



Regina Coeli Parish

Beverly Hills - In the Archdiocese of Sydney



Weekly Newsletter

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



Pastoral Team:

Fr Peter Kwak PP

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1st Sunday of Advent 28 November 2021

There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken.

- Luke 21:25-26 -

And so the apocalyptic tone continues, even as we finish one liturgical year and begin another with the season of Advent. When it comes to words I am more of a conceptual person than a descriptive one. Therefore I couldn't think of a more terrifying depiction than one in which men are said to be 'dying of fear'!

Certainly, fear has been an unmistakable part of our landscape over the past two years. Just because we might feel more relaxed now doesn't mean that it didn't happen. Do we not remember the incredible phenomenon of panic-buying? I am sure that fear also had a lot to do with the other surprising phenomenon of neighbours reporting on one another, etc.

Fear might have a role to play in the apocalyptic genre but it is certainly not the end-goal, at least not in the context of Scripture. After all, Jesus went on to say, 'When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.' (Luke 21:28) The apocalyptic signs are poignant reminders that everything passes. What is popular comes and goes. Empires rise and fall. Nothing of this world will last forever, hence the reason why Jesus said, 'Do not work for food that perishes but for that which endures to eternal life.' (John 6:27)

The apocalyptic signs are also hopeful reminders that, even though everything passes, there is something which we can absolutely depend on, namely, the Kingdom of God. Let go of false dreams because the Kingdom of God is near! Jesus, in his person, is the Kingdom-of-God-made-near. Through his incarnation, death and resurrection Jesus has become an impassable nexus in our passing world. Through him, with him and in him, we can truly participate in what lasts forever!

There is a young saint by the name of Carlo Acutis who was beatified on 10 October 2020. He died of leukaemia around the age of 15 but not before demonstrating what amazing holiness is possible even in a very young person. I wrote about him on 8 November 2020 as follows: 'Carlo wasted no time in trying to work out his own salvation with serious commitment. He tried to live in the presence of God at all times...when asked about what he wanted to do when he grew up, he used to remark, **"Who knows? But to be closer to Jesus that's my life's plan!"**

Blessed Carlo Acutis had a plan which no amount of fear or uncertainty in our passing world could threaten. With precocious wisdom he had worked out that the best possible plan was the one centred around the person of Jesus Christ. True progress is to move from what is short-sighted to that which is far-sighted. In view of eternity, the value of being Christ-like becomes absolute. So it is no wonder that heaven is described as a place where honesty and integrity are practiced, and known as the city by the name of 'The-Lord-our-integrity.' (c.f. Jeremiah 33:16)

- Fr Peter -

The Week Ahead

Sun 28 November 1st Sunday	8.30am Mass 10.00am Mass
Mon 29 November	No Mass
Tue 30 November St Andrew	9.15am Mass
Wed 1 December	7am Mass
Thu 2 December	9.15am Mass
Fri 3 December St Francis Xavier	9.15am Mass
Sat 4 December	9.00am Mass 9:25- Adoration 9:55am & Reconciliation 4:15- Reconciliation 4:45pm Vigil Mass 5pm Vigil Mass
Sun 5 December 2nd Sunday of Advent	8.30am Mass 10.00am Mass

Safety rules regarding Mass attendance

We have been here before and so the current rules for “places of worship” should come to us like almost like an old friend. We are meant to:

- Sign in
- Wear a mask
- Practise social distancing
- Refrain from congregational singing
- There is no need to make a booking



A few volunteers have helped to make social distancing easier by placing every second pew in a temporary lockdown!

Under the new rule of 2 square metre per person rule, the church of Regina Coeli can accommodate about 260 people at any given time. There is no need to make a booking for Mass because the numbers always seem to work out.

PS: Some might not feel ready to return to Mass yet due to health concerns. Holy Communion can be brought to you (please contact the parish office). Alternatively, you could gradually start by attending one or more of the weekday Masses where social distancing is never an issue.

Recently Deceased

Grace Lo, Gabriel Stanghieri, David Brown, Bill Gately, June Roebuck, Bradley Murphy, Bernie Langtry, Luigia Zegarelli, Peter Peters, Christopher McDowell, Frank Capra

In Loving Memory

Gary Langridge

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.

First Holy Communion

First Holy Communion is to be held at the following Parish Mass times:

- * Sunday 28 November 10am;
- * Saturday 4 December 5pm, Sunday 5 December 8.30am & 10am;
- * Saturday 11 December 5pm & Sunday 12 December 8.30am & 10am Mass.

Please note that quite a number of children will be receiving their First Communion at each 5pm Vigil Mass and 10am Mass, on the nominated weekends. Thank you.

Please keep the children and their families in your prayer.



Rosary Statue
Mr & Mrs A. McKenzie
1 Shirley Ave.
Ph: 02 9759 8006



CWF Parish Appeal

The **Charitable Works Fund (CWF) August Appeal** will be happening this weekend and we need your help!

Your donations will help those most struggling this winter – single mothers facing homelessness, those struggling with mental health and our Aboriginal communities. You will also be building a culture of support and encouragement for our hospital and university chaplaincies, and our future priests at the Good Shepherd Seminary.

Special envelopes are available at the parish. Alternatively, you can learn more and donate securely at



Parish Secretary
TBC
9554 8155
Tues 8:30am-
1:30pm Wed & Fri
10.30am—3.30pm

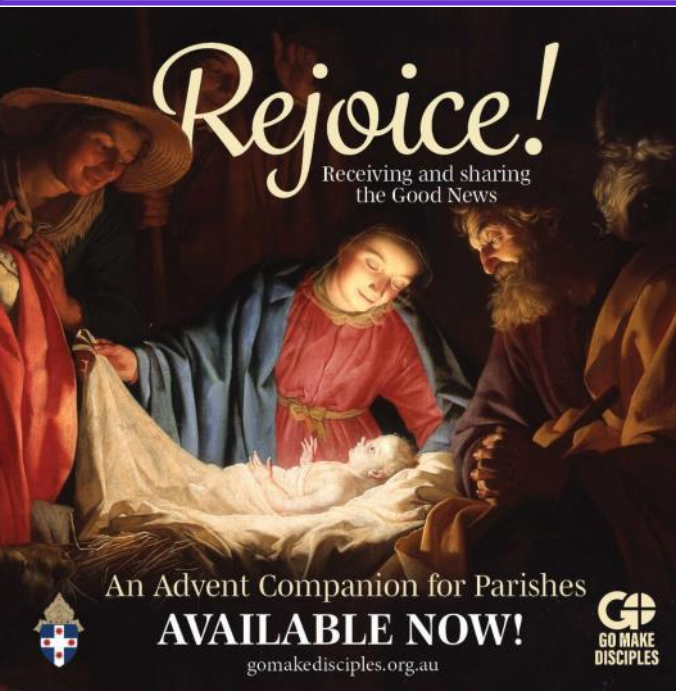
Sacramental Coordinator/ PSSO
Mrs Elizabeth Gooley
9554 8155
reginasacramental@gmail.com
Tuesday and Thursday from
11.30am - 3.30pm

School Principal
Mr Chris Egan
Asst. Principal
Mr Peter Busch
REC
Mrs Elizabeth Webster

On 'Advent' by Archbishop Anthony Fisher

Our word 'Advent' comes from the Latin *adventus*, meaning 'coming' or 'arrival', and indicating a season of waiting, which is why we sing hymns of longing like *Come, O come, Emmanuel*. Yet the word *adventus* is in fact in the past tense, as if the One we await has already arrived.

In fact, Advent points not to one but *three* comings of Christ. One coming is in the *past*, when Christ came two thousand years ago as a helpless Babe. One coming is in the *future*, when Christ will return in glory. And one coming is in the *present* when Christ is here amongst us in word and sacrament, in minister and community, in creation and redemption.



The Catholic Weekly

In this week's edition:

- Archbishop Fisher leads anti-euthanasia rally
- Former Seminary rector appointed new Auxiliary Bishop
- Cautious support for discrimination bill

Pick up your copy for \$2 after Mass.

Lights of Christmas 2021 St Mary's Cathedral 9-25 December

Join in Sydney's favourite free Christmas tradition, uniting families, locals and tourists with a display of digital storytelling projected onto St Mary's Cathedral.



Peakhurst Men's Mental Health Walk & Talk

About a year ago, several men from Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church at Peakhurst started a "Mental Health" walking group for men. The group is for men and boys 15 and over to meet, walk and have a chat.

The group walks around Gannons Park with various distances from 1.3km upto 5km. Their motto is "No one walks alone" and no matter how slow you walk, there will always be someone with you.

Anyone interested, just come along. The group meet in the carpark of Our Lady of Fatima Church carpark, corner of Isaac Street and Forest Road Peakhurst at about 5:45pm on Thursdays for a 6:00pm start.

All men are invited to come along. Wife can encourage their husbands to come.

Peter O'Connell
0428 605 741

It looks as though Parish Christmas Party 2021 will happen on 18 December after the Saturday Vigil Mass. Details still to be confirmed!



Christmas Appeal

As is tradition here at Regina Coeli, the ladies of St Vincent de Paul Society will begin their Christmas Appeal over the next two weekends. What is raised will go toward Christmas gifts for those who are in need in our own area. If you wish to give please come prepared, thank you!



Lighting the first Advent Candle

Lord our God,
we praise you for your Son,
Jesus Christ:
he is Emmanuel,
the hope of the peoples,
he is the wisdom
that teaches and guides us,
he is the Saviour of every nation.
Lord God,
let your blessing come upon us
as we light the candles of this wreath.
May the wreath and its light
be a sign of Christ's promise
to bring us salvation.
May he come quickly and not delay.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

First Reading Jer 33:14-16

I will cause a good seed to spring forth from David.

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah:

‘In those days and at that time,
I will make a virtuous Branch grow
for David,
who shall practise honesty and
integrity in the land.
In those days Judah shall be saved
and Israel shall dwell in confidence.
And this is the name the city will be
called:
The Lord-our-integrity.’

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 24:4-5. 8-9. 10. 14. R. v.1

(R.) To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

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. 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.)
3. His ways are faithfulness and love
for those who keep his covenant
and will.
The Lord's friendship is for those
who revere him;
to them he reveals his covenant. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Thes 3:12-4:2

When Christ comes may he strengthen your hearts in holiness.

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints.

Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation Ps 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

*Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.*

Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

Your redemption is near at hand.

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.

‘Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.’



Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

The readings of the First Sunday of Advent set the stages for our reflections on the entire season. They contain a number of promises, all pointing to peace and fulfilment. Each reading depicts a dimension of suffering that was often brought on by the people themselves. The promises are assurances that the end of their suffering was in sight. The promises reveal a loving and provident, a merciful and forgiving God. These are promises full of hope.

The coming of the Lord is clearly a time of expectation, not of fear and trembling. Although the earlier tradition about the Day of the Lord included punishment of the wicked, the focus here is on redemption. The time of expectation may be preceded by apocalyptic signs in the heavens and dismay on earth, but this cosmic shift will bring fulfilment, not destruction. The love and providence, the mercy and forgiveness of God will be made manifest.

What is expected of those who receive the promise? An Advent way of life exhorts us to ‘wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ’. This way of life is both simple and profound. It does not necessarily require unusual behaviour on our part, but it calls us to live the usual unusually well. It affects the everyday events of life; it directs the way we interact with people; it informs the attitudes that colour our judgments and motivations. It is as ordinary as the birth of a child; it is as extraordinary as the revelation of God.

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