



Regina Coeli Parish

Beverly Hills - In the Archdiocese of Sydney



Weekly Newsletter

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
29 August 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 am Legend' is a movie which is set in the post-apocalyptic New York City. The hero of the movie is Dr Robert Neville, a scientist, who appears to be the sole survivor in the once prosperous metropolis. All the other residents have been infected with a highly contagious virus which has turned them into, for lack of a better word, "zombies." Their fatal weakness is exposure to sunlight and so they hibernate in the darkest recesses of the abandoned buildings and only come out at night. Consequently, Dr Neville's solitary exploration of the deserted vastness takes up a significant part of the movie's running time.

I have been feeling like Dr Neville lately, albeit in a far less dramatic setting. I love to go out at night for a walk, especially now that night-times are no longer dangerously cold. Geographical explorations somehow end up merging with explorations of my own memory, my own soul or whatever else might be lurking in the shadows of consciousness, waiting to be noticed. The solitude of a silent night can help to transform the whole of Beverly Hills into an intimate space for an informal retreat. I could do this for hours!

So imagine my disappointment upon finding out about the 9pm curfew, as well as the limit of one hour of outdoor exercise! First they took Brighton-Le-Sands from me, and now this. The other night I went out for a walk but with the intention of honouring the curfew. But halfway through the walk I realised that the estimated time of return was going to be about fifteen minutes after nine. 'Oh well,' I thought to my self, 'there is nothing wrong with enjoying a peaceful walk and the night is still young!' But I must confess that, no matter what a brave face I tried to put on, I still found myself to be a little frightened into running sporadically, lest I be ambushed by some police officers who might have been counting down to 9pm, like excited children about to go on an Easter egg hunt. But no, there was no siren, no surprise when the clock struck nine, by which time I was almost home anyway. I was not sure whether to cry or laugh about the little episode which could appropriately be titled 'Much ado about nothing.'

As mentioned last week, St Pope John II once wrote, 'Faith is contact with the mystery of God.' One of the essential ways of coming into contact with the mystery of God is through nature. There is something undeniably real - the opposite of 'superficial' - about raw nature. To behold nature is to be anchored by the solid reality of God's creation. From there we can learn to navigate once again even through personal issues, less under the sway of the chaos of self-enclosure and more with the support of emerging clarity which is as gently penetrating as the beauty of nature.

The fact that our public officials speak so frequently about the need to 'stay home' and yet almost never about the immeasurable value of outdoor exercise or being in touch in nature *grieves* me. I cannot help but think that the latter would be supremely beneficial, including to the state of public health, not to mention to the wellbeing of individuals mentally and spiritually. I hope and pray that being in touch with God's creation helps you even more than it helps me! - Fr Peter -

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The Week Ahead

Sun 29 August 22nd Sunday	8.30am Mass 10.00am Mass
Mon 30 August	No Mass
Tue 31 August	9.15am Mass
Wed 1 September	7am Mass
Thu 2 September	9.15am Mass
Fri 3 September St Gregory the Great	9.15am Mass
Sat 4 September	8.00am Mass 9.25- Adoration 9.55am & Reconciliation 4.15- Reconciliation 4.45pm 5pm Vigil Mass
Sun 5 September 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	8.30am Mass 10.00am Mass

Recently Deceased

Raja Reegon, Eruthai Marie Reegon & Christopher Reegon, Bernie Langtry, Ron Sang, John Harnett, Patricia Hay, Luigia Zegarelli, Peter Peters, Christopher McDowell, Frank Capra

In Loving Memory

Bartolo Tesoriero, Frank Grima, Doreen Simmons, Roy Mitchell, John Bridge, Vanessa Succar, Rosa Germano, Georgia & Philip Spiteri, Fouad Attia, Jeanette Cardoz

Please remember those who are in ill

health especially: Josephina Algozzina, Mil-dred 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,

Rosary Statue

Mrs M. Weeks
23 Yoorami Road
Ph: 02 9554 3250



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

The St Vincent de Paul Men's Conference wish to advise that due to the generosity of our Parishioners we raised **\$8233.35** for our Winter Appeal.

This is a wonderful achievement & is only due to your continuing support of our Conference.

All money raised is used to provide assistance to the needy in our Parish area.

For those requesting a receipt & who provided their mailing address as advised previously the receipts were mailed on 15th July.

Thanks again for your continuing support & generosity.

Prayer to Regina Coeli

(Written by a couple of parishioners)

O Mary, our beloved Holy Mother, we celebrate your Queenship of Heaven and earth and all mankind today. We praise and thank you for your tender love for each of us and the whole Church. You are the true model of love as even in the midst of great suffering and sacrifice, you persevered, trusted and was faithful.

Dearest Holy Mother, please show us the path to your Son, Jesus, so that we may never stray especially during this difficult period. Reign over our world, our church, our nation, our families and each of us.

We ask for your protection for our beautiful parish here in Beverly Hills, our priest, and our wonderful teachers and staff. Please guide also our elected leaders to make wise decisions for the good of all.

O Queen of Heaven, graciously heal and protect us always. May we always seek your gentle love as we place our lives in your hands, Amen.

Archbishop's Afghan Refugee Appeal

Sydney Catholic Archbishop, Anthony Fisher OP, has launched the Archbishop's Afghan Refugee Appeal. The appeal will raise desperately needed funds and commit the Archdiocese resources of education, health and welfare to Afghan families and individuals fleeing their homeland in the wake of the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan. The UN and aid agencies are preparing for a Syria scale refugee crisis. The appeal means that those who find their way to Australia will have support and resources waiting for them. These dark times remind all of us that we really are our brother and our sisters' keeper.

For further information go to:
<http://justiceandpeace.org.au/>

Thank you on behalf of the Archbishop and those most vulnerable people for your support.

From Fr Ross through Fr Barry:

Like most places in the state, all churches are closed. The Anglican Church at Nelson Bay often has great 'offerings' on its outside notice board. I drove past this morning. It read:

**'Service cancelled.
God making house calls.'**

Liturgy of the Word

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon (or a choice of song):

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

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 just will live in the presence of the Lord.' *(Pause)* Let's give thanks to the Lord for what is right about the current state of our lives which allows us to enjoy his presence. *(Pause)* Let's now express our sorrow for the divisions in our own hearts which are in need of the grace of reconciliation.

(Pause)

Leader: You were sent to heal the contrite of heart: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: You came to call sinners: Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

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)* God of might, giver of every good gift, put into our hearts the love of your name, so that, by deepening our sense of reverence, you may nurture in us what is good and, by your watchful care, keep safe what you have nurtured. 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 reflection questions below.
- ♦ Also, if you like, after the Gospel reading, you can listen to the homily Fr Peter hopes to put up on Facebook/parish website by Sunday morning.

Reflection Questions:

After the 1st reading: The Law or the commandments are concrete expressions of what it means to live according to God's wisdom. Is there a disconnect between the commandments and what I *think* I want? What seems "good" in the false imagination of the heart cannot deliver. Only God's wisdom delivers. What could help my own values to be recalibrated, starting from the heart, so as to be better aligned with God's supreme wisdom?

After the 2nd reading: Faith is contact with 'all that is good, everything that is perfect, which is given us from above.' Authentic contact of faith means that we are willing to be changed by what we encounter, instead of just listening to it and deceiving ourselves. What change are we be-

ing called to undergo by the One who is good and perfect?

After the Gospel: God looks at the heart. We need not be overly anxious about what we do not intend. What we need is a morality which is inseparable, and not removed, from the intentions of the human heart. What do we intend with our choices? Which intentions are harmful to our soul?

The Prayer of the Faithful

Leader: Jesus said, 'it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean.' Let us ask the Holy Spirit to inspire in us the purest of intentions when we pray.

Reader: Let us pray for Pope Francis, our bishops and all the clergy. May their lives be an example of pure love and goodness inspiring the Church. *(Pause)* We pray to the Lord...

All: Lord hear our prayer

Let us pray for the leaders of our country. May they remember in justice to put the needs of the people before their own gain, particularly in this time of pandemic.

(Pause) We pray to the Lord...

All: Lord hear our prayer

Let us pray for our hospitals and all medical staff. May the services they provide bring hope, consolation and healing to the families and individuals in their care.

(Pause) We pray to the Lord...

All: Lord hear our prayer

Let us pray for our Parish community. May we accept the leading of the Holy Spirit to provide goodness and share love in our wider community.

(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 trespasses, 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 Sacrament. 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):

How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you.

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

All: Amen.



First Reading Dt 4:1-2, 6-8

You may add nothing to the word which I speak to you – keep the commands of the Lord.

Moses said to the people: 'Now, Israel, take notice of the laws and customs that I teach you today, and observe them, that you may have life and may enter and take possession of the land that the Lord the God of your fathers is giving you. You must add nothing to what I command you, and take nothing from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God just as I lay them down for you. Keep them, observe them, and they will demonstrate to the peoples your wisdom and understanding. When they come to know of all these laws they will exclaim, "No other people is as wise and prudent as this great nation." And indeed, what great nation is there that has its gods so near as the Lord our God is to us whenever we call to him? And what great nation is there that has laws and customs to match this whole Law that I put before you today?'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 14:2-5. R. v.1

(R.) The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

1. Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain?
He who walks without fault;
he who acts with justice
and speaks the truth from his heart. (R.)
2. He who does no wrong to his brother,
who casts no slur on his neighbour,
who holds the godless in disdain,
but honours those who fear the Lord. (R.)
3. He who keeps his pledge, come what may;
who takes no interest on a loan
and accepts no bribes against the innocent.
Such a man will stand firm for ever. (R.)

Second Reading

Jas 1:17-18, 21-22, 27

Be doers of the word.

It is all that is good, everything that is perfect, which is given us from above; it comes down from the Father of all light; with him there is no such thing as alteration, no shadow of a change. By his own choice he made us his children by the message of the truth so that we should be a sort of first-fruits of all that he had created.

Accept and submit to the word which has been planted in you and can save your souls. But you must do what the word tells you, and not just listen to it and deceive yourselves.

Pure, unspoiled religion, in the eyes of God our Father is this: coming to the help of orphans and widows when they need it, and keeping oneself uncontaminated by the world.

Gospel Acclamation Jas 1:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Father gave us birth by his message of truth,

that we might be as the first fruits of his creation.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

You forget the commandments of God and hold on to human tradition.

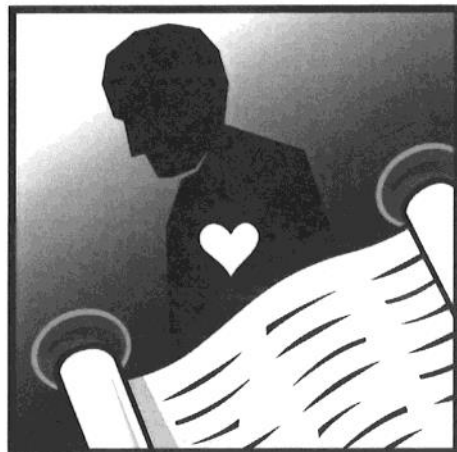
The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus, and they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. For the Pharisees, and the Jews in general, follow the tradition of the elders and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow; and on returning from the market place they never eat without first sprinkling themselves. There are also many other observances which have been handed down to them concerning the washing of cups and pots and bronze dishes. So these Pharisees and scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders but eat their food with unclean hands?' He answered, 'It was of you hypocrites that Isaiah so rightly prophesied in this passage of scripture:

This people honours me only with lip-service, while their hearts are far from me.

The worship they offer me is worthless, the doctrines they teach are only human regulations.

You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.'

He called the people to him again and said, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean. For it is from within, from men's hearts, that evil intentions emerge: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within and make a man unclean.'



Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

The overarching theme of the readings for this Sunday is 'words spoken in truth'. On one level, the laws are the words of the covenant. They are part of the contract that was drawn up between God and the people. They are words of truth, because they are the reliable revelation of God and because they genuinely reflect righteous living. The biblical covenant laws are truly humane. Obedience to the words of the covenant leads to life and blessings, while disobedience results in the opposite.

Our religious customs always carry some profound religious meaning, but we may not know or care what it is – and yet we perform them. Do people know or care why we stand or sit or kneel during liturgy? Do people have a 'church' wedding because it is a religious event, or because 'that's the way we have always done it'? Religious practices do not always flow from a deep religious conviction. But once we realise our need for God, these practices become genuine expressions of religious sentiment.

When the word of God has taken root in us, everything becomes a religious practice. This word can come to us through the teachings of our faith, through the example of good people around us, through the wonder and mystery of creation. When it does take hold of us, our inner eye is opened, our hearts are softened, and we turn instinctively to God like a flower turns to the sun. When we are brought to birth in this way, covenant law becomes sacred, religious practices are cherished, and we are filled with the power that saves.

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