Regina Coeli Parish

Beverly Hills - In the Archdiocese of Sydney

Weekly Newsletter

First Sunday of Lent
1 March 2020

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

Pastoral Team:

Fr Peter Kwak PP
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Ash Wednesday is always a little challenging for me, especially in the morning. There are a series of liturgical events in which, unfortunately, the homily cannot be the same. So, during each of the breaks I am under the mental burden of needing to reinvent the homily in an age-appropriate manner (not that I get it right). Early preparation would help but so would holiness, and both are foreign to me! So, once the challenge of Ash Wednesday morning was thankfully behind me, I let out a sigh of relief and just...*relaxed!* It was as though I forgot all about Lent on its very first day! So, the fact that so many people turned up at the 7pm Ash Wednesday evening mass was an edifying wakeup call for me - a salutary reminder to engage with Lent more wholeheartedly.

Speaking of *well-attended weekday mass,* it would be wonderful to see our weekday masses well-attended (not that they are poorly attended now), especially during the season of Lent. Here are a few reasons why weekday masses are great: firstly, homilies are short (at least here at Regina Coeli) - usually under two minutes - and sometimes the priest doesn't even give a homily! Secondly, if you can believe it, even though we are a Catholic Church, no collections are taken up at these masses ;) Thirdly, our church is usually more serene and conducive to contemplation at these times. Finally - and in my opinion this is the most important reason - our deeply personal ways of trying to form a relationship with God on a daily basis, which are indispensable, can be blessed and perfected by the quiet and yet real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Of course, our weekday mass times do not work for everyone (please feel free to explore other mass times in other parishes). But please remember that you can always 'pay a visit' at any time, for, the real presence of Christ never ceases to welcome us from the tabernacle!

Now, here is a little update on the issue of 'longterm decision-making in regard to parish assets.' After having wrestled with it for so long, much of it is pretty much imprinted in my memory. But for others it is totally understandable that it isn't easy to follow what I have been trying to explain on the front page of parish bulletins from 2 to 16 February 2020 (available on the parish website). I believe that the essential information is all there and can be understood perhaps with the help of 'Google Maps.' But please do feel free to ask me for clarification. Also, if there is enough interest, I will be open to organising something like an information evening. Broadly speaking, our choices are: Option 1 with 'no reverse-landswap and no childcare (at least not established by the parish)' or Option 2 with 'reverse-landswap and childcare.' Only a relatively small number of parishioners have spoken to me about the issue so far. Option 1 supporters were commonly saying: 'What about parking & traffic which are already terrible?!' 'Not another childcare in our area!' 'What about goodwill?' 'More play-space please!' Option 2 supporters were saying, 'I gladly welcome *Catholic* childcare; here, enrol my child!' Your well reasoned views will be welcome for a few more weeks, thank you.

- Fr Peter -

The Week Ahead

Sun 1 Mar First Sunday in Lent	8.30am 10.00am	Mass Mass
Mon 2 Mar		No Mass
Tues 3 Mar	8:30am 9:15am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass
Wed 4 Mar	7.00am 9:15am	Mass Mass
Thurs 5 Mar	9:15am	Mass
Fri 6 Mar	8:30am 9:15am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass
Sat 7 Mar	9.00am: 4:25pm 5:00pm	Mass, Adoration and Reconciliation Reconciliation Vigil Mass
Sun 8 Mar Second Sunday in Lent	8.30am 10.00am	Mass Mass

Please pray for...

Recently Deceased
Marie Gurney, Lucia Natoli

In Loving Memory
Jovito Canonizado,

Please remember those who are in ill health especially:
Beven Kelly, Ann Mc Dowell, Christopher McDowell, Damiano Serravalle, Michelle Makin, Pat Johnson, George Dagher, Mrs Saba, Josephina Algozzina, Geraldina Civitarese, Pat Mortimer, Greg Weekes, Mrs Donald Burch, Mary Daniels, Geoff McDowell, Elena Mura, Mr TD (Terry) Wall, Kim Delaney, Mary Emery, Lauren Sotano, Sam Hy, Mary Sortwell, Georgia Brown, Luke Compton, Paul Camelotti, Anne Maree Michels, Slavica Markotic.

Life Ascending Meetings

Third Thursday at 7:30pm
Second and fourth Fridays after the 9.15 Mass.

SHARE A STORY PROJECT

Could you share a story about a time when *faith* helped you (or someone else you know) in life? In order to be able to tell such a story we need to be attentive to and reflective about the (usually) gentle, quiet and yet surprising ways in which God's grace works. Surely, there are plenty of stories between us all and sharing them can help us become more *collectively awake* in our spiritual journey! Your story only needs to be brief and simple (preferably between 150~350 words but exceptions can be made). Whether you wish to be identified or remain anonymous is entirely up to you. Please email me (beverlyhillspriest@gmail.com), handwrite to me or speak to me, so that your story can be published in the parish bulletin. I really hope that 'Share a story' will become a regular feature in our parish bulletin, as one of the catalysts for our collective spiritual growth in 2020! *- Fr Peter -*

Project Compassion Donations

This Sunday is the First Sunday in Lent. The Archdiocesan Project Compassion Fundraiser will run again this Lent Season.

Project Compassion helps those who are in need both here in Australia and communities abroad.

If you would like to help, kindly take a Project Compassion box or packet of envelopes located at each Church Door

The Parish Lenten Program will commence on Tuesday 3rd of March after 9:15am Mass in the Parish Community Centre at 5 Tarrilli Street.

If interested please contact Sister Patricia on 9554 3227.

Rosary Statue

Mrs G Langridge

51 Chick Street
Ph: 9759 7497

Parish Secretary
Mrs Margaret Doherty-Brady
9554 8155
Tues 8:30am – 1:30pm
Wed & Fri 10.30am-3.30pm
Business Manager
Mr Peter Crawford

Sacramental Coordinator/ PSSO
Mrs Elizabeth Gooley
9554 8155
reginasacramental@gmail.com
Tuesday **and** Thursday from 11.30am - 3.30pm

School Principal
Mr Chris Egan
Asst. Principal
Mr Peter Busch

REC
Mrs Elizabeth Webster

Last Weekend 23 February 2020	
2nd Collection	**$2,048.35**
1st Collection	$ 1,170.55

Attendance	
5PM	169
8.30AM	151
10AM	217
Total	**537**

PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2020

Please be advised of the the Parish Sacramental Program dates for 2020

First Reconciliation – Thursday 2 April 5.30pm-6.30pm & 7.30pm-8.30pm. (Children in Year 3 and above)
Confirmation – Friday 29 May at 7.00pm by Bishop Richard Umbers. (Children in Year 6 and above)
First Holy Communion - Saturday 12 September 5.00pm Vigil Mass & Sunday 13 September 10.00am Mass. (Children who have received First Reconciliation)

Enrolment information will be made available two months prior to each Sacrament

Music Ministry over Easter

If you'd like to be part of the music ministry over Easter please contact Natasha - 0402785196
Musicians and vocalists most welcome
Rehearsals in church @6:30pm on Tuesdays

Key dates For Easter
5/4- Palm Sunday Mass @8:30am
5/4- Easter rehearsal 9:30-11:30am
9/4- Holy Thursday Mass @7pm
10/4- Good Friday Mass @3pm
11/4- Easter Saturday Mass @7pm
12/4- Easter Sunday Mass @8:30am

If you are missing your packet of planned giving envelopes, kindly check the tables at the back of the Church where a few remaining packets are there for collection.

Shared Story

A female parishioner (at Regina Coeli) was on her way to work one day, driving as she had done thousands of times when a car dangerously swerved into her lane out of the blue causing her to slam on the brakes stoping just in time. "Thank you Lord" she said touching her rosary beads which she keeps hanging from the dashboard realising just how narrow an escape it was. A few minutes later a car passed her and she noticed that its number plate had the word "Mary" then a little later up the road another car passed her by and, this time the number plate appeared to display MPO which reminded her of the Marian abbreviation commonly seen in Greek icons: MPΘY (a short for Μητέρα θεού which means 'Mother of God'). She had to admit that she was now starting to feel a little spooked; what did all this mean? As her awareness came into focus she spotted a car in the next lane that looked suspiciously like a potential menace. Sure enough, this car too, totally unaware of its surroundings, swerved into her lane truly in the manner of a wrecking ball. Only, this time, she was also followed by a seemingly unstoppable truck from behind. Her heightened senses allowed her to brake, neither too fast nor too slow, just enough to avoid collision almost miraculously. What role, if any, did Our Lady play in all this? It is hard to say, but we do know that she has proven tendencies for co-operating brilliantly with God's grace from the quiet backstage. - Anonymously -

Next Weekend: 8 March 2020

	Welcomers	Readers	Extraordinary Ministers
5PM	*Elizabeth C, R Q, Rita C*	*Eliz M, Eliz G, Owen L*	*Gloria L, Regina B*
8.30AM	*Brian M, Katja, Frances J*	*Carmel W, Judy Z,*	*Katja P, Liz*
10.00AM	*Maria T, Rula H, Isabelle H*	*Josh, Kevin*	*Adriana H, Kim L*

First Reading Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7

Creation of our first parents, and sin.

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.

The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death".' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 50:3-6. 12-14. 17. R. see v.3

(R.) Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

1. Have mercy on me, 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. My offences truly I know them;
   my sin is always before me.
   Against you, you alone, have I sinned;
   what is evil in your sight I have done. (R.)

3. 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.)

4. Give me again the joy of your help;
   with a spirit of fervour sustain me.
   O Lord, open my lips
   and my mouth shall declare your praise. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 5:12-19 (or Shorter form Rom 5:12, 17-19)

Where sin increased, there grace abounded all the more.

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift. The results of the gift also outweigh the results of one man's sin: for after one single fall came judgement with a verdict of condemnation, now after many falls comes grace with its verdict of acquittal. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous

Gospel Acclamation Mt 4:4

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

No one lives on bread alone,

but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

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

Gospel Mt 4:1-11

Jesus fasted for forty days and nights.

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says:

> Man does not live on bread alone
> but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says:

> He will put you in his angels' charge,
> and they will support you on their hands
> in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

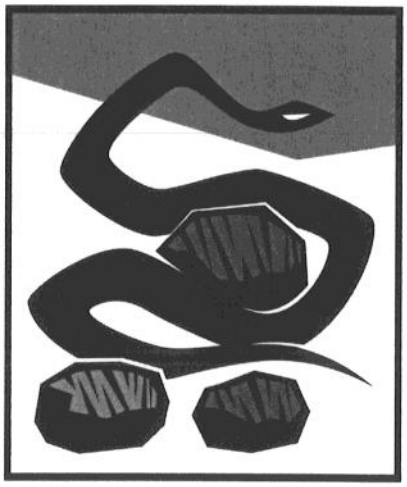
Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says:

> You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these', he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says:

> You must worship the Lord your God,
> and serve him alone.'

Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.



Reflection *by Dianne Bergant CSA*

The readings for the First Sunday of Lent act as a kind of overture to the entire season. They enable us to engage in a double confession: a confession of sin and the repentance which follows; and a confession of praise for the mercy of God which is shown us in spite of our sin.

The very first reading reminds us of our fragility. We are made of the dust of the ground, the very stuff that represents death and decay. We were reminded of this when ashes were used to sign us on Ash Wednesday. At the beginning of Lent we are invited to acknowledge honestly and realistically our fundamental human weakness.

Despite our weaknesses, the situation within which we find ourselves is not hopeless. Somewhere deep within ourselves we know that we are not helpless prisoners of our limitations. God has not deserted us to our guilt. The form that God's compassion takes is outlined in the reading from Romans. It is in the death and resurrection of Jesus that we see the extent of this divine compassion. Its scope is first measured by the yardstick of human sinfulness, and then it outstrips those dimensions. God's gracious gift far exceeds the effects of human transgression

The gospel reading moves us from both the anthropological and the theological considerations to the crowning Christological reflections. As we look to Jesus, we see humanity at its best, tempted but not overcome. There will certainly always be human limitations, human weaknesses that will open the door to temptation. But Jesus shows us that we are not thereby doomed. Jesus is a model for our own journey to new life.

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