



Regina Coeli Parish

Beverly Hills - In the Archdiocese of Sydney



Weekly Newsletter

Fifth Sunday of Lent

17 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

Let us lie in wait for the virtuous man, since he annoys us and opposes our way of life, reproaches us for our breaches of the law and accuses us of playing false to our upbringing. (Wisdom 2:12)

What can explain human malice toward a good person who acts in accordance with God's will, thereby doing what is true, good and beautiful? Two reasons come to mind. Firstly, a good person is hated for what he exposes. He reflects back to others, by way of contrast, what they are doing wrong, which inspires feelings of guilt and shame in the wrongdoers, who might then prefer to get rid of the good person rather than to change their ways.

Secondly, a good person is hated - or tested - as a step toward doing the same to...God! Does being faithful pay? The most sensible way to find out would be to try the path of faithfulness and then see what happens. But the foolish are tempted instead to put to the test those who are virtuous. What will God do, if anything at all? Will there be a lightning strike? Will God demonstrate once and for all who is in the right and who is in the wrong, and why the difference matters?

These were a few of the reasons why Jesus was rejected. He came not just as any light but as the *pure light of God*. But the people lived in darkness. Therefore, instead of allowing the darkness within to be pierced and dispelled by the light, they preferred to remain as they were. And so Jesus was rejected, shunned and even persecuted, to the point of being crucified. Perhaps this was also why the prodigal son (Luke 15:1-32) ran from the father's house: because God's pure light shone through the father whilst there was growing darkness in the son.

Sin starts in us a negative cycle. We get tempted and go for the false promise which cannot deliver. Consequently, we discover that we have missed the target. [Apparently, the word 'sin' is an archery term which means to 'miss the target.'] And because we have missed the target we are now less happy, less satisfied, and worst of all, *further away from the house of the Father*, a fact of which renders us more vulnerable to the same cycle which repeats itself. In other words, a negative cycle has been started which can grow larger and larger over time.

What will happen if we follow the negative cycle of sin all the way to its logical conclusion? Whatever happens is precisely what Jesus suffered on the cross on our behalf. On the cross Jesus became like the prodigal son whose life hit rock bottom. This was God identifying with us completely so that, no matter what darkness we are in, He can always find us and raise us up. Speaking of which, Jesus, by *rising from the dead*, proved that divine love is more powerful than all darkness!

Is there darkness within us? God has given us a conscience so that, deep down, we always know the truth. Where are the dark corners or shadowy places within, which we tend to ignore or have forgotten about, and intentionally so? Instead of rejecting God's pure light which shines through Jesus, it is possible for us to trust in him and become illuminated by the light. When we confess from the heart with a depth of contrition we come to taste the joy of reconciliation effected by a depth of God's mercy. This, then, starts in us a positive cycle which can grow larger and larger over time, until God's pure light fills all in all! - Fr Peter -

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The Week Ahead

Sun 17 March 5th Sunday of Lent	8.30am Mass 10.00am Mass
Mon 18 March	No Mass
Tue 19 March St Joseph	9.15am Mass
Wed 20 March	7.00am Mass
Thu 21 March	9.15am Mass 9.50am
Fri 22 March	9.15am Mass 2.15pm School Rosary
Sat 23 March	9.00am Mass 9.30- Stations of the Cross 9.55am & Reconciliation 4.15- Reconciliation 4.45pm 5.00pm Mass
Sun 24 March Palm Sunday	8.30am Mass 10.00am Mass



EASTER TRIDUUM @ REGINA COELI

HOLY THURSDAY

7pm The Lord's Supper
followed by Reconciliation

GOOD FRIDAY

10am Stations of the Cross
followed by Reconciliation

3pm The Passion of the Lord
followed by Reconciliation

HOLY SATURDAY

7:30pm Easter Vigil

EASTER SUNDAY

8:30, 10am Mass

Happy Easter!



Recently Deceased

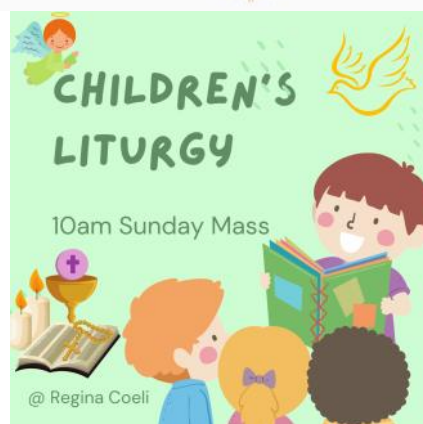
Edmond Nahum, Maria Gilio, Helena Hallinan, Frances Jones, Bill McGrath, Armando Alberici, Carmelina Sassano, Lucita Lucena, Tony Deng, Val Green, Rula Hanna, Terence Wall, Anton Mandich, Pat Mortimer, Patricia Johnson

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.



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

Parish Rosary Statue

*This week
the parish Rosary statue will be
welcomed into the home of
Mr & Mrs R. John*



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



Last Weekend 10 March 2024

2nd Collection \$1672.35

1st Collection \$1207.40

Cashless Giving \$235

Attendance

5PM 129

8.30AM ~150

10AM ~265

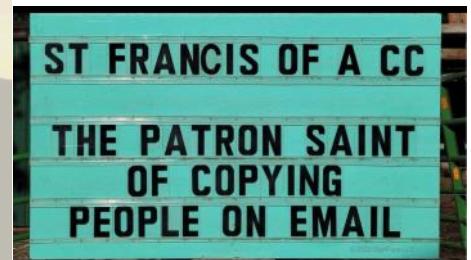
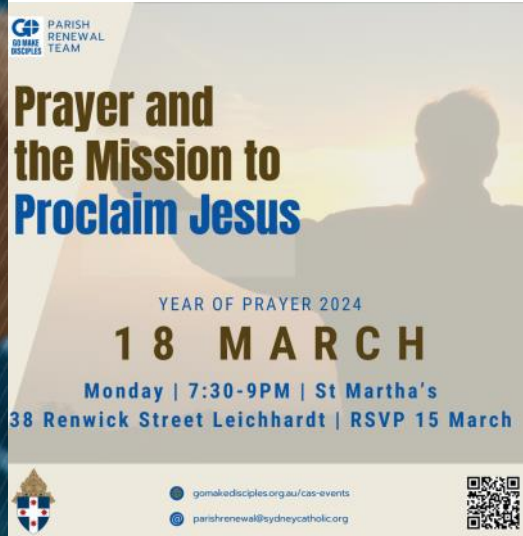
Total ~444

The pope's message to the Research and Formation Center for the Protection of Minors

Seeing one's own weakness as an excuse for failing to be full persons and full Christians, unable to take control of their destiny, will create childish, resentful people, and in no way represents the smallness to which Jesus invites us. On the contrary, the strength of the one who, like Saint Paul, glories in his weaknesses and trusts in the grace of the Lord (cf. 2 Cor 12:8-10) is a gift that we must ask for in prayer, for ourselves and for others. With it, we will be able to face the contradictions of life and make a contribution to the common good in the vocation to which we have been called.

In terms of prevention, our work must undoubtedly aim to eradicate situations that protect those who hide behind their position to impose themselves on others in a perverse way, but also to understand why they are incapable of relating to others in a healthy way. Likewise, it cannot be indifferent to the reason why some accept to go against their own conscience, out of fear, or allow themselves to be cajoled by false promises, knowing in their heart of hearts that they are on the wrong path. Humanizing relationships in any society, including the Church, means working hard to form mature, coherent people who, firm in their faith and ethical principles, are capable of confronting evil, bearing witness to the truth in capital letters.

A society that is not based on these assumptions of moral integrity will be an ailing society, with human and institutional relationships distorted by selfishness, mistrust, fear and deceit. But let us trust our weakness in the strength that the Lord gives us. And we recognize that "we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us" (2 Cor 4:7).



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) 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 Jer 31:31-34

The days are coming when I will make a new covenant with Israel and I will forgive their iniquity.

See, the days are coming - it is the Lord who speaks - when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive - it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, 'Learn to know the Lord!' No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest - it is the Lord who speaks - since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 50:3-4. 12-15. R. v.12

(R.) Create a clean heart in me, O God.

1. Have mercy on my, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt.
and cleanse me from my sin. (R.)
2. A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit. (R.)
3. Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me,
that I may teach transgressors your ways
and sinners may return to you. (R.)

Second Reading Heb 5:7-9

He learnt to obey and became for all the source of eternal salvation.

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 12:26

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord; and where I am, my servant will also be.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel Jn 12:20-33

If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus.' Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus.

Jesus replied to them:

'Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him. Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!'

A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.'

People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.' Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours.'

'Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.'

By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.



Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

The moment of eschatological fulfilment gathers together the sense of the past ('the days when Christ was in the flesh'), the future ('the days are coming'), and the present ('the hour has come'). We live in the time when the past and the future are made present; we live in the 'already-but-not-yet' time of anticipation/fulfilment. This is a moment of great ambiguity, of fear and trepidation but of electric excitement. It is a moment of decision. We hover at the edge of dawn, weighing whether or not to step forward into the new day or to return to the darkness of night.

This 'hour' brings a new covenant, a deep interior relationship with God that is not based on law but which overflows from a commitment of the heart. It brings an abundant harvest that springs from a simple grain of wheat. It brings a promise from God's own Son that those who serve him will be honoured by God, and those who obey him will enjoy eternal life.

Although the 'hour' brings all of these blessings, it only does so with a price. The new covenant could only be written on new hearts; the abundant harvest sprang from the dying grain of wheat; eternal salvation was won at the price of Christ's blood. As challenging as the message of these readings may be, the last note is one of hope. It can overcome the demons that control us, because it is the power of the almighty God.

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