



Regina Coeli Parish

Beverly Hills - In the Archdiocese of Sydney



Weekly Newsletter

Regina Coeli 22 August 2021

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

Happy Parish Feast Day! This weekend might be the 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time for most churches around the world, but for us it is the feast of *Regina Coeli*. This is because, according to the laws of "liturgical physics," the gravity of a parish feast day trumps that of a Sunday in Ordinary Time. Following the success of Dinner with the Archbishop in 2019, there was a plan to organise another dinner for last year's parish feast day. But then 2020 happened and the rest was history. Believe it or not, something even bigger was being contemplated for this year's parish feast day, especially given the fact that it was going to fall on a Sunday. Encouraged by the recent success of the series of BBQs, a parishioner and I dared to dream of a parish picnic, at a nearby park, possibly accompanied by an outdoor Mass! It was a beautiful dream, but perhaps, as the song goes, this world was never meant for one as beautiful as this dream. Hopefully the next dream that finds its way into our imagination will materialise, to our own astonished delight and gratitude!

It is not easy to dream at the moment for the same reason that it is not easy to hope: nothing seems certain and everything seems to be in flux. Whenever promises are made about the future by our political leaders we can almost hear the quiet but distinct muttering of the words 'CONDITIONS APPLY.' But who can blame them? After all, we are contingent beings. We are not in complete control, ever. Apparently Benjamin Franklin said, 'Only two things are certain in life: death and taxes.' Something tells me that we are about to realise the truthfulness of his claim with renewed appreciation. There is, however, something else we can be certain about, with great confidence and joyful hope, namely, the fact that God will accomplish the work of salvation. When something is about to happen but seems too good to be true, we tend to feel a sense of utter surreality about it. We cannot believe it. We are even *afraid* to believe it. This might have been how Mary felt when the angel said to her, 'Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you!' Think of the long list of all that is lacking in us and around us. The very fullness of what would make us complete was being promised to Mary. What was about to happen was God's greatest gift to humanity; it was the ultimate roll-out of the medicine of divine mercy. And Mary had precisely the right response of faith. She said, 'Behold the handmaid of the Lord. Let it be done to me according to thy word.'

How blessed we are to have Mary as our patroness! In her the best possible gift from above and the most appropriate response from below came together, as a result of which God became incarnate and the greatest dream for humanity materialised. Mary pondered all these things with such complete surrender that even when the Son of God was no longer in her womb he was always in her heart. So it was fitting that their close contact - perfect contact - be preserved by Mary being granted a seat at the right hand of Christ the King as the Queen Mother, Our Lady Queen of Heaven, Regina Coeli! St Pope John Paul II once said, 'Faith is contact with the mystery of God.' Contact is everything. Without contact we wither. There can be no doubt that God wants to come into contact with us. Therefore the whole purpose of life on earth must be *letting ourselves come into contact with God*. Being "contactless" has become the latest fad on account of the pandemic. But such an isolating principle must never be allowed to rule us mentally or spiritually. **Continued on Page 2**



Pastoral Team:

Fr Peter Kwak PP

beverlyhillspriest@gmail.com

Parish Office Address:

5 Tarrilli Street

Postal Address:

PO Box 100

Beverly Hills NSW 2209

Telephone: 9554 8155

Email: reginaparish@gmail.com

Web: reginacoeliparish.org.au

The Week Ahead

Sun 22 August Regina Coeli	8.30am Mass 10.00am Mass
Mon 23 August	No Mass
Tue 24 August St Bartholomew	9.15am Mass
Wed 25 August	7am Mass
Thu 26 August	9.15am Mass
Fri 27 August St Monica	9.15am Mass
Sat 28 August St Augustine	7.00am Mass 7.25-8.00am Adoration 9:55am & Reconciliation 4:15-4:45pm Reconciliation 5pm Vigil Mass
Sun 29 August 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	8.30am Mass 10.00am Mass

No Public Mass
During Lockdown

Continued from Page 1 During the lockdown I witnessed a lady who was leaning her head on the closed door of our church while praying the rosary. She longed for contact with a depth and intensity that put me to shame. The slow pace of the lockdown has forced me to examine my own faith, my own commitment to the vocation. Certainly, I had been going through the motion of engaging in religious activities day in, day out. But, throughout all this, how central was my desire to come into contact with the mystery of God? Where was my heart really? It is no secret that I disagree with long lockdowns as a matter of public policy (I could go on and on~). But at the personal level I have been grateful for the opportunity afforded to me for recalibrating the primacy of ‘contact with the mystery of God’ in my own heart and mind. I hope and pray that similar graces are being given to all our parishioners. [Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you wish to have a chat.] When it comes to the mystery of the Holy Trinity, Mary was a close contact, the closest in fact! Turning to her can only be a booster for our immersion into contact with the Divine. Our Lady Queen of Heaven, pray for us! - Fr Peter -

Recently Deceased

Raja Reegon, Eruthai Marie Reegon & Christopher Reegon, Bernie Langtry, Ron Sang, John Harnett, Patricia Hay, Luigia Zegarelli, Peter Peters, Christopher McDowell, Frank Capra

In Loving Memory

Frank Grima, Doreen Simmons, Roy Mitchell, John Bridge, Vanessa Succar, Rosa Germano, Georgia & Philip Spiteri, Fouad Attia, Jeanette Cardoz

Please remember those who are in ill health especially: Josephina Algozzina, Mildred Petit, James Ybasco, Josh Venture, Carmen Bajada, Anne Kensey, Monica Costa, Quang Vo, Matt Nugent, Ann McDowell, Damiano Serravalle, George Dagher, Mrs Saba, Pat Mortimer, Mrs Donald Burch, Mary Daniels, Geoff McDowell, Elena Mura, Mr TD (Terry) Wall, Kim Delaney, Lauren Sotano, Sam Hy, Georgia Brown, Luke Compton,



Rosary Statue

Mr & Mrs P. Vafo’ou
73 Ponyara Rd.
Ph: 0452 248 843

Parish Secretary TBC 9554 8155 Tues 8:30am-1:30pm Wed & Fri 10.30am—3.30pm	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
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For Planned Givers
Thank you for your steadfast support. If you would like a receipt for last financial year’s giving, please contact the parish office. Please note that there is no longer any tax deductibility. **But tax deductibility still applies to special collections such as CWF/ Priest Retirement Foundation/Project Compassion.** The receipt can be picked up by you, delivered or emailed to you.

Liturgy of the Word Regina Coeli

Entrance Antiphon (or a choice of song):

At your right stands the queen in robes of gold,
finely arrayed.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Leader: The angel said to Mary, 'Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you!' *(Pause)* Let us humbly acknowledge the times when we denied the presence of the Lord who greatly longs to be with us. *(Pause)* Let us learn from Our Lady Queen of heaven the way of trust and surrender so that we too can be filled with and carried by grace *(Pause)*

Leader: You were sent to heal the contrite of heart: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: You came to call sinners: Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.

Leader: Let us pray. *(Pause)* O God, who made the Mother of your Son to be our Mother and our Queen, graciously grant that, sustained by her intercession, we may attain in the heavenly Kingdom the glory promised to your children. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

- ◆ Please go *slowly* through the readings on Page 4.
- ◆ Pause after each of the readings. Discuss, if you like, what was striking about the reading, perhaps with the help of the reflection questions below.
- ◆ Also, if you like, after the Gospel reading, you can listen to the homily Fr Peter hopes to put up on Facebook/parish website by Sunday morning.

Reflection Questions:

After the 1st reading: God wishes to save us by enlightening us and liberating us from oppression. Why? Because '...the jealous love of the Lord of Hosts will do this.' (Isaiah 9:7) He cannot leave us alone! He burns with compassion for us - a fire of love with which to purify and heal us. What would be our most appropriate response to the 'jealous love' of the Lord? Where would this take us?

After the Gospel: Mary was faced with an offer of love which seemed incomprehensibly immense and intense. So, the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen!' Why are we afraid sometimes of the 'jealous love' of the Lord? How do we hesitate to take the next step forward in our faith journey? What could we do today as a sign of overcoming such fear? Tomorrow?

The Prayer of the Faithful

Leader: Mary has gone before us and given us reasons to hope and rejoice! Let us follow her footsteps in the offering of our hearts, through humble prayer, to the jealous love of the Lord.

Reader: For the Church. May she always have great devotion to Mary, Mother of the Church, who is with her Son in his glory in heaven. *(Pause)* We pray to the Lord...

All: Lord hear our prayer

For the Parish of Regina Coeli, Beverly Hills. May the humble faith of Mary be imitated by all so that God's greatness may resound in their hearts and draw others to the One who is worshipped in the Eucharist. *(Pause)* We pray to the Lord...

All: Lord hear our prayer

We pray for those who are suffering from illness. May they be helped by the solicitude of Regina Coeli; may those who care for them imitate her love and compassion. *(Pause)* We pray to the Lord...

All: Lord hear our prayer

We pray for comfort upon all who are dying and those who care for them. May they be filled with hope and may the consoling presence of Mary, our Mother and Queen, be with them all. *(Pause)* We pray to the Lord...

All: Lord hear our prayer

(Other intentions may be mentioned here)

Leader: Let us pray in the words our Saviour gave us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Prayer for spiritual communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things and desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot receive you sacramentally at present, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already here, and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

(Pause)

Communion Antiphon (or a choice of song):

Blessed are you who have believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord will be fulfilled.

Leader (while everyone makes a sign of the cross): the Lord bless us, keep us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.



First reading

A Son is given to us

The people that walked in darkness
has seen a great light;
on those who live in a land of deep shadow
a light has shone.
You have made their gladness greater,
you have made their joy increase;
they rejoice in your presence
as men rejoice at harvest time,
as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils.
For the yoke that was weighing on him,
the bar across his shoulders,
the rod of his oppressor,
these you break as on the day of Midian.
For all the footgear of battle,
every cloak rolled in blood,
is burnt,
and consumed by fire.
For there is a child born for us,
a son given to us
and dominion is laid on his shoulders;
and this is the name they give him:
Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God,
Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace.
Wide is his dominion
in a peace that has no end,
for the throne of David
and for his royal power,
which he establishes and makes secure
in justice and integrity.
From this time onwards and for ever,
the jealous love of the Lord of Hosts will do this.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 112(113):1-8

Blessed be the name of the Lord for ever.

Praise, O servants of the Lord,
praise the name of the Lord!
May the name of the Lord be blessed
both now and for evermore!

Blessed be the name of the Lord for ever.

From the rising of the sun to its setting
praised be the name of the Lord!
High above all nations is the Lord,
above the heavens his glory.

Blessed be the name of the Lord for ever.

Who is like the Lord, our God,
who has risen on high to his throne
yet stoops from the heights to look down,
to look down upon heaven and earth?

Blessed be the name of the Lord for ever.

From the dust he lifts up the lowly,
from the dunghheap he raises the poor
to set him in the company of princes,
yes, with the princes of his people.

Blessed be the name of the Lord for ever.

Isaiah 9:1-7 Gospel Acclamation

cf.Lk1:28

Alleluia, alleluia!
Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you;
blessed are you among women.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

'I am the handmaid of the Lord'

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

Prayer to Regina Coeli

(Written by a couple of parishioners)

O Mary, our beloved Holy Mother, we celebrate your Queenship of Heaven and earth and all mankind today. We praise and thank you for your tender love for each of us and the whole Church. You are the true model of love as even in the midst of great suffering and sacrifice, you persevered, trusted and was faithful.

Dearest Holy Mother, please show us the path to your Son, Jesus, so that we may never stray especially during this difficult period. Reign over our world, our church, our nation, our families and each of us.

We ask for your protection for our beautiful parish here in Beverly Hills, our priest, and our wonderful teachers and staff. Please guide also our elected leaders to make wise decisions for the good of all.

O Queen of Heaven, graciously heal and protect us always. May we always seek your gentle love as we place our lives in your hands, Amen.