# Regina Coeli Parish

Beverly Hills - In the Archdiocese of Sydney

# Weekly Newsletter

## Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
## 23 February 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
beverlyhillspriest@gmail.com

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5 Tarrilli Street
**Postal Address:**
PO Box 100
Beverly Hills NSW 2209
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Just when we think we are getting used to Ordinary Time, Lent reminds us that there is nothing *ordinary* (in the sense of being *easy*) about being a true Christian. We tend to be shocked when people behave in a horrible manner. But, really, we ought to be more shocked that some human beings (a.k.a. saints) are able to act in a truly noble manner consistently! 'How deep is your love,' sang the Bee Gees. Well, how deep is our sinfulness? Why is it that at times we never learn and keep making the same mistakes over and over again, as though we had infinite time, even though there are unmistakable signs that remind us of our own mortality? Lent calls us to be serious, lest the seriousness of our mistake - the mistake of remaining unteachable/unrepentant - might increase to an unbearable magnitude.

**Lent will start with Ash Wednesday this week. Masses will be held here at 7am, 9.15am (with school) and 7pm.** Of course, *Ash* Wednesday takes on a more than usually sombre meaning for us in 2020, on account of our Black Summer. We first felt the pang of despair when something we used to take for granted was suddenly removed from us, namely, clean air. Then came the pang of finding out not only that the scarcity of our water reached a shocking level but also that our water was becoming seriously contaminated by the ashes. We were torn between feeling sorry for those who lost their homes and feeling so relieved that it wasn't us. And then even some of those who did not lose their homes started to lose access to other things such as power, petrol, food, etc. And so it was hard not to start questioning our previously held assumption that we were invincibly secure in our (technologically) super-advanced civilisation.

Black Summer forced us to feel more *stripped and vulnerable* than we had in a long while. Our latest devices would have proven to be completely useless in the absence of some of the most basic of necessities. Owning multiple properties or having seven (plus) figure bank balances would have meant nothing if the system collapsed and each small unit had to fend for itself by returning to, as some Australians actually had to recently, using the basic skills of survival. Such imagining of a post-apocalyptic world, far-fetched though it may be, can help us ask if the dream we are currently chasing might be one destined to turn to ashes someday. After all, we are told on Ash Wednesday, 'Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return,' as a reminder that our days on earth are inevitably limited. Nevertheless, God can do absolute wonders with dust: 'Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life.' (Genesis 2:7) Therefore we come forward this Wednesday to be signed by ashes, in a gesture of *voluntarily* becoming stripped and vulnerable, and rediscovering how it is that God breathes into our ashes and raises up in us what will live forever!

*- Fr Peter -*

# The Week Ahead

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Sun 23 Feb 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time** | 8.30am<br>10.00am | Mass<br>Mass |
| **Mon 24 Feb** | | No Mass |
| **Tues 25 Feb** | 8:30am<br>9:15am | Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament<br>Mass |
| **Wed 26 Feb Ash Wednesday** | 7.00am<br>9:15am<br>7:00pm | Mass<br>Mass Whole School Mass<br>Mass |
| **Thurs 27 Feb** | 9:15am | Mass |
| **Fri 28 Feb** | 8:30am<br>9:15am | Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament<br>Mass |
| **Sat 29 Feb** | 9.00am:<br>4:25pm<br>5:00pm | Mass, Adoration and Reconciliation<br>Reconciliation<br>Vigil Mass |
| **Sun 1 Mar First Sunday in Lent** | 8.30am<br>10.00am | Mass followed by Morning Tea<br>Family Mass<br>followed by Morning Tea |
| | | **Morning Tea held in Parish Hall** |

# Please pray for...

**Recently Deceased**

**In Loving Memory**
Jovito Canonizado,

**Please remember those who are in ill health especially:**
Beven Kelly, Peter Daniels, 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**

Next Sunday will be the First Sunday in Lent. The Archdiocesan Project Compassion Fundraiser will run again this year during Lent.

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.

You will be very welcome to join in this spiritual preparation, designed to evoke a deeper appreciation for the immense gift of Easter.

**Rosary Statue**

**Mr & Mrs B Kelly**

**16 Tallawalla Street**
**Ph: 9150 7172**

**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 16 February 2020** | |
|---|---|
| **2nd Collection** | **$2,152.05** |
| 1st Collection | $ 1,293.85 |

| **Attendance** | |
|---|---|
| 5PM | |
| 8.30AM | 141 |
| 10AM | 187 |
| **Total** | **?** |

**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
26/2- Ash Wednesday Mass @7pm
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

**The power or prayer**

My story is about prayers to keep one's strength against the challenges in life. Due to my various health conditions, I had gone through 9 medical operations which need anaesthetics. The last one was in March 2019 for my gall bladder removal. I read somewhere that the more you had anaesthetics, the more risk you have in getting dementia as we get older. When I was 70 years old I started feeling that I forget some words or something that I want to do. It took me awhile to remember what I wanted to say or do.

My health condition is a trifecta of high blood pressure, diabetics and heart angina. In one of the pilgrimage trip in Avila I struggled to walk in an ascending street to the church. After returning home I visited the cardiologist. He conducted the angiogram and I had 3 stents inserted in my heart artery. He advised that I should take my medicines and do 3-monthly check-up regularly. In answering my question, he said that based on statistics a person in my condition will live for another 10 years, provided I look after myself well.

Obviously, my husband and I were very concerned when we heard that. After some retrospection we believe that apart from looking after my health as well as possible, we can only pray and ask God to take care of us. Since then I have been praying more frequently every day including the rosary to pray for my family and for the world's peace, even though some days I don't feel well. I was hoping that I can see my grandchildren before God calls me.

Now, it has been 15 years since that event and my condition have been up and down. Some days I feel good and some days I feel sick. After the first 7 years another stent had to be inserted, so I now have 4 stents in total. My appearance can be deceiving as I may not feel well inside. However, during this period I was truly blessed with 4 beautiful grandchildren whom I love dearly. I pray to God that He will bless me with reasonable health and allow me to see them in many more years.

*- A Parishioner at Regina Coeli -*

| **Next Weekend: 1 March 2020** | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Welcomers | Readers | Extraordinary Ministers |
| 5PM | *Elizabeth C, Pat Mc C, Rhona De V* | *Sarah B, Vivienne L* | *Neil Q, Mary* |
| 8.30AM | *Brian M, Rosa C, Ivy S,* | *Anne K, Leontia* | *Rosa C, Judy Z* |
| 10.00AM | *Colleen B, Gloria L, Maureen P* | *Andrew T, Bev T* | *Sybil S, Adriana H* |

## First Reading Lv 19:1-2. 17-18

*You must love your neighbour, as yourself.*

The Lord spoke to Moses; he said: 'Speak to the whole community of the sons of Israel and say to them: "Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy.

"You must not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. You must openly tell him, your neighbour, of his offence; this way you will not take a sin upon yourself. You must not exact vengeance, nor must you bear a grudge against the children of your people. You must love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord."'

## Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 102:1-4. 8. 10. 12-13. R. v.8**

***(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.***

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
   all my being, bless his holy name.
   My soul, give thanks to the Lord
   and never forget all his blessings. (R.)

2. It is he who forgives all your guilt,
   who heals every one of your ills,
   who redeems your life from the grave,
   who crowns you with love and
   compassion. (R.)

3. The Lord is compassion and love,
   slow to anger and rich in mercy.
   He does not treat us according to our sins
   nor repay us according to our faults. (R.)

4. As far as the east is from the west
   so far does he remove our sins.
   As a father has compassion on his sons,
   the Lord has pity on those who fear him. (R.)

## Second Reading 1 Cor 3:16-23

*All things are yours, but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.*

Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple.

Make no mistake about it: if any one of you thinks of himself as wise, in the ordinary sense of the word, then he must learn to be a fool before he really can be wise. Why? Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As scripture says: The Lord knows wise men's thoughts: he knows how useless they are, or again: God is not convinced by the arguments of the wise. So there is nothing to boast about in anything human: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life and death, the present and the future, are all your servants; but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

## Gospel Acclamation 1 Jn 2:5

***Alleluia, alleluia!***
***Whoever keeps the word of Christ,***
***grows perfect in the love of God.***
***Alleluia!***

## Gospel Mt 5:38-48

*Love your enemies.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you: offer the wicked man no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well; if a man takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him. Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike. For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not? And if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.'

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## Reflection *by Dianne Bergant CSA*

At times it seems we have rewritten the 'Golden Rule' to say: Do unto others before they can do unto you! In saying this we are not encouraging each other to do good, but to be defensive. Jesus tells us to go the extra mile, turn the other cheek, outdo ourselves in generosity and rise above the fray. He is not suggesting that we allow ourselves to be abused, but that we not perpetuate the antagonism out of which the mistreatment arose. He is not advocating passivity, but he is saying that we should not retaliate. Jesus is describing what we today would call active non-resistance, the attitude taught by Gandhi and Martin Luther King.

We are familiar with the answer to the question: Who is my neighbour? We usually interpret it to mean those we do not particularly like. It is important to love them, to be kind to them, to help them when they are in need. But these are not the people whom Jesus is talking about in today's reading. He tells us that the neighbours whom we are to love are those people who do not like us. We are to love those who deliberately exclude us from their social circles, who talk about us behind our backs. We are to love those who make us feel that we are not good enough for them, those who resent us for our accomplishments. We are to love those who exploit us or do us harm. This is indeed a radical teaching.