



# Regina Coeli Parish

Beverly Hills - In the Archdiocese of Sydney



## Weekly Newsletter

**Second Sunday of Lent  
25 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

***'But you,' Jesus said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. (Matthew 16:16-17)***

Peter knew correctly who Jesus was even when so many others did not. This was not necessarily due to Peter being better or holier than the rest; rather, it was on account of a special gift which had been bestowed upon him from above. We call this gift the *charism of papacy* or, in certain cases, *papal infallibility*:

*'The Roman Pontiff, head of the college of bishops, enjoys this infallibility in virtue of his office, when, as supreme pastor and teacher of all the faithful - who confirms his brethren in the faith - he proclaims by a definitive act a doctrine pertaining to faith or morals...' (Catechism 891)*

God who, out of love, created the world and then gave His only Son to redeem it, has, out of the same love, also established the necessary (Spirit-powered) mechanism by which we can come to know Him, without being deceived or led astray, throughout all the ages. The name of this mechanism is the teaching office of the Church, in which the charism of papacy plays an essential role.

Last Thursday was the *feast of the Chair of St Peter*, which celebrated not just the first or current pope but also the charism of papacy, which is given to every pope, not for their own benefit, but for the benefit of the whole Church, so as to ensure that Jesus can be known reliably to those who seek Him, *as Jesus wishes to be known rather than however else we might like to think of him.*

What is required of us is the *obedience of faith* to the pope's formal pronouncements and *religious assent* to his ordinary teachings which deepen and widen our knowledge of the faith. (c.f. Catechism 891-2) When we do our utmost to understand where a pope might be coming from, we are bound to learn what is beneficial and timely, for the sake of the mission, as well as our own sanctification.

In recent times, the practice whereby Catholics publicly criticise or dissent from the pope has become all too common. But there is a great danger in this. Some might claim to be "more Catholic than the pope" or to "love the Church," but they are still acting as though the charism of papacy isn't a gift from above because, after all, "they just know, in their hearts," which was precisely how Protestantism set out to justify itself, only then to fragment and split into innumerable pieces.

- Fr Peter -

***Out of the whole world one man, Peter, is chosen to preside at the calling of all nations, and to be set over all the apostles and all the fathers of the Church. Though there are in God's people many shepherds, Peter is thus appointed to rule in his own person those whom Christ also rules as the original ruler. Beloved, how great and wonderful is this sharing of his power that God in his goodness has given to this man. Whatever Christ has willed to be shared in common by Peter and the other leaders of the Church, it is only through Peter that he has given to others what he has not refused to bestow on them.***

***(Pope St Leo the Great)***

#### Pastoral Team:

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## The Week Ahead

<b>Sun 25 February</b> 2nd Sunday of Lent	8.30am Mass 10.00am Mass
<b>Mon 26 February</b>	No Mass
<b>Tue 27 February</b>	9.15am Mass with Yr4
<b>Wed 28 February</b>	7.00am Mass 9.00am Adoration with Yr2&3
<b>Thu 29 February</b>	9.15am Mass with Yr1
<b>Fri 1 March</b>	9.15am Mass 10.00am Parish Rosary 2.15pm School Rosary
<b>Sat 2 March</b>	9.00am Mass 9.30- Stations of the Cross 9.55am & Reconciliation  4.15- Reconciliation 4.45pm 5.00pm Mass
<b>Sun 3 March</b> 3rd Sunday of Lent	8.30am Mass 10.00am <b>Family Mass</b>



*Frances Jones who had been a member of our parish since 1972 died recently on Thursday 11 January. Frances fell ill in late December and died peacefully in her sleep on 11 January. Frances had resided at Estia Health at Blakehurst from September 2022. A private funeral was held on 24 January.*



*Why is the Cross essential to our salvation? Why does suffering bring us surprising benefits? Why do our wounds become the entrance into our soul? The simple answer is, because these things reverse the values of our fallen world, a world founded on pride, and pride is self-deception. Pride is also the source of all sin – of our sin – and the word of God was given in order to pierce and reveal the false self we have created, thereby revealing to us what it is we really are, the Image of God. And yet, as in Jesus' day, many who think themselves religious "make the word of God of no effect," and they do so by deceiving others and themselves. We mistakenly think that the Word of God boosts our worldly status, instead of teaching us humility. This Lent we might try to begin the slow and often painful process of defying the fallen world, and that especially so by defying ourselves, in order to find our true self, and this by means of the grace of God that comes through the Passion and the Cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ.*

### Recently Deceased

Nam Vo, Maria Gilio, Helena Hallinan, Frances Jones, Bill McGrath, Armando Alberici, Carmelina Sassano, Lucita Lucena, Tony Deng, Val Green, Rula Hanna, Terence Wall, Anton Mandich, Pat Mortimer, Patricia Johnson

### In Loving Memory

Jusuf Oentojo, Annamaria Cicuto, Gracia Mahfouz, Tony Shiner, Gino Morassut, Carmelo Algozzino, Ken Maher & Mary McKinnon, Sam Xerri, Cono Reale, Peter Pezzutti, Eddie Da Silva, Jose Gomes, 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  
Mrs. R. Carnevale**



**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 18 February 2024

**2nd Collection \$1782.85**

1st Collection \$1085

Cashless Giving \$275

### Attendance

5PM 111

8.30AM 140

10AM ~170

**Total ~421**



## Excerpts from the Words of Remembrance for Bill McGrath by Jill (daughter)

William McGrath (better known as "Bill") was born on 6 September 1930. He was 93 years of age...Dad was an only child and attended St Patrick's and Marist Brothers in Kogarah. However, he also spent time at boarding school in Bowral for the fresh air to help combat his asthma condition.

Dad met his wife Joan in March 1952 at a Marrickville Town Hall dance. It must have gone well because dad drove mum home to Hurstville in his van guard and they planned their first date a week later. When dad arrived at mum's for this date, with shaky hands he proceeded turning all the house lights off. It was soon revealed his mother had suddenly passed away the previous day from cancer.

Dad was 22 years old when he married mum who was 20, in 1954. This year would have marked their 70th wedding anniversary. This is an extraordinary feat especially as they each came from different worlds. Dad, a catholic liked a drink or two and achieved the celebrity status name of "Wild Bill." ... Mum on the other hand, was brought up under the Baptist denomination, a teetotaler and Royalist.

Dad had taken up flying lessons before he married mum, however this expensive hobby was put on hold as they were building a new home in Beverly Hills and mum was expecting baby Geoffrey...Dad was always looking to save on costs. For example, you were not allowed to turn on the hot water to boil the jug for a cup of tea before midday. Yet mum enjoys filling her bath every morning.

On one family interstate driving holiday, dad kept telling the motel receptionists Kaz was only 4 years old, when she was almost double that age, so that she could stay for free. This nearly backfired when Kaz told the truth to one suspicious lady. Quick on his feet dad explained that she "thinks she is 7."

Dad played the drums for well known artists of their day. The most famous he played with on one or two gigs (that you would know) were with the Bee Gees. This was before they became famous worldwide.

Dad had a passion for adventure. He has travelled to all 7 continents of the world. Of course, this includes Australia which he also vastly explored. Mum stopped accompanying him because it was too exhausting. Dad's lust for knowledge and experiences meant there was never any downtime.

Dad has always been routine and OCD driven. E.g. he would have 9 raisins on his weetbix and walk for 55 minutes every day. He kept rigid times for breakfast, lunch and dinner, even before he was diagnosed with type 2 diabetes. Every day dad would leave the house with the mantra "hanky, keys to the house, keys to the car, money, folding money and comb."

Dad and mum had a type of superstition about the number three and believed this number was a constant in their lives. Their house number was 33, they had 3 girls and 3 boys. The list goes on. Even if it does not start out a 3, dad would either multiply, divide, add or subtract to get to that magic number. Dad's time of passing was 6.33 pm.

Dad, you have always been a good provider for your large extended family which we are all very thankful. You showed us how to experience life through adventures and knowledge. Your physical self will be greatly missed but your wonderful memories will be forever cherished in our hearts.



## Stations of the Cross



The Stations of the Cross, also known as the Way of the Cross, **commemorates Jesus's passion and death on the cross**. Regina Coeli Parish is organising a re-enactment of The Stations of the Cross on Good Friday the 29th of March and would like to extend an expression of interest to our Parishioners.

If you are interested, please contact Father Peter via email (parish) or Coula on [0407951196](tel:0407951196)



The Project Control Group "PCG" have advised that the Regina Coeli roof replacement programme is scheduled to **commence on 11 March 2024 with works planned to be completed by 27 March 2024**. Works will be completed in progressively staged sections of the roof. During the works programme scheduled daily and weekend Masses, Confession, Weddings, Baptisms and other Parish and school liturgies will continue. **For Workplace, Health & Safety reasons the PCG have asked that the Church be locked at other times during the day for the duration of the works programme, to avoid the risk of injury should a tile or debris accidentally fall through the ceiling.** Thank you for your patience and understanding.

### 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.



**First Reconciliation Program 2024** The Sacrament of First Reconciliation is to be celebrated in Regina Coeli Parish on Thursday 21 March at 5pm and 6.30pm. Parents of Baptised Catholic children in Year Three or above are invited to enrol their child in the Parish based First Reconciliation Program. The lessons are to commence on Thursday 29 February at 5.00pm or 6.30pm in the church. The Information and Enrolment letter has been sent home through the local school. It is also available on the Parish website. Thank you.

**First Reading Gn 22:1-2. 9-13. 15-18**

*The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith.*

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham,' he called.' Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of your enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 115:10. 15-19. R. 114:9**

*(R.) I will walk in the presence of the Lord  
in the land of the living.*

1. I trusted, even when I said:  
'I am sorely afflicted.'  
O precious in the eyes of the Lord  
is the death of his faithful. (R.)
2. Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;  
you have loosened my bonds.  
A thanksgiving sacrifice I make:  
I will call on the Lord's name. (R.)
3. My vows to the Lord I will fulfil  
before all his people,  
in the courts of the house of the Lord,  
in your midst, O Jerusalem. (R.)

**Second Reading Rom 8:31-34**

*God did not spare his own Son.*

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

**Gospel Acclamation Mt 17:5**

*Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus  
Christ!*

*From the shining cloud, the Father's  
voice is heard:*

*this is my beloved Son, hear him.*

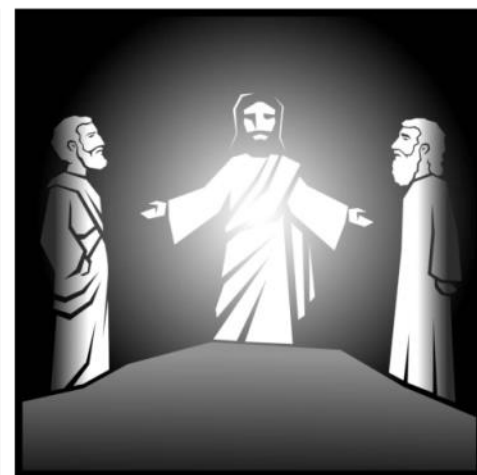
*Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus  
Christ!*

**Gospel Mk 9:2-10**

*This is my Son, the beloved; listen to him.*

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.



**Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA**

We all have dreams for the future, dreams about success and well-being. We all want a better world for our children and grandchildren. Our religious tradition sets before us aspirations that call for personal transformation. However, sometimes when we follow the inspiration of our most devout aspirations, obstacles are thrown in our path preventing us from following our dreams. Still, God does not call us out of our dreams into a vacuum. If we are asked to relinquish a possible future, it is only to be offered God's future. Our aspirations may be noble, but the possibilities that God offers will outstrip them in excellence. Abraham was promised an heir; he relinquished his hold on his heir, and he was granted heirs beyond counting. Jesus came as a Rabbi; he allowed himself to be handed over to death, and he was revealed as the beloved Son of God.

Those preparing for Baptism might be asked to relinquish the dreams that they previously held in order to embrace the future God has in store for them. We who are already joined to Christ will be asked to recommit ourselves to this transformative experience. Do we have faith, or do we need a glimpse of Christ's transfiguration in order to believe in his resurrection? Do we have to see and touch Jesus, or are we able to believe because we have heard his message? God's future in Christ is open to us, but we must accept it in faith, even when we do not fully understand what it means.

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