



Regina Coeli Parish

Beverly Hills - In the Archdiocese of Sydney



Weekly Newsletter

Second Sunday of Advent 6 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

The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up. (2 Peter 3:10)

What a strange description, not least because the Day of the Lord is said to be coming in the manner of a thief! And yet the "thief motif" is repeated numerous times in the New Testament, including by Jesus himself who, as a matter of fact, seems to have started it. So, the question is, what does Jesus have in common with a thief?

Blindspots are, as it were, the paradise of thieves. The success of their "craft" depends on not being seen or caught. Therefore, as long as there are blindspots to be exploited, there is a future for the thieves of this world. What about Jesus? What could possibly explain his close identification with blindspots? Needless to say, Jesus does not want to hide himself as such; instead, what he desires is to reveal himself but in a proper manner - in the manner of God! How we see the world can be quite different from how God sees the world. Our ways can be quite different from God's ways. Therefore the rule of thumb seems to be that Jesus reveals himself in such a manner as to bring us closer to God's vision and God's ways. This means that Jesus is present especially where we haven't reached yet, namely, our blindspots.

Last Thursday I had to travel to Tahmoor in order to be available for reconciliation and Mass at a Year 12 retreat. I knew that my car was low on fuel as I left Sydney but felt confident that there would soon be a gas station on Hume Motorway. Perhaps I was distracted/tired and missed the first gas station, but a bad feeling came over me as I drove past the Campbelltown exit and the fuel gauge appeared to be crashing. Finally, there was a rest area in sight. But, alas, this was a rest area without a gas station! I pulled in anyway because, according to the dashboard display, my poor car had less than 7km left in it. Just then I saw a sign on the road which announced that the next gas station was...15km away!

A nightmare seemed to be unfolding in slow motion. Not only was I going to be late, it also seemed possible that I would never make it to the retreat. Fortunately, I was not stranded alone; there were plenty of cars, 4WD's and trucks in the rest area. Forcing myself to overcome awkwardness/embarrassment, I approached the other drivers to see if they could help. To be honest, I was a little taken aback by the promptness with which they all said 'no.' After the 5th or 6th rejection, I decided to call the NRMA Roadside Assistance whose automated system failed to inspire in me any hope for urgent response. Just then a small truck drove into the rest area. It was the kind of truck you probably wouldn't buy even if it were offered to you for free - old, rusted and barely running as though by some ancient, mechanical miracle. Furthermore, it was carrying all kinds of junk whose mysterious purpose was beyond anyone's guess. Inside were two blokes who, to be frank, looked as though they had not showered in a few days and could never be suspected of being, let's say, "overeducated." Thinking myself devoid of anything to lose, I explained my situation to these blokes who, without a moment of hesitation, descended from the vehicle to help, like some angels in disguise.

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The Week Ahead

Sun 6 Dec Second Sun of Advent		No need to book for Mass!
Mon 7 Dec St Ambrose		No Mass
Tues 8 Dec Immaculate Conception	9.15am	Mass
Wed 9 Dec	7am 9am	Mass Advent School Mass
Thurs 10 Dec	9.15am 2.00pm	Mass Afternoon Tea
Fri 11 Dec	9.15am 1.30pm	Mass Funeral Mass: Nitta McGree
Sat 12 Dec	9.00am 9:25-9:55am	Mass Adoration & Reconciliation
	4:15-4:45pm 5pm	Reconciliation Vigil Mass
Sun 13 Dec Third Sun of Advent	8.30am 10.00am	Mass (live-streamed on Face- book) Mass

Recently Deceased

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

Mrs I. Ovens

17 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

Excerpts from the Words of Remembrance

Robert James Henderson, born on the 10th February 1937 in Tamworth NSW to George and Vera Henderson the proud youngest son of 12 children.



As a young Man he attended a CYO social gathering at Dulwich Hill with some National Service friends, these were very popular back in the day. Where believe it or not he saw the love of his life Janice Currie...Bob firstly had to convert to a catholic to which he did, they were married and for 60 years they have remained so, AMAZING!

Dad knew Mum was a dedicated and enthusiastic Irish dancer and...he was her support and ear about all things Irish dancing. He was the voice and stage manager for many of the early Australian Irish Dancing championships. He produced by hand the art that would adorn the back of the stage. He would man the broom at the end of every competition and help clean the hall as did many other fathers and sons.

In 1969 Dad's support of MUM was again demonstrated when they had saved enough money to go around the world...When they got back home Mum told me when they were seated on the aircraft he turned to Mum and said, how does a bloke from Tamworth who had nothing, get to travel the world with the love of his life.

Dads greatest pride were his boys Robert, Michael, Andrew and Craig and a little angel that never made it to the field of play our brother Peter.

As you all know in recent times Dad was not a well man, but he still always had words of love and care for his family. He was a little frustrated with his health but you could call him and he asked how you were, he cared more about you than his own situation, such was the man a father and Husband.

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, starting from 7 December 2020. Please continue to spread out in the church as much as possible.

SAVE THE DATE:

Regina Coeli Virtual Christmas carols
18/12 at 7pm on Facebook. 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 or
Lauren Lim - laurenlim650@gmail.com

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One of them emptied the bottle of coke he had been drinking out of, while the other slid underneath the truck and did some unscrewing so as to release a stream of diesel (but not without getting dirty in the process) which the first bloke caught with the now-empty-coke-bottle. I could not believe how fast all of this happened: how I was swung from near-despair to surprising hope, all within the space of 5~10 minutes. They said that they knew what it felt like (the same thing had happened to them too), they didn't want any money; all that they asked for was that I would do the same if I ever saw them on the road. I could not help but feel stunned by their humility - the lightness with which they moved to help a stranger, without any hesitation to share whatever resources they had at their disposal, as though they knew some secret to happiness I wasn't aware of. If it wasn't for the silly mistake which put me in such a predicament, hearts of gold like theirs might have remained in my blindspot, entirely overlooked. If so, then, what else (or who else) might still be hidden in my blindspots, eagerly waiting to be discovered? - Fr Peter -



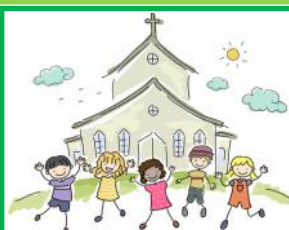
Christmas Play 2020



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).



Happy 96th to Val Green!



Next Sunday the 13th will be the final year for Sunday school at 10am class. We will do something special on the day and

would love the children to join. To assist our preparations so we have correct numbers and can assist the children, can you please supply both your child's name and age by calling or texting Michelle on 0422 226 622 or Jane 0414 232 213 or please email janebethsammy@gmail.com. God bless. - Sunday School Team -



The St Vincent De Paul Ladies Conference will have their wishing well and ladies at each door on Sat/Sun 5-6th December and 12-13th December 2020. They are collecting for their Christmas Appeal for the needy in the parish. Thank you!



Just opened!

LORA HOLY SHOP

813 Canterbury Rd
Lakemba
0418 645 664

WISHING YOU
A MERRY CHRISTMAS!

First Reading Is 40:1-5. 9-11

Prepare the way for the Lord.

'Console my people, console them'
says your God.
'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem
and call to her
that her time of service is ended,
that her sin is atoned for,
that she has received from the hand of the
Lord
double punishment for all her crimes.'
A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness
a way for the Lord.
Make a straight highway for our God
across the desert.
Let every valley be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
let every cliff become a plain,
and the ridges a valley;
then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed
and all mankind shall see it;
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'
Go up on a high mountain,
joyful messenger to Zion.
Shout with a loud voice,
joyful messenger to Jerusalem.
Shout without fear,
say to the towns of Judah,
'Here is your God.'
Here is the Lord coming with power,
his arm subduing all things to him.
The prize of his victory is with him,
his trophies all go before him.
He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,
gathering lambs in his arms,
holding them against his breast
and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8

**(R.) Lord, let us see your kindness,
and grant us your salvation.**

1. I will hear what the Lord God has
to say,
a voice that speaks of peace,
peace for his people.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our
land. (R.)
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from
heaven. (R.)
3. The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps. (R.)

Second Reading 2 Pt 3:8-14

We wait for new heavens and a new earth.

There is one thing, my friends, that you must
never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can
mean a thousand years, and a thousand years
is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry
out his promises, as anybody else might be
called slow; but he is being patient with you
all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to
be brought to change his ways. The Day of the
Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar
the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire
and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains
will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this,
you should be living holy and saintly lives while
you wait and long for the Day of God to come,
when the sky will dissolve in flames and the
elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting
for is what he promised: the new heavens and
new earth, the place where righteousness will
be at home. So then, my friends, while you are
waiting, do your best to live lives without spot
or stain so that he will find you at peace.

Gospel Acclamation Lk 3:4. 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Prepare the way of the Lord, make
straight his paths:**

all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mk 1:1-8

Make straight the paths of the Lord.

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus
Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of
the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger
before you;

he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord,

make his paths straight,

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared
in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of
repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All
Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made
their way to him, and as they were baptised by
him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins.
John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived
on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his
preaching he said, 'Someone is following me,
someone who is more powerful than I am, and
I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of
his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but
he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'



Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

In the wilderness God's salvation
comes to a broken people. In the
midst of what is seemingly an
impossible situation, hope emerges
with vigour. In this context, hope is
an openness to surprise, the
surprise that God is in no way limited
to the imaginings of human minds
and the consequences of human
history. This is the kind of hope that
is proclaimed in the wilderness by
John; it is the kind of hope that
trusts that from the impossible, God
can work a new creation.

There is something of a time warp in
Christianity. What is future is made
present. The prophetic oracle
announces the future as if it is
already happening. This sense of the
future-present prompts new ways of
living. As the future takes root in
human lives, the present is
transformed into a new creation and
the Day of the Lord appears.

God's future comes through the
wilderness into the broken city and
inspires a broken-hearted people.
The contrite heart is a broken heart,
an emptied-out heart, a hope-filled
heart. It is a heart that is
unencumbered by the past and that
lives currently in the passing of time
and the fragility of being alive. The
contrite, broken heart can be filled
only by what is promised in the
future. This is the paradox of Advent.
In the middle of the wilderness, God
works the impossible in those whose
hearts are ready for the surprise of
hope.

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