



Regina Coeli Parish

Beverly Hills - In the Archdiocese of Sydney



Weekly Newsletter

**Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
7 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

Is not man's life on earth nothing more than pressed service, his time no better than hired drudgery? (Job 7:1)

As the new year gets into gear do we not feel at least a little frightened? A litany of good things can be said about the privilege of being able to work. Nevertheless, there is pain in working. They say, 'No pain, no gain.' But does the gain always outweigh the pain? I don't think so, at least not from a worldly perspective without the transcendent vision offered by our faith.

For example, it is heroic of grandparents to work as unpaid "nannies" of their grandchildren. I am sure that, by and large, they are happy to do so out of love. But they would struggle to do the same for someone else's grandchildren. Furthermore, hypothetically speaking, they probably would not want to do the same for their great grandchildren, great great grandchildren, etc., even if they lived to be old enough to be able to do so.

A mere repetition of work, even if very good work, is going to be feel like 'pressed service' or 'hired drudgery' sooner or later: 'I have been there and done that. And I am much older now and no longer as youthful as I once was. I do not have the same motivations I once had or they fail to enthuse me as they used to. Something has to change. What I need is something *new*.'

The prospect of spending the rest of our days by way of mere repetition can be rather frightening, especially given that we know we will die someday, even suddenly at times. Is this all that there is to life? Is there anything we can do differently so that we are never in a state of hopelessness under the burden of the mundane; instead we are always carried by joy, even to our very last day on earth?

In the Gospel for this weekend, Jesus was in high demand from the people who deeply felt the need for his care and support. So what did Jesus mean when he said, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came'?

Jesus is not merely one carer among many or one support person among many. Instead, the Good News he preaches is something so radically new - *so transcendent* - that it has the certainty of saving us from the oppression of a purely horizontal and ultimately meaningless existence. What would happen if we had the faith and courage to prioritise our relationship with him above all else? How could his love fill us with joy such that the burden of our earthly existence becomes light (c.f. Matthew 11:30) and no longer frightening?

- Fr Peter -



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The Week Ahead

Sun 7 Feb Fifth Sun OT	8.30am 10.00am	No need to book for Mass
Mon 8 Feb OT		No Mass
Tue 9 Feb OT	9.15am 9:50	Mass Reconciliation with Year 5
Wed 10 Feb St Scholastica	7am 9am	Mass School Mass
Thu 11 Feb OT	9.15pm	Mass
Fri 12 Feb OT	9.15am	Mass
Sat 13 Feb OT	9.00am 9:25- 9:55am	Mass Adoration & Reconciliation
	4:15- 4:45pm 5pm	Reconciliation Vigil Mass
Sun 14 Feb Sixth Sun OT	8.30am 10.00am	Mass Mass

Recently Deceased

Judith Emerton, Barbara Bubnij, Bernard Orbell

In Loving Memory

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 Camelotti.

Rosary Statue
Mrs Margaret Weeks
23 Yoorami Road
Ph: 9554 3250



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

The St Vincent de Paul Clothing Drives will commence again on Saturday 13th February 2021 after an absence of 12 months due to Covid-19.

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.

Following are the SVDP Statistics for the calendar year 2020

NO OF CLIENT VISITS 2020	110
NO OF CLIENT VISITS 2019	161
INCREASE/DECREASE	-51

CONFERENCE COSTS IN SERVICING CLIENTS

FOOD CARDS	\$9620
OTHER	1326
TOTAL	\$10946

AVERAGE COST IN SERVICING CLIENTS:

\$99.00 PER VISIT

Assistance provided was well down on last year mainly due to the Government Stimulus packages resulting in less calls for hardship.

Conference members also participate in the following activities:

- 1 clothing drive last year 3 cancelled due to Covid-19.
- Maternal Heart of Mary Conference in the city helping the poor & homeless of Sydney.

The Men's Conference always welcome new members to enable us to ensure we continue our work well into the future.

The amount of time spent is left up to the individual, any help large or small is always appreciated. We meet every **fortnight** on a Wednesday at 7:30pm in the Parish Centre. Next meeting 27th January. No particular skills are required just a willingness to help those in need within our Parish area, training is provided by our Conference.

For further information please contact Paul Morris (President) Mobile 0438 225 120.

Catechist Sunday.

This weekend we celebrate Catechist Sunday. At this time, we pray for the Catholic children, and their families, who attend our State Schools. We also remember the deceased and retired catechists who generously gave of their time over the many years.

Congratulations go to Maria Camelotti, Tamlyn Holtz and Sandra Santoro who have completed 5 years of service, and Carmel Woodford for 10 years of service, to the Catechist Ministry. Thank you all very much for your generosity, dedication and faithfulness to the children.

Presently, in our parish 10 catechists teach 151 children (2020 figures) in two local primary schools. We attend Beverly Hills North Public School on Wednesday mornings and Narwee Public School on Thursday mornings. The lessons run for thirty minutes. The curriculum, lesson plans and student activity books are provided. The Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) also runs necessary courses to prepare and assist us with our teaching.

We are particularly in need of a catechist at Narwee Public School this year, Thursday 10.05am. If you have a little time and are interested in becoming a catechist or a catechist helper, please speak to Fr. Peter, me or contact the Parish office. Also, if you have a WWC check, you are most welcome to attend and observe a class with another catechist to see if this ministry may be for you!

Thank you, Elizabeth Gooley, Catechist Coordinator.

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

**No commentary, more excerpts this week.*

Globalisation and progress without a shared roadmap

Whilst there have been technological advances, this has not been matched by moral advancement. As a matter of fact, there has been 'a moral deterioration that influences international action and a weakening of spiritual values and responsibility.' (FT, 29)

'How wonderful it would be if the growth of scientific and technological innovation could come with more equality and social inclusion. How wonderful would it be, even as we discover faraway planets, to discover the needs of the brothers and sisters who orbit us.' (FT, 31)

Pandemics and other calamities in history

'...the storm has exposed our vulnerability and uncovered those false and superfluous certainties around which we constructed our daily schedules, our projects, our habits and priorities...Amid this storm, the façade of those stereotypes with which we camouflaged our egos, always worrying about appearances, has fallen away, revealing once more the ineluctable and blessed awareness that we are part of one another, that we are brothers and sisters of one another.' (FT, 32)

'...we fed ourselves on dreams of splendour and grandeur, and ended up consuming distraction, insularity and solitude. We gorged ourselves on networking, and lost the taste of fraternity. We looked for quick and safe results, only to find ourselves overwhelmed by impatience and anxiety. Prisoners of a virtual reality, we lost the taste and flavour of the truly real. The pain, uncertainty and fear, and the realization of our own limitations, brought on by the pandemic have only made it all the more urgent that we rethink our styles of life, our relationships, the organization of our societies and, above all, the meaning of our existence.' (Ft, 33)

'All too quickly, however, we forget the lessons of history, *the teacher of life*. Once this health crisis passes, our worst response would be to plunge even more deeply into feverish consumerism and new forms of egotistic self-preservation. God willing, after all this, we will think no longer in terms of "them" and "those", but only "us". If only this may prove not to be just another tragedy of history from which we learned nothing.' (FT, 35)

'The notion of "every man for himself" will rapidly degenerate into a free-for-all that would prove worse than any pandemic.' (FT, 36)

First Reading Jb 7:1-4. 6-7

I am filled with sorrow all day long.

Job began to speak:

Is not man's life on earth nothing more
than pressed service,
his time no better than hired drudgery?
Like the slave, sighing for the shade,
or the workman with no thought but his
wages,
months of delusion I have assigned to
me,
nothing for my own but nights of grief.
Lying in bed I wonder, 'When will it be
day?'
Risen I think, 'how slowly evening
comes!'
Restlessly I fret till twilight falls.
Swifter than a weaver's shuttle my days
have passed,
and vanished, leaving no hope behind.
Remember that my life is but a breath,
and that my eyes will never again see joy.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 146:1-6. R. v.3

**(R.) Praise the Lord who heals the
broken-hearted.**

or

(R.) Alleluia!

1. Praise the Lord for he is good;
sing to our God for he is loving;
to him our praise is due. (R.)
2. The Lord builds up Jerusalem
and brings back Israel's exiles,
he heals the broken-hearted,
he binds up all their wounds.
He fixes the number of the stars;
he calls each one by its name. (R.)
3. Our Lord is great and almighty;
his wisdom can never be measured.
The Lord raises the lowly;
he humbles the wicked to the dust. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Cor 9:16-19. 22-23

Punishment will come to me if I do not preach the Gospel

I do not boast of preaching the gospel,
since it is a duty which has been laid on
me; I should be punished if I did not preach
it! If I had chosen this work myself, I might
have been paid for it, but as I have not, it is
a responsibility which has been put into my
hands. Do you know what my reward is? It is
this: in my preaching, to be able to offer the

Good News free, and not insist on the rights
which the gospel gives me.

So though I am not a slave of any man I
have made myself the slave of everyone so
as to win as many as I could. For the weak I
made myself weak. I made myself all things
to all men in order to save some at any cost;
and I still do this, for the sake of the gospel,
to have a share in its blessings.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 8:17

Alleluia, alleluia!

**He bore our sickness,
and endured our suffering
Alleluia!**

Gospel Mk 1:29-39

*He cured many who suffered from diseases of one kind or
another.*

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with
James and John straight to the house of
Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-
in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they
told him about her straightaway. He went to
her, took her by the hand and helped her
up. And the fever left her and she began to
wait on them.

That evening, after sunset, they brought to
him all who were sick and those who were
possessed by devils. The whole town came
crowding round the door, and he cured
many who were suffering from diseases
of one kind or another; he also cast out
many devils, but he would not allow them
to speak, because they knew who he was.

In the morning, long before dawn, he got
up and left the house, and went off to
a lonely place and prayed there. Simon
and his companions set out in search of
him, and when they found him they said,
'Everybody is looking for you.' He answered,
'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring
country towns, so that I can preach there
too, because that is why I came.' And he
went all through Galilee, preaching in their
synagogues and casting out devils.



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

The mother-in-law of Simon (Peter)
was sick in bed with a raging fever.
When Jesus learned about her
distressed state, he 'took her by
the hand and helped her up'. He
broke the taboo about physical
contact with a woman not his
relative because he wanted to
holistically heal her dis-ease.

Simon's mother-in-law didn't need
an aspirin and a cup of tea. She
felt quarantined, isolated, and
needed a hand reassuring her of
sociable relationships. Jesus
overcame her fever and her dis-
ease with the world.

At every Mass we exchange a
physical gesture at the greeting of
Peace. This quite often overcomes
being ill-at-ease with a family
member or just with the neighbour
in the pew. We need to take that
symbolic action into the world. For
somebody, it may be the most
touching thing we ever do.

We could pause for a moment to
identify that person who needs us
to reach out, to take their hand
and help them up.

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