



Regina Coeli Parish

Beverly Hills - In the Archdiocese of Sydney



Weekly Newsletter

**Third Sunday of Lent
3 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 week, I wrote the front page of the parish bulletin in defence of the charism of papacy and, by doing so, also defended Pope Francis in a real and intentional way. Nevertheless, I am not oblivious to the controversies surrounding him but still believe that it is as essential as ever for Catholics to relate to him as our Holy Father, not least because the Catholic faith itself demands that we do so.

To be honest, the current pope *has* confounded me, especially at the start. But I have always been blessed with a new (or deeper) insight which allows me to see not only *sufficient continuity* but also the (long-term) benefit which he wishes to bring about. I personally know some critics who are better educated and more intelligent than I am, but still find their arguments wanting, including intellectually.

Please let me know if you sincerely struggle with the current pope and are open to a respectful dialogue. To hold private views about which one cannot be humble and transparent is to become susceptible to poisonous ideas which can kill the soul clandestinely. In the meantime, here is an article which I once wrote for *Catholic Weekly*, in the hope of providing a way for Pope Francis to be better understood:

Doctrinal clarity is not *always* the pope's first priority

Lest I be misunderstood, I preface the article by affirming the utmost importance of doctrinal clarity, which is a sign to us of the solicitude of God who wants us to know that, yes, *Emmanuel!* God is with us and we are not left alone in the darkness of ignorance or error. The splendour of the Word of God, who 'became flesh' (Jn1:14), shines through the Church's clear teachings, by which humanity can be guided, without falling victim to relativism, the chaotic consequences of which are all too evident in our present society.

Since Vatican II, some of our practices have changed, starting with how we worship. Other examples include: marriages between Catholics and non-Catholics, as well as funerals for those who have committed suicide. Unfortunately, however, many mistakenly assumed that these changes evidenced contradictions or ruptures and failed to see the continuity behind the different expressions. For this reason doctrinal clarity might have been one of the first priorities for JP II-Ratzinger, so as to dispel the myth of discontinuity. But another priority was then bound to follow:

How to communicate, beautifully and convincingly, what the Church clearly believes? Effective preaching requires profound understanding of the audience, in order to *persuade them from within*, for which reason St Paul aspired to become 'all things to all men.' (1Cor9:22) This is where the importance of dialogue becomes paramount and ought to be accentuated, even at the *perceived (not actual)* expense of doctrinal clarity at times, for the sake of engendering, through processes which are far from "neat and tidy," new expressions which are inspired and efficacious.

I think of a gym analogy. The ideals of health and fitness do not change, except by way of continuous development. But a gym from which the vast majority feel alienated isn't exactly serving its purpose. Innovative approaches are required so that the unhealthy/unfit can feel a sense of belonging and start to move in the right direction. The emphasis might need to shift at times from the ideals of health and fitness, which no one attains instantly, to the art of accompaniment which is conducive to authentic progress. The latter would require patience but, as Pope Francis puts it, 'time is greater than space!'

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The Week Ahead

Sun 3 March 3rd Sunday of Lent	8.30am Mass 10.00am Family Mass
Mon 4 March	No Mass
Tue 5 March	9.15am Mass with Yr2
Wed 6 March	7.00am Mass
Thu 7 March	9.15am Mass with Yr1 9.50am Reconciliation with Yr6
Fri 8 March	9.15am Mass 2.15pm School Rosary
Sat 9 March	9.00am Mass 9.30-9.55am Stations of the Cross & Reconciliation 4.15-4.45pm Reconciliation 5.00pm Mass
Sun 10 March 4th Sunday of Lent	8.30am Mass 10.00am Mass

Recently Deceased

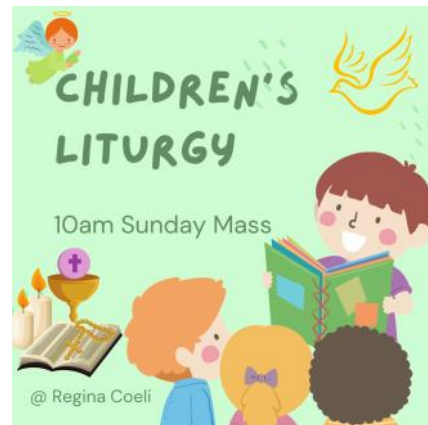
Jennifer Mary McKenna, Maria Gilio, Helena Hallinan, Frances Jones, Bill McGrath, Armando Alberici, Carmelina Sassano, Lucita Lucena, Tony Deng, Val Green, Rula Hanna, Terence Wall, Anton Mandich, Pat Mortimer, Patricia Johnson

In Loving Memory

Ugo Buracchi, Jusuf Oentojo, Annamaria Cicuto, Gracia Mahfouz, Tony Shiner, 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.



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



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.

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



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 25 February 2024

2nd Collection \$2735.40

1st Collection \$1217.95

Cashless Giving \$335

Attendance

5PM 118

8.30AM 125

10AM ~180

Total ~423

Continued from Page 1 A litany of culture war issues have gone against church teachings over the past several decades, thereby entrenching a culture of death in our midst. But one of the biggest failures by the Church might have been poor preaching/catechesis, which conveyed insufficient depth or meaning, rather than any lack of doctrinal clarity per se. We were out-narrated by those who, either knowingly or unknowingly, undermined the Word of God! Therefore, when it comes to the proclamation of the Gospel, there is nothing un-Catholic about a pope who, in continuity with the body of other popes before him, discerns that adventurous engagement might be preferable to risk-free consolidation right now.

- Fr Peter -

Excerpt from the Words of Remembrance for Helena Hallinan (by Dale Brickwood, daughter)



Mum was clever at school and the nuns convinced my grandma to let Mum continue for another two years. She attained the Leaving Certificate (what is today's equivalent of Year 12) which was quite unusual for girls at that time...Mum and Dad married in 1954. (so it would have been their 70th wedding anniversary on the 14th September this year).

They bought 89 Shorter Avenue before Roselands shopping centre ever existed. My poor Eastern suburbs grandma thought they had moved to the end of the earth. Mum and Dad lived here until their move to Leigh Place in 2018.

The five of us went to school and Mass here at Regina Coeli. Mum was a devoted Catholic her whole life and never missed Sunday Mass. My strongest childhood memories of her devotion include her kneeling saying her bedtime prayers, beseeching St Anthony to find lost items, calling on St Jude – the patron saint of hope of the hopeless – and when Neil first started working as a Police Officer, unbeknown to him, Mum had sewn St Christopher medals in the pockets of all his uniform shirts. Mum lived by the serenity prayer: *God grant me the serenity to accept things I cannot change, courage to change things I can and the wisdom to know the difference.* She also had a special relationship with Mary.

Mum cooked hot breakfasts for us all every morning of the week, packed lunches for the 7 of us and lined them up on the kitchen windowsill. Our clothes were always washed (I didn't know until I had my own family that the washing machine 'ate' socks – it never happened in Mum's home). She ironed, cooked cakes and dinners which were always on the table at 6 o'clock. She knitted and sewed our clothes. When I was a teenager 'balls' were the thing and Mum never let me down and produced a new ballgown for me nearly every few weeks. She welcomed our friends into our home and often fed them too.

Mum was generous and considerate to Dad's parents too and each Sunday, Mum, Dad, the 5 kids and grandma and grandad piled into the Holden station wagon and off we'd go to a park or museum, the sandhills or national park. I really don't know how she juggled so much...Another favourite maxim of Mum's was, "If you can't say something nice about someone....Don't say anything at all". Mum was always doing small acts of kindness, her gifts were always thoughtful and I don't ever remember her uttering a jealous word. She was fiercely loyal and it was our wise Mum who we'd always confide in and share our triumphs and problems.

When Neil started school, Mum went back to temporary office positions until she began working as the School Secretary at St Christopher's Panania:

Helen was one of life's beautiful women, reflected in everyone she influenced. I can picture her in the old school office kindly and efficiently setting everyone at ease, healing small wounds and solving accounting challenges, always with grace, impeccably groomed, and a smile.....There is never an easy way to lose someone like Helen. Her love and goodness will live on. Love prayers and also gratitude for all Helen was to St Chrissy's and Catholic Education in Sydney... another one of its unsung heroes.

Dad and Mum were dedicated to each other. Dad protected Mum and would often not go out without her. Mum was always patient with Dad. Their journey together exemplified the true essence of love: selflessness, resilience, and unwavering support through life's joys and challenges. During their long marriage they still held hands and never left the house without kissing each other goodbye. In fact, he had kissed her goodnight the night before she never woke again.

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 Reading Ex 20:1-17
(or shorter form Ex 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17)

The Law was given through Moses.

God spoke all these words. He said, 'I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

'You shall have no gods except me.

'You shall not make yourself a carved image or any likeness of anything in heaven or on earth beneath or in the waters under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God and I punish the father's fault in the sons, the grandsons, and the great-grandsons of those who hate me; but I show kindness to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

'You shall not utter the name of the Lord your God to misuse it, for the Lord will not leave unpunished the man who utters his name to misuse it.

'Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath for the Lord your God. You shall do no work on that day, neither you nor your son nor your daughter nor your servants, men or women, not your animals nor the stranger who lives with you. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth and the sea and all that these hold, but on the seventh day he rested; that is why the Lord has blessed the sabbath day and made it sacred.

Honour your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God has given to you.

'You shall not kill.

'You shall not commit adultery.

'You shall not steal.

'You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

'You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his servant, man or woman, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is his.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 18:8-11. R. Jn 6:68

(R.) Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

1. The law of the Lord is perfect,
it revives the soul.
The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,
it gives wisdom to the simple. (R.)
2. The precepts of the Lord are right,
they gladden the heart.
The command of the Lord is clear,
it gives light to the eyes. (R.)
3. The fear of the Lord is holy,
abiding for ever.
The decrees of the Lord are truth
all of them just. (R.)

4. They are more to be desired than gold,
than the purest of gold
and sweeter are they than honey,
than honey from the comb. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Cor 1:22-25

We are preaching a crucified Christ, a scandal to many, but to those who have been called, the wisdom of God.

While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 3:16

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

***God loved the world so much, he gave us
his only Son,***

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

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

Gospel Jn 2:13-25

Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.' Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.



Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

Israel believed that the temple was built over the navel of the universe, the *axis mundi*, that spot where the world above and the world below met the world of history, thus enabling the three worlds to communicate. When Jesus called himself the new temple, he was claiming to be the centre of the universe, the spot where three-way cosmic communication occurs, the presence of God in the midst of the community. When we accept him in faith, we are accepting these claims. We may profess this belief, but do our lives reflect it?

Although some consider the law a rigid set of precepts, it is really more a collection of directives that have grown out of the experience of life. To say that Jesus is the wisdom of God means that God's wisdom is made known in him and that he is the way that points to God. While laws often embody distinctive cultural values or customs, as wisdom of God, Jesus crosses cultural boundaries and breaks down cultural distinctions. As the wisdom of God, Jesus fulfils the expectations of any and all codes of law.

Both the law and the temple witness to the power of God in the lives of believers. However, both institutions pale in the light of Jesus who is identified as the power of God. This divine power is not revealed in lofty precepts or in magnificent stones, but rather in the broken and pierced body of Jesus Christ. How willing are we to accept him?

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