



Regina Coeli Parish

Beverly Hills - In the Archdiocese of Sydney



Weekly Newsletter

First Sunday in Lent 21 February 2021

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 great popularity of Ash Wednesday is something of a mystery to me. I can only hypothesise a few reasons for this:

Firstly, the Mass is different on Ash Wednesday, structurally speaking, with a whole new component, namely, the distribution of ashes. I think of children striving to collect a set of items which come with certain products that they buy (or their parents buy for them). They are more interested in completing the set by obtaining different items than in getting the same item many times over. Ash Wednesday certainly stands out as a distinct "item" unlike any other.

Secondly, the deeply penitential character of Ash Wednesday seems to resonate with people and surprisingly so. After all, there is a rather prevalent assumption that Catholicism would be more successful as a religion if it was less penitential and more celebratory/upbeat. But the great popularity of Ash Wednesday (and also of Good Friday) appears to bring that assumption into question.

What is it about the human experience that conduces people to identify with the need for penance? A wealthy, drunk man (a movie character) once cried out, 'There is no such thing as too much, there is only not enough!' But any honest person would recognise the falsity of this claim. Suffering caused by a life of excess is all too familiar to us. Deep down, we are ashamed of our failure to say no, for the thousandth time!

The "Lent of the pandemic" (i.e. the past 12 months) has stripped from us some of the excesses in life. However, this was a penance inflicted upon us, not freely embraced by us. This meant that we might have compensated for certain losses by indulging in other forms of "too much," for example, the online excesses.

By contrast, the Lent of the Church is proposed to us rather than imposed on us. No penalty is going to be issued for non-compliance, at least not by any human agent! We are invited, even *urged* to live with less, *voluntarily*, so as to be compensated by the greatest possible reward, namely, the enrichment of our relationship with God (and, through him, with one another)!

- Fr Peter -

PS: I thought we had the biggest crowd here in over 12 months at the 7pm Mass on Ash Wednesday (the 7am Mass was also excellently attended). Ashes were sprinkled and not placed on foreheads this year, so as to be "COVID-SAFE." When I surveyed the children at the 9am School Mass, almost all of them said that they preferred the old way. I imagined that, as a ritual, being sprinkled with the ashes did not seem as powerful to them as being marked on their foreheads in the shape of the cross, like some face-painting of the solemn kind!



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 21 Feb 1st Sun of Lent	8.30am 10.00am	No need to book for Mass
Mon 22 Feb Chair of St Peter		No Mass
Tue 23 Feb	9.15am 9:50am	Mass Reconciliation Year 5
Wed 24 Feb	7am 9am	Mass Adoration 3-4
Thu 25 Feb	9.15pm	Mass
Fri 26 Feb	9.15am	Mass
Sat 27 Feb	9.00am 9:25- 9:55am	Mass Adoration & Reconciliation
	4:15- 4:45pm 5pm	Reconciliation Vigil Mass
Sun 28 Feb 2nd Sunday of Lent	8.30am 10.00am	Mass Mass

Recently Deceased

Judith Emerton, Joseph Noujaim Barbara Bubnij, Bernard Orbell

In Loving Memory

Nadia Hobeika, Joseph Ghibely, Spiro Bajada, Josephine Bajada, Manuel & Gloria Vieire, Assia & Damia Dagher, Sam Xerri

Please remember those who are in ill health especially: James Ybasco, Josh Venture, Carmen Bajada, Anne Kensey, Peter Peters, Monica Costa, Quang Vo, Matt Nugent, Ann Mc Dowell, Christopher McDowell, Damiano Serravalle, 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 Camellotti.

Rosary Statue

Mr & Mrs R. Xuereb
7 Rhonda Avenue
Ph: 02 9153 9101



Parish Secretary

Mrs Margaret Doherty-Brady
9554 8155
Tues 8:30am-
1:30pm Wed & Fri
10.30am-3.30pm

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

St Vincent de Paul Clothing Drive dates for 202

FEBRUARY	13
MAY	1
AUGUST	7
NOVEMBER	6

- Please ensure bags are placed outside by 8:00am on the Saturday of collection.
- Bags should be visible from the street this will assist collectors which will be most appreciated.
- Please do not leave clothing bags at the Church or Parish Centre they will be collected from your home.

Noel Smith's Farewell Party

There has not been a social gathering for a long time here at Regina Coeli. So this might a worthy reason for attempting to socially gather once again: Noel Smith, who is "only 94" and has been a beloved parishioner for as long as anyone can remember, has just moved to a nursing home on account of his declining ability to live independently.

A suggestion has been made that there be a farewell party for Noel Smith. What a great idea!

So, on **Saturday 27 February* 2021 after the 5PM Vigil Mass @ Parish Hall**, there will be a party where light supper will be provided. But for catering purposes please make sure to sign up on the signup-sheets which are available at every door. Thank you.

**Correction: last week's bulletin incorrectly said that the party would be held on 20 February.*

Office of Children's Guardian Safeguarding WWC Number

NSW Office of Children's Guardian requires that the Archdiocese of Sydney Safeguarding Office, ensure all parishioners volunteering in liturgical and/or child related ministries have a "Working With Children Check" WWC number. This includes children's liturgy, catechists, youth ministers, readers, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, acolytes, choir members, minister's to the homebound, and counters. If you haven't as yet provided your WWC number to the parish please do so as soon as possible. When emailing your number, please also send your date of birth so the parish may verify your number. To obtain, or renew, your WWC number go to kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au (Office of the Children's Guardian). Thank you.

Commentary on *Fratelli Tutti**
(Pope Francis' encyclical on fraternity and social friendship)

**Again, no commentary, just excerpts from paragraphs 37-47*

AN ABSENCE OF HUMAN DIGNITY ON THE BORDERS

I realize that some people are hesitant and fearful with regard to migrants. I consider this part of our natural instinct of self-defence. Yet it is also true that an individual and a people are only fruitful and productive if they are able to develop a creative openness to others.

THE ILLUSION OF COMMUNICATION

Oddly enough, while closed and intolerant attitudes towards others are on the rise, distances are otherwise shrinking or disappearing to the point that the right to privacy scarcely exists. Everything has become a kind of spectacle to be examined and inspected, and people's lives are now under constant surveillance. Digital communication wants to bring everything out into the open; people's lives are combed over, laid bare and bandied about, often anonymously. Respect for others disintegrates, and even as we dismiss, ignore or keep others distant, we can shamelessly peer into every detail of their lives.

Digital media can also expose people to the risk of addiction, isolation and a gradual loss of contact with concrete reality, blocking the development of authentic interpersonal relationships. They lack the physical gestures, facial expressions, moments of silence, body language and even the smells, the trembling of hands, the blushes and perspiration that speak to us and are a part of human communication.

Shameless aggression

Even as individuals maintain their comfortable consumerist isolation, they can choose a form of constant and febrile bonding that encourages remarkable hostility, insults, abuse, defamation and verbal violence destructive of others, and this with a lack of restraint that could not exist in physical contact without tearing us all apart. Social aggression has found unparalleled room for expansion through computers and mobile devices.

...Nor should we forget that there are huge economic interests operating in the digital world, capable of exercising forms of control as subtle as they are invasive, creating mechanisms for the manipulation of consciences and of the democratic process. The way many platforms work often ends up favouring encounter between persons who think alike, shielding them from debate. These closed circuits facilitate the spread of fake news and false information, fomenting prejudice and hate.

We should also recognize that destructive forms of fanaticism are at times found among religious believers, including Christians; they too can be caught up in networks of verbal violence through the internet and the various forums of digital communication...How can this contribute to the fraternity that our common Father asks of us?

Weekly Online Lenten Group - Receive the Grace to Go Make Disciples: A Lenten Companion

Join Fr Noel Custodio, host of *The Furnace* podcast, as he leads an online Lenten Group which will use *Receive the Grace to Go Make Disciples: A Lenten Companion*.

Dates: Wednesdays of Lent.

Time: 7:30pm – 8:15pm

Register: www.gomakedisciples.org.au

For more information: contact the Parish Renewal Team at parishrenewal@sydneycatholic.org or on (02) 9390 5330.

Claim the Date

Men's Ministry Network Breakfast at St. Thomas More Brighton Le Sands

Saturday, 13 March 2021 – 8am – 11:45am

Keynote Speaker Topic – St Joseph and the Masculine Genius

Mass with Bishop Umbers

Cooked Breakfast

Contact Parish Office – 9567 3589 – more info to follow

Job Advertisement: Parish Secretary at Revesby

St Luke's Parish Revesby is looking for a part-time parish secretary (4 days per week for 6 hours per day) with some flexibility over start and finishing times. Applications should be addressed to Parish Priest Fr Tadeusz Seremet on stlrevesby@hotmail.com by 15 February. Any enquiries please call 9773 9065.

Open Days at Eileen's Place

Our Lady's Nurses for the Poor is hosting a monthly Open Day, throughout 2021, the centenary of the death of Servant of God, Eileen O'Connor, inviting pilgrims to Eileen's tomb at Dudley Street in Coogee.

The next open day is Sunday 7 March, with two sessions from 10:30am-12pm and 12:30pm-2pm.

Registrations are available online: <https://eileenconnor.com.au/open-days>

First Reading Gn 9:8-15

I will recall the covenant between myself and you...the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.

God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.'

God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 24:4-9. R. see v.10

(R.) Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

1. Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and
teach me:
for you are God my saviour. (R.)
2. Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from
of old.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness,
O Lord. (R.)
3. The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who
stray,
he guides the humble in the right
path;
he teaches his way to the poor. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Pt 3:18-22

The water of the flood is a type of the baptism which saves you now.

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people 'by water', and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 4:4

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel Mk 1:12-15

He was tempted by Satan, and the angels looked after him.

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'



Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

Today's readings show us that Lent is a time for us to receive God's grace. We are not the ones who, through our penance, are meant to accomplish great things. Rather, it is God who acts; it is God who makes the sacrifice; it is God who accomplishes great things for us.

Each reading describes a different kind of conflict within which we might find ourselves: a world-wrenching upheaval, such as happens during social discord, war or natural disaster; the struggle between right and wrong, between fidelity and disobedience; the struggle with temptation. In the midst of the conflicts of life, God initiates a covenant with us. God saves the world from the chaos into which it was thrown, makes a covenant with all living things and with the earth, and sets a bow in the heavens as a perpetual reminder of the covenant. Christ dies for sinners, and offers them baptism that will save them from the chaos of their lives. The Spirit drives Jesus into the desert, there to be tested, but to emerge triumphant. His victory is not for him alone, but for all who will heed his words and follow his example.

The bow in the sky is a sign of the good news of the covenant; baptism is both the good news of salvation for us and our pledge of fidelity to God; Jesus' proclamation is that the reign of God is at hand. With the psalmist we praise God for inviting us into this covenant relationship.

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