



Regina Coeli Parish

Beverly Hills - In the Archdiocese of Sydney



Weekly Newsletter

Third Sunday of Advent
17 December 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 Christmas Party has been a beautiful, long tradition at Regina Coeli. [The carols were added to it starting from last year.] A quick survey among the elderly found that the tradition has been running for at least a decade. Given how often time flies so fast that it surprises us, my guess is that it has actually been going on for up to two decades. Regardless, we were fortunate to be able to celebrate the Christmas Party once again last Sunday, especially with the advent of a new coordinator. The previous coordinator's name was Rita. Her successor's name is Gina. Even in the names there has been continuity!

Although new to the role, Gina showed little or no fear. All I did was to announce the Christmas Party, entrust her with the responsibility and then disappear for a month on annual leave. When I returned, a great momentum had been built up, in terms of both volunteering and participation. I even thought myself, 'Maybe this is how every event ought to be run in the future: with me out of the way!' A small army of volunteers turned up early afternoon for setting up the tables and chairs. Even though there was now extra distance to be covered between the hall and the new school playground, the daunting task was completed in record time!



A great job, Gina!

When the food and desserts started to arrive, it became evident that we would soon run out of space on the serving tables. The church looked about 80% occupied while the carols were in full swing, which appeared to be well received by the audience once again. Many more came directly to the school site, where the jumping castle greeted the children who arrived early. By about 5:30pm, there was a crowd large enough to intimidate any event organisers. Fortunately, ours were ready for this, after having erred on the side of preparing too much food rather than not enough. A long queue formed almost instantaneously. But our senior parishioners were given "priority access" and the rest were compensated for their wait time with a variety of delicious choices.

Perhaps a record-breaking number of families with children attended the Christmas Party! This was partially due to the fact that the coordinator herself was a school mum. I believe that the event was promoted more effectively via private channels (e.g. mums' online chat groups) than via official channels. This was a good reminder to us of the importance of personal invitation when it comes to all matters to do with faith and community-building. By contrast, I thought that the presence of active weekly mass-goers was not as strong as it could have been. This was possibly reflective of my absence over the previous month, but I could be wrong. Nevertheless, the overall number was one of the biggest ever and the fact that so many felt *at home* at this parish event was a real blessing.

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The Week Ahead

Sun 17 December 3rd Sunday Advent	8.30am Mass 10.00am Mass
Mon 18 December	No Mass
Tue 19 December	9.15am Mass
Wed 20 December	7.00am Mass 11.00am Funeral Mass for Ann McDowell
Thu 21 December	9.15am Mass 6-8pm Reconciliation with Fr Peter & Fr Paul Hilder
Fri 22 December	9.15am Mass
Sat 23 December	9:00am Mass 9:30- Adoration 9:55am & Reconciliation 4:15- Reconciliation 4:45pm 5.00pm Mass
Sun 24 December Fourth Sunday of Advent	8.30am Mass 10.00am Mass

Recently Deceased

Ann McDowell, Cheryl Gammel, Christine McCarthy, Arthur Webster, Maria Passeggio, 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

In Loving Memory

Rosa Azzopardi, June Coyle, Giovanni Battiato, Alfia Laspina, Alfio Coco, Kathleen Coleman, Veronica Kellert, Francis Law, Ron Xuereb, Ken Maher, Serena Fatseas, Paul Kensey, David Brown, June and James Roebuck, Alida Clemente, Donato Tozzi, Donato Carnevale, Peter Peters, Frank Capra, Bob Henderson.

Please remember those who are in ill health especially:

Lucita Lucerna, Betty Meaney, Monica Costa, Ronnie Gaudry, Steve Ghan-tons, Vincent Roberts, Lucy Blundell, Ryan Henderson, Dennis McInerney, Mary Patricia Hanrahan, Mitchell Morris, Brian Moore, Josephina Algozzino, Damiano Serravalle, Mary Daniels,

Rosary Statue

Mr & Mrs R. Sakr
8 Stoddart St
Ph: 0421306411



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

Christmas 2023

SUNDAY 24TH DECEMBER:
CHRISTMAS VIGIL AT 6PM
(starting with carols at 5:30pm)
MIDNIGHT MASS AT MIDNIGHT
(starting with carols at 11:30pm)

MONDAY 25TH DECEMBER:
CHRISTMAS DAY MASS AT 8.30AM
CHRISTMAS DAY MASS AT 10AM

ADVENT RECONCILIATION:
THURSDAY 21 DECEMBER 6-8PM

CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP invites you to

CHRISTMAS at the Cathedral
a festival evening at St Mary's

14-25 DECEMBER

Experience the wonder and beauty of this Advent Season as we wait in joyful anticipation for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ at Christmas

MONDAY 18 DEC 7:15PM

SIGN UP NOW FOR THE REGINA COELI COMPLIMENTARY BUS
MEET AT THE CHURCH AT 7:15PM

Scan me

INFO: ELEONORA.RAZZOLI@SYD.CATHOLIC

A group from Regina Coeli will travel together on a free bus on Monday 18 December at 7:15pm. Due to limited seating, please talk to Fr Peter or book online. Alternatively, you can travel by train and meet us there. Return time is estimated to be around 10pm at Regina Coeli.

Christmas Wishing Well Appeal

As is tradition here at Regina Coeli, the St Vincent de Paul Beverly Hills Conference are to hold their Christmas Appeal to raise money for those much in need in our area. The ladies will be collecting after all Masses on the weekends of 9/10 December and 16/17 December.

Thank you.



Last Weekend 10 December 2023

2nd Collection \$1813.75

1st Collection	\$1059.30
Cashless Giving	\$320

Attendance

5PM	~76
8.30AM	~130
10AM	~150
Total	~356

Continued from Page 1 If there was a way for the Christmas Party to be rated, I imagine that its ratings would be comfortably high. I got to hear so many praises all throughout the evening. At one point I thought I had the best “job” in the world because so many people thanked *me*, even though I had done very little! Undeserved compliments started to push me toward feelings of guilt, but then I realised that the compliments were really directed toward our community, of which I was an official representative. Yes, come to think of it, we do have a wonderful community. Being able to find so many volunteers and participants, and cheerful ones at that, isn’t something which can be taken for granted, especially in the post-covid era of social fragmentation and isolation.

We are very blessed! Let’s build on what has been entrusted to us and continue to grow into a community of real faith and love, in which all are nurtured, especially our children! Incidentally, I became aware of three birthdays which occurred on the day of the Christmas Party (10 December). The first was of a boy named Atticus whose mum explained to him early on that the Christmas Party *was* his birthday party. I told him that hundreds of guests were expected for his birthday party! The second was of Stephanie whose voice we love to hear at the Saturday Vigil Mass. Upon realising at the last minute that it was Stephanie’s birthday, a group of helpers during the pack-up stage gathered around her and sang a spontaneous happy birthday! The third was of Margaret Hwang who turned 70. By the time everything was cleaned up and the last of the volunteers left the premises, it was around 9pm, at which point I headed toward Margaret’s 70th birthday party down the road, a little fatigued but undeservedly joyful! - Fr Peter -



Happy 70th, Margaret!

Christmas Cards and 2024 Columban Calendars

The St Vincent de Paul Beverly Hills Conference will be selling St Vincent de Paul Christmas Cards & 2024 Columban Art Calendars from this weekend. Purchases can be made by visiting the Piety Stall, with money raised used to assist the needy in our Parish area.

Christmas Cards of high quality will be selling for \$5.00 for a pack of 10 cards. Columban Art Calendars, highlighting Solemnities, Feasts & Memorials, are selling at the bargain price of \$7.00 per calendar.



An Evening with Christopher West – Male and Female He Created Them

Following Dr Christopher West’s Made for More presentation earlier this year, he returns to Sydney to dive deeper with families to rediscover authentic masculinity and femininity. This not-to-be-missed one-night presentation will provide a hopeful and redemptive understanding of our creation's original and glorious meaning as male and female.

DATE: Saturday, 20 January 2024

VENUE: All Saints Liverpool Catholic Parish, 48 George Street, Liverpool

TIME: 7:00pm - 9:30pm. (Doors open at 6:30pm)

PRICE: \$20 general admission. \$15 concession/student

For more information on the evening and to purchase tickets, visit:

<https://sydneycatholic.org/summer-series/>.



Christmas 2023

First Reading Is 61:1-2.10-11

I exult for joy in the Lord.

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,
for the Lord has anointed me.
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,
to bind up hearts that are broken;
to proclaim liberty to captives,
freedom to those in prison;
to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.
'I exult for joy in the Lord,
my soul rejoices in my God,
for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation,
he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity,
like a bridegroom wearing his wreath,
like a bride adorned in her jewels.
'For as the earth makes fresh things grow,
as a garden makes seeds spring up,
so will the Lord make both integrity and praise
spring up in the sight of the nations.'

Responsorial Psalm

Lk 1:46-50. 53-54. R. Is 61:10

(R.) My soul rejoices in my God.

1. My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her nothingness;
henceforth all ages will call me blessed. (R.)
2. The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him. (R.)
3. He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Thes 5:16-24

May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

Gospel Acclamation Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!

**The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!**

Gospel Jn1:6-8.19-28

There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.

A man came, sent by God.
His name was John.
He came as a witness,
as a witness to speak for the light,
so that everyone might believe through him.
He was not the light,
only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:
Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.



Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

Traditionally, the third Sunday of Advent is called *Gaudete Sunday*, the Sunday of Joy. The joy of this Sunday comes both from the message of the readings and from the anticipation that Christmas is nearing. As described in the Isaian passage, the Messiah is the one imbued with the spirit and with the power of the prophet, the one who will fulfill the promises of God. It becomes obvious in the Gospel that the Messiah is the one proclaimed by the Baptist. John cleared a path for the coming of the anointed one, and from that time on the lives of believers have been the pathway through which the Messiah has entered the world.