



Regina Coeli Parish

Beverly Hills - In the Archdiocese of Sydney



Weekly Newsletter

**First Sunday of Lent
18 February 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

Moses said to the people: 'See, today I set before you life and prosperity, death and disaster.' (Deuteronomy 30:15)

We can choose life and prosperity, or we can choose death and disaster. The choice is so simple. The wisdom of choosing the former and the foolishness of choosing the latter could not be clearer, at least in theory. So, why then is it that we can so easily get this wrong, even frequently so? Why do we continue to make less than ideal choices which, at best, keep us mediocre, instead of enabling us to flourish as human beings and saints?

The problem has to do with the fact of *fractured communion* with God and with one another. We cannot become who we truly are in fractured communion, for, *full communion* is the definition of our perfection! By contrast, fractured communion (a.k.a. Original Sin) makes us blind to what is true, good and beautiful; it also makes us more inclined to refuse to listen (a.k.a. concupiscence) and stray further away, which, in turn, fractures our already fractured communion even more. This starts in us a negative cycle (or a cycle of destruction) which can multiply!

There have been five funerals at Regina Coeli in twelve days, which seems like a record, at least during my time. What is human life all about? How do we make sense of death? On Ash Wednesday, we were marked with the ashes. This ritual was a reminder to us that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Dust is our destiny. Or rather, dust is the destiny of *old humanity* which suffers from fractured communion. Dust is the logical outcome of fractured communion in which there is no real hope, no real future: to dust we shall return!

This is one of the reasons why Jesus came to suffer, die and rise from the dead. He walked the way of the cross, which became the means by which he suffered the logical consequences of our fractured communion, all the way to its final outcome, namely, death. This was God covering the entire spectrum of the human condition, the entire spectrum of the human experience, so that no matter what we are going through in life, God can identify with us completely and open up a way of redemption for us. *Emmanuel*, God is with us, we are not alone!

Upon reaching the state of death - the logical outcome of humanity's fractured communion - Jesus rose from the dead through the power of the Holy Spirit. By doing so, Jesus "reversed" the negative cycle (the cycle of destruction) into a positive cycle (a cycle of redemption). This means that when we follow Jesus on the way of the cross, everything we encounter, even death itself, can become a means of participation in the process of being recreated as *new humanity*. We become more truly alive interiorly, even as we decline or decay exteriorly.

This is the meaning of Christian baptism: Jesus was born so that we could be re-born, by being recreated by the Spirit of God, starting from the heart, as we follow the way of the cross, which leads to resurrection! This is why every funeral liturgy begins with the sprinkling of Holy Water which is accompanied by the words:

In the waters of baptism, N. died with Christ and rose with him to new life. May he/she now share with him eternal glory.

- Fr Peter -

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Fr Peter Kwak PP

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The Week Ahead

Sun 18 February 1st Sunday of Lent	8.30am Mass 10.00am Mass
Mon 19 February	No Mass
Tue 20 February	9.15am Mass
Wed 21 February	7.00am Mass 9.00am Adoration with Yr5
Thu 22 February Chair of St Peter	9.15am Mass
Fri 23 February	9.15am Mass 2.15pm School Rosary
Sat 24 February	9:00am Mass 9:30- Stations of the Cross 9:55am & Reconciliation 4:15- Reconciliation 4:45pm 5.00pm Mass
Sun 25 February 2nd Sunday of Lent	8.30am Mass 10.00am Mass



DOMINICAN SISTERS OF Saint Cecilia
Founded in 1860—Nashville

WOMEN'S LENTEN RETREAT DAY

WITH THE DOMINICAN SISTERS OF SAINT CECILIA

CHRIST, OUR FIRM FOUNDATION
Rediscovering the wisdom of the Church's spiritual tradition
Matthew 7:24-27

16 MARCH 2024

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL HALL | SATURDAY 10AM-4PM

Women of all ages are invited to join the Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia for a Lenten Retreat Day. This day will focus on renewing the foundations of the spiritual life as we strive to live the Paschal Mystery throughout the year. The retreat day will include all day Eucharistic Adoration and Confessions, talks by the Sisters, personal testimony, a Holy Hour, and discussion groups. Women who have attended previous retreat days with the Sisters are encouraged to bring a friend to this event.

REGISTRATION
SCAN QR CODE OR VISIT THE WEBSITE TO REGISTER.
A \$20 FEE ASSISTS WITH COVERING RETREAT EXPENSES.
DOORS OPEN 9AM. TEA & LUNCH INCLUDED
www.bit.ly/3RRAKfa

SUPPORTED BY **CATHOLIC WOMEN'S NETWORK**

Recently Deceased

Nam Vo, Maria Gilio, Helena Hallinan, Fr Kevin Bates, Frances Jones, Bill McGrath, Armando Alberici, Carmelina Sassano, Lucita Lucerna, Tony Deng, Ann McDowell, Val Green, Rula Hanna, Terence Wall, Anton Mandich, Pat Mortimer, Patricia Johnson, Geoffrey Connolly

In Loving Memory

Gino Morassut, Carmelo Algozzino, Anna Lee, Salvatore Russo, Maria Adollorato Tesoriero, Ken Maher & Mary McKinnon, Sam Xerri, Cono Reale, Peter Pezzutti, 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 McKenzie, 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.

**This week
the parish Rosary statue will be
welcomed into the home of
Mr V. Cardoz**



The Passion of a Parishioner already on Day 2 of Lent

After attending Ash Wednesday Mass at Regina Coeli, a parishioner went to Roselands Shopping Centre on the following morning. She was sitting serenely on a bench when another lady with a full trolley sat down at the other end. But alas, the overloaded trolley started to roll down ominously and was gaining speed! When it collided with the leg of our parishioner the impact was enough to take off a sizeable portion of her skin. The momentary shock dissolved into horror, as blood could be seen everywhere. The passion of our parishioner had already started and this was only the second day of Lent!

A woman of Lebanese appearance who had a little girl jumped to our parishioner's aid. She wrapped the profusely bleeding leg of our parishioner with a towel of sorts. Then she went into *Priceline* to obtain proper bandages, etc. with which she expertly treated the wounded leg. Then she helped to clean up the pools of blood around what seemed like a crime scene. Apparently, Roselands Shopping Centre can be a dangerous place these days, especially for the elderly, due to too many busy shoppers who seem to lack conscientiousness. But, thanks be to God, it seems that Good Samaritans can still be found in our midst!



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

Last Weekend 11 February 2024

2nd Collection \$1719.55

1st Collection \$1146.60

Cashless Giving \$455

Attendance

5PM 130

8.30AM 153

10AM ~180

Total ~463

Excerpts from the Words of Remembrance for Armando Alberici

Dad was born in a village called Castel Di Leri (Castle of Yesterday). It was a small village with approx. 1000 odd people... His schooling was up to year 5 but nothing like what is taught today... So dad grew up in the village helping with the living that was required when living in a rural community.

As an adult he decided to go into construction which meant moving away from home... He was away from home many months at a time and earning money that he could never make at home... Between going away for work... he fell in love with our mother Silia who was also from the village and they married in December 1952.

Even after marriage dad would be many months away from family and this weighed on his mind. This was not the lifestyle that he wanted for his family. Now, as it happened Australia was calling. This country needed skilled workers for the many projects... it was immigration from Europe that filled the needs.

Dad was part of a generation that lived through a depression in their younger years and later... through a war. So, there was not a lot that could scare them... This decision to immigrate to Australia meant that mum and dad never saw their parents again, a hard decision as it turned out. **- By Ross, older son -**

With work hard to find in Italy my father travelled around Europe to find work which was not ideal & so Dad moved to Australia to establish a life here. One where he could come home every night sitting down for dinner & spending time with the family. After work each night before dinner he toiled in the garden where he grew vegetables & fruit so food was fresh.

Both he and my mother led very selfless lives doing everything for my brother and myself. Not eating out, but on weekends spending time with the paesani (relatives and friends from their village) at their homes or ours, having feasts, playing cards and all the kids playing and having fun. Everything was family first.

Some of you may be aware that Dad had a sense of humour. Those that asked him how old he was, he'd say 3. When asked what do you mean he'd tell them he was 3 years short of 100. [Armando was 97!]

In the last couple of years while in the Aged Care home, with dementia kicking in, I'd visit & in the first 20 minutes of being there he would ask me 20 times how the girls were. Always thinking of the grandkids. Mum would take him his beloved coffee and he'd retell stories of his times back in Castel Di Leri. This selfless man always put us first in all that he did. He shaped our lives and made us the people that we are. We love you Dad and will never forget you. **- By Ennio, younger son -**



Enrolment for Year 7 in 2026 at St Ursula's College Kingsgrove

St Ursula's College is now accepting applications for enrolment for Year 7 in 2026 from baptised female students of families who regularly worship in this Parish and who are currently enrolled in Year 5. If you are interested, please complete the enrolment [online](#) via our College website. If you have any questions please contact the College on telephone 9502 3300 option 2 (Enrolments).

First Friday Monthly Rosary

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



OPEN DAY
Wednesday 6 March
3.30-6.00pm

Register Now



stursulakingsgrove.syd.catholic.edu.au

PROUDLY PART OF THE COMMUNITY OF Sydney Catholic Schools



The New Roof Project is now due to start in early March. Thank you for your patience.

First Reading Gn 9:8-15

I will recall the covenant between myself and you...the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.

God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.'

God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 24:4-9. R. see v.10

(R.) Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

1. Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. (R.)
2. Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness,
O Lord. (R.)
3. The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Pt 3:18-22

The water of the flood is a type of the baptism which saves you now.

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people 'by water', and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 4:4

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

*No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.*

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel Mk 1:12-15

He was tempted by Satan, and the angels looked after him.

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'



Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

Today's readings show us that Lent is a time for us to receive God's grace. We are not the ones who, through our penance, are meant to accomplish great things. Rather, it is God who acts; it is God who makes the sacrifice; it is God who accomplishes great things for us.

Each reading describes a different kind of conflict within which we might find ourselves: a world-wrenching upheaval, such as happens during social discord, war or natural disaster; the struggle between right and wrong, between fidelity and disobedience; the struggle with temptation. In the midst of the conflicts of life, God initiates a covenant with us. God saves the world from the chaos into which it was thrown, makes a covenant with all living things and with the earth, and sets a bow in the heavens as a perpetual reminder of the covenant. Christ dies for sinners, and offers them baptism that will save them from the chaos of their lives. The Spirit drives Jesus into the desert, there to be tested, but to emerge triumphant. His victory is not for him alone, but for all who will heed his words and follow his example.

The bow in the sky is a sign of the good news of the covenant; baptism is both the good news of salvation for us and our pledge of fidelity to God; Jesus' proclamation is that the reign of God is at hand. With the psalmist we praise God for inviting us into this covenant relationship.

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