



# Regina Coeli Parish

Beverly Hills - In the Archdiocese of Sydney



## Weekly Newsletter

**4th Sunday of Lent**  
**19 March 2023**

### 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

***Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast. (Isaiah 66:10-11)***

The above verse is actually the entrance antiphon for the Mass of the 4th Sunday of Lent. We don't usually get to hear entrance antiphons at weekend Masses because we are very blessed to have our parish choirs who lead us in the singing of entrance hymns instead - thank you for all that you do! But when I prepare homilies I usually glance at the entrance antiphon too, and this time, I found myself immediately pondering over it, especially the last part - 'her consoling breast.'

What a surprising imagery! The aforementioned 'consoling breast' appears to belong to Jerusalem, which, of course, represents the Church, the *New Jerusalem*. In other words, the consoling mercy of Christ is best received from the bosom of the Church. The Catholic Church and 'her consoling breast,' who would have ever thought? But once we get over the element of surprise and any unnecessary sense of embarrassment, we might soon begin to realise what a depth of meaning is conveyed, and powerfully so, by the imagery of a suckling child.

I have had the privilege of feeding a newborn child with the breastmilk which had been stored in a baby bottle by its mother. At one moment a newborn child can be in absolute misery, wailing with all its might and trembling all over, especially inside its delicate mouth. The child feels hungry, and miserably so, because it knows not if its hunger is ever going to be satisfied. The child feels alone, even abandoned, in the darkness of the seemingly endless hunger. If the child could speak, it might cry out, 'My God, my God, why did you bring me into this world, only then to plunge me into such deep darkness?'

But everything changes at the next moment when the child *reconnects* with the mother's consoling breast. The transformation which overcomes the child then is sublime. The child suckles, with singular dedication, without wasting a second, as though it was born for this purpose and, when it suckles, there seems to be universal harmony. The child even close its eyes, as though in perfect equanimity, and rejoices in its entire being until, finally, soothed by ecstasy, it falls into the most peaceful of slumbers. Absolute misery has now turned into absolute bliss!

How true is the imagery of a suckling child when it is applied to our spiritual life! There is a world of difference between when we are and when we are not connected to the consoling breast of the Mother Church (a.k.a. The Body of Christ). Would that we still had the sensitivity of a newborn child toward the misery of being separated from the consoling breast of its mother! How ardently then ought we suckle, with the spiritual mouth of our entire being, as though everything depended on it, and never let it go?

- Fr Peter -

***'Do not forget the things your eyes have seen, nor let them slip from your heart all the days of your life; rather, tell them to your children and to your children's children.' (Deuteronomy 4:9)***



#### Pastoral Team:

Fr Peter Kwak PP

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## The Week Ahead

<b>Sun 19 March</b> 4th Sunday of Lent	8.30am Mass 10.00am Mass
<b>Mon 20 March</b>	No Mass
<b>Tue 21 March</b>	9.15am Mass with Yr 6 9.50am Reconciliation w. Year 5G
<b>Wed 22 March</b>	7.00am Mass 9.00am Adoration with Yr 1 & 6
<b>Thu 23 March</b>	9.15am Mass
<b>Fri 24 March</b>	9.15am Mass
<b>Sat 25 March</b> Annunciation	9.00am Mass 9.30-9.55am <b>Stations of the Cross</b> & Reconciliation 4.15-4.45pm Reconciliation 5.00pm Mass
<b>Sun 26 March</b> 5th Sunday of Lent	8.30am Mass 10.00am Mass

### Recently Deceased

Gerardina Civitarese, Pauline Patti, Maria Bila, Bridget Costello, John McCoy, June Coyle, Veronica Kellert, Francis Law, Therese Foster, Noel Smith, Paolo Melia.

### In Loving Memory

Martin & Nora Fleming, Paddy Minogue, Giuseppe Graniero, Giuseppa Campagna, Nick Lo Russo, Agatha Lee Kim Thai, Jusuf Oentojo, Tony Tesoriero, Carmelo Algozzino, Lucy Wong, Gennaro Sacco, Bob Henderson, Peter Peters, Frank Capra

### Please remember those who are in ill

**health especially:** Ryan Henderson, Dennis McInerney, Peter Phillips, Mary Patricia Hanrahan, Alida Clemente, Jane Abalos, Mitchell Morris, Brian Moore, Josephina Algozzino, Josh Venture, Carmen Bajada, Anne Kensey, Monica Costa, Quang Vo, Matt Nugent, Ann McDowell, Damiano Serravalle, George Dagher, Mrs Saba, Pat Mortimer, Mary Daniels, Geoff McDowell, Elena Mura, Mr TD (Terry) Wall, Kim Delaney, Lauren Sotano, Sam Hy.

### Rosary Statue

**Mrs. J. Markos**  
18 Albion St.  
Ph: 0409 091 771



## Excerpts from the Words of Remembrance for Gerardina Civitarese

*Born in San Fele, Italy in 1937, one from a family of 9 children...Life would have been hard growing up as a child during the war years and mum certainly experienced hardship as did many others...She was 21 when along with her younger sister they came to this country for a better life...Mum came to Sydney in 1959 - that's where she met my father. Under the stern and strict watchful eye of my late uncle Dominic a courtship ensued and they were married on the 28<sup>th</sup> May 1960. I came along 2 years later.*



*Mum was definitely a stylish, impeccably dressed always and never a hair out of place. When mum walked out the door she always looked a million dollars even when going to work. I'm sure she had shares in Estee Lauder.*

*Mum loved Dad and Dad loved Mum...My mum came from a humble background and led a relatively humble life. She got through life almost unscathed until in 2016. She was diagnosed with the early onset of dementia and progressively declined...We grieve, we mourn, we take comfort in the fact that Gerardina, my mother, is at peace and we carry on but we never forget.*

**- By Luigi Civitarese, the son -**

## Day of the Unborn Child

**Feast of the Annunciation Mass and Procession**  
Sunday 26th March at St Mary's Cathedral

- 10:30am Mass (Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP as Principal Celebrant)
- 12 noon Street Procession
- 1:30pm Benediction



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

**Sacramental Coordinator/ PSSO**  
Mrs Elizabeth Gooley  
9554 8155  
reginasacramental@gmail.com  
Tuesday & Friday from  
10.30am - 3.30pm

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

### Last Weekend 12 March 2023

**2nd Collection \$1607.25**

1st Collection	\$1158.65
Cashless Giving	\$225

### Attendance

5PM	106
8.30AM	137
10AM	~170
<b>Total</b>	<b>~413</b>



# Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross, also known as the Way of the Cross, commemorates Jesus's passion and death on the cross.

Regina Coeli Parish is organising a re-enactment of the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday the 7th of April and would like to extend an expression of interest to our parishioners.

If you are interested, please contact Coula on 0407951196



*Amazing grace! How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found;  
Was blind, but now I see.*

*Through many dangers, toils and snares,  
I have already come;  
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.*

## Discernment Retreat for Men – Identity, Vocation & Mission

24-26 March at Seminary of the Good Shepherd  
50-58 Abbotsford Rd, Homebush

This retreat is for men 18-35 years old at all stages of their discernment who are considering a vocation to the Priesthood. This is a great opportunity to immerse yourself in an ideal environment for you to really focus your attention on listening to God. The weekend includes Mass, talks, time for personal prayer, sacraments, adoration, spiritual guidance, Q&A with seminarians and discussions.

### Retreat Speakers:

Opening Keynote: Bishop Danny Meagher, Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney  
Fr Edmond Travers MSC, External Spiritual Director, Seminary of the Good Shepherd  
Fr Joseph Gedeon, Parish Priest of St Jerome's Parish, Punchbowl

### Registration: \$99

Registration is essential! \*Every inquirer's/participant's details are kept confidential.

For any enquiries, please contact the Vocation Centre on (02) 9307 8424 or email at [vocations@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:vocations@sydneycatholic.org)

## Walking With Our Lady Through Holy Week

A Womens Retreat Day with the Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia

Date: 1 April

Time: 10am-4pm

Where: St Peter Chanel Church, 62 Kingsland Rd, Berala

Along with talks and discussion, the day will include time for silence and prayer during a Holy Hour. An opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available. Morning tea and lunch are provided. Register online:

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

**First Reading 1 Sm 16:1, 6-7, 10-13**

*In the presence of the Lord God, they anointed David king of Israel.*

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

**Responsorial Psalm****Ps 22 R. v.1**

**(R.) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

1. The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures  
where he gives me repose.  
Near restful waters he leads me,  
to revive my drooping spirit. (R.)
2. He guides me along the right path;  
he is true to his name.  
If I should walk in the valley of darkness  
no evil would I fear.  
You are there with your crook and your  
staff;  
with these you give me comfort. (R.)
3. You have prepared a banquet for me  
In the sight of my foes.  
My head you have anointed with oil;  
My cup is overflowing. (R.)
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall  
follow me  
all the days of my life.  
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell  
for ever and ever. (R.)

**Second Reading Eph 5:8-14**

*Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.*

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said:

Wake up from your sleep,  
rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.

**Gospel Acclamation Jn 8:12**

**Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!  
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;  
whoever follows me will have the light of life.  
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!**

**Gospel Jn 9:1-41**

*The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored.*

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.'

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man.

'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

**Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA**

Humans see and judge by appearances, but God looks into the heart, and there finds the real person. God's standards are not superficial, as are so many of the standards of the world. It is not age, beauty or physical strength that is important; it is not social position or religious role that is preferred. God chooses whom God chooses. God saw in David, the insignificant shepherd, the potential for being the chief shepherd of his people. The man who was born blind became the one through whom others would see the mighty works of God. Yet, neither young David nor the man in the gospel made the initial step; each simply responded with openness to God's choice of him.

By what criteria do we judge others? Do we consider some people too insignificant for greatness? Are we overly concerned with status? Do we categorise people according to the disease or physical limitation that they must endure? Do we sometimes blame them for their disability? Do our eyes perceive life in accord with the standards of a materialistic, body-orientated, pleasure-seeking society? Or do we look into the other's heart, as God does?

As with the other scrutiny Sundays, catechumens and long-standing members alike are exhorted to make a choice. Jesus is the one who gives sight to blind eyes and religious insight to those open to receive it. However, there is a price to pay. Will it be the standards of the world, or the power of God in Jesus Christ?

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