



Regina Coeli Parish

Beverly Hills - In the Archdiocese of Sydney



Weekly Newsletter

**33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
19 November 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

The Gospel story is pretty simple. A wealthy man assigns his goods to each of three servants to care for while he is gone. He doesn't give them instructions, at least that we are told of. When he returns, he sees that two of the three servants have invested the money and got back twice the amount. He is delighted. So at this point the moral of the story would be: "make the most of what you have."

But if we look at just the successful servants, we miss the most interesting part of all. We miss the fascinating and puzzling story of the third servant. This poor soul did not invest the money at all! He buried it.

Quite simply, he was afraid of what might happen if he committed it and as a result, lost it. Given the owner's attitude, he was right to be afraid.

Having heard the fearful servant's story, the owner then had the man thrown into "the darkness outside" where there would be "wailing and grinding of teeth." Quite an overreaction, it seems. Hadn't the poor servant just wanted to keep the owner's money safe? But there is much more to it.

The monetary unit "talent" in Jesus' time was not a small . Even one talent could be worth more than a labourer would earn in a lifetime. And the owner entrusted a lot more than just money to the servants, he left them all his possessions, everything he had. In fact, the owner took a great risk and he wanted them to do the same, not leave the investment decaying somewhere . That is the story.

Ok, now make the switch. Assume that the parable was about God. Maybe God entrusts an even greater amount to you and me. Life, abilities, the gift of loving, the living breathing human beings around us, and, every so often, real and open acts of unselfish love. God gives all this free of charge, gives to us our lives with all their rewards and catastrophes, and he says to us, *dive in. You are my beloved!*

This seems wonderful. But then an awful question arises. Does God curse those who are afraid and who bury what they are given? Jesus at least seems to say so - "to everyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from the man who has not, even what he has will be taken away."

We are all frightened. But God always has compassion for us. God patiently waits to see if we will accept just a bit of the love he offers. And also, if we will even find just enough courage to invest some of this love in other people.

There is one thing that will go away if it is buried, but which gets greater if we use it. *Love.*

Think about it. If fear closes the door tightly against love, guess where the unloving one will be: in the darkness outside the door, wailing and gnashing those teeth. *Without love.*

The message to you and me? Let love in. See what happens!

Fr John Foley SJ liturgy.sluhostedsites.org



Pastoral Team:

Fr Peter Kwak PP

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The Week Ahead

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|------------------------------------|--|
| Sun 19 November 33rd Sunday OT | 8.30am Mass 10.00am Mass |
| Mon 20 November | No Mass |
| Tue 21 November | 9.15am Mass with Year 5 |
| Wed 22 November | 7.00am Mass |
| Thu 23 November | 9.15am Mass |
| Fri 24 November | 9.15am Mass |
| Sat 25 November | 9:00am Mass 9:30- Adoration 9:55am & Reconciliation 4:15- Reconciliation 4:45pm 5.00pm Mass |
| Sun 26 November Christ the King | 8.30am Mass 10.00am Mass |

Recently Deceased

Norman Shannon, Sr Marie Weeks OP, Sam Pergola, Val Green, Rula Hanna, Mariagrazia Ciccolella, Terence Wall, Pierre Cardoz, Anton Mandich, Pat Mortimer, Patricia Johnson, Geoffrey Connolly, Derek de Voss, Peter Phillips, Josephine Darmanin, Nicola Civitarese, Gerardina Civitarese

In Loving Memory

Francis Law, Ron Xuereb, Ken Maher, Mary McKinnon, Serena Fatseas, Paul Kensey, David Brown, James Roebuck, Alida Clemente, June Roebuck, Tony Tesoriero, Barbara Chater, Donato Tozzi, Donato Carnevale, Peter Peters, Frank Capra, Bob Henderson.

Please remember those who are in ill health especially:

Betty Meaney, Monica Costa, Ronnie Gaudry, Steve Ghantons, Vincent Roberts, Lucy Blundell, Ryan Henderson, Dennis McInerney, Mary Patricia Hanrahan, Mitchell Morris, Brian Moore, Josephina Algozzino, Josh Venture, Carmen Bajada, Anne Kensey, Ann McDowell, Damiano Serravalle, Mary Daniels, Geoff McDowell.

Rosary Statue
Mrs Toni Pezzutti
208A Moorefields Rd
Ph: 0403060376



Regina Coeli Parish
INVITES YOU TO
CHRISTMAS CAROLS
and
PARISH PARTY
December 10
Carols in the church 4:30pm
followed by **Party** on school grounds

- ★ Dinner Provided
- ★ Please bring dessert to share
- ★ Make it a picnic & bring a rug!

RSVP by Dec 3: Reginachristmasparty@gmail.com
or SMS Gina: 0403 236 540
Want to donate food or help on the day? Please call!

All are invited to attend the Parish Christmas carols and party! For catering purposes, please RSVP on the signup sheet at the back of the church.

Also, if you would like to volunteer with preparations, and on the evening of the Christmas party, there is a separate signup sheet at the back of the church for those willing to volunteer.

Thank you.

Call Out - Christmas Carol Singers and Musicians

We would love for You to join us - So if you are a singer or musician and would love to be part of this years parish carols on Sunday 10 December @4:30pm please get in touch with Nat - nat_demel@live.com.au or Lauren - laurenlim650@gmail.com

Please note that there will be rehearsals on Friday 1 December and Friday 8 December commencing at 6pm in the Church. No experience necessary, just a passion for Christmas carols.

We hope to see you there!



Parish Secretary

9554 8155
Tues 11am-4pm
&
Fri 11am-4pm

Sacramental Coordinator/ PSSO

Mrs Elizabeth Gooley
9554 8155
reginasacramental@gmail.com
Tuesday & Friday from
10.30am - 4.00pm

School Principal

Mr Chris Egan
Asst. Principal
Mr Peter Busch

REC
Ms Lisa Scott

Last Weekend 5 November 2023

2nd Collection \$1597.80

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|-----------------|----------|
| 1st Collection | \$910.70 |
| Cashless Giving | \$555.00 |

Attendance

| | |
|--------------|------------|
| 5PM | 110 |
| 8.30AM | 124 |
| 10AM | 169 |
| Total | 403 |

Nativity Play



Dear Parish community, we invite children who would like to be part of the Christmas nativity play for the **Family Christmas Vigil Mass on 24th December**. Please send an email with your contact number and details by Monday 4th December (rosetta.p@outlook.com). Also feel free to approach me at church or the school. There will be two practise sessions in the lead up to Christmas.

Thank you, Rosetta.

Advent Special: A talk by Dr Robert Tilley

*The Real Presence of Jesus versus the Virtual World:
The End of the World and the Birth of the New*

On Thursday 30 November 2023, 6:30pm @ Regina Coeli Church

In Advent the world is ending, and on Christmas day a new world begins. In the Book of Revelation the end comes with the rise of what is dark, false, and unreal; while at Christmas the beginning comes with the one who is the Truth and the Light. With the turn of 2023 to 2024, everything seems on the edge of an abyss, and all that is offered is the screen and the promise of AI; a virtual world in which we can hide away immersed in distractions. But Advent is the time to look away and consider what is real and what has meaning, to look to Christmas for it says that what is real is the Real Presence of the Lord Jesus Christ; there the light shines in darkness. By way of the Scriptures and the teaching of the Church this talk seeks to explain and explore not the 'beginning and the end', but the 'end and *then* the beginning'.

Dr Robert Tilley did his Doctorate at the University of Sydney with a thesis entitled Reading the Sacred Text. His thesis set out to rethink the nature of 'creation as a text of God' (natural theology) by way of an engagement with Scripture (revealed theology) and did this by way of late and postmodern discussions on the nature of textuality. He has lectured widely on a variety of topics, endeavouring to show how Scripture, theology, philosophy, and the arts all interrelate. He has lectured in Biblical Studies at the Catholic Institute of Sydney for close to fourteen years now, and for a longer period of time was a regular lecturer in Biblical Studies, the arts, and theology at the Aquinas Academy which was based at Wynyard. He has also lectured at UNDA Sydney and tutored in Biblical Studies at the University of Sydney.

First Friday Monthly Rosary

The Holy Rosary will be recited in Our Lady's Chapel at Regina Coeli on **Friday 1st December at 10.00am**. All welcome.



Seeking Vinnies Members

The St. Vincent de Paul Society is looking for people who are interested in becoming Members of the Beverly Hills Conference. Regina Coeli parishioners have always been very generous in raising funds for the Conference to assist those in need. We very much appreciate this support. We are now looking for new Members who can volunteer some time to attend meetings and help distribute assistance to those in need. This is due to the recent retirement of a number of Conference Members after many years of dedicated service. We understand that your level of involvement will depend on your personal circumstances such as study, work and family commitments. Any time you can contribute will make a real difference to those in need. Please consider becoming a Vinnies Member and providing a hand up to the most vulnerable members of society. In our good works, Vinnies Members encounter Christ in the poor and share his compassionate love.

To find out more about becoming a Member of the Society, you can:

- look at the information available at this website: [Become a member](https://www.becomeamember.org.au) | [St Vincent de Paul Society - Vinnies](https://www.stvincentdepaulsociety.org.au)
- email President Brian Wall on brian.wall@vinnies.org.au
- join us at our Vinnies Information session at the Parish Centre 7.30pm on 22 November 2023.

First Reading Prv 31:10-13.19-20.30-31

Give her a share in what she has worked for.

A perfect wife – who can find her?
She is far beyond the price of pearls.
Her husband's heart has confidence in her,
from her he will derive no little profit.
Advantage and not hurt she brings him
all the days of her life.
She is always busy with wool and with flax,
she does her work with eager hands.
She sets her hands to the distaff,
her fingers grasp the spindle.
She holds out her hand to the poor,
she opens her arms to the needy.
Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty;
the woman who is wise is the one to praise.
Give her a share in what her hands have
worked for,
and let her works tell her praises at the city
gates.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 127:1-5. R. v.1

(R.) Happy are those who fear the Lord.

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper. **(R.)**
2. Your wife like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table. **(R.)**
3. Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
in a happy Jerusalem
all the days of your life. **(R.)**

Second Reading 1 Thes 5:1-6

The day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night.

You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers, about 'times and seasons', since you know very well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. It is when people are saying, 'How quiet and peaceful it is' that the worst suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant woman; and there will be no way for anybody to evade it. But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all sons of light and sons of the day: we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 15:4. 5

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Live in me and let me live in you,
says the Lord;
my branches bear much fruit.
Alleluia!**

Gospel Mt 25:14-30

Because you have been faithful over a few things, enter into the joy of the Lord.

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out. The man who had received the five talents promptly went and traded with them and made five more. The man who had received two made two more in the same way. But the man who had received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. "Sir", he said "you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." Next the man with the two talents came forward. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with two talents; here are two more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." Last came forward the man who had the one talent. "Sir," said he "I had heard you were a hard man, reaping where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered; so I was afraid, and I went off and hid your talent in the ground. Here it is; it was yours, you have it back." But his master answered him, "You wicked and lazy servant! So you knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered? Well then, you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have recovered my capital with interest. So now, take the talent from him and give it to the man who has the five talents. For to everyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from the man who has not, even what he has will be taken away. As for this good-for-nothing servant, throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth."



Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

It is not enough that we wait patiently. We are expected to be industrious as we await the advent of the reign of God. We have all been entrusted with talents that really belong to God, and we must use these talents to the best of our ability in the interim between the Lord's departure and his final return. The ideal wisdom figure in the first reading is a model of such industriousness.

Fidelity to the reign of God requires that we be willing to take risks. We do not know the time of the Lord's coming, and so there will have to be a kind of tentativeness to all of our plans. We will never be able to be certain that they will be brought to fruition. We must spend and be spent without the assurance that we will be able to reap the rewards of our investment. To refuse to risk is to refuse to trust.

If we have been wise and have industriously employed the Lord's talents, which were entrusted to us, we will be richly rewarded. However, if we have not realised the potential that is possessed by our talents, and if we have not employed them as they were meant to be employed, we will be punished. The foolish man in the gospel knew that the householder was exacting. He had some idea of what to expect. He made his choice and he had to accept the consequences of that choice.