



# Regina Coeli Parish

Beverly Hills - In the Archdiocese of Sydney



## Weekly Newsletter

**5th Sunday of Lent  
3 April 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



Two weeks ago I discussed a particular topic, namely, *the temptation to want the gifts of God but not God Himself*. The Prodigal Son from last week's Gospel was the archetypal culprit who committed the folly of trying to enjoy the gifts apart from the Giver. The prevalence of this temptation can be discerned everywhere and not just in Scripture. Some sins are more "presentable" than others. Conversely, some sins are more repugnant than others. But at their very core all sins could probably be described as the folly of trying to do with God's gifts what we want rather than what God wants.

I imagine that for most of us there have been periods in our lives when we felt indifferent toward the faith. And then we might have been humbled at some stage by the burden of life which we could not bear without divine assistance. So we turned to our faith with renewed vigour and felt divinely assisted - thanks be to God! We love the gifts from above which enable us to persevere in the face of all life's challenges. But are we not tempted to love the gifts more than the Giver such that, if we could, we would demand everything, only then to gradually drift away in forgetfulness?

What led me to my first major conversion in life was the fact that, like the prodigal son who hit rock-bottom, I had been feeling troubled, even miserable, in my teenager years. This induced me to turn to the faith as if for the first time. But as soon as I started to enjoy better health of body and soul, and therefore had renewed confidence, I would be tempted again to try to enjoy the gifts apart from the Giver. So, even many years later, I still wrote in my journal while on a retreat: '...like the prodigal son, as soon as I felt that I had something, I *squandered* it. This has been the story of my life, which repeats itself even now.'

Could this be a relatable story just for individuals but also for societies? For example, Australia is a country which has had a strong Christian foundation. Just think of what our forebears have been able to achieve in terms of establishing Catholic churches, schools, hospitals, etc.! I imagine that the Christian ethos has inspired in the Australian culture a number of renowned virtues such as fairness and frankness. Nevertheless, come to think of it, these virtues can no longer be taken for granted, not even in Australia!

The virtue of fairness seems to be at the risk of becoming a lost art; being frank has never been harder and beating around the bush for fear of offending someone is becoming the new norm. What has happened to the great country down under? Could this be an indication that even the most quintessential of Australian virtues cannot last when the One who has inspired them keeps being marginalised? What could restore the substance of the very best gifts Australia used to be renowned for?

- Fr Peter -

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Fr Peter Kwak PP

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## The Week Ahead

<b>Sun 3 April</b> 5th Sunday of Lent	8.30am Mass 10.00am Mass
<b>Mon 4 April</b>	No Mass
<b>Tue 5 April</b>	9.15am Mass with Year 5
<b>Wed 6 April</b>	7am Mass
<b>Thu 7 April</b>	9.15am Mass
<b>Fri 8 April</b>	9.15am Mass
<b>Sat 9 April</b>	9.00am Mass 9:25- Stations of the Cross 9:55am & Reconciliation 4:15- Reconciliation 4:45pm 5pm Vigil Mass
<b>Sun 10 April</b> Palm Sunday	8.30am Mass 10.00am Mass

**THURSDAY AFTERNOON TEA (2-4PM) IS BACK**

### Recently Deceased

Giuseppa Campagna, Patricia McMellon, Peter Lyle, Nea Gooley, Gloria Fisher, Gennaro Sacco, Dorothy Browne, Kathleen Coleman, David Brown, Bill Gately

### In Loving Memory

Tarcisius Sujono Setio Kuncoro, Mary Crawford, Jimmy Simmons, Giuseppe Graniero, The Hayes Family, Anna Maria Cicuto, Joe Poolice, Mara & Ivan Puljic, Kate & Vicko Hrdalo, Giacomo Campisi, Bernie Orbell

**Please remember those who are in ill health especially:** Boaz Ilija Radocaj (child), Brian Moore, Josephina Algozzino, 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 Came-

### Rosary Statue

**Mrs R. Xuereb**  
**7 Rhonda Avenue**  
**Ph: 02 9153 9101**



**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



### Palm Sunday Next Week

Last year I had prepared a small box of very locally grown olive branches. This was so that at least some of the people, on behalf of everyone, could symbolically participate in the re-enactment of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. But then an anonymous parishioner(?) delivered a massive box of olive branches such that there was plenty to go around for everyone!

So, this year, my suggestion is that those who are able to bring their own palm/olive branches should do so and bring some extra for those who are without. I hope everything somehow works out again!



### EASTER TRIDUUM @ REGINA COELI

#### HOLY THURSDAY

7pm The Lord's Supper  
followed by Reconciliation

#### GOOD FRIDAY

10am Stations of the Cross  
followed by Reconciliation

3pm The Passion of the Lord  
followed by Reconciliation

#### HOLY SATURDAY

7:00pm Easter Vigil

#### EASTER SUNDAY

8:30, 10am Mass



Happy Easter!

### Entering into Holy Week Retreat

The Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia are hosting a Lenten Retreat Day for all women on Saturday April 9<sup>th</sup> at St. Peter Chanel Parish in Berala. Doors open at 9:30am. Cost is \$30. For questions, email [sydney@op-tn.org](mailto:sydney@op-tn.org)

Register at:

<https://www.trybooking.com/BXLBZ>



### Last Weekend 27 March 2022

**2nd Collection \$1304.60**

1st Collection \$523.70

### Attendance

5PM ~106

8.30AM ~103

10AM ~125

**Total ~334**



## Introducing 2022's participants of the RCIA program:

### #2 Kathy

*I was first introduced to God and Jesus when I was 12 years old. I really enjoyed learning the Bible at the time, however my parents were of Buddhist belief so I had no option but to stop. I was re-introduced to God in the last few years through friends and family. My son has also been attending scripture classes at school and has been asking a lot of questions about God for which I had no answers, given my limited knowledge of God. With my son's passion in learning about God, this gave me the inspiration to learn more and allow faith to re-enter my life.*

*We are both very excited to be baptised this Easter and look forward to both learn and strengthen our knowledge and relationship with God and Jesus. Thank you to Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) for the support and giving us this opportunity.*

### #3 Hayley

*I came to Australia by myself when I was 16 years old, prior to that I've studied at Christian School for 5 years in HK, I still remember the how I felt, when touched the Bible the very first time and the teacher started talking about God and Jesus Christ. Slowly from the first class I was more interested about the Bible, God, Jesus and the reasons why for many other questions at the back of my mind, but I couldn't convince myself 100% into God at that time. During the high school I asked, why God makes human and the earth suffer, going through so many difficulties, wars, natural disasters, sins and crimes etc. I had chosen not to believe at the last year of my Year 11.*

*I came to Australia after I completed Year 11 in HK. That was one of my hardest times during my life - when I was 16 yrs old in Melbourne; from there I met some friends who brought me to church, helped me and listened to me, I was feeling very cosy and needed. During that period it was the first time I felt God was so real I could open my heart to talk to him, I prayed all the time, I was thankful he helped me get through the tough time. I admit, I forgot how he helped and supported me, I slowly left the church and left the group after I met some new friends and changed school.*

*A few years before my children were born, I asked myself what I wanted them to be. It is very important to have a religious belief that can help them with growth and moral development. Not sure what that was meant to be, I met their godmother Winnie (she is Catholic as well as her children). From there I discussed with my family that we should get children baptized Catholic. Part of the reason why I decided to become Catholic is because of my children and their mother. Coincidentally I felt myself going downhill back in 2020, didn't know where that came from, I went into one of the churches myself, I was feeling very peaceful and protected, the same feeling that I got when I was in Melbourne, brought back my previous memories, from there I knew I should go back to God.*

## MEET THE AUTHOR

An evening with  
GERARD HENDERSON

**The Pell Case:  
David Marr, Louise  
Milligan and me**

Thursday 7 April 6-7.30pm  
St Mary's Cathedral, Chapter Hall

To register scan  
the QR code



Catholic Weekly



THE MUSTARD SEED  
BOOKSHOP & CAFE



### An edifying story coming out of Poland

Last Thursday I was at a deanery meeting (a meeting for priests in the St George deanery). The topic of the war in Ukraine came up. So a few of the Polish priests started to explain what is currently happening in Poland.

More than 2 million refugees from Ukraine have crossed the border into Poland. They are not only *permitted* into Poland but also actively *welcomed* by the locals who are volunteering to pick them up in their own vehicles.

The Polish government has decided that the refugees would be given not a refugee-status but temporary citizenship for 18 months, which then could be renewed upon further assessment. This is so that those from Ukraine can access the same benefits afforded to Polish citizens while away from home.

There seems to be a real sense of unity amongst the people of Poland - the vast majority of whom are Catholic - in regard to how they wish to help out neighbours in great need, namely, with Christian charity!

### The Diocese of Lismore 2022 Flood Appeal

To donate directly please transfer funds to:

BSB: **037-889**

Account No: **1061 5829**

Account Name: **DOL Flood Appeal**

Unfortunately this appeal is not tax deductible. If you are having trouble donating, please email [appeals@lismore.catholic.org.au](mailto:appeals@lismore.catholic.org.au).

***Alternatively, you can donate via the ladies of St Vincent de Paul Society (this is the final weekend).***



**First Reading Is 43:16-21**

*I am doing a new thing and I will give drink to my people.*

Thus says the Lord,  
who made a way through the sea,  
a path in the great waters;  
who put chariots and horse in the field  
and a powerful army,  
which lay there never to rise again,  
snuffed out, put out like a wick:

No need to recall the past,  
no need to think about what was done  
before.

See, I am doing a new deed,  
even now it comes to light; can you not  
see it?

Yes, I am making a road in the  
wilderness,  
paths in the wilds.

The wild beasts will honour me,  
jackals and ostriches,  
because I am putting water in the  
wilderness

(rivers in the wild)  
to give my chosen people drink.  
The people I have formed for myself  
will sing my praises.

I am no longer trying for perfection by my own efforts, the perfection that comes from the Law, but I want only the perfection that comes through faith in Christ, and is from God and based on faith. All I want is to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and to share his sufferings by reproducing the pattern of his death. That is the way I can hope to take my place in the resurrection of the dead. Not that I have become perfect yet: I have not yet won, but I am still running, trying to capture the prize for which Christ Jesus captured me. I can assure you my brothers, I am far from thinking that I have already won. All I can say is that I forget the past and I strain ahead for what is still to come; I am racing for the finish, for the prize to which God calls us upwards to receive in Christ Jesus.

**Gospel Acclamation JI 2:12-13**

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,  
king of endless glory!*

*With all your heart turn to me,  
for I am tender and compassionate.*

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,  
king of endless glory!*

**Gospel Jn 8:1-11**

*Let the person without sin be the first to throw a stone.*

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak he appeared in the Temple again; and as all the people came to him, he sat down and began to teach them.

The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus, 'Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women like this to death by stoning. What have you to say?' They asked him this as a test, looking for something to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, 'If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.' Then he bent down and wrote on the ground again. When they heard this they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained standing there. He looked up and said, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she replied. 'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus 'go away, and don't sin any more.'



**Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA**

Lent ends on a note of wonder. In the face of all the mighty works that God has already performed for the people, God promises something even more magnificent.

Throughout this season we have reflected on the marvels that God accomplished in the lives of the people, cutting a covenant with Abraham, leading the people out of bondage, revealing God's own personal name, bring them into a land that is bursting with life. Now God says: You haven't seen anything yet.

The first reading proclaims that something new is about to appear. In the gospel, this new thing unfolds before our eyes. Here we see Jesus neither rejecting the law nor changing it. Instead, he shows that the law, as good as it might be, serves something higher. He shows that the mercy and compassion of God exceed the authority of the law. Once again we see that the readings of Lent are less concerned with mortification and penance than they are with divine graciousness and our response of joy and thanksgiving.

Paul is not satisfied with the blessings of the past. In fact, he considers them rubbish when compared with knowing and being united with Christ. Life with Christ transforms us from people who are caught in sin to women and men who have been forgiven. Life in Christ is the new thing that God has fashioned for us. God is the one who creates something new; we are the ones who are re-created.

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 125. R. v.3**

*(R.) The Lord has done great things for us;  
we are filled with joy.*

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,  
it seemed like a dream.  
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,  
on our lips there were songs. (R.)
2. The heathens themselves said: 'What  
marvels  
the Lord worked for them!'  
What marvels the Lord worked for us!  
Indeed we were glad. (R.)
3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage  
as streams in dry land.  
Those who are sowing in tears  
will sing when they reap. (R.)
4. They go out, they go out, full of tears,  
carrying seed for the sowing;  
they come back, they come back,  
full of song,  
carrying their sheaves. (R.)

**Second Reading Phil 3:8-14**

*Because of Christ I look upon everything else as useless in order to gain him.*

I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For him I have accepted the loss of everything, and I look on everything as so much rubbish if only I can have Christ and be given a place in him.

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