



Regina Coeli Parish

Beverly Hills - In the Archdiocese of Sydney



Weekly Newsletter

**Fourth Sunday of Advent
20 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

Pope Francis has announced the launch of a special year dedicated to St Joseph. As a matter of fact, the Year of St Joseph has started already (on 8 December 2020) and is due to conclude on 8 December 2021. Why has this happened? Among other reasons, it so happens that 8 December 2020 marked the 150th anniversary of St Joseph being declared 'Patron of the Catholic Church' by Blessed Pope Pius IX in 1870. The Apostolic Penitentiary (the relevant Vatican agency) has stated that the Year of St Joseph is intended to 'perpetuate the entrustment of the whole Church to the powerful patronage of the Custodian of Jesus.' They hoped that, during this period, the faithful would be able to commit themselves 'with prayer and good works, to obtain, with the help of St. Joseph, head of the heavenly Family of Nazareth, comfort and relief from the serious human and social tribulations that besiege the contemporary world today.'

Who is St Joseph? In *Patris Corde* (the Apostolic Letter marking the 150th anniversary, meaning 'with a father's heart'), Pope Francis wrote:

We know that Joseph was a lowly carpenter (cf. Mt 13:55), betrothed to Mary (cf. Mt 1:18; Lk 1:27). He was a "just man" (Mt 1:19), ever ready to carry out God's will as revealed to him in the Law (cf. Lk 2:22.27.39) and through four dreams (cf. Mt 1:20; 2:13.19.22). After a long and tiring journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, he beheld the birth of the Messiah in a stable, since "there was no place for them" elsewhere (cf. Lk 2:7). He witnessed the adoration of the shepherds (cf. Lk 2:8-20) and the Magi (cf. Mt 2:1-12), who represented respectively the people of Israel and the pagan peoples.

The Holy Father went on to note that, after Mary, no saint is mentioned more in church documents than St Joseph. Some of the titles given to St Joseph include: *Patron of the Catholic Church, Patron of workers, Patron of a happy death, Guardian of the Redeemer*. The pope remarked that, during the pandemic, the truly heroic tended to be the often-overlooked-ordinary people – those rarely covered by the "headlines." These were the people who understood that human beings are saved in communion and not in isolation. Accordingly, the pope said, 'Each of us can discover in Joseph – the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence – an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble. Saint Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation. A word of recognition and of gratitude is due to them all.' I look forward to reflecting on the significance of St Joseph the "hidden giant" and sharing it with you over the next 12 months. Speaking of gentle giants:

There was a quiet man among us. I knew him for two reasons: he was a frequent mass goer and he looked after the garden in front of the parish centre as a volunteer. But, apart from these two things, I hardly knew him because he was a very quiet man. I guess that I took him for granted and did not go out of my way to find out more about him. All that changed when I was asked to visit him one day and bring him holy communion.

Continued on Page 3

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 20 Dec Fourth Sun of Advent	8.30am 10.00am 2.00-4.00pm	No need to book for Mass! Reconciliation
Mon 21 Dec		
Tue 22 Dec	9.15am 6.00-8.00pm	Mass Reconciliation
Wed 23 Dec	7am	Mass
Thu 24 Dec Christmas Eve	6.00pm 8.00pm 12:00am	Vigil (Family) Mass Vigil (simple) Mass Midnight Mass
Fri 25 Dec Christmas Day	8.30am 10.00am	Mass Mass
Sat 26 Dec St Stephen	9.00am 9:25-9:55am 4:15-4:45pm 5pm	Mass Adoration & Reconciliation Reconciliation Vigil Mass
Sun 27 Dec Feast of Holy Family	8.30am 10.00am	Mass Mass

Recently Deceased

Anne Courtney, George Cooley, Nitta McGree, Robert Henderson, John Bonner, Paul Kensey,

In Loving Memory

Maria Addolorata Tesoriero, Peter Pezzutti, Rina & Matt Taglini, Godfrey Perera

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.



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 Mass Times 2020



On Thursday December 24*:

Christmas Vigil (Family) Mass at 6PM

- Children's nativity play
- No parking in the carpark
- Audio will be made available in the carpark
- Please be prepared (e.g. bring a picnic rug) to stay in the carpark if necessary

Christmas Vigil (simple) Mass at 8PM

- For those who wish to avoid large crowds but feel that Midnight Mass is too late

Midnight Mass at midnight

On Friday 25 December:

Christmas Day Mass at 8.30AM

Christmas Day Mass at 10AM



Christmas Reconciliation Times

[Anonymous reconciliation]

Sunday 20th December 2-4PM

Tuesday 22nd December 6-8PM

Rosary Statue

Mrs T Pezzutti

200A Moorefields Road8
Ph: 0403 060 376



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

Monthly Report

November 2020

2nd Collection

\$9187.78

Online Giving

\$1940

Donation

\$1711.40

1st Collection

\$2037.57

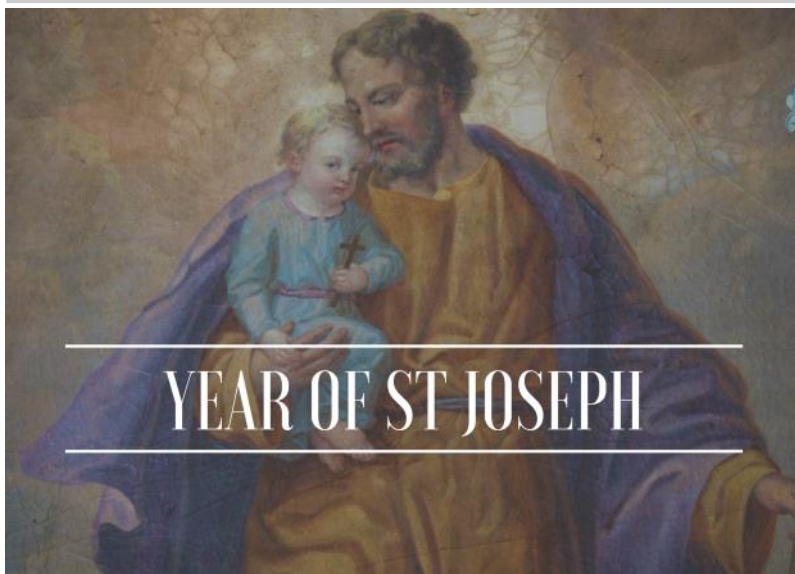
Continued from Page 1

My heart sank when I learned that his illness was terminal and aggressively so. He told me that he wished he had more time. What was astonishing was his reason: he wished he had more time so that he could complete some of the works he had been doing or at least leave them in a better state! He meant not paid work but all the wonderful things he had been doing as a volunteer. What was even more astonishing was what he said next: 'At first I wished I had more time but, upon having thought about it, I realised how selfish this was.' What he meant was that he hoped to surrender to God's plan rather than, as it were, try to hold on. Absolutely stunned, I thought to myself, 'Here is a man I have been seeing around the parish on a frequent basis and yet I had no idea; I have been blind to the sanctity of this man!'

The funeral mass was relatively small (and unsurprisingly so) for this quiet and unassuming man who was highly disciplined in the way of being 'poor in spirit' (c.f. Matthew 5:3). There were three groups of people who did not know one another: his relatively small family, a small group of parishioners and a group of non-Catholics who knew him as the "oldest but strongest" volunteer in the wider community. At the wake I got to speak to many of them and found them to be eager to reflect on the beauty of this man's life. He was a familiar figure to them all and yet there was something about him which made a gentle but deep impression on them. He was, as it were, the most extraordinary ordinary person whose character spoke more loudly than words. Three things emerged as I listened to others' remembrance of him: he was always making himself available for anything he could do to help which meant that, really, he was making himself entirely available to the Lord, not least through daily prayer; he was considerate and found small ways to be kind to those around him by sharing with them anything which was superfluous to his basic needs; finally, everything he did was, to quote one of the mourners, 'understated,' as though he was always telling himself, 'I have only done what was my duty.' (c.f. Luke 7:10)

I used to think that being poor in spirit was more of a condition than a virtue. But it makes sense to call it a resounding virtue for more reasons than one. It is the virtue of 'not wanting, not being grasping or wilful,' in a manner akin to the spirit of the verse, 'The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.' (Psalm 23:1) After all, Jesus said, 'Blessed are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven.' (Matthew 5:3) Advent presents us with a great lineup of those who excelled in the virtue of being poor in spirit (a.k.a. humility): Mary, John the Baptist and, last but not least, Joseph! No doubt, St Joseph used to dream of having his own biological family someday. But when Mary became unexpectedly pregnant he was told in a dream, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit.' (Matthew 1:20) So, Joseph had to let go of his old dream and patiently re-imagine it by trusting in God's plan; he had to be heroic in exercising the virtue of being poor in spirit. But to what end? What did he leave behind? What was his legacy? It seems to me that saints come in all shapes and sizes: some have high profiles, others are more hidden; some are known for their brilliant gifts, others shine quietly, gently but firmly. But they are all beautiful. Thinking of them feels like remembering a song. And they make you want to sing their song to others and by doing so remember them.

- Fr Peter -



*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.*

*Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.*

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.

First Reading 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

The kingdom of David will be established for ever in the sight of the Lord.

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent'. Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 88:2-5, 27, 29. R. see v.2

(R.) For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. (R.)
2. 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to David my servant:
I will establish your dynasty for ever
and set up your throne through all ages.' (R.)
3. He will say to me: 'You are my father,
my God, the rock who saves me.'
I will keep my love for him always;
or him my covenant shall endure. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 16:25-27

The mystery kept secret for endless ages is now revealed.

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation Lk 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!

**I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.**

Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 1:26-38

You will conceive and bear a son.

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

The psalm responses are from the English Translation of the Lectionary for the Mass © 1981 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved. The psalm texts, from The Psalms, A New Translation, © 1963 by The Grail, England and used by permission of the publishers. The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers.
© 2017 Creative Ministry Resources Pty Ltd
All use must be in accordance with your user licensing agreement.



Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

The world in which we live and the events of which we are a part are the stage upon which the drama of salvation is enacted. God works through real flesh and blood people, those like David, who occupy the seats of power and influence as well as those like Mary and us, who are unseen and unknown. All can be agents of salvation. God's future is in our hands. Human history is really the history of salvation. Each turn of God's revealing causes us to wonder at what might come next. In this tension, mystery is revealed. What was hidden is now made known. Jesus establishes a people of covenant promise. Still, the mystery is unknown, for it continues to come to us from the future, revealing more and more of itself in the junctures of history.

The waiting of Advent is over. In the face of the impossible, God works the possible. During Advent, we have been waiting for the realisation of the promise made to David. We have been waiting for Mary's yes. With this yes, hope is enlivened, and history is changed. There is an unimaginable future for all people, a future that comes from God. Salvation is created among us, and the fate of history is altered by a godly presence. This salvation resides in the hearts of those who believe in the gift, and who stay awake eagerly to know its coming. With David we await it, with the nations we long for it, with Mary we behold it.