



Regina Coeli Parish

Beverly Hills - In the Archdiocese of Sydney



Weekly Newsletter

The Epiphany of the Lord 7 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

I keep thinking that we are still in the year 2023 and that the year 2024 is just around the corner when, in fact, we have already turned that corner! As 2024 starts rolling (hopefully not too fast!), I think it appropriate to do a brief review of 2023. What were some of the noteworthy things which happened last year, especially those we can build on in the new year?

Alpha & a series on marriage. Following the success of Alpha in the previous year, another group undertook the 10 week program which addresses the key aspects of Christianity. And then there was a slight shift in direction. A three week series on marriage was tried, whilst keeping the Alpha-format of a shared meal, followed by faith-formation and fellowship. Two groups happily completed the series and I hope that many others will follow in 2024. In the meantime, Elly our Family Educator picked up where I left off and journeyed with a group of school parents through Alpha. I believe she will continue Alpha in the new year as well.

Garden. The story of three Peters continued, but with a few changes. Peter K. fell behind in his duty of lawn-mowing at times and was very grateful whenever Peter J. came to the rescue by swiftly cutting away all of the overgrowth - something which he seems to have a real gift for! K. Peters was aided in her gardening by the addition to the team of young volunteers - a father with his two little boys, all of whom seem to enjoy working in the garden and refreshingly so!

60th Birthday! The church of Regina Coeli can seem a little older than it really is, due to its unashamedly traditional structure. But it opened in 1963. So, our Parish BBQ (Pentecost) was brought forward to coincide with the 60th birthday of our church. The unexpected grace of this day was that, even though it rained as per the weather forecast, there was just enough dryness at the right times, even bright sunshine for a while, to allow the celebration to be enjoyed in its entirety, to everyone's delightful amazement! I trust that the parish mugs ("the best mug of 2023") have been distributed wide and far.

New Roof Project. According to the experts, terra cotta roof tiles (which comprise the roof of the church of Regina Coeli) typically have a lifespan of 60 to 70 years. So I, together with the Parish Building and Maintenance Committee, obtained a few quotes and then made an application for what is called an 'Act of Extraordinary Administration' - a project which exceeds the cost of \$100,000. The Archbishop approved the project just before Christmas 2023. It is hoped that the work will begin early February 2024.

Parish Dinner 2023. I always felt a little remiss when the distribution of some prayer cards was all that was done for the parish feast day. Therefore, even without knowing exactly how, I committed to the decision to organise a parish dinner in 2023 and what eventuated was, thanks to Carmel and Mia, a miracle of a good night for 285 participants. What I did not know at the time was that the following year - in 2024 - we would be celebrating the 70th anniversary of the *name* of Regina Coeli both for the parish and for the whole Catholic Church. In other words, we need at least one more miracle of a similar kind!

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The Week Ahead

Sun 7 January The Epiphany of the Lord	8.30am Mass 10.00am Mass
Mon 8 January Baptism of the Lord	No Mass
Tue 9 January	9.15am Mass
Wed 10 January	7.00am Mass
Thu 11 January	9.15am Mass
Fri 12 January	9.15am Mass
Sat 13 January	9:00am Mass 9:30- Adoration 9:55am & Reconciliation 4:15- Reconciliation 4:45pm 5.00pm Mass
Sun 14 January 2nd Sunday in Ordinary time	8.30am Mass 10.00am Mass



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Father Paul Hilder. There is now a retired resident priest in Beverly Hills. He requires no introduction, especially after having supplied here during my annual leave, as well as having been a former parish priest of Regina Coeli for 12 years. It is hoped that he will be involved in the life of the parish on a regular basis, to the mutual benefit of both the parish and Fr Paul. I myself will certainly benefit from having the support of such an accomplished and dependable priest. Let us keep him in our prayers!

Father's Day. For the first time in living memory, a movie night was organised at Regina Coeli for Father's Day. More than 40 dads gathered at Beverly Hills Hotel for a hearty meal before watching the movie 'Sound of Freedom' together. What must have surprised everyone was the uplifting energy in the room, as though all the fathers had been longing for, even without realising it, meaningful fellowship with others who shared in the same vocation. So many of them thanked me afterward and said, 'We should do this again!' Let's pray that timely inspirations will emerge to make their wish come true in 2024!

Advent Talk 2023. Yes, only a relatively small group of about 20 people attended the talk which was given in our spacious church. But what mattered was not just how the event itself went (I believe those who came truly enjoyed it!) but also what is signalled: it is hoped that this was the beginning of the series of talks which will be presented in 2024 and beyond, for the sake of faith-formation which has substance. For example, what is currently envisaged is that there will be a series during Lent, followed by another series on *Our Lady Queen of Heaven* in the lead-up to the parish feast of Regina Coeli!

Christmas Party 2023. This was covered in a recent parish bulletin and so I won't say too much on this except that the use of the new school playground has opened up new possibilities for the festive events of the parish. Once the entire project is completed and there is no more building work happening, our ability to organise communal and social events will be taken to a whole another level yet again! In other words, as I love to repeat, the best is yet to come!

- Fr Peter -

Recently Deceased

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

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: Frances Jones, 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, Anne Kensey, Geoff McDowell.

Rosary Statue

Mr & Mrs P. Vafo'ou
17 Grove Ave
Ph: 0452248843



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 31 December 2023

2nd Collection \$1904.70

1st Collection \$1064.10

Cashless Giving \$135

Attendance

5PM 96

8.30AM 135

10AM ~150

Total ~381

Words of Remembrance for Ann McDowel (by Darren McDowel, Son)

Mum was always deeply committed to her faith, her belief and relationship with God and practice of the faith within her community permeated her entire life. It is through this lens that I'd like to reflect upon her life and how God worked through her in so many ways.

In our early years it was very much mum, ably supported by Dad, who brought up my brother Chris and I in the faith. Mum ensured we came to mass each week, celebrated the sacraments and lived out this faith in practical and meaningful ways within the parish and beyond. For mum, faith was a relationship with God. She was always nurturing this relationship through reading, discussion and prayer. I remember many wonderful conversations with mum about God and how people live out their relationship with God in the world.



One of her greatest qualities was that of encouragement and acceptance of where people were at on their spiritual journey. Being on a journey herself, mum was keen to support others in their search for meaning and fullness of life. She was nurturing and caring, loyal and devoted to friends and family. Many of mum's long-term friends are here, family friends who have been part of our family's life for over 40 years. Family and friends were important to her, she maintained these friendships, spending time with all of them and us, ensuring we knew that we were loved and cared for.

God's gift to her of encouragement and love was very much seen in her leadership within the St John of God Counselling Institute. This institute supported and trained people in the skill and art of counselling. She was passionate about this work and gave many years of her life to training people in these skills. Mum's pastoral and spiritual heart, love for people and church, as well as skills in counselling, brought her to work as a pastoral care chaplain in a nursing home for several years. In that role she led many funeral services for those who had died. It became another way through which she was able to support people in their journey of faith.

Mum was also actively involved in parish life, a channel for expressing her creativity and love of singing as well as speech and drama. A speech and drama teacher for many years, mum's students remember her fondly as a caring, kind and encouraging teacher who brought the best out in them, enabling them to grow in self-confidence and skills. Mum was even asked at one stage to visit the seminary at Homebush to offer training to the seminarians in the art of proclaiming God's word. Similarly, mum loved singing at mass and learning opera singing from a teacher in Kingsgrove. This was a source of great personal joy for her.

Away from church, mum loved travel and adventure, exploring new places. She was especially fond of China and managed to visit there before succumbing to Alzheimer's disease. Mum loved small gatherings of family and friends, fun loving and engaging people in conversation.

Over the past week or so since mum's death I've found myself more connected to her. Indeed, as one spiritual writer put it "We find our deceased loved ones by entering into life, in terms of love and faith, in the way that was most distinctive to them. We contact them and connect ourselves to them when, in our own lives, we shape the infinite richness of God's love and compassion in the way that they did, when we pour ourselves into life as they did."

Thus, I know mum's presence in the joy of singing, music and creativity, in the mutual encouragement shown between family and friends, in the listening ear and caring support, where acceptance of where people are at on their journey is found. Most importantly, I find mum, as a member of the body of Christ, in the celebration of mass.

So, I thank God for you mum, you have given us witness to God's love, compassion, creativity, joy and friendship. You have brought God to life in me and all your family and friends. Thank you.

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 Is 60:1-6

The glory of the Lord shines upon you.

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light
has come,
the glory of the Lord is rising on you,
though night still covers the earth
and darkness the peoples.

Above you the Lord now rises
and above you his glory appears.
The nations come to your light
and kings to your dawning brightness.
Lift up your eyes and look round:
all are assembling and coming towards you,
your sons from far away
and your daughters being tenderly carried.

At this sight you will grow radiant,
your heart throbbing and full;
since the riches of the sea will flow to you;
the wealth of the nations come to you;

camels in throngs will cover you,
and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah;
everyone in Sheba will come,
bringing gold and incense
and singing the praise of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 10-13, R. see v.11

*(R.) Lord, every nation on earth will
adore you.*

- O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement. *(R.)*
- In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to earth's bounds. *(R.)*
- The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts
shall pay him tribute.
The kings of Sheba and Seba
shall bring him gifts.
Before him all kings shall fall prostrate,
all nations shall serve him. *(R.)*
- For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor. *(R.)*

Second Reading Eph 3:2-3, 5-6

*The revelation means that pagans now share the same
inheritance, that they are parts of the same body.*

You have probably heard how I have been
entrusted by God with the grace he meant
for you, and that it was by a revelation that
I was given the knowledge of the mystery.
This mystery that has now been revealed

through the Spirit to his holy apostles and
prophets was unknown to any men in past
generations; it means that pagans now
share the same inheritance, that they are
parts of the same body, and that the same
promise has been made to them, in Christ
Jesus, through the gospel.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 2:2

Alleluia, alleluia!

*We have seen his star in the East;
and have come to adore the Lord.*

Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 2:1-12

We have come from the East to worship the king.

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in
Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some
wise men came to Jerusalem from the east.
'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they
asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have
come to do him homage.' When King Herod
heard this he was perturbed, and so was
the whole of Jerusalem. He called together
all the chief priests and the scribes of the
people, and enquired of them where the
Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in
Judaea,' they told him, 'for this is what the
prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
you are by no means least among the
leaders of Judah,
for out of you will come a leader
who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to
see him privately. He asked them the exact
date on which the star had appeared, and
sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find
out all about the child,' he said 'and when
you have found him, let me know, so that
I too may go and do him homage.' Having
listened to what the king had to say, they
set out. And there in front of them was the
star they had seen rising; it went forward
and halted over the place where the child
was. The sight of the star filled them with
delight, and going into the house they saw
the child with his mother Mary, and falling
to their knees they did him homage. Then,
opening their treasures, they offered him
gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh.
But they were warned in a dream not to go
back to Herod, and returned to their own
country by a different way.

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Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

The Christmas season reaches an
apex with the Epiphany. In some
liturgical traditions, it is the central
celebration of Christmas. It
commemorates not only the birth of
Christ and the visit of the Magi, but
also his baptism in the Jordan and
the manifestation of his glory at the
wedding feast of Cana. In the Roman
Catholic tradition, the focus is on the
visit of the Magi and the implications
of that visit for the glorious
manifestation of God to all the
peoples of the world.

There is a wonderful summons to
alertness and presence of mind and
heart, a call for all the nations to
witness the marvellous works of God
that shine as light in the midst of the
surrounding darkness. The light of
God is known in the ways in which
the most vulnerable in the city are
cared for and acknowledged. In just
action and righteousness, the city
becomes the beacon of God, and all
the nations are attracted by this light.
The quality of the light leads the way
through the darkness and sustains the
world in goodness and peace.

The manifestation of God among us
changes the ways in which we
perceive each other. Christ's birth
provides us with the light by which
we see a new criterion for relating.
The Magi represent the multi-ethnic
and cultural diversity in civic and
parish situations, as well as the
many religions of the world. All
people, regardless of race or ethnic
origin, can be co-heirs with Christ.