



Regina Coeli Parish

Beverly Hills - In the Archdiocese of Sydney



Weekly Newsletter

**Third Sunday in Lent
7 March 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



Noel Smith's Farewell Party last week was, among other things, pleasant, heart-warming, nostalgic and sufficiently attended. The young at heart came out of the woodwork and took care of the event in its entirety - from planning to cleaning up, something which they used to do fairly regularly (although with gradually declining physical strength) during the pre-corona era.

The best part of the evening for me was when the man of the hour spoke. He started by praising those who were present, saying that many of them had done more than he had. Then he spoke in the most heartfelt manner about what a great community we had here at Regina Coeli.

I must admit that I felt conflicted as I listened to that last, most moving part of the speech. I knew that he meant what he said. And he was right. There has been a great community here at Regina Coeli. Noel Smith himself was an excellent example of someone who contributed to and benefitted from that community. So why did I feel conflicted?

Unfortunately, the legendary generation that constituted the core of the great community here at Regina Coeli has been diminishing over time. Last year alone we lost a good number of them. At one stage the men from St Vincent de Paul Society were jokingly remarking that it might be better for them to hold their meetings in heaven since the members up there seemed to clearly outnumber those down here!

The great community which Noel Smith spoke so fondly of was neither an accident nor a naturally occurring social phenomenon which could be taken for granted by every community; rather, it was a fruit born out of many years of faith development, communal worship, dedicated service and Christian fraternity. I believe I am being realistic when I say that, currently here at Regina Coeli, we are yet to be on track toward another era of being able to form a great community, or so says my conflicted conscience.

This is a complex issue, but I take responsibility for a large part of the problem. I do not wish to say too much on this at the moment because, after all, it is a whole another topic perhaps for another day, suffice it to say that I have been appointed Parish Priest of Regina Coeli for a term of 6 years. It probably hasn't helped that the first of these has coincided with, shall we say, a very unusual time in human history. But I do hope to do at least a little bit better in each of the remaining five years. On the bright side, no matter what happens, you'll see light in the end!

In times of confusion and uncertainty, it would seem especially important to start everything with gratitude. I am grateful for the fact that enough people attend Mass here at Regina Coeli so as to make our spacious church seem much more half-full than half-empty. I am grateful for the dedicated volunteers who are heroically supporting the continuation of parish life. I am grateful for the fact that, even though we have been operating at below full capacity ever since the pandemic, financial contribution from parishioners has remained so strong that the parish hasn't qualified for government subsidies since the last quarter of 2020 (even then, barely).

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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 7 March 3rd Sun of Lent	8.30am 10.00am	No need to book for Mass
Mon 8 March 3rd week Lent		No Mass
Tue 9 March 3rd week Lent	9.15am	Mass
Wed 10 March 3rd week Lent	7am	Mass
Thu 11 March 3rd week Lent	9.15pm	Mass
Fri 12 March 3rd week Lent	9.15am	Mass
Sat 13 March 3rd week Lent	9.00am 9:25- 9:55am 4:15- 4:45pm 5pm	Mass Stations of the Cross & Reconciliation Reconciliation Vigil Mass
Sun 14 March 4th Sunday of Lent	8.30am 10.00am	Mass Mass

Recently Deceased

Barbara Bubnij, Judith Emerton, Bernard Orbell

In Loving Memory

Judith Partlin, Jusuf Susanto Oentojo, Nadia Hobeika, Joseph Ghibely, Spiro Bajada, Josephine Bajada, Manuel & Gloria Vieire, Asia & 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 Cemelotti.

Rosary Statue

Mr & Mrs F. Capra
168 Moorefields Road
Ph: 0490 532 693



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

Candidate #2 Mea'alofa Tupua*

My name is Mea'alofa Tupua and I wish to become Catholic after listening to some Catholic speakers and doing my own research, I am convinced this is the one true church of Jesus Christ. I look forward to confirmation and learning more about the faith.

Candidate #3 Tuimasi Tupua*

I'm Tuimasi Tupua or Tui for short. The reason I want to be Catholic is, I've never been interested in taking my faith further than merely attending mass every once in a blue moon but, recently I've been attending mass regularly since last year and for the first time in my life I've had this strong urge to learn and join the Catholic faith. These 4 months attending mass has provided me some foundation in my day to day life which I seek to strengthen and that is why I want to become Catholic.

**The two are siblings, both preparing to be received into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil!*

Lenten Retreat Day

OUR LADY OF FATIMA KINGSGROVE

89 SHAW STREET

SATURDAY 13th MARCH

Facilitator: Fr Percival Savare, OSA

9:15am Mass

9:45am Tea/Coffee

10:15am start session till 2:30pm

All Welcome Please book at Parish Office, 9150 9665

Online Holy Week Retreat

Enrich your Lenten journey through the transformative embrace of scripture, **Remembering Holy Saturday**

This retreat will be made available during the Holy Week. It explores the mystery of Holy Saturday, on what it means to live in the-between'times, liminal times. There will be video talk everyday starting from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday. This retreat will be given by an oblate of Jamberoo Abbey, Rev Catherine Eaton.

For more information, go to our website:

<https://www.jamberooabbey.org.au/retreats/online-retreats/holy-week-retreat/>



Marist College
KOGARAH

OPEN AFTERNOON 2021

Wednesday, 24 March

3.00 pm - 6.30 pm

Enrolling for Year 7, 2023

FINIS CORONAT OPUS - The end crowns the work



52 Wolseley St, Bexley 2207 | T: 9587 3211 | www.mck.nsw.edu.au

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The litany of gratitude could go on for quite a while but here is something I wish to highlight above others: I am grateful, and happy on behalf of the parish, for the fact that, in spite of everything, there are still some in the parish who give us reasons for optimism - those who display promising potentials to become the 'salt and light' (c.f. Matthew 5:13-14) of great communities in quite a realistic future. I don't think I could forget how Noel Smith spoke of his beloved faith community, with the full authority of 94 years of faithful Christian living behind him. My hope is that, for the faithful here at Regina Coeli, there will be more than enough spiritual adventures and profound encounters such that, someday, they too will be able to express their love and gratitude for their faith community, with the beautiful sincerity of Noel Smith. This seems definitely worth praying for, with all our hearts! - *Fr Peter* -



**Second Rite of Reconciliation at Our Lady of Fatima
Kingsgrove, 89 Shaw Street —Wednesday, 10 March 7:00pm**

First Reading Ex 20:1-17
(or shorter form Ex 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17)

The Law was given through Moses.

God spoke all these words. He said, 'I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

'You shall have no gods except me.

'You shall not make yourself a carved image or any likeness of anything in heaven or on earth beneath or in the waters under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God and I punish the father's fault in the sons, the grandsons, and the great-grandsons of those who hate me; but I show kindness to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

'You shall not utter the name of the Lord your God to misuse it, for the Lord will not leave unpunished the man who utters his name to misuse it.

'Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath for the Lord your God. You shall do no work on that day, neither you nor your son nor your daughter nor your servants, men or women, not your animals nor the stranger who lives with you. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth and the sea and all that these hold, but on the seventh day he rested; that is why the Lord has blessed the sabbath day and made it sacred.

'Honour your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God has given to you.

'You shall not kill.

'You shall not commit adultery.

'You shall not steal.

'You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

'You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his servant, man or woman, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is his.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 18:8-11. R. Jn 6:68

(R.) Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

1. The law of the Lord is perfect,
it revives the soul.
The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,
it gives wisdom to the simple. (R.)
2. The precepts of the Lord are right,
they gladden the heart.
The command of the Lord is clear,
it gives light to the eyes. (R.)
3. The fear of the Lord is holy,
abiding for ever.
The decrees of the Lord are truth
all of them just. (R.)

4. They are more to be desired than gold,
than the purest of gold
and sweeter are they than honey,
than honey from the comb. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Cor 1:22-25

We are preaching a crucified Christ, a scandal to many, but to those who have been called, the wisdom of God.

While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 3:16

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

***God loved the world so much, he gave us
his only Son,***

***that all who believe in him might have
eternal life.***

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

Gospel Jn 2:13-25

Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.' Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.



Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

Israel believed that the temple was built over the navel of the universe, the *axis mundi*, that spot where the world above and the world below met the world of history, thus enabling the three worlds to communicate. When Jesus called himself the new temple, he was claiming to be the centre of the universe, the spot where three-way cosmic communication occurs, the presence of God in the midst of the community. When we accept him in faith, we are accepting these claims. We may profess this belief, but do our lives reflect it?

Although some consider the law a rigid set of precepts, it is really more a collection of directives that have grown out of the experience of life. To say that Jesus is the wisdom of God means that God's wisdom is made known in him and that he is the way that points to God. While laws often embody distinctive cultural values or customs, as wisdom of God, Jesus crosses cultural boundaries and breaks down cultural distinctions. As the wisdom of God, Jesus fulfils the expectations of any and all codes of law.

Both the law and the temple witness to the power of God in the lives of believers. However, both institutions pale in the light of Jesus who is identified as the power of God. This divine power is not revealed in lofty precepts or in magnificent stones, but rather in the broken and pierced body of Jesus Christ. How willing are we to accept him?

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