



Regina Coeli Parish

Beverly Hills - In the Archdiocese of Sydney



Weekly Newsletter

4th Sunday of Easter (Good Shepherd Sunday) 21 April 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

Here is a story I have been saving since September 2023 when a newly ordained priest came to Regina Coeli to celebrate Mass. He then heard confessions, which were the longest I have ever witnessed on a Saturday morning. He then gave first blessings as well as his ordination cards to those who were present. So, here is the story, let's call it, a 'Good Shepherd Sunday special':

On Saturday 10 September two men were ordained to the priesthood at St Mary's Cathedral. One of them was Fr Richard Sofatzis, with whom I have had a few good conversations over the years. But I might have known the family better than I have known Fr Richard individually. And the Sofatzis family has a story worth sharing, small aspects of which I hope to recount here. For a start, Fr Richard is one of seven children. One of his brothers is also a priest. One of his sisters is a consecrated woman. Two other siblings are married with children. Two others, I suppose, are still in discernment.

Apparently, the mother was once asked, 'How did you manage to bring up two of your sons to be priests?' [This took place some years ago when Fr Richard was still a seminarian.] She was at loss as to how to respond. Whatever answer she gave she would still feel like a "fraud" because, after all, it was God's work, not hers. But one thing was for certain: her marriage had been one firmly based on faith. If she and her husband had ever been on the same page, it had been in relation to their Christian faith. What she asked of her husband above all else was to support her in raising the children in the faith.

Growing up, the mother took the children to catechism classes every Friday evening (Sunday Mass was simply assumed and not even considered noteworthy). To encourage them to attend these classes, she would reward them with treats at McDonald's afterward. One night she was unimpressed when, upon the family's arrival, she overheard the staff saying to one another, 'It's the cone family!' - they were known for their regular orders of 7 soft serve cones. **Continued on Page 3**



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The Week Ahead

Sun 21 April 4th Sunday Easter	8.30am Mass 10.00am Mass
Mon 22 April	No Mass
Tue 23 April	9.15am Mass
Wed 24 April	7.00am Mass
Thu 25 April ANZAC Day	9.15am Mass
Fri 26 April St Mark	9.15am Mass
Sat 27 April	9:00am Mass 9:30- Adoration 9:55am & Reconciliation 4:15- Reconciliation 4:45pm 5.00pm Mass
Sun 28 April 5th Sunday Easter	8.30am Mass 10.00am Mass

A Statement from the Catholic Archbishop of Sydney, Most Rev. Anthony Fisher OP



...Houses of prayer have traditionally been places of peace and solace, refuge and sanctuary and so the video footage of the attack upon a religious leader during a religious service inside a church has been especially confronting. The images of the violence that subsequently occurred outside the church are also confronting.

We have seen these types of events in other countries but, up until now, Australia has been largely free from this type of blatant violence in and around places of worship.

...I urge the faithful to not respond to these events with fear, avoiding places of worship because they are worried about further attacks, nor with anger, engaging in acts of reprisal or revenge. The best response to violence and fear is prayer and peace.

Recently Deceased

Pat McCoy, 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

Kevin Weeks, Maria Debono, Mary Crawford, Ali-da Clemente, Ariel Fiorini, Michael Camporeale, Eddie Da Silva, Grazia Campagna, Anthony & Doris Micallef, Nicola & Charlie Lo Russo, Sonia Moore, Ugo Buracchi, Jusuf Oentojo, Carmelo Algozzino, Cono Reale, Peter Pezzutti, Jose Gomes, Donato Tozzi, Donato Carnevale, Peter Peters, Frank Capra, Bob Henderson.

Please remember those who are in ill health especially: David Kuk, Sr Patricia Nichols OP, Josephina Gayed, 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.



A trip down the memory lane

Four years ago around this time, Jan & Bob Henderson celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. This was during the first lockdown when only those who had a role in a livestreamed service were allowed to be present. So they took on the role of a married couple who were renewing their marriage vows within Mass - a role which they had been destined to fulfil, and fulfil beautifully!

Parish Rosary Statue

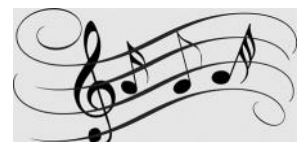
This week the parish Rosary statue will be welcomed into the home of **Mr & Mrs A. McKenzie**



LOCAL SINGING TEACHER/COACH

FOR FUN, AUDITIONS, SHOWS & PERFORMING ARTS SCHOOL ENTRY

PLEASE CONTACT STEPHANIE 0412 936 166 - for more information



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 14 April 2024	
2nd Collection	\$1643.85
1st Collection	\$875.70
Cashless Giving	\$245

Attendance	
Vigil	115
8.30AM	136
10AM	~165
Total	~416

Continued from Page 1 She also took them to monthly confession, for which a game was invented, whereby the one to recall most sins would win a prize. Anyone who struggled would be assisted with reminders from the others, including the mother who knew them all too well.

The mother passed away about 7 years ago. She was a devout Catholic of the best kind – joyful, open-minded and generous – seeming to embrace truth and goodness wherever she found them and supporting her children to pursue the same. I had the privilege of paying her a visit during her last days, by which time she had become unconscious. But her children – all grown up now – were constantly by her side, as though the ward had become an extension of their home, showing her affection as tangibly as ever, if not praying or singing praises together. I did not do any pastoral work that day, but what I witnessed truly ministered to me and concretized the meaning of the following verse from St Paul:

***'We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope.'* (Thessalonians 4:13-14)**

The father spoke at the reception after the ordination of Fr Richard. He admitted to feeling lost after his wife's departure. One day he asked his deceased wife, 'Gillian, what should I do now?' He then went through the journal she had left behind. A randomly opened entry was titled, 'What next?' What followed seemed to be a song about Jesus who walked on water. The message seemed clear enough to him: He was to hold the hand of Our Lord (and of his wife) so as to travel where he could not go before, across the deep waters of grief and uncertainty.

- Fr Peter -

New members of St Vincent de Paul urgently needed



"For when I was hungry you gave me food" (Matthew 25:35). Is God calling you to serve others and give a hand up to those in need?

A number of parishioners are members of the Vinnies Beverly Hills conference. We visit those in need in the local community and provide them with food vouchers and other support. Most of us can only volunteer on weekends and we are desperately looking for new members who can help on weekdays.

Any time you can contribute will make a real difference and will provide you the opportunity to put your faith into action by showing compassion to others. **If you can help please email kate.wall@vinnies.org.au**

Confirmation Program 2024 The Sacrament of Confirmation is to be celebrated in Regina Coeli Parish on Friday 17 May at 7.00pm. Parents of Baptised Roman Catholic children in Year Six or above are invited to enrol their child in the Parish based Confirmation Program. The lessons are to commence on Thursday 2 May at 5.00pm or 6.30pm in the church. The Information and Enrolment letter has been sent home through Regina Coeli School, Beverly Hills North and Narwee Public Schools. It is also available on the Parish website. Thank you.

Some exciting news from long time parishioner Toni Pezzutti

Toni's granddaughter, Juliette Morton, has recently represented Australia in the U19 Women's Tri-Nation Cricket Series.

Juliette's team played against the Sri Lankan and English U19 squads. The Series was played in Sri Lanka including matches at the Galle International Cricket Stadium.

It was a wonderful experience playing in sub-continental conditions. Juliette's love for cricket started in the Regina Coeli playground during lunchtime with her friends about 10 years ago.



First Reading Acts 4:8-12

This is the only name by which we can be saved.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter said: 'Rulers of the people, and elders! If you are questioning us today about an act of kindness to a cripple, and asking us how he was healed, then I am glad to tell you all, and would indeed be glad to tell the whole people of Israel, that it was by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the one you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by this name and by no other that this man is able to stand up perfectly healthy, here in your presence, today. This is the stone rejected by you the builders, but which has proved to be the keystone. For of all the names in the world given to men, this is the only one by which we can be saved.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 117:1. 8-9. 21-23. 26. 28-29. R. v.22

(R.) The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone.

or:

(R.) Alleluia.

1. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.
It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in men:
it is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes. (R.)
2. I will thank you for you have given answer
and you are my saviour.
The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes. (R.)
3. Blessed in the name of the Lord is he who comes.
We bless you from the house of the Lord;
I will thank you for you have given answer
and you are my saviour.
Give thanks to the Lord for he is good;
for his love has no end. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Jn 3:1-2

We shall see God as he is.

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us,
by letting us be called God's children;
and that is what we are.
Because the world refused to acknowledge him,

therefore it does not acknowledge us.
My dear people, we are already the children of God
but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed;
all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him
because we shall see him as he really is.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 10:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;

I know my sheep, and mine know me.

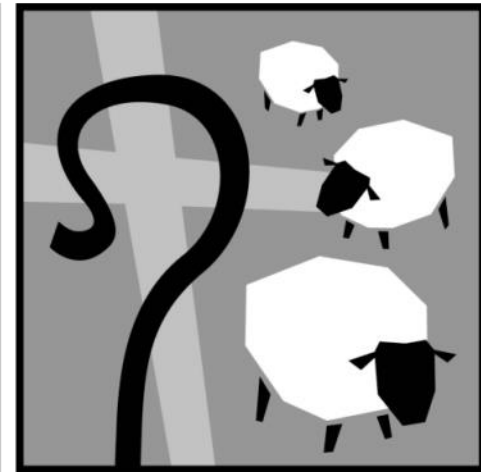
Alleluia!

Gospel Jn 10:11-18

The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep.

Jesus said:

'I am the good shepherd:
the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep.
The hired man, since he is not the shepherd
and the sheep do not belong to him, abandons the sheep and runs away as soon as he sees a wolf coming, and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep;
this is because he is only a hired man and has no concern for the sheep.
I am the good shepherd;
I know my own
and my own know me,
just as the Father knows me
and I know the Father;
and I lay down my life for my sheep.
And there are other sheep I have that are not of this fold,
and these I have to lead as well.
They too will listen to my voice,
and there will be only one flock and one shepherd.
The Father loves me,
because I lay down my life in order to take it up again.
No one takes it from me;
I lay it down of my own free will,
and as it is in my power to lay it down,
so it is in my power to take it up again;
and this is the command I have been given by my Father.'



Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

This Sunday is traditionally known as Good Shepherd Sunday. Two major themes emerge from the readings: an image of the one who saves; and the power of salvation itself. The one who saves is not a mighty warrior who comes in military array. In fact, he is the one who was rejected, who was hunted down, humiliated, tortured and hung naked on a tree, there to die in shame. The one who saves is the cornerstone of the building, holding it together, forming a firm foundation so that the structure will not collapse. The one who saves is a lowly shepherd, entrusted with sheep, not with the affairs of state. The one who saves is an unlikely saviour. This characterisation should give us pause. Is it possible that we have been looking for a saviour in the wrong places?

God's saving power flows from steadfast covenant love. It broke open the world in the death and resurrection of Jesus and it overflows as healing grace. The saving power in the name of Jesus, a name that itself means 'saviour' (cf. Matt 1:21), is for all people, even for those sheep who do not yet belong to this fold. Furthermore, it is for all time; God's mercy endures forever. Through our baptism we can bring the saving grace of God to a world in desperate need of healing. We can do this in our families, in our local communities, in the workplace, in so many situations of our lives.

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