

**NEWSLETTER OF THE PARISHES OF BALMAIN AND ROZELLE,
ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY**

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

(YEAR B) 25 July 2021

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

Dear Parishioners,

We extend our condolences to Lester Fernandez and his family of the Rozelle Parish on the death of his father, Bruce Anthony Fernandez, last Monday 19 July 2021. Bruce died in faith, fortified by the Sacraments. A small funeral has been arranged for 30 July. Please pray for the family and friends who mourn his death and for Bruce, that through the mercy of God he may be granted eternal refreshment, light, and peace.

The lockdown of 2021 seems destined to be for a considerable period – the Premier seems to be suggesting that it will not be possible to lift all restrictions until 80% of the population is vaccinated (so-called 'herd immunity' – why can't it be 'flock immunity' a much more pleasant concept?) and this may not be done until the end of October.

In light of this development, it seems to me that we should reinstitute the **programme of daily Mass and house Communions** that we had during the long lockdown of 2020. Last year, we were permitted by the Archdiocese to celebrate 'private' Masses for a congregation of no more than two and, you will remember, we did this, having a Mass daily at noon in St Augustine's from Monday to Friday and, on weekends, the usual programme (5 pm, 9 am and 6 pm at Balmain and 10.30 am at Rozelle).

This year, having regard to the apparently greater seriousness of the outbreak, it would seem more prudent to have a **daily Mass at noon at Balmain, including just the one Mass on Saturday and Sunday.**

Although this permission has not been given specifically by the Archdiocese this time around, parishes are again permitted to 'stream' Masses, where the priest may be helped by a server and a reader. Accordingly, I am confident that by restricting attendance to two people in addition to the priest at the daily Mass, we are not defeating the purpose of the law. Indeed, one person can read the First Reading, Responsorial Psalm, and Gospel Acclamation, and the other can lead the Intercessions.

Mass can be celebrated according to the usual form in your choice of language from the following: Latin, English, Italian, or French.

There is, however, a caveat. Going to church is not one of the 'reasonable excuses' for leaving home specifically listed in the NSW Covid Restrictions but, one of the other excuses is 'for compassionate reasons'. In this context, the compassion is to be extended to the person giving his or her excuse for being out of the house by the person asking for their 'reasonable excuse', for example, a police constable. Any decision by a police person as to whether leaving one's home to attend a small private Mass at which all the Covid safety measures will be taken should be excused for compassionate reasons will be within his or her discretion and, therefore, quite unpredictable. Understandably, some parishioners may, therefore, be reluctant to come to St Augustine's for the daily Mass. In that case, they should not hesitate to request a visit by Fr Victor or me.

Fr Victor and I will be available to make pastoral visits to parishioners in their home at their request. If you ask for it, we will bring Holy Communion. We will both be carrying with us the Oil of the Sick and, of course will be happy to hear any Confessions. If you would like a visit, please ring the Parish Office and leave a message and we will contact you to work out the details.

If you would like to attend Mass (for two), please email or call Jill Ditton

(jdillon@bigpond.net.au; 0419 635 761) and arrange with her a time convenient to yourself.

If you are subsequently, unable to attend at an arranged time, please let Jill know and your place will be allocated to another person.

Pastoral visits by priests are permitted under the current restrictions. I think it is time that we undertook this ministry – as I did last year during the long lockdown – especially as some of our parishioners must be feeling quite isolated.

Fr Richard Waddell

Parish Administrator

POSTPONED EVENTS

At Home to farewell Fr Gregory, our Poetry Evening with Professor Barry Spurr, and the performance of 84 Charing Cross Road by the Hunter's Hill Theatre Company. We are also planning an evening focussing on Benedictine spirituality for the lay faithful with **Sr Joanna Bagot OSB from Jamberoo Abbey**. Further details of the new arrangements will be provided when the future becomes a bit more certain.

BRIEF ANSWERS TO THE BIG QUESTIONS

Q. Do the laws governing the universe allow us to predict exactly what is going to happen to us in the future? The short answer is no, and yes, in principle, the laws allow us to predict the future. But in practice the calculations are often too difficult.

- Stephen Hawking, *Brief Answers to the Big Questions*, 97.

PRAYER

To pray is to take notice of the wonder, to regain a sense of the mystery that animates all beings, the divine margin in all attainments. Prayer is *our* humble answer to the inconceivable surprise of living. It is all we can offer in return for the mystery by which we live. Who is worthy to be present at the constant unfolding of time? Amidst the meditation of mountains, the humility of flowers – wiser than all alphabets – clouds that die constantly for the sake of His glory, we are hating, hunting, hurting. Suddenly we feel ashamed of our clashes and complaints in the face of tacit glory in nature. It is so embarrassing to live! How strange we are in the world, and how presumptuous our doings! Only one response can maintain us: gratefulness for witnessing the wonder, for the gift of our unearned right to serve, to adore, and to fulfil. It is gratefulness which makes our soul great.

- Extract from Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, 'The Sigh', in John Garvey (ed), *Modern Spirituality – An Anthology* (Darton, Longman and Todd: London 1985), 9-10.

KNOCKING AT YOUR DOOR

Could one man
teach another man
who you are?

Could an angel explain it to another angel
or an angel to a man?

We must ask you for understanding
and seek it in you;

we must knock at your door:

only in this way

can we receive

and find,

as it is opened to us

- St Augustine, *Confessions* XIII, 38, in Valeria Boldoni (ed), *Praying with Saint Augustine*, (Triangle, London: 1987), 16



FORTHCOMING BAPTISM

Luka Bailey HOBSON on Sunday 29 August 2021 at 12 noon at St Augustine's



FORTHCOMING WEDDINGS

Ben Vittorio WEISSEL with Rossy Giovannella GUTIERREZ-DALY on Friday 3
September 2021 at 4 pm in St Augustine's

Michael GALLARDO with Thalia FLOGERAS on Sunday 12 September 2021 at 1.30 pm in
St Augustine's

Mak CAVANAGH with Gabrielle Anna SMALL on Saturday 18 September 2021 at 3 pm in
the Chapel of Rose Bay Convent

† PARISH INTERCESSIONS

We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers (1 Thess 1: 2)

For the sick and those in old age: Jaime Aponte, Brenda Atkinson, Nela and Brian Blakemore, John Blunt, Pina Borg, Margo Buckingham, Tony Carbon, Paul Joseph Clark, Ann Diver, Brent Egan, Vincent, Catherine and Eric Erskine, Mary Ferguson, Christine Forner, Sylvia Gallagher, Martha Lucia Gomez, Marcella Holsten, Beverley Kerin, Joan Leonard, Rosemarie Longworth, Shirley Lowe, Marie Meyrick, Roger Parsons, Anna Pasqua, Patricia Webster, Lyn Wilson, Keith Yates, John, Karen, and Ray.

For the faithful departed – those recently deceased: Red O'Connor (06.02.21), Millie Leung (22.02.21), Veronica Jardin (27.02.21), Wendy Wheatley, Harry Fullerton, and Charlie Veech, Millie Leung, Pat Britton, Mary Haylen (23.04.21), Carmelo Battaglia (30.04.21) and Margaret May Meehan (25.06.21), and Bruce Fernandez (19.07.21).

As well as for: Rita Agius, Anthony & Ron Barnes, Charlie, Teresa, Rose & Lawrence Borg, Ron Bovey, John Bransby, William, Irene & Gertrude Briggs, Charlie Camilleri, Martin Camilleri, Violet & Emanuel Camilleri, Joyce Josephine & Bertie Joseph Clark, Sr Mary Constable, André, Michel & Ginette Comolle, Gary Dollar, Sydney, Edna & Cecilia Edmonds, Doris Falzon, Bill Gallagher, Susan Hanchard, Kathleen & Maxwell Harris, Mary Houghton, Kate Kenna, John & Jackie Lowe, Marcia Cadiz McIlvenna, Sr Marie McMahon, Mable & Catherine Miles, Peter Modellino, Mollie Monan, Mary Anne, Anthony & Hugh Mulligan, Hazel & Bernie Olson, Vicky Pisani, Winifred & David Preece, Maria Roach, Antoinetta Scalone, Joyce Shiner, and deceased members of Manuli, Nitopi & Scalone families.

Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis. Requiescant in pace. Amen.

ST AUGUSTINE'S & ST JOSEPH'S DETAILS

St Augustine of Hippo's Church, Eaton Street, Balmain

St Joseph's Church, Cnr Victoria Road and Gordon Street, Rozelle

The Presbytery/Office: 3 Jane Street, Balmain NSW 2041

Parish Office: CLOSED UNDER CURRENT LOCKDOWN

Parish Secretary: Lorraine Thomy

Ministry Coordinator: Barbara Howard

Parish Safeguarding Officers: David Kelaher 0458 352 257 & Kathleen Curry 0410 877 227

Phone: 61 2 9810 1157 (for both parishes)

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