



# Regina Coeli Parish

Beverly Hills - In the Archdiocese of Sydney



## Weekly Newsletter

**3rd Sunday of Advent**  
**12 December 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



A lot has happened at Regina Coeli Primary School over the past 7 days. There was a confirmed case, which meant that an entire year group had to go into self-isolation for two weeks. It turned out that the confirmed case had a sibling who also tested positive. So another year group had to go into self-isolation for two weeks. All the siblings of those who went into self-isolation also had to do the same. So, in the blink of an eye, around 60% of the school had been taken out. When a new child from one of the remaining year groups tested positive it was "game over." In the end just a handful of children who tested positive were enough to send the whole school back to "remote learning." [For your information, I am told that all the children who have tested positive are doing fine.] Interestingly, however, the staff were able to return to work without too much delay or disruption, but why?

There seems to be a major distinction between *close* contact and *casual* contact. A close contact of a confirmed case needs to go into self-isolation for a week (if vaccinated) or two (if unvaccinated). But a casual contact can return to active life as soon as a negative test result is returned. It appears that the ultimate authority who decides whether our contact with a confirmed case is close or causal is *NSW Health* who, incidentally, deemed that the staff who worked with the confirmed cases in enclosed classrooms were *casual contacts*, for a number of reasons, not the least of which is the fact that they had all been vaccinated.

This has been a long winded way to address a pressing issue at hand, namely, the decision regarding the Parish Christmas Party this year. A few people have expressed their concerns, especially in view of the recent episode at the school. Others have said that it wasn't necessary to cancel the Christmas party for the second time in a row. I am conflicted, to say the least, because I know that there are legitimate concerns, but I tend to agree with the latter group and here is why. There was great drama at the school because the children were unilaterally classified as unvaccinated people who were "incorrigibly" in close contact with one another. But the Parish Christmas Party should be treated differently because:

- It will be an *outdoor* event! (weather permitting; otherwise, in the hall)
- The majority of our parishioners will have been vaccinated.
- It will take place after 15 December 2021 with more restrictions lifted.
- Only the volunteers will be allowed to handle food.

Almost one third of 2021 has been spent in hard lockdown. We have eventually come out of the lockdown, not because there were no more cases, but because it was agreed that we had to *live with the virus*, especially with the support of vaccines and common sense. There seems to be no other sustainable way forward. But what does "living with the virus" look like? Surely, it cannot be a mere repetition of the past two years, the enormous cost of which, I believe, we are only just beginning to notice. I know that "Parish Christmas Party" might sound risky but, in reality, it might be no riskier than, for example, attending Mass indoors or some of the activities which many of us are already undertaking in other places. So the Parish Christmas Party will be on for those who make the prudential judgment that it is worth their participation at this time. I just hope that the weather will hold out! - Fr Peter -

#### Pastoral Team:

Fr Peter Kwak PP

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## The Week Ahead

Sun 12 December 3rd Sunday	8.30am Mass 10.00am Mass
Mon 13 December St Lucy	No Mass
Tue 14 December St John of the Cross	9.15am Mass
Wed 15 December	7am Mass
Thu 16 December	9.15am Mass
Fri 17 December	9.15am Mass
Sat 18 December	9.00am Mass 9:25- Adoration 9:55am & Reconciliation 4:15- Reconciliation 4:45pm Vigil Mass 5pm
Sun 19 December 4th 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



**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

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

## In Loving Memory

Kathleen Coleman, Giuseppe Graniero, Garry 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,

*The Beverly Hills Men's Conference will be selling St Vincent de Paul Christmas Cards & 2022 Columban Art Calendars from this weekend. Purchases can be made by visiting the Piety Stall, with money raised used to assist the needy in our Parish area. Christmas Cards of high quality will be selling for \$5.00 for a pack of 10 cards. Columban Art Calendars, highlighting Solemnities, Feasts & Memorials, are selling at the bargain price of \$7.00 per calendar.*

## Christmas Appeal

The ladies of St Vincent de Paul Society will accept donation which will go toward Christmas gifts for those who are in need in our own area. If you wish to contribute, please do so at the door, thank you!

## Rosary Statue

Mrs J. Markos

18 Albion St.

Ph: 0409 091 771



### 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

## CHRISTMAS 2021

### FRIDAY 24TH DECEMBER:

CHRISTMAS VIGIL (FAMILY) AT 6PM  
CHRISTMAS VIGIL (SIMPLE) AT 8PM  
MIDNIGHT MASS AT MIDNIGHT

### SATURDAY 25TH DECEMBER:

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS AT 8.30AM  
CHRISTMAS DAY MASS AT 10AM

### ADVENT RECONCILIATION (ANONYMOUS):

SUNDAY 19TH DECEMBER 2-4PM  
TUESDAY 21ND DECEMBER 6-8PM

*Happy Christmas!*

*- Fr Peter -*

**Parish Christmas Party 2021 will be held on Saturday  
18 December after the 5PM Vigil Mass:**

- \* Please sign up for catering purposes
- \* Food will be provided and handled by volunteers only
- \* Please bring your own cutlery and (empty) plates so as to make the event more environmentally friendly.





First Holy Communion in the early 1960s  
@ Regina Coeli

### On John the Baptist by Fr Anthony Robbie

*Out of the desert strides the majestic figure of John the Baptist, last and greatest of the prophets. The Jewish people are waiting as they have waited for so many centuries. They yearn for their promised Messiah, not least because they have fallen so low from their former pride. Once they gloried in the unique favour of God, but now they are the remote province of a pagan empire. Now their minds turn ever more to the words of the prophets, which convey God's promise of a Messiah. Who will he be and what will he do? "There was a man sent by God. His name was John" (Jn 1:6). The Gospels record his dramatic and ethereal appearance. A figure of austerity in an age of indulgence and of compelling vision in an age of doubt. Like Jesus he has left the inhabitations of men to seek the face of God in the wilderness. Locusts and wild honey nourish him and a coarse garment of camel hair covers him. Not for him the comforts of this world. His heart is set on another. All of faithful Israel is summed up in his extraordinary person. Two long lines have converged in him - the priestly and the kingly offices combined. From his father he inherits the priestly character and from his mother, daughter of the House of David like her cousin Our Lady, he bears the royal dignity. John the Baptist is Israel at her most noble, her most faithful, her most glorious. Is it any wonder that people wonder if he is the Messiah himself?*

### Christmas Lunch at St Luke, Revesby

You're invited for lunch on Christmas Day at St Luke Parish Hall 1 Beaconsfield St Revesby.

December 25, 2021 from 11:30AM onwards. No Costs.

Please consider joining us for a lovely meal, great company, kids craft table, entertainment, singing and much more. Individuals and families welcome. No one should be alone on Christmas day. Want to know more - Call 9773 9065.

Bookings Essential via <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/833733>.



## Christmas Play 2021



Dear parish community, we warmly invite children to be part of the Christmas play for the Family Christmas Vigil Mass on 24th December. **Practice times are as follows: Thursday 16 December 3PM, Tuesday 21 December 3PM and Wednesday 22 December 3pm.** Please contact Rosetta and Tina for more information.  
(email: [rosetta.p@outlook.com](mailto:rosetta.p@outlook.com)).

**First Reading Zep 3:14-18**

*With gladness the Lord will rejoice over you.*

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion,  
Israel, shout aloud!  
Rejoice, exult with all your heart,  
daughter of Jerusalem!  
The Lord has repealed your sentence;  
he has driven your enemies away.  
The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your  
midst;  
you have no more evil to fear.  
When that day comes, word will come to  
Jerusalem:  
Zion, have no fear,  
do not let your hands fall limp.  
The Lord your God is in your midst,  
a victorious warrior.  
He will exult with a joy over you,  
he will renew you by his love;  
he will dance with shouts of joy for you  
as on a day of festival.

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Is 12:2-6 R. v.6**

**(R.) Cry out with joy and gladness:  
for among you is the great and  
Holy One of Israel.**

1. Truly, God is my salvation,  
I trust, I shall not fear.  
For the Lord is my strength, my song,  
he became my saviour.  
With joy you will draw water  
from the wells of salvation. (R.)
2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to  
his name!  
Make his mighty deeds known to the  
peoples!  
Declare the greatness of his name. (R.)
3. Sing a psalm to the Lord  
for he has done glorious deeds,  
make them known to all the earth!  
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy  
for great in your midst is the Holy One  
of Israel. (R.)

**Second Reading Phil 4:4-7**

*The Lord is near.*

I want you to be happy, always happy in  
the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your  
happiness. Let your tolerance be evident

to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is  
no need to worry; but if there is anything  
you need, pray for it, asking God for it with  
prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of  
God, which is so much greater than we can  
understand, will guard your hearts and your  
thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

**Gospel Acclamation Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;  
he sent me to bring Good News  
to the poor.**

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel Lk 3:10-18**

*What, then, must we do?*

When all the people asked John, 'What  
must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has  
two tunics he must share with the man  
who has none, and the one with something  
to eat must do the same.' There were tax  
collectors too who came for baptism, and  
these said to him, 'Master, what must we  
do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than  
your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in  
their turn, 'What about us? What must we  
do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No  
extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among  
the people, who were beginning to think  
that John might be the Christ, so John  
declared before them all, 'I baptise you with  
water, but someone is coming, someone  
who is more powerful than I am, and I am  
not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he  
will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.  
His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his  
threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into  
his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire  
that will never go out.' As well as this, there  
were many other things he said to exhort  
the people and to announce the Good News  
to them.



**Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA**

We are at the midpoint of Advent.  
Today we celebrate *Gaudete*  
Sunday. The principal theme of the  
day is joy. According to Paul, joy is  
one of the fruits of the Spirit (cf. Gal  
5:22). Such joy is a religious  
sentiment, not emotional happiness.  
Along with gratitude, it is the heart's  
response to God's goodness. Zion is  
told to shout for joy because it has  
been saved by God from its enemies  
and because God is in the midst of  
the people. The psalm response  
proclaims the same message; the  
reading from Philipians announces  
that the is near. This is cause for joy.

Advent is a time for joy, not primarily  
because we are anticipating the  
anniversary of the birth of Christ, but  
because God is already in our midst  
(Immanuel). The readings for this  
Sunday assure us that God is with  
us, not as a judge but as a Saviour.  
We rejoice over the saving acts of  
God that make us confident of  
God's care and unafraid of whatever  
may cross our paths. We rejoice in  
the peace of God that surpasses all  
understanding. Advent joy is like the  
delight that fills a woman who has  
just given birth, even if it occurred in  
the throes of birthpangs. Advent joy  
springs from the realisation that the  
presence of God in our midst can so  
transform our lives that the  
promises of peace and security will  
be fulfilled. Advent joy is the way we  
live in the tension between already  
and not yet.

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