



Regina Coeli Parish

Beverly Hills - In the Archdiocese of Sydney



Weekly Newsletter

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
14 January 2024

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



Pastoral Team:

Fr Peter Kwak PP

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This might seem a touch late, I thought it worthwhile to share with you a homily, which explores the meaning of a holiday, which I presented to the staff from Regina Coeli Primary School, just before they went on their end-of-year break (2022):

Last week I was in the staffroom and overheard someone saying (I paraphrase): 'I am empty. I am spent. I have run out. I have nothing left!' If we can identify with what this person said, then, that is a good place for us to pray from; that is also a good place from which we can engage with our scripture readings today.

There is a common theme in our scripture readings:

A woman who feels empty and spent. Why? Because she's been trying for a long time to have a child, but without success. One day she gets a visit from an angel, after which she is able to conceive and give birth to a child, as a sign that she is not alone; God is with her and has heard her cry!

The theme of a woman who is barren becoming pregnant is a major one throughout Scripture, for two reasons. Firstly, the idea of going from barren to fruitful, empty to plenty, despair to hope, etc., fills us with a powerful sense of God's presence - God's merciful presence. Secondly, all these unlikely pregnancies which are mentioned in Scripture are like shadows that point to the real thing which was coming: an impossible pregnancy - a virgin becoming pregnant or Mary conceiving by the Holy Spirit - which becomes the most definitive sign that God is with us, *Emmanuel!*

Only God can create something out of nothing. We know that God is with us especially when we find something where there seemed to be little or nothing before. This happened at the beginning of creation when God created everything out of nothing. It happened again when Mary conceived by the Holy Spirit. It happens each time the Eucharist is celebrated and ordinary bread and wine become something out of this world - something truly divine. It happens when God's grace is received by us as a pure gift.

I believe that all this can actually help us have a good holiday. We *could* say that a holiday is merely something that gives us just enough rest so that we can come back for more work, until we get tired again. After which the cycle repeats itself like in the movie Groundhog Day. But, according to the philosopher Josef Pieper, that would not properly capture the full meaning of what a holiday is. He said that true holiday (or true leisure) was one which allowed us to find something where there seemed to be little or nothing before, such that we are able to return even better than before we got tired.

For example, true holiday gives us rest not just to the body but also to the soul; it nourishes the soul and gives it growth and strength. True holiday gives us a depth of insight into who we are and what our mission is, so that we can return with a clearer vision and greater hope. In other words, true holiday is something which becomes possible only if God really is with us, which is precisely what we mean when we say Emmanuel - God is with us!

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The Week Ahead

Sun 14 January 2nd Sunday OT	8.30am Mass 10.00am Mass
Mon 15 January	No Mass
Tue 16 January	9.15am Mass
Wed 17 January St Anthony	7.00am Mass
Thu 18 January	9.15am Mass
Fri 19 January	9.15am Mass
Sat 20 January	9:00am Mass 9:30- Adoration 9:55am & Reconciliation 4:15- Reconciliation 4:45pm 5.00pm Mass
Sun 21 January 3rd Sunday in Ordinary time	8.30am Mass 10.00am Mass

Recently Deceased

Elma Brickwood, Lucita Lucerna, Tony Deng, Ann McDowell, Arthur Webster, Sr Marie Weeks OP, Val Green, Rula Hanna, Terence Wall, Anton Mandich, Pat Mortimer, Patricia Johnson, Geoffrey Connolly

In Loving Memory

Anna Lee, Salvatore Russo, Maria Adollorato Tesoriero, Ken Maher & Mary McKinnon, Sam Xerri, Cono Reale, Peter Pezzutti, Pietro & Grazia Banno, Eddie Da Silva, Jose Gomes, June Coyle, Kathleen Coleman, Donato Tozzi, Donato Carnevale, Peter Peters, Frank Capra, Bob Henderson.

Please remember those who are in ill health especially: Alistair MacKenzie, Frances Jones, 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, Damiano Serravalle, Mary Daniels, Anne Kensey, Geoff McDowell.

Rosary Statue

Mrs M. Weeks
23 Yoorami Rd
Ph: 95543250



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

Mrs Lee Scola
Asst. Principal
Mr Peter Busch

REC
Ms Lisa Scott

Clothing Drive



St Vincent de Paul Clothing Drive dates for 2024

Please note the next Clothing Drive is on Saturday 3rd February.

FEB	3
MAY	4
AUGUST	3
NOVEMBER	2

Please place bags outside by 8:00am on the Saturday of collection in a place where they can be seen from the street. This will help our collectors which will be most appreciated.

For those not on the collection list but have clothing to donate on a one-of basis it would be greatly appreciated if you could drop the donated items at the Parish School on collection day between 8:00am & 8:30am.

If you wish to be added to the collection list please email noel.gwynne@vinnies.org.au

Thank you for your continuing support of our clothing drives it is greatly appreciated.

Elma Brickwood, Rest in Peace

Elma Brickwood, a long term parishioner at Regina Coeli, passed away on 2 January 2024. **Her funeral is to be held at St Patrick's Sutherland on Tuesday 16 January at 11.00am.** Elma had been residing in a nursing home in Sutherland.

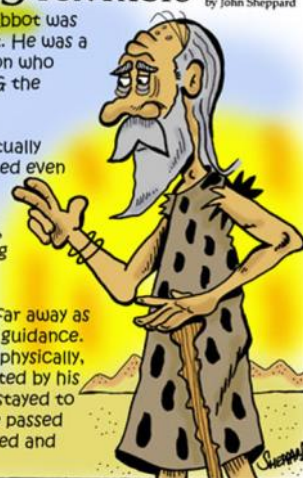


SAINTS FUN FACTS

St. Anthony the Abbot was an Egyptian hermit. He was a very spiritual person who believed in **LIVING** the Jesus life.

When people eventually found him, he moved even further away, eating only bread and water, praying, fasting and wearing skins as clothing.

Wise men from as far away as Greece sought his guidance. Some were healed physically, many were comforted by his words and others stayed to learn from him. He passed away at one hundred and five years old.



Last Weekend 7 January 2023

2nd Collection	\$1549.30
1st Collection	\$982.40
Cashless Giving	\$195

Attendance

5PM	98
8.30AM	108
10AM	~145
Total	~351

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I have said before that, when we pray, the most important work is done by God and not by us. The most important work in prayer is done by God *in us*. Our role is to be open and patient; to be trusting instead of grasping; to recognise our need - our emptiness - and to exercise our desire for the merciful presence of God, so as to receive what is coming our way - fruitfulness and plenitude - as a pure gift from above.

I wish everyone this kind of holiday - the kind which makes us acclaim, *Emmanuel*, God is with us! - *Fr Peter* -

ST VINCENT DE PAUL STATISTICS CALENDAR YEAR 2023

NO OF CLIENT VISITS 2023	113
NO OF CLIENT VISITS 2022	93
INCREASE/DECREASE	+20
CONFERENCE COSTS IN SERVICING CLIENTS	
FOOD CARDS	\$9180
WHITE GOODS/ FURN.	13037
MEDICAL	2687
RENT/RELOCATE	5759
OTHER	974
TOTAL	\$31637



AVERAGE COST IN SERVICING CLIENTS \$280.00 PER VISIT

CHRISTMAS FOOD CARDS \$3270 Given to families etc in need

GRAND TOTAL \$34907

Assistance provided was higher than last year which was expected due to rising cost of living. Please note the cost of furniture previously carried by the Regional Office is now charged to the Conference. Rent /relocation was not a feature in the previous year. These items inflate the average cost. Also Christmas food cards were not previously included but have not been included in the average cost.

VOUCHERS ISSUED FOR CLOTHING supplies by Vinnies Stores.

Conference members also participate in the following activity: 4 Clothing Drives during the year.



Tennis @ Olympic Stadium

I had been going to tennis at Olympic Stadium every year with different friends for over 20 years. And then this happened 12 months ago.

Gloria Langridge, Joan Maher, her daughter Katrina from Canada and I went last year. When the tennis finished at about 11pm, we went out and rang a cab. At midnight no cab had come. Everyone had left. Then the lights at the tennis centre went out and the four of us were left standing on the footpath in the pitch dark.

A gentleman came out of the centre and asked us if we were ok. On hearing that we rang for a cab and none had shown up he said, 'Leave it with me.' He got on his mobile and told us that he had rung his personal driver who would be there shortly to get us home safely. He waited with us until the driver arrived and gave me his card and said to contact him this year. The man turned out to be Tim White, Manager of Sydney Olympic Park Tennis Centre!

This year he gave us 5 free tickets in a box for Friday night. The tennis was fantastic and we had a great night, all thanks to Mr Tim White. How lucky were we!

PS: Father Peter joined us and thoroughly enjoyed the night. He profoundly thanks Anne Kensey for organising the great event; she even brought with her mains, dessert, coffee and tea for everyone! - Anne Kensey -



A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney: Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at **(02) 9390 5810** or **safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org**. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

First Reading 1 Sm 3:3-10.19

Speak, O Lord, your servant is listening.

Samuel was lying in the sanctuary of the Lord where the ark of God was, when the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' He answered, 'Here I am'. Then he ran to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' Eli said, 'I did not call. Go back and lie down.' So he went and lay down. Once again the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' He replied, 'I did not call you, my son; go back and lie down.' Samuel had as yet no knowledge of the Lord and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. Once again the Lord called, the third time. He got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' Eli then understood that it was the Lord who was calling the boy, and he said to Samuel, 'Go and lie down, and if someone calls say, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

The Lord then came and stood by, calling as he had done before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel answered, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.'

Samuel grew up and the Lord was with him and let no word of his fall to the ground.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 39:2. 4. 7-10. R. v. 8.9

**(R.) Here am I, Lord;
I come to do your will.**

1. I waited, I waited for the Lord.
and he stooped down to me;
he heard my cry.
He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God. (R.)
2. You do not ask for sacrifice and
offerings,
but an open ear.
You do not ask for holocaust and
victim.
Instead, here am I. (R.)
3. In the scroll of the book it stands
written
that I should do your will.
My God, I delight in your law
in the depth of my heart. (R.)
4. Your justice I have proclaimed
in the great assembly.
My lips I have not sealed;
you know it, O Lord. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Cor 6:13-15. 17-20

Your bodies are members of the body of Christ.

The body is not meant for fornication; it is for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. God, who raised the Lord from the dead, will by his power raise us up too.

You know, surely, that your bodies are members making up the body of Christ; anyone who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him.

Keep away from fornication. All the other sins are committed outside the body; but to fornicate is to sin against your own body. Your body, you know, is the temple of the Holy Spirit, which is in you since you have received him from God. You are not your own property; you have been bought and paid for. That is why you should use your body for the glory of God.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 1:41. 17

Alleluia, alleluia!

We have found the Messiah:

**Jesus Christ, who brings us truth and
grace.**

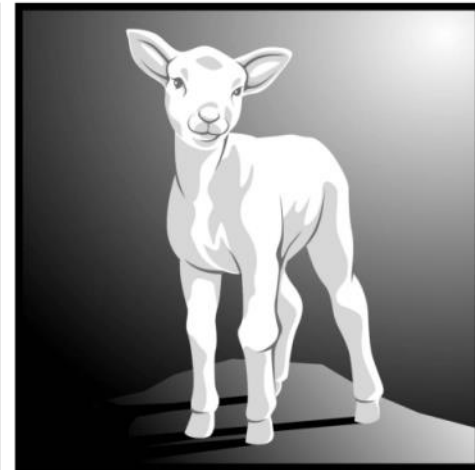
Alleluia!

Gospel Jn 1:35-42

They saw where Jesus lived and they stayed with him.

As John stood with two of his disciples, Jesus passed, and John stared hard at him and said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God.' Hearing this, the two disciples followed Jesus. Jesus turned round, saw them following and said, 'What do you want?' They answered, 'Rabbi,' – which means Teacher – 'where do you live?' 'Come and see' he replied; so they went and saw where he lived, and stayed with him the rest of that day. It was about the tenth hour.

One of these two who became followers of Jesus after hearing what John had said was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. Early next morning, Andrew met his brother and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' – which means the Christ – and he took Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked hard at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John; you are to be called Cephas' – meaning Rock.



Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

Today we consider the call to discipleship. The readings outline the various stages of this call and provide a sketch of some of the characteristics of each stage: the invitation, the discerning process and the resulting transformation.

The call is an invitation from God. It might come to us as inner sensitivity, a kind of a dream or inspiration. Our interest might be captured by a person or an event that first attracts us and then beckons us to investigate further. It can come in the innocence and naivete of childhood, in the vigour of young adulthood, or in the wisdom of years. It comes when God calls.

The second stage involves discernment. Most of us need help recognising moments of religious importance and so we seek out women and men who are practiced in the ways of God, who can help us test the spirit. They might be recognised religious leaders or prophetic guides, or they could be friends or loved ones who know us well and who are also attuned to the workings of God in their own lives.

Finally, when we respond to the call, we discover that we no longer belong solely to ourselves; as disciples, we belong to the body of Christ. We belong to the reign of God; we are now part of the mission of Christ. As disciples, we are called to proclaim to the world the justice of God. What a glorious honour this is!