



Regina Coeli Parish

Beverly Hills - In the Archdiocese of Sydney



Weekly Newsletter

**Fourth Sunday of Lent
10 March 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



Last Wednesday, the first of the three part series by Dr Robert Tilley took an unexpected turn during the Q&A when the topic of Pope Francis came up. I have written about the pope over the past two weekends but this was entirely coincidental! To demonstrate how pride or self-deception can be at work in us, Dr Tilley gave several examples, one of which was the anti-Francis movement. When a few people expressed their sympathy to it, Dr Tilley responded with severe words of warning. Afterward, fervent discussions among spontaneously formed small groups ensued.

I had trouble sleeping that night, still coming to terms with what had unfolded. I know that Dr Tilley has *so much to offer* by way of teachings which have been deeply forged by Scripture. There is also a long history behind how he has come to view the anti-Francis movement as being pernicious in nature. Unfortunately, there was not enough time in the Q&A to do justice to the complicated issue which, after all, was not even the main topic! I am more at peace now, as well as curious about how the series will progress from here. I hope that everyone returns and finds out!

In the meantime, there is one more article which I have written about Pope Francis (published in an online journal called 'Mercator'), this time, in relation to what was very controversial at the end of last year, namely, the issue of blessing those in irregular relationships, including gay couples. Here is how I understand *Fiducia Supplicans*, the magisterial document which still seems to confound many. As usual, what I appreciate about Pope Francis is the *illumination of pastoral principles* which are applicable to so many aspects of parish life, including at Regina Coeli:

Can anything good come from blessing a same sex couple?

I was once having a rather heated discussion with a lay person. Like many others online, this person suspected that Pope Francis was intent on changing church teaching on marriage and homosexuality. I disagreed, quite confident that the pope had no such intention, far from it! He then brought up the issue of the German bishops and demanded to know why the pope appeared to do little or nothing about the notorious episcopacy. At this very moment, something dawned on me - an idea which had hitherto never entered my mind.

I had always believed that it was impossible to bless a same sex couple because doing so would equate to endorsing an ideology which is at odds with the Word of God, not to mention reality itself. But what if the blessing was done, not to condone or legitimise any sinful behaviour, which neither conforms to God's will nor conduces to true happiness, but to recognise and encourage those aspects which are truly good, in the hope that, with the help of God's mercy, they might grow to become the defining characteristics of the relationship over time?

Such a possibility had never occurred to me until then, not even during the 12 years of my priesthood. But to my own surprise, it now seemed to make sense! A few months later, I was informed by friends [I rarely follow the mainstream media] that the pope had approved a Vatican document which allows blessings for same sex couples under certain circumstances. Immediately, I thought to myself, 'Yes, bless their desire for truly loving and therefore *chaste* friendship and companionship, which desire, even if imperfect, ought to be present in those who *humbly* seek the Church's blessing.'

Continued on Page 3

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The Week Ahead

Sun 10 March 4th Sunday of Lent	8.30am Mass 10.00am Mass
Mon 11 March	No Mass
Tue 12 March	9.15am Mass with Yr6&K 9.50am Reconciliation 4B
Wed 13 March	7.00am Mass
Thu 14 March	9.15am Mass 9.50am Reconciliation 6W
Fri 15 March	9.15am Mass with Yr3 2.15pm School Rosary
Sat 16 March	9.00am Mass 9.30-9.55am Stations of the Cross & Reconciliation 4.15-4.45pm Reconciliation 5.00pm Mass
Sun 17 March 5th Sunday of Lent	8.30am Mass 10.00am Mass

Recently Deceased

Edmond Nahum, 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

Anthony & Doris Micallef, Nicola & Charlie Lo Russo, Sonia Moore, Ugo Buracchi, Jusuf Oentojo, Annamaria Cicuto, Gracia Mahfouz, Tony Shiner, Carmelo Algozzino, Ken Maher & Mary McKinnon, 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.

Parish Rosary Statue

*This week
the parish Rosary statue will be
welcomed into the home of
Mrs. J. Henderson*



Parish Secretary

9554 8155
Tues 11am-4pm
&
Fri 11am-4pm

Youth Group

rcyg77@gmail.com

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



Have you been thinking you would like to share your love of God with others? Or simply help out in a simple way? Why not help out with Children's Liturgy at 10am mass on Sundays. There is a need for more volunteers and teachers. If interested please contact the parish office by email: reginaparish@gmail.com

LENTEN LECTURES
Dr Robert Tilley

**THE CROSS THAT SETS US FREE:
FROM SELF-DECEPTION
TO AUTHENTICITY**

Wednesday 7-8:30PM
6, 13 & 20 March 2024
@ Regina Coeli Church

PARISH RENEWAL TEAM
GO MAKE DISCIPLES

**Prayer and
the Mission to
Proclaim Jesus**

YEAR OF PRAYER 2024
18 MARCH
Monday | 7:30-9PM | St Martha's
38 Renwick Street Leichhardt | RSVP 15 March

gomakediscliples.org.au/cas-events
parishrenewal@sydneycatholic.org

Last Weekend 3 March 2024

2nd Collection	\$2061.55
1st Collection	\$1279.50
Cashless Giving	\$240

Attendance

5PM	118
8.30AM	~130
10AM	~250
Total	~498

Continued from Page 1

Not too long ago, when Catholics got married outside the Church, which would have meant that their marriage was *invalid*, the Church's "official policy," as it were, used be one of advising other Catholics, including the family, not to attend the wedding, so as to avoid giving the unintended impression of "blessing" what is an objectively sinful situation. That particular policy, although still legitimate in itself, has been by and large eclipsed by another which states: 'Yes, attending such weddings can be permissible, even commendable, under certain circumstances.'

The big question is, 'What kind of policy is most likely to bring about the greatest amount of (long term) good, especially by reference to the salvation of souls?' There is never just one right answer which remains immutable in the midst of changing circumstances; instead, there are a variety of possible approaches, all of which are legitimate in themselves, each with its own strengths and weaknesses. *Such is the case in matters which pertain to the order of prudence rather than to the order of truth.* Not being able to distinguish between the two, I'm afraid, has been the cause of so much harmful hardness of heart toward the pope.

Goodness diffuses itself. There is nothing new about the Church's commitment to recognising and encouraging what is good, even at the (reasonable, not excessive) risk of giving the unintended impression of condoning or legitimising what is *not* good, in the hope that, with the help of God's mercy, what *is* good will diffuse itself and ultimately win over entire persons and communions. After all, there could be no authentic conversion - no real change of heart - unless God's grace was given to us first and then allowed to multiply.

Throughout his pontificate, Pope Francis has been consistent in his preferential option for adventurous engagement with the seeds of goodness which are scattered across the complex landscape of our world, as well as that of the human heart. Even if I wasn't required by the Catholic faith to heed his leadership with utmost earnestness, I might still have believed that the benefit of following the pastoral vision of Pope Francis, which seems very much inspired by the Gospel itself, would far outweigh the cost in the end!

- Fr Peter -

A Lenten Retreat Day with the Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia

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. Morning tea and lunch are included. A \$20 fee assists with covering retreat expenses. Women who have attended previous retreat days with the Sisters are encouraged to bring a friend to this event.

DATE: Saturday, 16 March 2024

VENUE: St Mary's Cathedral Hall

TIME: 10am to 4pm, with doors to open at 9-9:30am

PRICE: A \$20 fee assists with covering retreat expenses

For more information on the evening and to register to attend, visit: <https://bit.ly/3RRAKfa>.

For questions, please contact the Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia at sydney@op-tn.org



LOCAL SINGING TEACHER/COACH

FOR FUN, AUDITIONS, SHOWS &
PERFORMING ARTS SCHOOL ENTRY

PLEASE CONTACT STEPHANIE
0412 936 166 - for more information



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](mailto:parish@regina-coeli.org.au)) or Coula on **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 Reading 2 Chr 36:14-16. 19-23

The wrath and the mercy of the Lord are revealed in the exile and liberation of his people.

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke: through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its Sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep Sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 136. R. v.6

**(R.) Let my tongue be silenced,
if ever I forget you!**

1. By the rivers of Babylon
there we sat and wept,
remembering Zion;
on the poplars that grew there
we hung our harps. (R.)
2. For it was there that they asked us,
our captors, for songs,
our oppressors, for joy.
'Sing to us,' they said,
'one of Zion's songs.' (R.)
3. O how could we sing
the song of the Lord
on alien soil?
If I forget you, Jerusalem,
let my right hand wither! (R.)
4. O let my tongue
cleave to my mouth
if I remember you not,
if I prize not Jerusalem
above all my joys! (R.)

Second Reading Eph 2:4-10

When we were dead through sins, he brought us to life.

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ - it is through grace that you have been saved - and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 3:16

**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
God loved the world so much, he gave us
his only Son,**

**that all who believe in him might have
eternal life.**

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel Jn 3:14-21

God sent his Son into the world that we might be saved through him.

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'The Son of Man must be lifted up
as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert,
so that everyone who believes may have eternal
life in him.

Yes, God loved the world so much
that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not
be lost

but may have eternal life.
For God sent his Son into the world
not to condemn the world,
but so that through him the world might be
saved.

No one who believes in him will be condemned;
but whoever refuses to believe is condemned
already,

because he has refused to believe
in the name of God's only Son.
On these grounds is sentence pronounced:
that though the light has come into the world
men have shown they prefer
darkness to the light
because their deeds were evil.

And indeed, everybody who does wrong
hates the light and avoids it,
for fear his actions should be exposed;
but the man who lives by the truth
comes out into the light,
so that it may be plainly seen that what he does
is done in God.'



Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

Each reading provides us with an example of divine mercy. God's use of Cyrus to deliver the Israelites, even though he was not a believer, shows that every circumstance and any person can demonstrate the scope of God's love. In fact, it is often the situation or the individual that we least expect that has been chosen to manifest God's mercy to us. This same mercy is seen as God brings us to life with Christ even when we were dead in sin.

Mercy means that strict justice is set aside in favour of compassion. Dispossessed people are raised out of defeat and given another chance. Sinners condemned to severe punishment are raised out of despair and offered a reprieve. The whole world is raised up out of darkness when God's own Son is sent into that world as saviour rather than as judge. God's mercy raises us out of loss and hopelessness, out of darkness and sin, so that we might enjoy the blessings of life.

We too have been raised up so that we might live in truth and might become the visible sign of God's mercy in the world. We have been made a new people, free from the restraints of the past. Joined with Christ we become God's handiwork, creations that bear the seal of the great creator. We are the very sacrament of God's mercy. The forgiveness that we have experienced and the new life within us shine forth as witness to the mercy of God.

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