



# Regina Coeli Parish

Beverly Hills - In the Archdiocese of Sydney



## Weekly Newsletter

**Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**26 July 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

*'We know that by turning everything to their good, God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those he has called according to his purpose.'* (Romans 8:28)

We can do almost everything right and still find that tragedies collide with us. For example, a fatal illness or a terrible accident can take from us a loved one so soon that it seems cruel. Pain is something that tends to come and go, but not this time. The grief is heavy and immovable, like an entire world nailed through the heart. When quiet suffering seems like the most certain of our darkened realities we cannot help but ask, 'Why?'

Upon high recommendations from a few people I watched the online version of 7 News Spotlight Special - 'In the blink of an eye' - which was about the four children who died in February when they were hit by an out-of-control ute being driven by a heavily intoxicated driver. The television special illustrated, with some care and grace, how precious these children were (Sienna, 8, Angelina, 12, and Antony, 13, from the Abdallah family and their cousin Veronique Sakr, 11) and how beautiful they (and their families) were. The mother of the Abdallah family was a devout catholic (a Maronite catholic). She astounded the world with the strength of her faith which allowed her to say that she forgave the perpetrator not long after finding out that, because of his mistakes, three of her children had been taken from her "in the blink of an eye." She and her husband have displayed saintly virtues since then in their ongoing faithfulness to their God-given vocations. But they admitted to still being haunted by the question of 'Why?'

The 'why' of human suffering is a mystery. There is a true story of a Jewish woman who grew up without knowing the love of a mother or a father. She considered herself an atheist. After having felt so often in her life that her own existence was unbearable, she could not help but scream out with her entire being, 'Why?' Then one day she heard that on Calvary Jesus himself cried out, 'My God, My God, WHY have you forsaken me?' (Matthew 27:46) She said that if the name of our God was 'why,' then, that was enough for her. She became a Christian. The fact that, in Jesus, God suffered, died and rose from the dead might be the best possible answer to the 'why' of human suffering. After all, we are not even remotely ready for a comprehensive and detailed answer, for, we seriously lack the capacity for seeing the "big picture" as God sees it, hence the reason why the Lord said to Job, 'Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?' (Job 38:4) Consequently, it seems possible that there is simply no greater answer to the 'why' of human suffering than the love of Jesus who identifies with us even in the darkest and most helpless of our moments and ensures that we are never alone, not even for the faintest of our heartbeats.

The following is a true story I wrote in collaboration with a parishioner who shared her story:

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## The Week Ahead

Sun 26 Jul 17th Sunday Ordinary Time	<b>No need to book for Mass!</b>	
Mon 27 Jul	No Mass	
Tues 28 Jul	9.15am 10.00am	Mass with Year 2 Adoration with Year 6
Wed 29 Jul St Martha	7am	Mass
Thurs 30 Jul	9.15am 2.00pm	Mass with Year 2 <b>Afternoon Tea</b>
Fri 31 Jul St Ignatius of Antioch	9.15am	Mass
Sat 1 August St Alphonsus Liguori	9.00am 9:25-9:55am	Mass Adoration & Reconciliation
	4:15-4:45pm 5pm	Reconciliation Vigil Mass (live-streamed on Facebook)
Sun 2 August 18th Sunday Ordinary Time	8.30am 10.00am	Mass Mass

## Please pray for...

### Recently Deceased

Vanessa Succar, Stanley Fong Sang, Rosa Germano

### In Loving Memory

Alexander Arifin, Baby Arifin & Mary Josephine Wong, Giovanni Battiatto

### 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 R. Xuereb

7 Rhona Avenue

Ph: 9153 9101



### 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 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 sign in at the door.
- ⇒ 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 -

## Prayer of St Ignatius of Loyola

O Christ Jesus,  
When all is darkness  
And we feel our weakness and helplessness,  
Give us the sense of your presence,  
Your love and your strength.  
Help us to have perfect trust in your protecting  
love  
And strengthening power,  
so that nothing may frighten or worry us,  
for, living close to you,  
we shall see your hand,  
your purpose,  
your will through all things.  
Amen.

### ***Continued from Page 1***

A parishioner's daughter suddenly fell very ill when she was 11 months old. The doctors discovered that she had an aggressive form of cancer and initially gave her just 10 days to live. "In the split of a second," the family went from being *happy* in innumerable ways to being absolutely devastated - stranded in a foreign world which they had no control over. The initial treatment started to take effect and her daughter celebrated her first birthday as she entered a prolonged battle with cancer. The hospital became a second home for the family.

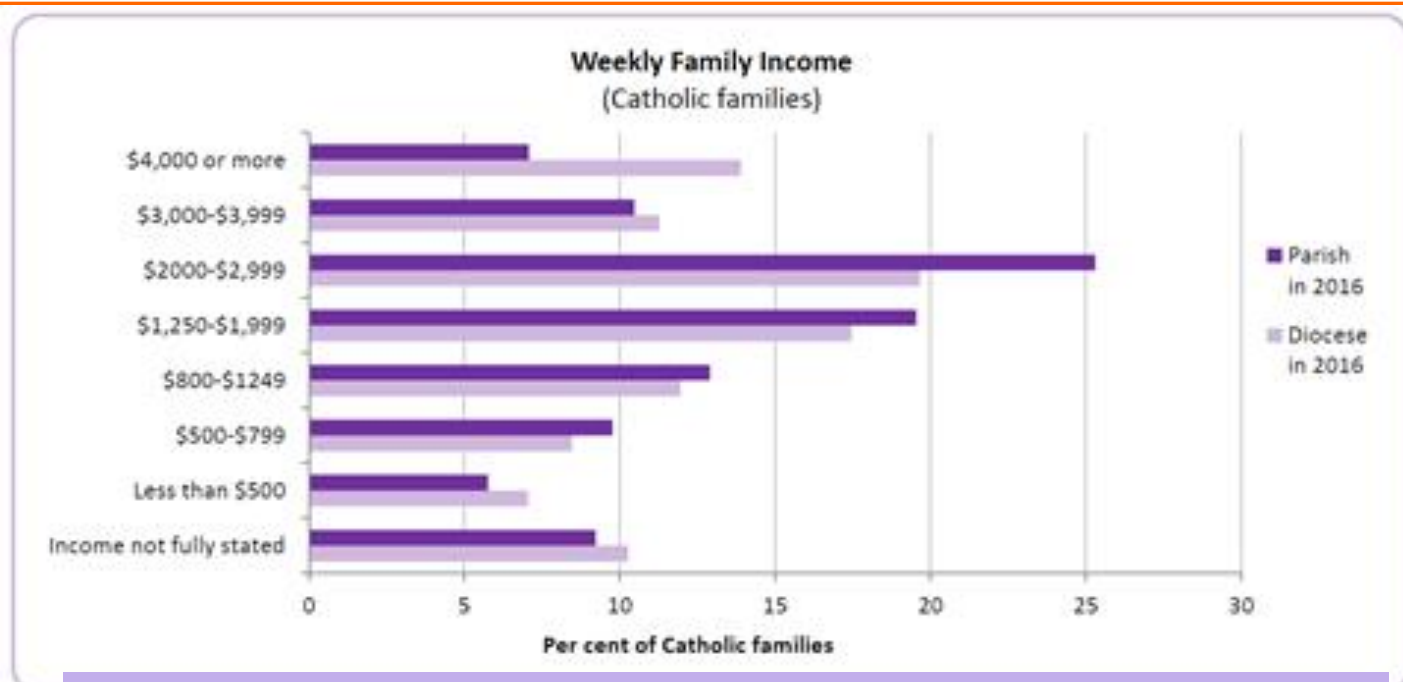
The Children's hospital was like a microcosm of human suffering. It was as though the entire drama surrounding the fragility of human life had been intensified and magnified through the lives of sick children who were carrying all too obviously disproportionate burdens of suffering. In short, nothing could be taken for granted. Some children who seemed to be improving could suddenly pass away the next day. Others who seemed to have little or no chance could make a miraculous recovery against the odds. The smallness of these vulnerable children was like a symbol of the smallness of humanity facing the terrifying horizon of the unknown which we call 'fate.' It was not unusual to find parents who were upset, even angry, with God in the absence of straightforward answers.

Having received religious education from both the Josephites and the Dominicans sisters, her mother instinctively turned to prayer. Novenas to Mary MacKillop were said no less than three times and she took her daughter to pray at Mary MacKillop's Place. She would soon be joined by an army of Christians, across many different denominations, who offered heartfelt prayers for her daughter. Prayer was indispensable not only for the child but also for the family who needed strength in order to be able to persevere through this challenging and difficult time. Prayer consumed some people as though it was the last line of defence to protect all that was most precious in life.

Sadly, after 8 months, the battle with the cancer was lost and she passed away quietly and peacefully, surrounded by her family. During her last 9 days she was on life-support, starting from what was later to become the day of canonisation of St Mary MacKillop. The day she passed away was the feast of St Demetrios the martyr who is well known among Orthodox Christians for his great miracles of healing. But where was the miracle for this baby girl? It is a mystery. But the family felt much better prepared to let her go, even blessed, after having been granted extra 8 months with her. During one of the conversations her mother had with a nurse regarding faith, the nurse commented, "you can tell the children who are surrounded by prayer."

After the funeral the family needed to send out over 300 cards to thank those who supported them with prayers and friendship. In spite of the unfathomable depth of pain, the grieving family was not unaware of the joys and sorrows of the larger family - the human family - who, they now believed, were capable of participating in the miracle of overcoming fear, together, even in times of great uncertainty, through the power of Love.

- Fr Peter -



*'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 1 Kgs 3:5.7-12**

*You have asked for wisdom.*

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this' the Lord said 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 118:57. 72. 76-77. 127-130. R. v.97**

**(R.) Lord, I love your commands.**

1. My part, I have resolved, O Lord,  
is to obey your word.  
The law from your mouth means more  
to me  
than silver and gold. (R.)
2. Let your love be ready to console me  
by your promise to your servant.  
Let your love come to me and I shall live  
for your law is my delight. (R.)
3. That is why I love your commands  
more than finest gold.  
That is why I rule my life by your  
precepts:  
I hate false ways. (R.)
4. Your will is wonderful indeed;  
therefore I obey it.  
The unfolding of your word gives light  
and teaches the simple. (R.)

**Second Reading Rom 8:28-30**

*He predestined us to become true images of his Son.*

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to

become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

**Gospel Acclamation See Mt 11:25**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Blessed are you, Father,**

**Lord of heaven and earth;**

**you have revealed to little ones the  
mysteries of the kingdom.**

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel Mt 13:44-52**

**(or shorter form Mt 13:44-46)**

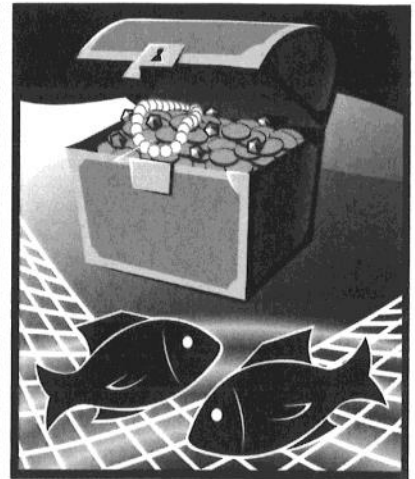
*He sells everything he owns and buys the field.*

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

'Have you understood all this?' They said, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well, then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.'



**Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA**

Two themes seem to weave through the readings for this Sunday: treasure and delight. The treasure is the extraordinary gift that comes from God; the delight is the joy that we experience when we realize that the treasure is ours. A third theme, which is found in the first reading, picks up a theme that we have considered several times during this period of Ordinary Time, namely, service of others.

The treasure is the kingdom of heaven. It is the prize that gives meaning to the present, and its fullest delight draws us into the future. The reign of God is the fulfillment of our deepest desires and our fondest hopes. Nothing in the world can compare with it, and that is why we are willing to sacrifice everything to attain it. The treasure that we find is really a gift that is given. We need not work to attain the kingdom, nor can we earn it in any way. It is given to us by God. All we have to do is accept it.

Solomon chose to be of service to others. In this he is a model for disciples to follow. We have discovered the treasure in the field; we have found the pearl of great price. What we have been given, we must now give to others. In giving we will lose nothing. In fact, we gain an abundance of blessings. All things work for good, and God is glorified in all. Such is the character of the kingdom of God.