

May 11 & 12, 2019 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - Year C

Issue Number 843

THE 'REGINA CAELI'

Hello Everybody!

Thank you for your comments on the article last week about the history of the Hail Mary. This week I would like to write something about the prayer known as the *Regina Caeli*, sometimes spelled also *coeli*.

From Holy Saturday to Pentecost we sing or recite one of the Church's most joyful anthems, the *Regina Caeli* (O, Queen of Heaven), customarily said in place of the Angelus at the end of daily Masses.

According to *The Golden Legend*, a thirteenth century work on the lives of the Saints, Pope Saint Gregory the Great in the 6th century was leading a procession asking for relief from a pestilence afflicting the population of Rome. Being carried in the procession was an icon of the Blessed Virgin reputedly painted by Saint Luke. Suddenly, the air was filled with a heavenly perfume dispelling the pestilence. Looking up, Saint Gregory beheld angels singing: "O, Queen of Heaven rejoice, Alleluia! For He whom you deserved to bear, Alleluia! Has risen as He said, Alleluia!" To which the holy Pope added: "O, pray to God for us, Alleluia!"

At the same time, the holy pontiff saw the angel of death sheathing his sword atop the Hill of Hadrian, today the Castle of Sant'Angelo in Rome. Since then this story has been associated with the origins of the *Regina Caeli*.

The idea is to rejoice with Our Blessed Lady that her Son, after a gruelling passion and frightful death, is alive again. While the prayer of the Angelus celebrates Jesus' Incarnation, the *Regina Caeli* celebrates His Resurrection and "congratulates" the Mother on her Son's victory over sin and death.

This prayer reminds us at Easter, and throughout the year for that matter, of how much we have to be thankful for, even in the midst of our daily trials. When our Lord conquered death in His resurrection he opened the gates of Heaven for us to be able to share Eternal Life with Him there, along with his Mother, the saints, and our loved ones!

The Gospels tell us that Christ had prophesied of His rising from the dead during his

earthly ministry, yet His disciples couldn't fully grasp what He meant until after His Resurrection. This prayer is trying to help us to imagine the joy they must have felt when He appeared to them. They saw for themselves that "He has risen, as he said," as we read in Matthew's Gospel (28:6) and in the *Regina Caeli* above!

In addition, when Jesus said to St. John while on the cross "Behold, your Mother" (John 19:27), He was referring to Mary not just as the beloved disciple's mother but as the mother of all Christians, that is to say *our* mother as well, as has been noted by theologians over the centuries. We can thank our Blessed Mother for her crucial role in our salvation as our mediator with Him.



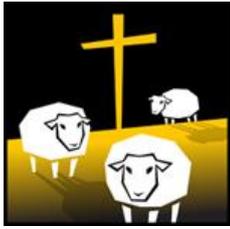
As St. Bernard once said "the Eternal Father, wishing to show all the mercy possible, besides giving us Jesus Christ, our principal advocate with Him, was pleased to give us Mary, as our advocate with Jesus." And in the words of St. Augustine, because Mary gave "flesh to the divine Word," as the Mother of God, for our redemption, "she is more powerful than all others to help us gain eternal life."

Although she is Queen of Heaven, the Blessed Virgin Mary is by no means distant from us. St. Alphonsus Liguori, in his famous work *The Glories of Mary*, quotes Blessed Amadeus as saying "our Queen is constantly before the Divine Majesty, interceding for us with her most powerful prayers."

Keep in mind that in our prayers to Mary, we are not worshipping her *instead* of our Lord but rather worshipping Him *through* her, as many theologians, such as St. Alphonsus and St. Louis de Montfort have stressed in their writings.

Speaking of rejoicing, as we do in this prayer, St. Ambrose once said, "let the soul of Mary be in each of us to magnify the Lord, and the spirit of Mary be in each of us to rejoice in God!"

Peace in Jesus
Fr. Fernando



Today's Readings

First Reading: Acts 13:14,43-52

Paul and Barnabas carried on from Perga till they reached Antioch in Pisidia. Here they went to synagogue on the sabbath and took their seats. When the meeting broke up, many Jews and devout converts joined Paul and Barnabas, and in their talks with them Paul and Barnabas urged them to remain faithful to the grace God had given them.

The next sabbath almost the whole town assembled to hear the word of God. When they saw the crowds, the Jews, prompted by jealousy, used blasphemies and contradicted everything Paul said. Then Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, 'We had to proclaim the word of God to you first, but since you have rejected it, since you do not think yourselves worthy of eternal life, we must turn to the pagans. For this is what the Lord commanded us to do when he said: I have made you a light for the nations, so that my salvation may reach the ends of the earth.'

It made the pagans very happy to hear this and they thanked the Lord for his message; all who were destined for eternal life became believers. Thus the word of the Lord spread through the whole countryside.

But the Jews worked upon some of the devout women of the upper classes and the leading men of the city and persuaded them to turn against Paul and Barnabas and expel them from their territory. So they shook the dust from their feet in defiance and went off to Iconium; but the disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

Second Reading: Revelations 7:9,14-17

I, John, saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. One of the elders said to me, 'These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and because they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb, they now stand in front of God's throne and serve him day and night in his sanctuary; and the One who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. They will never hunger or thirst again; neither the sun nor scorching wind will ever plague them, because the Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water; and God will wipe away all tears from their eyes.'

Gospel: John 10:27-30

Jesus said: 'The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me. I give them eternal life; they will never be lost and no one will ever steal them from me. The Father who gave them to me is greater than anyone, and no one can steal from the Father. The Father and I are one.'

RETIREMENT VILLAGES SCHEDULE THIS WEEK

Nuffield & Hopetoun - Mass & Anointing of the Sick on Wednesday 15 May at 4.00pm in the chapel at Farrer Brown Court.

Nordby - Communion Service on Thursday 16 May at 4.00pm.

Wirreanda - Communion Service on Thursday 16 May at 11.00am.

Brian King Gardens - Mass & Anointing of the Sick on Friday 17 May at 2.00pm.

Flinders - Communion Service & Anointing of the Sick on Saturday 18 May at 10.00am in Donnington Court.

SRI LANKAN MEMORIAL MASS: The Diocese of Parramatta will celebrate a Month's Mind Requiem Mass to pray for all who were killed in the recent Sri Lankan terrorist attacks targeting Catholic Churches and hotels. This Mass will be celebrated at St Nicholas of Myra Church, Penrith on Sunday 19th May at 10.00am.



MARY: A BIBLICAL WALK WITH THE BLESSED MOTHER: Every Thursday till 20th June (8 Weeks) from 7.00 to 8.30pm in the Parish Hall. Join in an extraordinary journey that reveals Mary's unique role in God's Kingdom and in our lives. Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother will place you in the midst of the powerful drama of her earthly life, taking you through her joys and her sorrows. Program books are available for \$30.

Readings Next Weekend 5th Sunday of Easter - Year C

Acts 14:21-27; Apoc 21:1-5, John 13:31-35

Feast Day this Week Tuesday 14 May - St Matthew

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS AVAILABLE NOW from the Church Bookshop and the Parish Office. This year we have a combined Sydney/ Greater West edition for just \$70. Leaflets with information about ordering digital editions are available in the foyer or order through <https://www.entbook.com.au/21y5021>. Proceeds support our Parish Youth Group.

MEN'S PRAYER GROUP will no longer be running. Thank you to all who came and journeyed together.



BLANKETS FOR THE NEEDY: With the cooler weather coming it is time to start making blankets for Vinnies. There will be a morning tea on Monday 20th May at 10.00am in the Marian Centre to welcome new and continuing knitters/crocheters and anyone else who would like to know more about this ministry. For information call Jo on 0414 544 080.

TUESDAY MORNING PRAYER GROUP meets in the Marian Centre on Tuesdays at 10.00am discussing the Sunday Mass readings and praying the Rosary. All welcome. Call Pauline: 0407 417 039.

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

Today is the World Day of Vocations and Good Shepherd Sunday which is being celebrated in Catholic parishes across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains. The Catholic Church invites you to pray for those you might know whom God may be calling to a priestly vocation and would benefit from your prayers. To learn more about priestly vocations, the priesthood and seminary life in the Diocese of Parramatta, visit www.parracatholic.org/vocations.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2019: A reminder to all families that Lesson 3 will be held this Tuesday 14th May at 7.00pm or Saturday 18th May at 4.30pm in the Parish Hall. This session will be for both parent and child. Please keep our parish families in your prayers during this time.

MOTHERS' DAY STALL TODAY after all Masses. The youth will be selling bunches of roses and chocolates for Mothers' Day as a fundraiser for the youth programs.



PROJECT COMPASSION: Thank you to all who have returned their Project Compassion boxes. If you have not yet done so, please fill your box and return it to the Parish this week so that amounts can be finalised.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE LITURGY on Friday 31st May at 7.30pm in the Church. This is a celebration and remembrance of those we love who have died. All are welcome to attend.

BISHOP VINCENT'S FEDERAL ELECTION PASTORAL STATEMENT: Bishop Vincent has released a pastoral statement on the 2019 Australian federal election that will be held on Saturday 18th May. Copies are available in the Church foyer or at parracatholic.org/election2019.

HOLY HOUR: Parishioners and visitors are invited to Eucharistic Adoration with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament this Thursday evening from 8 to 9pm.

CARDS & MAHJONG: All ages are welcome to come to the Marian Centre on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month at 1.30pm to join the 'Beyond 60' group for an enjoyable few hours of games. The next afternoon will be on Friday 24th May. For information phone Carmen on 9634 4014.



IntoLife: Years 5-8. Friday 17th May from 7:00-8:30pm. Psalm 23:4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. Bring a friend and a gold coin donation.

Life NIGHT: Years 9-12 Sunday 5th May. No youth this Sunday because of Mothers' Day.

More information? Please contact Laura Burton on 0433 259 234 or ym@stbernadette.org.au.

THE CHAT AND CRAFT GROUP meets in the Marian Centre on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month with the next meeting on Friday, 24th May from 10.00am. You are welcome to join them for an enjoyable few hours of conversation and craft. For information phone Ellen on 9634 7276.

WOOLWORTHS EARN & LEARN: Our primary school is once again collecting the Woolworths Earn & Learn stickers. Please place your stickers/ sheets in the box provided in the Church foyer. Thank you for supporting St Bernadette's School.



THE HILLS ARE ALIVE CHOIR FESTIVAL featuring 6 choirs will perform at The Hills Grammar School, 43 Kenthurst Road, Kenthurst on Sunday 19th May at 3.00pm. Adults \$25. Concessions available. Bookings at <https://www.trybooking.com/BCJPO>.

NEW ALTAR SERVERS – AN INVITATION TO JOIN: All boys and girls who have received their First Holy Communion are invited to join the special ministry of Altar Servers. Please complete the application form which is available from the priests after Mass, and return the completed form to the priests or deposit it in the parish mail box outside the parish office. Full training and continuing support will be provided to each altar server, to assist the ministry in serving Our Lord and the parish community with reverence and care.



THE JEWISH JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST: A presentation from the Institute for Mission, and hosted by the Northern Deanery Pastoral Council. This presentation takes an interesting look through the lens of our Jewish ancestors to help imagine the mindset of Jesus in some key moments of his life. It aims to enhance our appreciation of what we celebrate today as the Eucharist and true presence of Jesus. Wednesday June 12th from 7 to 9pm at St Michael's School Hall, enter from church carpark, 5 Chapel Lane Baulkham Hills. A light supper will be provided. Contact Wendy on 0427863149 or email deanerypc@parishofbaulkhamhills.org.au to RSVP for catering purposes

CREDIT CARD DETAILS

Have you changed your credit card or been given a new expiry date? Please phone the parish office on 9634 2622 to update our records.

St Bernadette's Parish Community
Parish House, 367 Old Northern Road, Castle Hill, NSW 2154

Telephone 9634 2622 Fax 9899 3511 Email: admin@stbernadette.org.au
 Web page: <http://www.stbernadette.org.au>

Parish Staff

Rev Fernando Montano, Parish Priest
 Rev Shinto Francis, Assistant Priest
 Mr Adam Carlow, Seminarian
 Mrs Nancy Eberhaut, Pastoral Associate
 Ms Laura Burton, Youth Minister
 Mrs Alice Bradshaw JP, Sacramental Co-ordinator
 Mrs Frances Gallagher, Office Manager
 Mrs Monica Rubic, Parish Secretary (Finance: Mon-Thu)
 Mr Darren Edwards, Groundsman

Mass Times for this Week

Sunday Sat 6.00pm
 Sun 7.30am, 9.00am, 10.30am (incense)
 6.00pm Parish LIFE TEEN Youth Mass

Weekdays Mon 8.00am
 Tue 6.45am
 Wed 6.45, 9.15am
 Thurs 6.45am
 Fri 6.45am
 Sat 8.00am

Reconciliation Sat 8.30am - 9.00am, 4.30pm - 5.00pm

Mass on Public Holidays at 8.00am

Baptisms: By appointment only. Contact Frances Gallagher at the Parish Office. Please note the Church law: Parents are obliged to take care that infants are baptised in the first few weeks. As soon as possible after the birth or even before it, they are to go to the pastor to request the sacrament for their child and to be prepared properly for it. [Can. 867 §1]

St Bernadette's Parish School: Mrs Leanne Nettleton (Principal) 9407 6600

Please pray for Victor Flores, Judith Field, Juliet Estoloso, Kelsey Brown and Rachel Redulla and for the anniversaries of Ramon Preller, Thresiamma Michael, Paulino Perete and Gail Manalang and in remembrance of Achille & Margherita Forestieri, Salvatore & Maria Rosa Papaluca, Carmela & Angelo Panetta. Please remember in your prayers the family of baby Gabriel Mearns.

Prayers for the Sick: Harper Dowdall, Philomena Bowen, Bob Redmond, Margaret Griffin, Robin Reyden, Jan Heyworth, Klaus Hahn, David Rix, Masaki Iwatani, Kym Holden, Michelle McLoughlin, Maria Robayo, Peter Viler, John Reynolds, Christina McAuley, Vicky Crawford, Betty Granata, Xander Ranieri, Robert Waddell, Yvonne Hill, June Phelan, Grace Boitano, Josephine Robayo, Emily Hunt, Peter Barker and Cat Misenas.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND - 18 & 19 May, 2019

ACOLYTES/ SERVERS	LECTORS	MINISTERS OF COMMUNION
VIGIL Melvyn Myers S4	Patricia Williams John Geoghegan Lourdes Nathan	Tina Walsh, Stacey Leong, Esther & Frank Coleiro, Lucille Wilson, Maureen Fearnside, Beverley Curtis, Rick Jenkins, Warren Hiser
7.30AM Peter Obeid S5	Martin Collins Jo Wickens Frances Ward	Glen Haywood, Jack Garcia, Geraldine Kearney, Mary Tondini, Lisa Kemmis
9.00AM Reg Sinha S6	Karin Abrams Tim Abrams Debra Vermeer	Rudy Suwandy, Sally Healey, Healey Family, John & Lois Donnelly, Anne Cheung, Lena Madry, Brian & Katrina Fitzalan
10.30AM James Tchang S7	Sylvia Rego Gemma Saccasan Peter Saccasan	Rosemary Roco, Coney Lau, Helen Carr-Boyd, Hilary Fong, Elizabeth & Jiji Joseph, Shirley Tye

6.00PM PARISH LIFE TEEN YOUTH MASS MINISTRY ROSTER - 19 May, 2019

Servers Raphael De Leon S8	Projectionist Josh Becker Offertory Brendan Hassan	Piano Jolene Chua Guitar Bernice Tang	Woodwind Izaak De Padua Drums Noah Bellerose	Singers Rachel Chua Patricia Wibisono Natalie Mathias Josh Holden
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CHILDREN'S LITURGY Joanne Boland Pauline Andrew FLOWER ROSTER Bernadette Logue CHURCH LINEN Remy De Leon	CHURCH HOUSEKEEPING Maria Mochnik, Anna Schweda, Kathy Habek, Yvonne Desouza, Rebecca Aylmer COUNTING (1st Collection) Christine & Hubert Jenneke	COUNTING (2nd Collection) Campion Fernando, Gary Moeller, John McDermott, Emelie De Leon BOOKSHOP Beth & Nina De Jesus / Heather Woods / Karen Askey / Coney Lau / Ingrid Vergano
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