



Regina Coeli Parish

Beverly Hills - In the Archdiocese of Sydney



Weekly Newsletter

Twenty Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time
18 October 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



There seems to have been a change in the air. Last Sunday, if I am not mistaken, a wedding took place here at Regina Coeli for the first time since March. Although many weddings had been scheduled for 2020, they were all cancelled or postponed on account of corona-restrictions. A world without weddings seems like a hopeless world, almost like a world without children. So it was with quiet thrill that I welcomed the beginning of the return of unashamedly celebratory weddings. By the way, I was not the celebrant. I only had to set things up for them and then observe with interest the unfolding of a joyous occasion from a forgotten past. At times there were greetings without social distancing, even kissing and hugging - all of the gestures which we once knew but had been frightened out of our system. Everyone exuded an air of unwavering determination to celebrate, as though they had been waiting a thousand years for this. I was astonished, amused and immensely relieved that none of them were parishioners from Regina Coeli. But I trust that there has been no outbreak, except an outbreak of joy! [Personally, I have always advocated (and still do) sustainable measures such as handwashing, reasonable social distancing, exercising, enjoying the outdoors and embracing the warm weather instead of relying on air-conditioning if we can help it!]

A change in the air could be perceived in a number of other ways too. Last Monday I loitered around the city as I am prone to do on my day off. I was surprised to see that the CBD seemed more crowded than it had been in a long while. Unlike me, an off-duty cleric, the majority of others were dressed for business. Nevertheless, they appeared to be enjoying themselves, as though they had all come out for the day, smartly dressed, to enjoy the fine weather and a timely change of scenery, in the company of their colleagues outside of Zoom. I could not help but wonder, 'What is going on? What has changed? When did it change?' As someone who has invested a lot of time in observing the phenomenon of the corona-crisis (although I have been doing so less as of late), I could still not pinpoint exactly when or how a turning point had been reached. But it was as though many in our society, without saying so or even being conscious of it, collectively decided to move on with their lives instead of lingering in fear. For example, I think that I might have been offered more handshakes in the past week than in the past 6 months put together! [As a general rule, I respond to greetings in the manner in which they have been offered to me, bodily speaking.]

Even the World Health Organisation (a.k.a. W.H.O.) has been speaking in a changed tone. At first they announced that around 10% of the world's population may have been infected with the coronavirus already. That's about 20 times more than the official number of confirmed cases around the world. This might sound like terrible news at first but I tend to think that it's the opposite. If the true prevalence has been far greater than we thought, then, it also means that the true fatality rate has been far less than we thought. After all, these numbers indicate that we might have over 99.85% chance of survival against the coronavirus, and our medical treatment of those who become severely ill only seems to be improving.

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The Week Ahead

Sun 18 Oct 29th Sun Ordinary Time	No need to book for Mass!	
Mon 19 Oct	No Mass	
Tues 20 Oct	9.15am	Mass
Wed 21 Oct	7am	Mass
Thurs 22 Oct	9.15am 2.00pm	Mass Afternoon Tea
Fri 23 Oct	9.15am	Mass
Sat 24 Oct	9.00am 9:25- 9:55am 4:15- 4:45pm 5pm	Mass Adoration & Reconciliation Reconciliation Vigil Mass (live-streamed on Facebook)
Sun 25 Oct 30th Sun Ordinary Time	8.30am 10.00am	Mass Mass

First Holy Communion

The Sacrament of First Holy Communion is to be celebrated for 58 of our Parish children throughout the month of November. During each Mass, 5 or 6 children will receive Jesus for the first time in the Eucharist. The children and their families will be seated in reserved pews at the front of the church. Thank you for understanding that these pews will not be available for parishioners at these Masses. Please keep the children and their families in your prayers.

Healing after Abortion

Rachel's Vineyard Ministries Weekend Retreat offers women and men a sanctuary in which to renew, rebuild and redeem hearts broken by abortion in a safe, supportive, confidential and non-judgmental environment. **The next healing retreat will be held 4-6 December 2020.** Join in an **Online Reflection - Called to Life** - a confidential **free** online individually guided reflection at a time to suit you. Please enquire about these programs at Rachel's Vineyard Ministries on their confidential number (voice mail): 0400 092 555 – more info at www.rachelsvineyard.org.au

Recently Deceased

Marie Byrne

In Loving Memory

Please remember those who are in ill health especially: Peter Peters, Monica Costa, Quang Vo, Matt Nugent, Bob Handerson, Bevan 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.

Safeguarding WWC Number

The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney Safeguarding Office requires all parishioners volunteering in liturgical and child related ministries to provide the parish your "Working With Children Check" (WWCC) number, together with your name and date of birth so that the parish can verify the status of the clearance. This includes Acolytes, Ministers of the Word (readers), Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and children's liturgy. If you haven't as yet provided this number to the parish please do so as soon as possible. To obtain your WWCC you may follow this link <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-working-children-check>

Rosary Statue

Mrs J Maher

27 Roseview Avenue
Ph: 9759 7136



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

2020	July	August	Sept*
2nd Collection	\$1715	\$3575	\$8078
Donation	\$1500	\$2424	\$313
1st Collection	\$160	\$0	\$90

**The practice of putting out a collection box at weekend Masses started only in September. These figures will be published at the very least monthly henceforth.*

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Then a doctor representing W.H.O., Dr David Nabarro, made the following statement which came as a surprise to some: 'We in the World Health Organization do not advocate lockdowns as the primary means of control of this virus. The only time we believe a lockdown is justified is to buy you time to reorganise, regroup, rebalance your resources; protect your health workers who are exhausted. But by and large, we'd rather not do it... We really do appeal to all world leaders, stop using lockdown as your primary method of control... Lockdowns have just one consequence that you must never ever belittle, and that is making poor people an awful lot poorer.'

Just to be clear, what is being called for here is not complacency but a good balance between reducing the spread of viruses and moving forward in a truly sustainable manner. After all, we wouldn't want to make one form of tragedy worse than it already is by allowing our vision of life to become skewed by one area of challenge to the forgetfulness of all the other areas, not to mention countless blessings! Furthermore, what we are currently hearing from W.H.O. seems to be what used to be considered 'common sense' of epidemiology until, somehow, it became all but forgotten during the global panic of 2020. Pope Francis has recently issued a new encyclical called *Fratelli Tutti* (on the fraternity and social friendship). I am slowly reading through it and hope to relay some of it to you as I go. So I leave you with a thought-provoking paragraph which highlights the importance of retaining historical consciousness:

'If someone tells young people to ignore their history, to reject the experiences of their elders, to look down on the past and to look forward to a future that he himself holds out, doesn't it then become easy to draw them along so that they only do what he tells them? He needs the young to be shallow, uprooted and distrustful, so that they can trust only in his promises and act according to his plans. That is how various ideologies operate: they destroy (or deconstruct) all differences so that they can reign unopposed. To do so, however, they need young people who have no use for history, who spurn the spiritual and human riches inherited from past generations, and are ignorant of everything that came before them.' (*Fratelli Tutti*, 13) **- Fr Peter -**

PS: parish bulletins have been printed in colour over the past 6 months in the hope of livening up a little what has been a rather desolate period. But colour prints are at least ten times more costly and therefore perhaps unnecessary except on special occasions. You can always download parish bulletins in colour from the parish website. Thank you.

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

Tax Receipts 2019-2020 Parishioners wishing to receive and end of financial year tax receipt, please contact Margaret at the parish office on Tuesday, 8:30am -1:30pm or Wednesdays & Fridays, 10:30am-3:30pm

Planned Giving Envelopes 2020-2021 available from the table at the back of the church.

Annual Parish Financial Report for the financial year of 2019-2020

Income	This Year \$	Last year \$	Expenditure	This Year \$	Last year \$
Planned Giving (2nd Collection)	61,600	71,726	Altar & Church	4,149	12,864
Loose coins (2nd Collection)	34,525	44,343	Electricity/Gas	7,771	7,716
Candles	7,646	12,772	Insurance	24,876	23,389
Donations	6,334	35,225	Car Expenses	9,258	8,815
Interest Received	25,619	32,652	Postage/Printing/Telephone	11,142	11,420
Hall Hire	64,354	63,208	Repair & Maintenance	19,935	42,045
Rent Income	19,464	20,900	Salaries/Superannuation (Staff)	41,212	47,382
Government Subsidies	22,000	-	Rental Expenses	2,450	2,924
Other	14,921	13,965	Other	36,587	26,119
Total Income	256,463	294,791	Total Expense	157,380	182,674
			Total Surplus	99,082	112,117

Holy Father's Appeal will take place for one more weekend. To give, please use the appeal envelopes provided at the door or phone the Fundraising Office at the Archdiocese of Sydney on during office hours on 1800 753 959.

First Reading Is 45:1.4-6

I have taken the hand of Cyrus to subdue nations before his countenance.

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whom he has taken by his right hand
to subdue nations before him
and strip the loins of kings,
to force gateways before him
that their gates be closed no more:

It is for the sake of my servant Jacob,
of Israel my chosen one,
that I have called you by your name,
conferring a title though you do not
know me.

I am the Lord, unrivalled;
there is no other God besides me.
Though you do not know me, I am you
that men may know from the rising to
the setting of the sun
that, apart from me, all is nothing.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 95:1. 3-5. 7-10. R. v. 7

(R.) Give the Lord glory and honour.

- 1 O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
Tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the
peoples. (R.)
- 2 The Lord is great and worthy of praise,
to be feared above all gods;
the gods of the heathens are naught.
It was the Lord who made the heavens.
(R.)
- 3 Give the Lord, you families of peoples,
give the Lord glory and power,
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Bring an offering and enter his courts.
(R.)
- 4 Worship the Lord in his temple.
O earth, tremble before him.
Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.'
He will judge the peoples in fairness.
(R.)

Second Reading 1 Thes 1:1-5

We are mindful of your faith, hope, and love.

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the
Church in Thessalonika which is in God the
Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing

you grace and peace from God the Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We always mention you in our prayers
and thank God for you all, and constantly
remember before God our Father how you
have shown your faith in action, worked for
love and persevered through hope, in our
Lord Jesus Christ.

We know, brothers, that God loves you and
that you have been chosen, because when
we brought the Good News to you, it came
to you not only as words, but as power and
as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

Gospel Acclamation Phil 2:15. 16

Alleluia, alleluia!

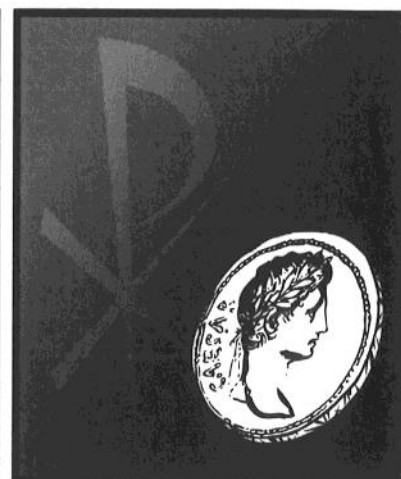
*Shine on the world like bright stars;
you are offering it the word of life.*

Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 22:15-21

*Give to Caesar the things that belong to Caesar and to God
the things that are God's.*

The Pharisees went away to work out
between them how to trap Jesus in what
he said. And they sent their disciples to
him, together with the Herodians, to say,
'Master, we know that you are an honest
man and teach the way of God in an honest
way, and that you are not afraid of anyone,
because a man's rank means nothing
to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it
permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?'
But Jesus was aware of their malice and
replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this
trap for me? Let me see the money you pay
the tax with.' They handed him a denarius,
and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose
name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then
said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar
what belongs to Caesar – and to God what
belongs to God.'



Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

The frequency with which we consider
the question of insider-outsider is an
indication of how important
universalism and the breaking down
of boundaries is within our religious
tradition. All peoples, all lands are
called on to praise God. Furthermore,
God cares about and cares for all
people (see Is 19:25), and God works
through all people to accomplish good
in the world: Gandhi, a Hindu of
Indian origin; Martin Luther King, Jr, a
Baptist minister; Susan B. Anthony, a
suffragist; Nelson Mandela, a Black
South African, etc. Human beings
have always realised that, in
comparison with the grandeur and
expansiveness of the universe within
which they live, they are weak and
vulnerable creatures. This has led
them to believe in and offer homage
to a divine being, or beings. Praise of
God has always been an expression of
awe and gratitude as well as humility.

If neither gender, nor race, nor age,
nor class nor culture qualifies one for
being an insider, what does? Today's
readings suggest that it is service of
others. In breaking down the walls of
prejudice, the social activists of our
own age liberate not only the
oppressed groups to which they
belong, but also those who oppress
them. The lives of these dynamic
people show us that service of others
draws them into our circles and
encircles us in theirs. With open arms
God invites all into an embrace of
divine love. As God has embraced us,
so we are called to embrace all
others.

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