



# Regina Coeli Parish

Beverly Hills - In the Archdiocese of Sydney



## Weekly Newsletter

### First Sunday of Advent 29 November 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

A new year has begun with Advent, at least according to the Church's liturgical calendar. It seems a little too early for us to dare to hope that the strangeness of 2020 might be well and truly behind us. Nevertheless, the gentle flow of our liturgical seasons can help us move wisely forward. After all, on the first Sunday of Advent, we are strongly encouraged to *stay awake!* But stay awake for what?

Personally, I tend to think that the strangeness of 2020 has revolved around two central issues in particular: the coronavirus and the US Presidential Election. These two issues alone, with no shortage of controversy between them, probably have been responsible for countless hours of lost sleep for many around the world who felt that they had to stay awake just to keep up. But is this what Jesus had in mind when he asked us to stay awake?

The last readings of the Church's liturgical year, during the countdown toward Advent, are replete with references to ominous signs, with Jesus saying things to the effect of: 'Read the signs of the times! Do not close your eyes. Instead, open them, look around and read the signs of the times, and know that the kingdom of God is near!' But what sort of signs did Jesus have in mind? Natural disasters, wars, persecutions, supernatural events, etc. In other words, the signs which Jesus had in mind were not just strange but also *end-of-the-world-strange!*

There is something oddly appealing, even fascinating, about the end-of-the-world-strangeness. The mainstream media likes it because they get to become, once again, the centre of everyone's attention. Politicians like it because they get to make decisions more easily, with far less opposition, without the burden of due process at times; after all, one famous politician apparently said, 'Never let a good crisis go to waste.' But what about the rest of us? What could possibly explain our fascination, even obsession, with the end-of-the-world-strangeness?

I suspect that the answer has a lot to do with the fact that *life is a cross*. Life can be overbearing, to the point of making us feel overburdened. Therefore something like the end-of-the-world-strangeness can seem like a convenient escape or a welcome relief. After all, who cares about the daily struggles of life when there is a crisis on an apocalyptic scale! Wouldn't we be tempted to cancel everything and hunker down, whilst being sustained by the adrenaline rush induced by the unfolding of an imaginary drama?

But this is not the kind of response Jesus expected from us when he asked us to pay attention and read the signs of the times. As a matter of fact, he explicitly warned us about the danger of becoming fixated on a be-all-and-end-all type of temporal solution, at the expense of a more holistic approach, and falling victim to false hope followed by despair. Rather, Jesus asked us to pay attention so as to care more, not less, about what truly matters in life. He asked us to read the signs of the times, so as to be urged to return to the basics (the foundational things), such as faith, family, friendship, true well-being, etc.

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#### 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 29 Nov First Sunday of Advent		<b>No need to book for Mass!</b>
Mon 30 Nov St Andrew, apostle		No Mass
Tues 1 Dec	9.15am	Mass
Wed 2 Dec	7am 10am	Mass <b>Funeral Mass Robert Henderson</b>
Thurs 3 Dec Saint Francis Xavier, priest	9.15am 2.00pm	Mass <b>Afternoon Tea</b>
Fri 4 Dec	9.15am	Mass
Sat 5 Dec	9.00am 9:25-9:55am	Mass Adoration & Reconciliation
	4:15-4:45pm 5pm	Reconciliation Vigil Mass (live-streamed on Facebook)
Sun 6 Dec Second Sun of Advent	8.30am 10.00am	Mass Mass

### Recently Deceased

Robert Henderson, Paul Kensey, Dr Stefan Sander

### In Loving Memory

Kay Zaronias, Philip & Gina Spireri, all Holy Soul, especially those in most need

### Please remember those who are in ill

**health especially:** George Cooley, Anne Kensey, Peter Peters, Monica Costa, Quang Vo, Matt Nugent, Ann Mc Dowell, Christopher McDowell, Damiano Serravalle, Michelle Makin, George Dagher, Mrs Saba, Josephina Algozzina, Pat Mortimer, Mrs Donald Burch, Mary Daniels, Geoff McDowell, Elena Mura, Mr TD (Terry) Wall, Kim Delaney, Lauren Sotano, Sam Hy, Georgia Brown, Luke Compton, Paul Camelotti.

### Rosary Statue

Mrs I Ovens

19 Ponyara Road  
Ph: 9150 9414



#### 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

Anne & the Kensey family would like to thank most sincerely all those who joined them in celebrating the Mass of Thanksgiving for the life of Paul.

It was very much appreciated!

Many thanks also for the many cards and flowers received &

the prayers and masses being offered up for the repose of his soul!

Anne Kensey



### Sign in by scanning the QR code!

The QR code (for those who use smartphones) allows you to sign in without having to write down your private details on paper. **Scan with camera, not the government app!**



When signing in by scanning the QR code you also have the option of providing us with your email address. This is solely for parish use. You only need to do this once. For those who don't have smart phones or simply prefer the old method, you can still sign in manually on paper. Thank you!

### SAVE THE DATE:

Regina Coeli Virtual Christmas carols 18/12 at 7pm via live streaming on Facebook Join us online as we sing the Christmas favourites and connect as a parish community If you play an instrument and would like to participate we'd love to hear from you. Rehearsal will be 11/12 at 7pm in the church. More information to follow Enquiries please contact Natasha-[nat\\_demel@live.com.au](mailto:nat_demel@live.com.au) or Lauren Lim - [laurenlim650@gmail.com](mailto:laurenlim650@gmail.com)

Monthly Report	October 2020
<b>2nd Collection</b>	<b>\$7139.45</b>
<b>Online Giving</b>	<b>\$2440</b>
<b>Donation</b>	<b>\$1100</b>
1st Collection	\$283*

*\*The 1st collection box was not placed in the church until the first weekend of November.*



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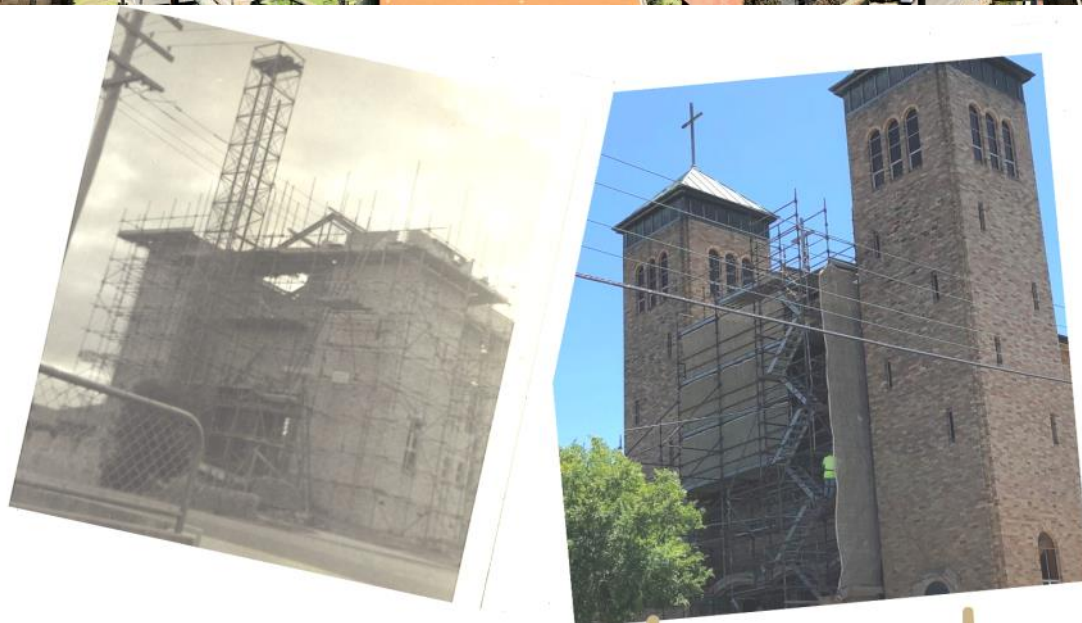
Christmas is now on the horizon. In Jesus, God came to us as a delicate baby - someone who needed to be held with care and tenderness. May the strangeness of our time (even the end-of-the-world-strangeness) be a salutary reminder to us of the importance of embracing the basic things of life with utmost care and tenderness, so as to strengthen the foundation upon which our lives are built! - Fr Peter -



## **Christmas Play 2020**



Dear parish community, we warmly invite all children who would like to be part of the Christmas play for the Family Christmas Vigil Mass on 24th December to please come to the Hall on Sunday 6th December for our first meeting from 11- 11.45am following the 10am mass. Rehearsals will be held on the following two Sundays following the 10am mass. Please feel free to email your details if you're interested but can't make the initial meeting. We look forward to seeing you, Rosetta and Tina (email: [rosetta.p@outlook.com](mailto:rosetta.p@outlook.com)).



*Then and now!*

### **Repair complete!**

The scope of repair work included:

- ◆ Replacing the entire panel under the front eave plus some adjustments around/inside the eave
  - ◆ Removing the old seal and re-sealing the stain-glass window of our lady
  - ◆ Minor works on a faulty section of the roof near the front
  - ◆ Water-proofing the surface area above the three front doors
- Approx. cost: \$23000 not including GST*

**First Reading Is 63:16-17; 64:1.3-8**

*Oh that you would tear the heavens apart and come down.*

You, Lord, yourself are our Father,  
Our Redeemer is your ancient name.  
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your  
ways  
and harden our hearts against fearing  
you?

Return, for the sake of your servants,  
the tribes of your inheritance.

Oh, that you would tear the heavens  
open and come down  
– at your Presence the mountains  
would melt.

No ear has heard,  
no eye has seen  
any god but you act like this  
for those who trust him.

You guide those who act with integrity  
and keep your ways in mind.

You were angry when we were sinners;  
we had long been rebels against you.  
We were all like men unclean,  
all that integrity of ours like filthy  
clothing.

We have all withered like leaves  
and our sins blew us away like the  
wind.

No one invoked your name  
or roused himself to catch hold of you.

For you hid your face from us  
and gave us up to the power of our  
sins.

And yet, Lord, you are our Father;  
we the clay, you the potter,  
we are all the work of your hand.

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19 R. v.4**

**R. Lord, make us turn to you, let us see  
your face and we shall be saved.**

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us,  
shine forth from your cherubim  
throne.  
O Lord, rouse up your might,  
O Lord, come to our help. (R.)
2. God of hosts, turn again, we  
implore,  
look down from heaven and see.  
Visit this vine and protect it,  
the vine your right hand has  
planted. (R.)

3. May your hand be on the man you  
have chosen,  
the man you have given your  
strength.  
And we shall never forsake you  
again:  
give us life that we may call upon  
your name. (R.)

**Second Reading 1 Cor 1:3-9**

*The revelation we looked for, Christ Jesus our Lord.*

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus  
Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the  
graces you have received through Jesus  
Christ. I thank him that you have been  
enriched in so many ways, especially  
in your teachers and preachers; the  
witness to Christ has indeed been  
strong among you so that you will not  
be without any of the gifts of the Spirit  
while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus  
Christ to be revealed; and he will keep  
you steady and without blame until  
the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus  
Christ, because God by calling you has  
joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and  
God is faithful.

**Gospel Acclamation Ps 84:8**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Lord, show us your mercy and love,  
and grant us your salvation.**

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel Mk 13:33-37**

*Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your  
guard, stay awake, because you never  
know when the time will come. It is like  
a man travelling abroad: he has gone  
from home, and left his servants in  
charge, each with his own task; and he  
has told the doorkeeper to stay awake.  
So stay awake, because you do not  
know when the master of the house is  
coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow,  
dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he  
must not find you asleep. And what I say  
to you I say to all: Stay awake!'



**Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA**

Today's readings contain several  
images: the faithfulness of those  
who suffer, even as they lament  
their predicament; the admonition  
to watch and wait; the expectation  
of the coming of the Day of the  
Lord. As trustees of the one who is  
coming, we live in the 'in between'  
time of ambiguity and hope. The  
placement of these readings at the  
beginning of Advent shapes the  
context for understanding the  
entire season. They fix our gaze on  
the world of human pain and then  
moves beyond it to the hope of a  
brighter future. Lamentation and  
expectation find fulfilment in the  
Day of the Lord.

Waiting is a prominent image this  
Sunday. Some people wait to be  
released from suffering, others  
await the second coming of Christ.  
Waiting saps our energies and  
stifles our enthusiasm. Yet wait we  
must, and as we wait, we wonder:  
'What should I be doing?' The  
readings suggest that we should  
wait with patient expectation for  
the day of reconciliation and peace;  
we should wait in joyful hope that  
what is to come will come soon.  
While we wait, we should faithfully  
fulfil our responsibilities. We  
believe that we have a future worth  
waiting for, that there are promises  
that God will keep. And so we look  
expectantly to the Day of the Lord,  
that future day of ultimate  
fulfilment.

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