



Regina Coeli Parish

Beverly Hills - In the Archdiocese of Sydney



Weekly Newsletter

**16th Sunday in Ordinary Time
18 July 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



I was wrong! A two week lockdown turned into a five week one - three weeks beyond school holidays. I wrongly assumed that the state government would not expose itself to the wrath of stressed parents who are many! There are two groups I feel most sorry for. The first are those most adversely affected by the prolonged lockdown. They might have lost a job, even a career, or a business which has been the object of lifelong dedication. They might feel that their fragile dreams have been shattered by what seems like the return of the infamous year of 2020. The voice of these people tends to be overwhelmingly underrepresented by the mainstream media who generally seem to err on the side of alarmism. I do not pretend to understand the depth of desolation this first group might be going through right now.

The second group I am most sorry for are the young people, some of them not even born yet. The Australian Government has been impressive in its covid spending. I imagine that this has been made possible, to a large extent, due to the strong foundation of our society which has been inherited from the previous generations. But will our children and children's children also find, in the world which has been made for them, the kind of dependability and robustness we ourselves have been blessed with? I think of the anxiety that adults feel. Then I suspect that the anxiety felt by young people must be far worse because, even though they might not be able to articulate what they feel, they would still sense in the depth of their psyche that their future seems very uncertain. Who, except divine persons or saints, has the confidence to say to them, 'Everything is going to be alright'?

There is another group I am sorry for: the Catholics. I have done a lot of walking lately, both for health and for sanity. Whenever I behold our beautiful parish church from outside and notice that it is all locked up, I feel a pang of sorrow. Of course, I myself can go in whenever I want, pray and offer Mass (which I do daily for parishioners). But no one else is allowed to. However, the church of Regina Coeli is a home to parishioners, perhaps even more than it is to me! So it seems tragic, to say the least, that they are not permitted to access what is rightfully theirs. How *essential* is the place of worship, especially for Catholics for whom the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist matters to the core of their being?

On Friday there was a zoom meeting between the Archbishop and Sydney clergy, which was the first one occasioned by the *deja vu* of total lockdown we have found ourselves in. Unlike me, the Archbishop seemed more hesitant to make political comments. He suggested that we ought to help people make the best of the situation which has been given to them. He also said that we ought to encourage people to get vaccinated, which, incidentally, I am fully in support of *for those who are more vulnerable amongst us*. Most importantly, the Archbishop pointed out that being quarantined or even locked up was not a new experience for Christians. Think of St Paul who wrote the letter to the Ephesians from a prison cell or the disciples to whom Jesus said, 'You must come away to some lonely place all by yourselves and rest for a while.' Christians are called to be holy - *set apart* - in order that they might experience, in solitude, the in-breaking grace of Christ which then they are to share with others. As St Paul put it, 'For [Christ] is the peace between us, and has made the two into one and broken down the barrier which used to keep them apart, actually destroying in his own person the hostility...' - *Fr Peter* -

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The Week Ahead

Sun 18 July 16th Sunday	8.30am Mass 10.00am Mass
Mon 19 July	No Mass
Tue 20 June	9.15am Mass
Wed 21 June	7am Mass
Thu 22 July St Mary Magdalene	9.15am Mass
Fri 23 July	9.15am Mass
Sat 24 July	9.00am Mass 9.25- Adoration 9.55am & Reconciliation 4.15- Reconciliation 4.45pm 5pm Vigil Mass
Sun 25 July 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time	8.30am Mass 10.00am Mass

**No Public Mass
During Lockdown**

Recently Deceased

Bernie Langtry, Ron Sang, John Harnett, Patricia Hay, Luigia Zegarelli, Peter Peters, Christopher McDowell, Frank Capra

In Loving Memory

Vanessa Succar, Rosa Germano, Bernie Crawford, Georgia & Philip Spiteri, Stanley Sang, Fouad Attia, Jeanette Cardoz

Please remember those who are in ill

health especially: Josephina Algozzina, Mildred Petit, James Ybasco, Josh Venture, Carmen Bajada, Anne Kensey, Monica Costa, Quang Vo, Matt Nugent, Ann McDowell, Damiano Serravalle, George Dagher, Mrs Saba, 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 T. Pezzutti
208a Moorefields Road
Ph: 0403 060 376



Parish Secretary
TBC
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

Excerpts from 'Dear Premier, it's not that hard' by Monica Doumit (published in Catholic Weekly)

The Government and NSW Health are wondering why their messaging doesn't seem to be working in south-west Sydney, and they are calling on religious and community leaders to help get the message across. I am pretty sure I know why the message isn't translating (pardon the pun) in western Sydney. It's not that we're incapable of understanding the public advice; it's that we perceive it to be disproportionately weighed against our most cherished values.

Let me explain what I mean. Family and faith are everything in our communities. We would gladly die for either and so if you want us to give them up, even for a few days, then you better have a very good reason. But as people in the three south-western Sydney LGAs were told that in addition to their churches being closed, their families were no longer allowed to visit and they could only shop for essentials, the adult stores in those areas remained open for business. Open also were stores like Dusk, which sells scented candles and Typo, which sells novelty stationery.

Try telling a Lebanese grandmother that visiting her children or grandchildren could put her or them at risk of serious illness and hefty fines, but that a person going to buy sex toys was still COVID safe and acting within the bounds of the law. She is going to ignore you not because she doesn't understand; but because she thinks you think sex is more important than family. Try telling her that she is allowed to walk to the local shops and buy a takeaway coffee, but that she can't stop and say a prayer inside her local church because it's unsafe. It's not because English is her second language that she tries to skirt the rules; it's because she thinks it blasphemous to define takeaway coffee as essential and Church as non-essential.

No doubt the health experts will say that the adult store, the café and the outdoor exercise are all less risky environments than the family home, a place of worship or a visit to a friend, but what those of us in western Sydney hear is that what we value most in life is completely dispensable, and we should be willing to sacrifice it unquestioningly on Government say so.

If NSW Health and the NSW Government want more compliance in western Sydney, then – respectfully – they need to come from a starting point that family and faith are the most essential things for us, even more than food and clothing, and make the rules with that in mind. A good starting point would not be leaving our churches closed and the sex shops open.

Prayer of St Ignatius of Loyola

O Christ Jesus,
When all is darkness
And we feel our weakness and helplessness,
Give us the sense of your presence,
Your love and your strength.
Help us to have perfect trust in your protecting love
And strengthening power,
so that nothing may frighten or worry us,
for, living close to you,
we shall see your hand,
your purpose,
your will through all things.
Amen.

Liturgy of the Word the 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Entrance Antiphon (or a choice of song):

See, I have God for my help. The Lord sustains my soul.
I will sacrifice to you with willing heart, and praise your
name, O Lord, for it is good.

**All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of
the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Leader: In our responsorial psalm today we hear the words,
'Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your sal-
vation.' (Pause) Let us remember with gratitude all the mo-
ments when we felt the comfort of love this week. (Pause)
Let us now call to mind how it is that we are in need of the
consoling medicine of mercy? (Pause)

Leader: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

All: For we have sinned against you.

Leader: Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

All: And grant us your salvation.

Leader: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us
our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.

Leader: Let us pray. (Pause) Show favour, O Lord, to your
servants and mercifully increase the gifts of your grace,
that, made fervent in hope, faith and charity, they may be
ever watchful in keeping your commands. Through our
Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

(Please go *slowly* through the readings on Page 4. Pause
after each of the readings. Discuss, if you like, what was
striking about the reading, perhaps with the help of the re-
flection questions below. **Also, if you like, after the Gos-
pel reading, you could listen to the homily Fr Peter
hopes to put up on Facebook/parish website by Sunday
morning**)

Reflection Questions:

After the 1st reading:

The one and only Good Shepherd who is to come is de-
scribed as someone 'who will reign as true king and be
wise, practising honesty and integrity...[who shall be
called] The Lord-our-integrity.' How important are the vir-
tues of honesty and integrity, especially in a leader? What
difference do they make?

After the 2nd reading:

Every person is unique. No one is quite the same. And yet
our differences can sometimes lead to divisions which are
sad and harmful. How does Jesus bring us reconciliation
and make of us, who are different, one body?

After the Gospel reading:

Jesus is compassionate - his heart burns with merciful love
when he sees us in suffering! During the lockdown, when
have I felt touched by his compassionate love? During the
remaining days of the lockdown and beyond, how can I
remain more closely in his compassionate love?

The Prayer of the Faithful

Leader: Knowing that the compassionate Jesus takes pity
on us when he sees that we are lost, like sheep without a
shepherd, let us offer our prayers with heartfelt trust.

Reader: We pray for the bishops and priests who are pas-
tors in the Church, that they may grow in the knowledge
and love of Christ, the Chief Shepherd, and be open to the
Spirit in the coming Plenary Council. (Pause) We pray to
the Lord...

All: Lord hear our prayer

We pray for the leaders of international organisations, that
they may govern with honesty and integrity and restore
peace in places where there is division and political unrest.
(Pause) We pray to the Lord...

All: Lord hear our prayer

We pray for those who work in hospitals, aged care homes
and medical centres, that they may be inspired to serve
Christ in the sick people who are placed in their care.
(Pause) We pray to the Lord...

All: Lord hear our prayer

We pray for all families who suffer from brokenness and
trauma, that they may be comforted by the staff of God's
mercy and attain reconciliation and peace within them-
selves. (Pause) We pray to the Lord...

All: Lord hear our prayer

(Other intentions may be mentioned here)

Leader: Let us pray in the words our Saviour gave us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy
kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our tres-
passes, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and
lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

Prayer for spiritual communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Blessed Sac-
rament. I love you above all things and desire to receive
you into my soul. Since I cannot receive you sacramentally
at present, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace
you as if you were already here, and unite myself wholly to
you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

(Pause)

Communion Antiphon (or a choice of song):

The Lord, the gracious, the merciful, has made a memorial
of his wonders; he gives food to those who fear him.

Leader (while everyone makes a sign of the cross): the
Lord bless us, keep us from all evil and bring us to everlast-
ing life.

All: Amen.



First Reading Jer 23:1-6

The remnant of the flock I will gather to me, and bring them back to their pastures.

'Doom for the shepherds who allow the flock of my pasture to be destroyed and scattered – it is the Lord who speaks! This, therefore, is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says about the shepherds in charge of my people: You have let my flock be scattered and go wandering and have not taken care of them. Right, I will take care of you for your misdeeds – it is the Lord who speaks! But the remnant of my flock I myself will gather from all the countries where I have dispersed them, and will bring them back to their pastures: they shall be fruitful and increase in numbers. I will raise up shepherds to look after them and pasture them; no fear, no terror for them any more; not one shall be lost – it is the Lord who speaks!

'See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks –
when I will raise a virtuous Branch for David,
who will reign as true king and be wise,
practising honesty and integrity in the land.

In his days Judah will be saved
and Israel dwell in confidence.
And this is the name he will be called:
The Lord-our-integrity.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 22. R. v.2

(R.) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

1. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. (R.)
2. He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of
darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your
staff,
with these you give me comfort. (R.)
3. You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. (R.)
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall
follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. (R.)

Second Reading Eph 2:13-18

Christ, our peace, has made us one.

In Christ Jesus, you that used to be so far from us have been brought very close, by the blood of Christ. For he is the peace between us, and has made the two into one and broken down the barrier which used to keep them apart, actually destroying in his own person the hostility caused by the rules and decrees of the Law. This was to create one single New Man in himself out of the two of them and by restoring peace through the cross, to unite them both in a single Body and reconcile them with God. In his own person he killed the hostility. Later he came to bring the good news of peace, peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near at hand. Through him, both of us have in the one Spirit our way to come to the Father.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 10:27

Alleluia, alleluia!

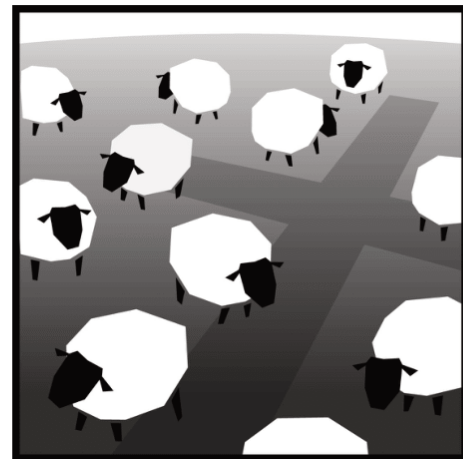
*My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me.*

Alleluia!

Gospel Mk 6:30-34

They were as sheep without a shepherd.

The apostles rejoined Jesus and told him all they had done and taught. Then he said to them, 'You must come away to some lonely place all by yourselves and rest for a while'; for there were so many coming and going that the apostles had no time even to eat. So they went off in a boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But people saw them going, and many could guess where; and from every town they all hurried to the place on foot and reached it before them. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he set himself to teach them at some length.



Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

Jesus chose disciples to continue his work; he instructed them and empowered them. He sent them out on a mission, and they returned. People followed them, because they wanted to hear what Jesus and the disciples had to say; they wanted to be released from the sickness and the demons that possessed them.

There are so many searching people in the world today, people hungering for instruction, good people looking for direction. They may be parents who are sick with grief over the future of a troubled child; a man stripped of his dignity through unemployment; a woman facing a pregnancy alone; elderly people feeling the surge of life leave their declining bodies; people who are angry and confused because they believe that the church is no longer dependable. They are people who are looking for answers and for meaning. They are like sheep without a shepherd, and Jesus looks to us to shepherd them.

In the midst of this confusion, there are reliable shepherds who walk with us in the dark valleys. They are willing to share the dangers through which we pass, even at the risk of their own safety. They do not pit one segment of the community or one theological perspective against another, scattering the sheep and driving them away. Instead, they work to dismantle the walls that divide us. They speak the word that gathers us together. They reconcile us with God and with each other. They may not give us easy answers, but their primary concern is to lead us to Jesus, the one who is our peace.

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