feel our crosses hard at times, but our courage should rise with them. (14.4.1882)
- The cross appears lighter when carried with Jesus. (3.5.1874)
- Crosses are proof of God's love. (2.6.1867)
- With these crosses He gives many precious graces to make the soul bear them. (6.7.1870)
- The little crosses are harder to bear patiently than the thumping big ones. (17.12.1884)
- Though our crosses and sorrows are in a manner great, our own dear Lord's love is much greater. (23.12.1871)

When I first joined the seminary as a young man I (temporarily) cut down on overeating and excessive drinking. Then I noticed that my beer belly started to disappear and I looked better than I had in a while. I thought to myself, ‘What a delightful development! With the support of discipline and structured prayer life, I could be strong for the rest of my life in every possible way - physically, mentally and, yes, spiritually as well!’ Certainly, it is good and necessary for us to improve ourselves for the sake of the mission! Nevertheless, there is a good chance that we might be led by a worldly spirit if our vision of a “faith-filled” life resembled one of prosperity and immunity to human suffering. A wise friend and I were recently talking about what it meant to have faith. He highlighted the fact that there was a tendency among Christians to think that faith is like a self-justifying force, as though we are saved by the great magnitude of our faith. But he pointed out that the power that saves us comes not from our faith (at least not directly) but from the one in whom we believe; in other words, faith is more like a door through which Jesus enters.

What is it that opens the door of faith? Certainly not conceit or triumphalism! These are easy and deadly trap-pings for all who attempt to walk seriously the spiritual path. My wise friend made a reference to Jesus who said, ‘For truly, I say to you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, “Move from here to there,” and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you.’ (Matthew 17:20) He rightly wondered if the fact of having *authentic faith* ought to feel not grandiose but *little*, as though we were holding a delicate treasure with humility, reverence, love, tenderness, even ‘fear and trembling’ (Philippians 2:12). After all, we are not counting on ourselves but on him without whom we are lost, whose power is made perfect in our weakness (c.f. 2 Corinthians 12:9). St Paul must have experienced the following mystery time and time again: Just when he thought he had suffered enough, there was yet another affliction waiting for him around the corner. But, strangely enough, the more he endured the sufferings by uniting himself to Christ in faith, the more evident the power of divine love became for him. A rule then emerged which St Paul could not deny: where the cross was there was the love of God made visible in Christ; the more overbearing the cross became (and therefore the littler his faith seemed by comparison), the more profound/intimate was his experience of the power of divine love. This led him to the logical conclusion that a love which comes to us even through our suffering, especially through our suffering, simply could not be stopped, not even by death. Of this St Paul was *certain* and so he declared, ‘neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.’ (Romans 8:38-39) - Fr Peter -

“The St Vincent de Paul Clothing Drive on Saturday 1st August has been cancelled due to the continuing Covid-19 pandemic. We are planning for the Clothing Drive on Saturday 7th November to proceed as planned depending on the Covid-19 situation at that time. We thank our Parishioners for their past support & assure you that we will be back as soon as possible. If convenient please keep any intended clothing for donation until the next drive, it will be most appreciated.”



‘The data in this profile [for Beverly Hills] have been sourced from the Australian Census, which is carried out every five years by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Most of the data comes from the 2016 Census, but some comparisons are provided with 2011 and earlier years.’ There is more to come...

First Reading Is 55:1-3

Hasten and eat.

Thus says the Lord:

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty;
though you have no money, come!
Buy corn without money, and eat,
and, at no cost, wine and milk.
Why spend money on what is not bread,
your wages on what fails to satisfy?
Listen, listen to me and you will have
good things to eat
and rich food to enjoy.
Pay attention, come to me;
listen, and your soul will live.
With you I will make an everlasting
covenant
out of the favours promised to David.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 144:8-9. 15-18. R. v.16

*(R.) The hand of the Lord feeds us:
he answers all our needs.*

1. The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. (R.)
2. The eyes of all creatures look to you
and you give them their food in due time.
You open wide your hand,
grant the desires of all who live. (R.)
3. The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
call on him from their hearts. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 8:35. 37-39

No creature can separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ.

No creature can separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ.
Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 4:4

Alleluia, alleluia!

*No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the
mouth of God.*

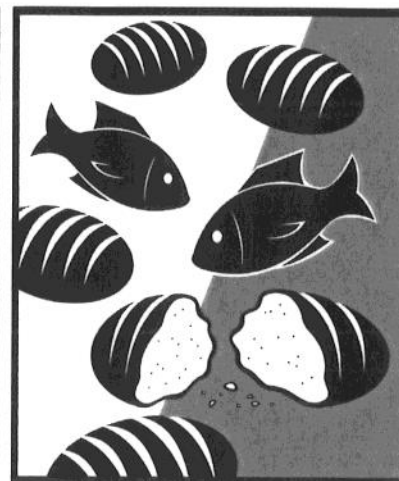
Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 14:13-21

They all ate and were satisfied.

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick.

When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, 'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves.' But they answered, 'All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here to me,' he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves he handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining, twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children.



Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

Jesus nourishes us. In a world that is fraught with meaninglessness, he offers purpose; to a world that is stumbling in darkness and confusion, he provides direction. He satisfies the hungry heart; he enlivens the drooping spirit. Those who follow Jesus will never be left to languish in the desert. If we but open our eyes, we will be amazed at the bountifulness of the nourishment that is provided for us. We will discover that God is magnanimous, even prodigal in giving, that God's generosity exceeds all of our expectations and also our understanding.

Furthermore, we are nourished by God through the ministry of each other, through the simple things of life, (distributing bread and gathering up the fragments): visiting the sick and consoling the grieving; caring for a child and giving aid to an elder; bagging groceries and directing a choir. If we but open our eyes, we will be astounded at how ordinary actions can satisfy our hunger and the hunger of others.

Most amazing of all is that this nourishment is given freely; there was no thought of requiring payment. God simply invites: Come! All we have to do is reach out our hands to receive and we will never be sent away to find nourishment for ourselves. We will discover that a bond is established that endures. Jesus is filled with compassion, a compassion that is not a fleeting emotion, but an enduring attitude. Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ.

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