



# Regina Coeli Parish

Beverly Hills - In the Archdiocese of Sydney



## Weekly Newsletter

### Third Sunday of Advent

### 13 December 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, 'Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.' (Matthew 11:28-30)*

This is a Gospel reading I came across three times this week: twice on Wednesday when the parish mass was followed by another mass with school; once on Friday at the funeral mass of Nita McGree - a former parishioner who passed away at the age of 97. The timely advent of this particular Gospel reading seems providential for more reasons than one. For example, I asked some teachers on Tuesday, 'Do you feel tired?' Their answer was a resounding 'yes.' Then one of them added: 'Yes, especially with this year being what it has been'

2020 has been an exhausting year but mentally rather than physically so. After all, physical activities had to be reduced for most of us and any greater-than-usual-sense of exhaustion we might be feeling at present would have to be acutely mental. So, yes, it turns out that things like anxiety, stress, confusion, uncertainty and fear really do take a lot out of us, probably more than we tend to realise! The big question is, given how overburdened we feel, what would it mean for us to find profound rest?

Jesus said, 'Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.' The notion of shouldering the yoke of Jesus and learning from him unmistakably evokes the notion of taking up the cross and following him. In other words, true rest is found precisely in embracing our crosses rather than walking away from them. The rest which Jesus offers us works by way of renewing our strength rather than by removing all challenges from us. And the key to strength - the key to having our strength renewed by the mercy of God - is to become gentle and humble in heart, just like Jesus!

Gentleness and humility aren't the first qualities we tend to associate with those who are supposed to be "strong." If human beings were atomised individuals who had no real connection to anyone else, then, yes, gentleness and humility might not lead to 'strength' in any meaningful sense of the word. But all that changes when *being human* comes to be defined by 'communion.' Gentleness and humility help to produce the ideal environment in which trust flourishes. Where there is trust there is communion. To the extent that we are made strong by our communion with God and with one another, being gentle and humble would be the best pathway to strength!

I have made some strong statements on a few sensitive topics especially during 2020. My intention was to be the countervailing voice to the mainstream narrative which I thought was overwhelmingly one-sided. I was also protesting against the censoriousness of our public sphere where expressing a different view is becoming increasingly difficult. I thought I was showing "strength" where it was wanting. But I regret the fact that all of this, all too often, came at the expense of gentleness and humility. The words of Jesus have helped me articulate what has been quietly both-ering me. To the extent that I lacked gentleness and humility, I was putting the strength of our communion to the test and unnecessarily so; I might have ended up doing more weakening than (long-term) strengthening which I intended. I am sorry about this and hope to be more gentle and humble, including when contested issues might need to be addressed again in the future.

- Fr Peter -



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## The Week Ahead

Sun 13 Dec Third Sun of Advent		<b>No need to book for Mass!</b>
Mon 14 Dec St John of the Cross	10.00am	<b>Funeral Mass: George Cooley</b>
Tue 15 Dec	9.15am	Mass
Wed 16 Dec	7am 9.15am	Mass School Mass (Graduation)
Thu 17 Dec	9.15am 2.00pm	Mass <b>Afternoon Tea</b>
Fri 18 Dec	9.15am	Mass
Sat 12 Dec	9.00am 9.25-9.55am	Mass Adoration & Reconciliation
	4.15-4.45pm 5pm	Reconciliation Vigil Mass
Sun 19 Dec Fourth Sun of Advent	8.30am 10.00am	Mass Mass



The latest from  
Archbishop Anthony Fisher  
regarding Mass attendance:

In light of the significant easing of the restrictions upon church attendance, I rescind my decree of 20 March 2020 dispensing the faithful of Sydney from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and the Holy Days of Christmas and the Assumption. Under canon 1247 attendance at Mass on those days is now obligatory once again. Of course, we want people to come to Mass out of love more than obedience, but love itself brings responsibilities. Those who are of great age, have health conditions or are otherwise anxious about the risks of COVID-19 are free to remain at home and find another way of keeping holy the Sunday Sabbath: I have indicated some ways in my previous letters.

### Christmas candle

You may or may not have noticed that our Christmas candle looks somewhat underwhelming, almost anticlimactic. That's because it is a selection from our stash of old candles which appear to be crying out, 'I still have more to burn in me!'

But the candle seems to have potential. Even a simple touch could transform it into something much more Christmassy. Without needing to go out of your way, if you have an item or two at home with which to decorate what is currently a minimalist candle, then, please have a go!



### Recently Deceased

Anne Courtney, George Cooley, Nitta McGree, Robert Henderson, Paul Kensey, Dr Stefan Sander

### In Loving Memory

Josephine Bajada, Spiro Bajada, Louis Goveia, Edaline Rodrigues.

**Please remember those who are in ill health especially:** Carmen Bajada, 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

Mr & Mrs P. Peters

38 Weston Ave.  
Ph: 9533 4547



**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

### The latest on corona-restrictions:

**Up to 260 people can gather in the church of Regina Coeli, under the 2 square metre per person rule. Please continue to sign in, hand-sanitise and social-distance wherever possible. Thank you.**

### SAVE THE DATE:

**Regina Coeli Christmas carols (pre-recorded) will be on Facebook from 20 December.** Watch 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)



## No Parish Christmas Party in 2020

You might have guessed by now that Parish Christmas Party isn't happening this year. This is sad. To be honest, I am not even sure what the right decision was. All I know is that it seems understandable, or at least defensible, to not hold Parish Christmas Party during the notorious year of 2020. I was probably less concerned about actual risks and more concerned about procedural complications, not to mention the fact that our base of volunteers may not be what it used to be. I am hoping to reassess where we are once 2020 is well and truly behind us. On the bright side, we can aim to have a better-than-ever-Parish Christmas Party in 2021! I know for a fact that there are at least a few parishioners who are genuinely disappointed that Parish Christmas Party isn't happening this year. I think that this fact in itself is something to be celebrated - a sign that parish life really does matter at least to some. Please hold on to this feeling; let's return to the subject next year with intensified enthusiasm and make our future celebrations really count!



*But there are some Christmas parties which simply cannot be stopped!*

### Christmas Mass Times for 2020:

On December 24\*:

Christmas Vigil (Family) Mass at 6PM  
Midnight Mass at midnight

On 25 December:

Christmas Day Mass at 8.30AM  
Christmas Day Mass at 10AM

*\*The possibility of a second Vigil Mass is still being contemplated*



### More from the Archbishop:

By a happy providence, this very weekend we launch *Go Make Disciples*, our **archdiocesan mission plan** several years in the making. As things have turned out, it will be our COVID recovery plan as well. It is all about personal and community renewal, so that we can be the kind of missionary disciples and welcoming communities needed for the new normal.

### Our Lady of Guadalupe – Star of the New Evangelisation

Our Lady has long been referred to as a guiding 'star' on the journey of Faith. We only have to recite the twelfth century prayers of St Bernard of Clairvaux or to sing the oft repeated verse 'O Star of the Sea', to remember once again its Marian overtones. We have St John Paul II to thank for coining the term, the 'New Evangelisation' which was used for the first time in Ecclesia in Oceania. He expanded on this more fully in the Exhortation Ecclesia in America, where he appended it with the universally renowned title, Our Lady of Guadalupe such that we now had, "Holy Mary of Guadalupe... Star of the first and new evangelization"

We read in St Luke's Gospel how Mary, whilst pregnant herself, journeyed to be with Elizabeth once heard that her cousin was with child. Such was the effect of her visitation, that the child in Elizabeth's womb leapt for joy! We see here the great example of this first 'evangeliser'. Our Lady brings Christ to those she meets and mothers. This again is what the miraculous image of Guadalupe conveys. It is recorded that some 8 million Indians were brought to the Faith through the encounter with Our Lady of Guadalupe and, specifically, because of the 'God' she carried and by way of the maternal love she gave in plenitude to the poor and rejected of society.

Thank you to the mystery donor of the statue!

She continues to do the same in the Church today. Pope Francis, whose love for the Virgin of Guadalupe is well known, picks up the title 'Star of the New Evangelisation' in his Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium*. He makes clear that, "there is a Marian 'style' to the Church's work of evangelisation. Whenever we look to Mary, we come to believe once again in the revolutionary nature of love and tenderness." This way of "love and tenderness" is at the heart of the New Evangelisation and, Our Lady of Guadalupe, is our perfect example of the new evangelisation in action and the star who will always guide and on our way.

- Daniel Ang, Director, Sydney Centre for Evangelisation -



**First Reading Is 61:1-2.10-11**

*I exult for joy in the Lord.*

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,  
for the Lord has anointed me.  
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,  
to bind up hearts that are broken;  
to proclaim liberty to captives,  
freedom to those in prison;  
to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.  
'I exult for joy in the Lord,  
my soul rejoices in my God,  
for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation,  
he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity,  
like a bridegroom wearing his wreath,  
like a bride adorned in her jewels.  
'For as the earth makes fresh things grow,  
as a garden makes seeds spring up,  
so will the Lord make both integrity and praise  
spring up in the sight of the nations.'

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Lk 1:46-50. 53-54. R. Is 61:10**

**(R.) My soul rejoices in my God.**

1. My soul glorifies the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.  
He looks on his servant in her nothingness;  
henceforth all ages will call me blessed. (R.)
2. The Almighty works marvels for me.  
Holy his name!  
His mercy is from age to age,  
on those who fear him. (R.)
3. He fills the starving with good things,  
sends the rich away empty.  
He protects Israel, his servant,  
remembering his mercy. (R.)

**Second Reading 1 Thes 5:16-24**

*May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

**Gospel Acclamation Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;  
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.**

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel Jn1:6-8.19-28**

*There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.*

A man came, sent by God.  
His name was John.  
He came as a witness,  
as a witness to speak for the light,  
so that everyone might believe through him.  
He was not the light,  
only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:  
Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.



**Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA**

Traditionally, the third Sunday of Advent is called *Gaudete Sunday*, the Sunday of Joy. The joy of this Sunday comes both from the message of the readings and from the anticipation that Christmas is nearing. As described in the Isaian passage, the Messiah is the one imbued with the spirit and with the power of the prophet, the one who will fulfill the promises of God. It becomes obvious in the Gospel that the Messiah is the one proclaimed by the Baptist. John cleared a path for the coming of the anointed one, and from that time on the lives of believers have been the pathway through which the Messiah has entered the world.

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