



Regina Coeli Parish

Beverly Hills - In the Archdiocese of Sydney



Weekly Newsletter

**4th Sunday of Advent
19 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

Unworthy servants that we are, O Lord, grieved by the guilt of our deeds, we pray that you may gladden us by the saving advent of your Only Begotten Son.
- Opening Prayer from the Thursday Mass in the 3rd week of Advent -

Advent saves. The word 'advent' means 'coming toward.' Jesus is coming toward us and, by doing so, revealing the face of God to us. For us to see the face of God is to taste salvation. But how well are we preparing ourselves for the coming of Jesus? Do we feel the need for his saving advent?

John the Baptist came to prepare the way for the Lord. The climactic point in his life was when he was able to point to Jesus and say, 'Behold the Lamb of God!' But we cannot appreciate who Jesus is or why is he called the Lamb of God without recognising in ourselves the need for God's mercy. For this reason John the Baptist preached the baptism of *repentance*.

Come to think of it, the Lord does not require any assistance in coming toward us. This means that the work of preparing the way for the Lord pertains to us and needs to be done *in* us, especially through repentance. For us to repent is to recognise all the ways in which our hearts have strayed and to return to beholding the Lamb of God because, when we do so, the most wonderful things happen:

Unworthy servants that we are, O Lord, grieved by the guilt of our deeds, we pray that you may gladden us by the saving advent of your Only Begotten Son!

Speaking of repentance, the Season of Advent is an ideal time in which to experience the joy of repentance, especially through the sacrament of reconciliation. I have been saying to people, half-jokingly, 'My body might be out of lockdown but not my brain!' I guess the same could easily be true of us *spiritually*. I hope that everyone can experience the freedom of spiritual readjustment/recalibration which the sacrament of reconciliation powerfully offers us, in preparation for the joy of Christmas. I will make myself extra available for reconciliation on Sunday 4-6PM and Tuesday 6-8PM.

Christmas falls on a Saturday this year, the fact of which creates the unusual situation whereby there is hardly any breathing space between Christmas and Sunday (Feast of the Holy Family). Therefore I have decided that:

- There will be no 5PM Saturday Vigil on 25 December so that Christmas Day can be enjoyed to the full.
- The two Sunday Masses on 26 December will be kept simple (by 'simple' I probably mean something like 'short and sweet').

- Fr Peter -



Pastoral Team:

Fr Peter Kwak PP

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The Week Ahead

| | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Sun 19 December 4th Sunday | 8.30am 10.00am 4-6pm | Mass Mass Reconciliation |
| Mon 20 December | | No Mass |
| Tue 21 December | 9.15am 6-8pm | Mass Reconciliation |
| Wed 22 December | 7am | Mass |
| Thu 23 December | 9.15am | Mass |
| Fri 24 December Christmas Eve | 6PM 8PM Midnight | Vigil Mass (Family) Vigil Mass Midnight Mass |
| Sat 25 December Christmas Day | 8.30am 10.00am | Christmas Day Mass Christmas Day Mass |
| | | No 5PM Saturday Vigil |
| Sun 26 December The Holy Family | 8.30am 10.00am | Mass Mass |

Safety rules regarding Mass attendance

The latest rules:

- Please sign in for (potential) contact tracing
- Mask-wearing is recommended especially where crowded
- Practise social distancing where possible
- No maximum numbers
- No need to make a booking

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 start gradually by attending one or more of the weekday Masses where social distancing is never an issue.

Recently Deceased

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

In Loving Memory

Josephine Bajada, 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, Paul Camelotti.

Rosary Statue
Ms B. Meaney
19 Bundara St.
Ph: 02 9150 8788



Parish Secretary
TBC
9554 8155
Tues 11am-4pm
&
Fri 11am-4pm

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 Appeal

On behalf of the St Vincent de Paul Ladies' Conference, I sincerely thank all those who donated so generously to our Christmas Appeal. The sum of \$3642 was collected. Many thanks and a happy Christmas to all!

- Anne Kensey, President -

**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

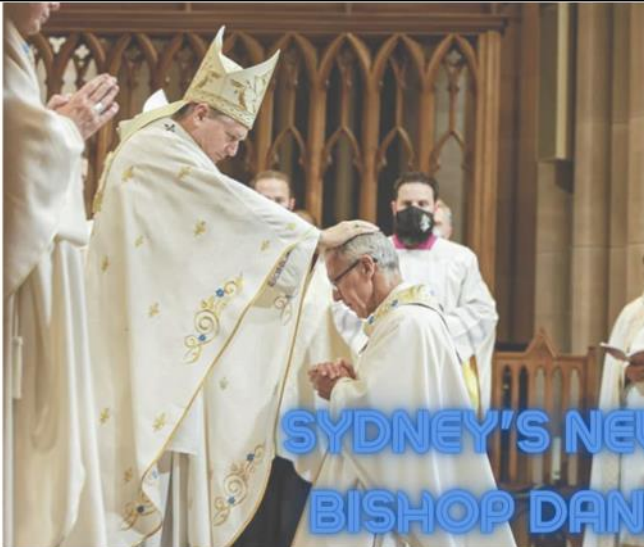
Happy Christmas!

- Fr Peter -

THANK YOU

WOOLWORTHS (HURSTVILLE)
FOR THE DONATION OF HAMS!

Parish Christmas Party 2021



**SYDNEY'S NEW AUXILIARY:
BISHOP DANNY MEAGHER**



I do feel very uncomfortable here, standing before you in all my finery. In Jesus' last public appearance...he was half-naked after his scourging and was about to be condemned to death. But he is risen now, glorious. So I hope we gather tonight knowing that we are utterly needy, especially me.

I hope, as a bishop, to serve people at the grassroots. That means in our homes, in the ups and downs of daily life where God is genuinely so close to us. So I would like to serve our parishes and schools, and encourage a loving, patient, gentle attitude, one person at a time, as we bring the light of Christ, one sacrament at a time.

I hope to be possessed by Jesus, honestly living his Gospel, so that I might bring others into the divine presence. I fear just becoming an administrative hack. I hope to be of genuine assistance to Archbishop Fisher in his herculean task of shepherding us all closer to God.

08.12.2021

On the Incarnation by St Leo the Great

No doubt the Son of God in his omnipotence could have taught and sanctified men by appearing to them in a semblance of human form as he did to the patriarchs and prophets, when for instance he engaged in a wrestling contest or entered into conversation with them, or when he accepted their hospitality and even ate the food they set before him. But these appearances were only types, signs that mysteriously foretold the coming of one who would take a true human nature from the stock of the patriarchs who had gone before him. No mere figure, then, fulfilled the mystery of our reconciliation with God, ordained from all eternity. The Holy Spirit had not yet come upon the Virgin nor had the power of the Most High overshadowed her, so that within her spotless womb Wisdom might build itself a house and the Word become flesh. The divine nature and the nature of a servant were to be united in one person so that the Creator of time might be born in time, and he through whom all things were made might be brought forth in their midst.

For unless the new man, by being made *in the likeness of sinful flesh*, had taken on himself the nature of our first parents, unless he had stooped to be one in substance with his mother while sharing the Father's substance and, being alone free from sin, united our nature to his, the whole human race would still be held captive under the dominion of Satan. The Conqueror's victory would have profited us nothing if the battle had been fought outside our human condition. But through this wonderful blending the mystery of new birth shone upon us, so that through the same Spirit by whom Christ was conceived and brought forth we too might be born again in a spiritual birth; and in consequence the evangelist declares the faithful to have been *born not of blood, nor of the desire of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*

First Reading Mi 5:1-4

Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel.

The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
the least of the clans of Judah,
out of you will be born for me
the one who is to rule over Israel;
his origin goes back to the distant past,
to the days of old.
The Lord is therefore going to abandon
them
till the time when she who is to give birth
gives birth.
Then the remnant of his brothers will
come back
to the sons of Israel.
He will stand and feed his flock
with the power of the Lord,
with the majesty of the name of his God.
They will live secure, for from then on he
will extend his power
to the ends of the land.
He himself will be peace.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19. R. v.4

**(R.) Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we shall
be saved.**

1. O Shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. (R.)
2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. (R.)
3. May your hand be on the man you have
chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon
your name. (R.)

Second Reading Heb 10:5-10

I am coming to do your will.

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:

You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation,
prepared a body for me.

You took no pleasure in holocausts or
sacrifices for sin;
then I said,
just as I was commanded in the scroll of
the book,
'God, here I am! I am coming to obey
your will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want
what the Law lays down as the things to be
offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations,
the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin,
and you took no pleasure in them; and then
he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey
your will. He is abolishing the first sort to
replace it with the second. And this will was
for us to be made holy by the offering of his
body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation Lk 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!

***I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.***

Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 1:39-45

*Why should it happen that I am honoured with a visit from
the mother of my Lord?*

Mary set out and went as quickly as she
could to a town in the hill country of Judah.
She went into Zechariah's house and
greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth
heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in
her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the
Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said,
'Of all women you are the most blessed,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why
should I be honoured with a visit from the
mother of my Lord? For the moment your
greeting reached my ears, the child in my
womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who
believed that the promise made her by the
Lord would be fulfilled.'



Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

There is always excitement at this time
of the year. It is as if everything is filled
with promise. Animosities are set
aside; estrangement dissolves into
reconciliation; the whole world seems
gentler; and we are filled with the
spirit of generosity. In the days just
before Christmas, the possibility of
newness is almost palpable. The spirit
of the season has caught hold of us
even before the actual day has
arrived. Today we stand on the
threshold of fulfilment. The future that
God has prepared for us is open
before us, even though we have not
yet stepped out into it.

The incarnation takes place in human
history, thus affirming the
fundamental goodness of human life
and concerns, and sanctifying them
even further. The child comes from
simple people, from a place that is
relatively insignificant, thus
underscoring God's preference for
what is ordinary. The body that was
offered for our salvation, the body that
consecrated us through having been
offered up, was the body that grew in
the womb of Mary. The extraordinary
salvific deed of God was accomplished
through his coming into the world as
one of us. The obedience that Christ
played out through his body fulfilled
for us the promises made by God.

We stand on the threshold of
fulfilment, the fulfilment of an event
that has already taken place. We
ritually reenact it so that we never
take it for granted, so that we never
forget that it is in and through human
history that the marvellous deeds of
God are accomplished.

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