



Regina Coeli Parish

Beverly Hills - In the Archdiocese of Sydney



Weekly Newsletter

The Baptism of the Lord 9 January 2022

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

One of the challenges with the coronavirus might have to do with its unpredictability. People's response to it seems to range from asymptomatic to fatal. Not knowing with absolute certainty how someone might respond to the coronavirus has meant that we tended to opt for maximum safety and minimum risk in the past. However, this option has proven to be increasingly unsustainable over time. After all, there are other safeties and risks which are also important to consider in the multifaceted marathon of human life.

Speaking of unpredictability, I have a story about the unpredictability of reconciliation. In the lead-up to Christmas 2021, I made myself available for two extra sessions of reconciliation: one on Sunday 4-6pm and another on Tuesday 6-8pm. On Sunday I was feeling tired and so was able to enjoy a good nap in the confessional; nevertheless, I was surprised that I had been left all alone during the entire time. Perhaps people were discouraged by the strong wind outside which was gusty with nothing but hot air. Another possibility was that, as a general rule, coming to church twice on the same day was not the preferred option for most people. But I still couldn't help but question the value of sitting in the confessional for two hours when no one was coming, not even a single soul!

Needless to say, I was not looking forward to Tuesday's reconciliation. As a matter of fact, I had almost convinced myself to forget about it - to block out of my consciousness the fact of its existence. In the end, however, I felt obliged to turn up to the confessional, even if for no other reason than just to honour my end of the arrangement. So I was pleasantly surprised to discover that there was already a small queue of people ten minutes before the start. I became intrigued when, not long after entering the confessional, a steady flow of footsteps could be heard outside. I was astounded when, from then on, there were nonstop confessions for the next two and a half hours! How quickly one's outlook can change and how unpredictably!

When I prepare children for First Reconciliation I usually share with them (and with their parents) the fact that I couldn't imagine my life as a priest without reconciliation. By 'reconciliation' in this context I mean my going to other priests for reconciliation. For example, I was at St Patrick's in Church Hill recently. While I was waiting for my turn, a parishioner recognised me and said, 'Fr Peter, what are you doing here?' I said, 'Reconciliation.' She said, 'But you're a priest!' Quite evidently, priests need to go to reconciliation too; in fact, quite regularly, at least I do. I would struggle to function as a priest if I myself could not go to reconciliation and be supported by the grace of the sacrament. I meant it when I once said publicly, 'Spiritually speaking, do we feel like we might still be in lockdown somehow, not knowing how to come out of it? A good reconciliation, made with humble transparency, would be a superb way to taste freedom and be reminded once again of the spiritual heights to which we are called!

- Fr Peter -

Pastoral Team:

Fr Peter Kwak PP

beverlyhillspriest@gmail.com

Parish Office Address:

5 Tarrilli Street

Postal Address:

PO Box 100

Beverly Hills NSW 2209

Telephone: 9554 8155

Email: reginaparish@gmail.com

Web: reginacoeliparish.org.au



The Week Ahead

Sun 9 The Baptism of the Lord	8.30am Mass 10.00am Mass
Mon 10 January	No Mass
Tue 11 January	9.15am Mass
Wed 12 January	7am Mass
Thu 13 January	9.15am Mass
Fri 14 January	9.15am Mass
Sat 15 January	9.00am Mass
	9:25- Adoration
	9:55am & Reconciliation
	4:15- Reconciliation
	4:45pm Vigil Mass
Sun 16 January 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	8.30am Mass 10.00am Mass

Safety rules regarding Mass attendance

The latest rules:

- Please sign in for the purpose of potential contact tracing
- Mask-wearing is (again) required
- Practise social distancing where possible
- Max. capacity is 260 according to the 2 square metre rule
- There is no need to make a booking
- Congregational singing is discouraged

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

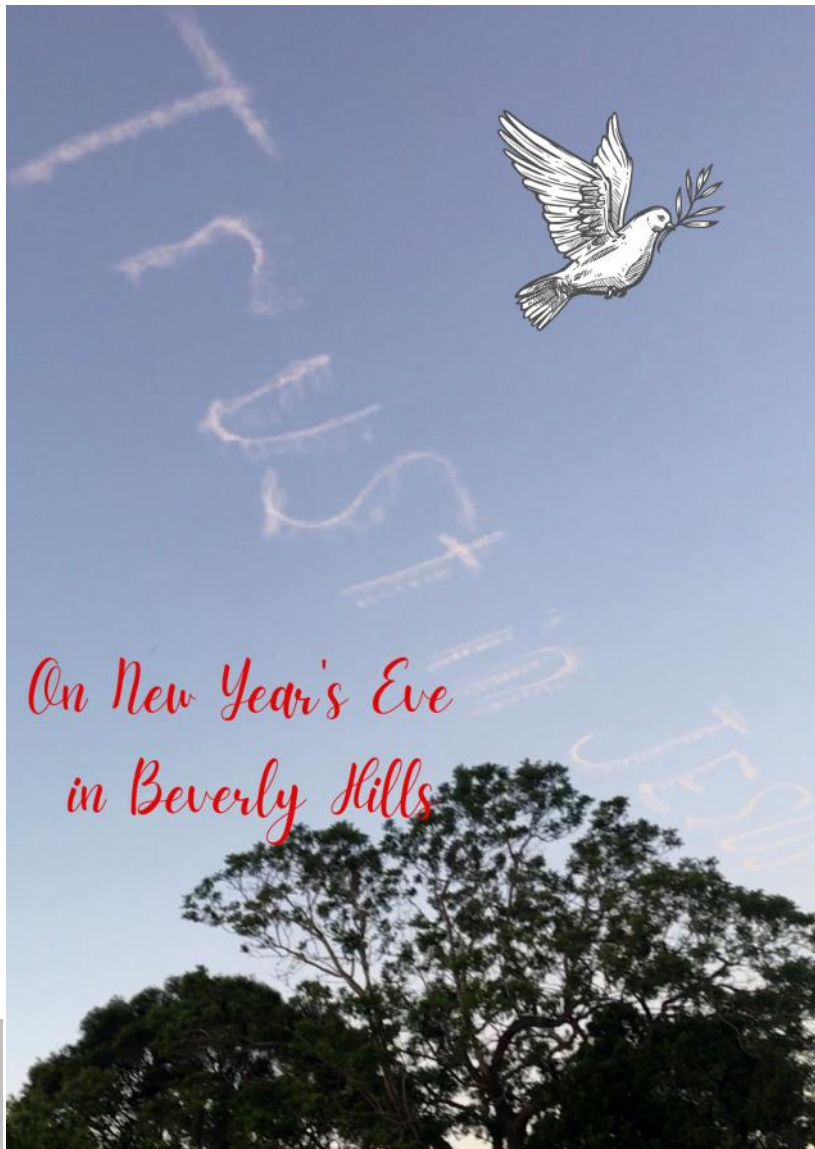
Gennaro Sacco, Dorothy Browne, Kathleen Coleman, Gabriel Stanghieri, David Brown, Bill Gately, June Roebuck, Bradley Murphy, Bernie Langtry, Peter Peters, Frank Capra

In Loving Memory

Maria Addolorata Tesoriero, Salvatore Russo, Barbara Chater, Michelle Makin, Peter Pezzutti, Valerie Zacka, Ron & Steven Xuereb, Josephine & Spiro Bajada, Giuseppe Graniero, Garry Langridge

Please remember those who are in ill

health especially: Brian Moore, 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.



*On New Year's Eve
in Beverly Hills*

*A photo taken by a parishioner on 31 December 2021
somewhere in the parish of Regina Coeli.*

Rosary Statue

Mrs K. Peters
38 Weston Avenue
Ph: 02 9533 4547



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

**Last Weekend
2 January 2022**

2nd Collection \$1781.05

1st Collection \$415.35



A sermon by St Maximus of Turin On the mystery of the Lord's baptism

Reason demands that this feast of the Lord's baptism, which I think could be called the feast of his birthday, should follow soon after the Lord's birthday, during the same season, even though many years intervened between the two events.

At Christmas he was born a man; today he is reborn sacramentally. Then he was born from the Virgin; today he is born in mystery. When he was born a man, his mother Mary held him close to her heart; when he is born in mystery, God the Father embraces him with his voice when he says: *This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased: listen to him.* The mother caresses the tender baby on her lap; the Father serves his Son by his loving testimony. The mother holds the child for the Magi to adore; the Father reveals that his Son is to be worshipped by all the nations.

That is why the Lord Jesus went to the river for baptism; that is why he wanted his holy body to be washed with Jordan's water. Someone might ask, "Why would a holy man desire baptism?" Listen to the answer: Christ is baptized, not to be made holy by the water, but to make the water holy, and by his cleansing to purify the waters which he touched. For the consecration of Christ involves a more significant consecration of the water.

For when the Saviour is washed, all water for our baptism is made clean, purified at its source for the dispensing of baptismal grace to the people of future ages. Christ is the first to be baptized, then, so that Christians will follow after him with confidence.

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



Pope Francis on Baptism and Reconciliation

In the Sacrament of Baptism all sins are remitted, original sin and all of our personal sins, as well as the suffering of sin. With Baptism the door to an effectively new life is opened, one which is not burdened by the weight of a negative past, but rather already feels the beauty and the goodness of the Kingdom of Heaven. It is the powerful intervention of God's mercy in our lives, to save us. This saving intervention does not take away our human nature and its weakness — we are all weak and we are all sinners — and it does not take from us our responsibility to ask for forgiveness every time we err! **I cannot be baptized many times, but I can go to Confession and by doing so renew the grace of Baptism. It is as though I were being baptized for a second time.** The Lord Jesus is very very good and never tires of forgiving us. Even when the door that Baptism opens to us in order to enter the Church is a little closed, due to our weaknesses and our sins. Confession reopens it, precisely because it is a second Baptism that forgives us of everything and illuminates us to go forward with the light of the Lord. Let us go forward in this way, joyfully, because life should be lived with the joy of Jesus Christ; and this is a grace of the Lord.

First Reading Is 42:1-4. 6-7

Here is my servant, my chosen one in whom I am well pleased.

Thus says the Lord:

Here is my servant whom I uphold,
my chosen one in whom my soul
delights.
I have endowed him with my spirit
that he may bring true justice to the
nations.
He does not cry out or shout aloud,
or make his voice heard in the streets.
He does not break the crushed reed,
nor quench the wavering flame.
Faithfully he brings true justice;
he will neither waver, nor be crushed
until true justice is established on earth
for the islands are awaiting his law.
I, the Lord, have called you to serve the
cause of right;
I have taken you by the hand and formed
you;
I have appointed you as covenant of the
people and light of the nations,
to open the eyes of the blind,
to free captives from prison,
and those who live in darkness from the
dungeon.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 28:1-4. 9-10. R. v.11

*(R.) The Lord will bless his people
with peace.*

- O give the Lord you sons of God,
give the Lord glory and power;
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Adore the Lord in his holy court. (R.)
- The Lord's voice resounding on the
waters,
the Lord on the immensity of waters;
the voice of the Lord, full of power,
the voice of the Lord, full of splendour. (R.)
- The God of glory thunders.
In his temple they all cry: 'Glory!'
The Lord sat enthroned over the flood:
the Lord sits as king for ever. (R.)

Second Reading Acts 10:34-38

God anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power.

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.

'It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ - but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.'

Gospel Acclamation See Mk 9:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

**The heavens were opened and the
Father's voice was heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear him.
Alleluia!**

Gospel Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

*When Jesus had been baptised and had been praying, the
heavens were opened and the Holy Spirit came upon him.*

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.'

Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'



Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

This Christological feast brings to a close the Christmas season that reveals who God is for us and who we are to be for others in Christ. The baptism of Jesus inaugurates his ministry as the messiah of God. The passage from Isaiah indicates the kind of messiah that God intends Jesus to be. He will be a servant, one who, though mighty, is gentle, one who is chosen by the high God yet committed to the needy and the marginal, one who is the proclaimed Son of God and who still attends to the least within the human community. He may have come from an insignificant village like Nazareth, but he was anointed with the Holy Spirit and with power.

For whom did the messiah of God come? He came for people who were broken and suffering, blind or imprisoned. He came for people who are so easily pushed to the margins, beyond our view, where the circumstances of their lives will not trouble us - the homeless, the unemployed, the abandoned children, the helpless elderly, the mentally and chronically ill. He also came to people who, like Cornelius, do not belong to our inner circles, people who for any number of reasons threaten us, people we might actually despise. He came for the strangers among us, those who have different cultural customs, those who worship in different ways. He came for people we have pushed out as well as for those we have refused to let in. The messiah of God came for all people without distinction.

The psalm responses are from the English Translation of the Lectionary for the Mass ©1981 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved. The psalm texts, from *The Psalms, A New Translation*, ©1963 by The Grail, England and used by permission of the publishers. The scriptural quotations are taken from the *Jerusalem Bible*, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers.
© 2017 Creative Ministry Resources Pty Ltd
All use must be in accordance with your user licensing agreement.