

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

TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

(YEAR B) 19 September 2021

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

Dear Parishioners,

Our **Fr John Therry** (pronounced 'Ferry' – according to Bishop Brady) School has finished this term and starts a two week holiday. While it is difficult to know what to do during the holidays in a time of lockdown, it is important that it be a proper break for everyone, somehow! We wish the Headmaster, the teaching and ancillary staff, and all the pupils, a happy holiday period and look forward to their return. Perhaps by the end of the year, we will all be able to gather at the School and also in the School Chapel – St Augustine's Parish Church – and celebrate the wonderful sense of community which we have not lost, despite our isolation from each other.

Parishioners of both Balmain and Rozelle Parishes must be well aware now of the plans to have **St Aloysius College, Milson's Point, occupying the former school buildings at 48 Victoria Road, Rozelle**. It is hoped that this will be in place by 2023 – there will be a necessary lead time to occupancy for all the necessary renovations and adaptations of the school buildings. At the same time, the **Genesian Theatre** will be establishing itself in part of the former school buildings behind St Joseph's Church in Rozelle.

Meanwhile, the **Sydney Community College** will, after the lockdown, resume its vital work of providing interesting and accessible adult education in all sorts of subjects, from banjo playing to philosophy, to a very large number of people. We who live in Balmain and Rozelle are very lucky to have the College now and, in the near future, the Genesian Theatre and St Aloysius's College, in our midst. With the completion of the transport infrastructure – both the tunnel and the underground railway – one could expect the area, already a lively one, to become even more vibrant. It is good to be part of it.

The **Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference** has issued its annual **Social Justice Statement for 2021-2022 *Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor***. It is not practicable to propose a discussion group under the present circumstances but individual parishioners will find the Statement quite inspiring. It can be found at:

<https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Social-Justice-Statement-2021-22.pdf>

On 14 September, 700 years ago, **Dante Alighieri** died in Ravenna, Italy. **The Pope has challenged us all to read Dante's *Divine Comedy* in the coming year**. I have an English translation which I purchased decades ago but which has remained unread. T.S. Eliot said, 'genuine poetry can communicate before it is understood' but I suspect we should probably read it in English rather than Italian. Perhaps a compromise would be to use a text with *both* English and Italian – I have found one on the internet: <https://oll->

resources.s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com/oll3/store/titles/83/0045-01_Bk.pdf Is there

anybody in either parish who would be interested in 'having a go'? After all, the suggestion has come from the Supreme Pontiff. Please let me know.

Speaking of suggestions from the Roman Pontiff, **Pope Francis has asked how many of us know the date of our baptism?** His point is that it was when we were baptised that we began our Christian life. Everything about our Catholic faith and practice stems from that event – wherein each one of us 'was made a member of Christ, the child of God, and an inheritor of the kingdom of heaven' (*The English Catechism*, 1662). We should celebrate this event every year, just as we should also celebrate our feast day, the day of the saint whose name we have been given in baptism – our Christian name. These are two more excuses for a party but they are good excuses because they have a spiritual significance and remind us that when we were baptised we entered into the communion of saints – all those from the past, those around us now, and all the saints of the future.

The Plenary Council: Our parishes' ambassador to the preliminary consultation processes for the forthcoming Plenary Council has been John Dickie. Please see below for his report. Please also find attached another document – an **Executive Summary of the Archdiocese of Sydney Plenary Council Working Group** – which many people will find very interesting.

Caritas Australia is working to respond to the present crises in Afghanistan and Lebanon. Please look at the information and the links below.

Meanwhile, closer to home, the local Conference of the **Society of St Vincent de Paul** has a message as follows:

Vinnies are available to help families and individuals in need. We can help with food assistance, financial assistance, clothing, counselling as a start. If you or anyone you know needs help, we can help. Just have to call the Vinnies office on 98184365 or Maureen Robinson on 0414 634208 and we will be there.

The daily Mass – attendance is by roster, therefore the Mass is private and not public – continues at noon except for this coming Thursday when it will be at 9.30 am because I am giving a Zoom presentation at 11.30 am to a conference organized by Catholic Schools NSW.

S.N. Hogg's **History of Balmain** will continue in next week's eBulletin.

Fr Richard Waddell

Parish Administrator

The Catholic Weekly: Free digital edition of *The Catholic Weekly* while churches are closed during the COVID-19 lockdown in greater Sydney.

<https://www.catholicweekly.com.au/catholic-weekly-newspaper-online/>



See what's happening in our parishes – find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/staugbalmain>

REPORT FROM OUR PARISH AMBASSADOR

Dear Fellow Parishioners

As part of the preparations for the Plenary Council which is now only a few weeks away, I was invited to attend a meeting as Parish Ambassador to discuss items which the delegates from the Archdiocese will take to the Council.

There were another 85 representatives from parishes throughout the archdiocese of Sydney. The meeting had a dual purpose. The first was to provide instruction on the process of discernment – a process which has figured largely in the preparatory documents and discussions relating to the Council.

The presenter was Brother Ian Cribb, a Jesuit, who shone light on the process and how it would be used during the Council.

Importantly, his explanation of the process was put into practical effect later in the day when we gathered into groups to use this process to consider topics which should be examined in detail by the Council.

One of the criticisms of the preparatory work for the Council has been the generalisation of the agenda. What the meeting did on Saturday was to use the discernment technique to isolate specific topics which should be under more rigorous examination by the Council.

What was reassuring about the topics nominated for discussion by the group was how closely these topics resembled what our Parish compiled in 2018-2019.

Women in the Church

The topic which evoked most discussion and agreement – in the group I attended and later emphasised by the other groups - was the need to examine and promote the role of women in the Church. Apart from being a fundamental matter of justice for the majority of the Church's membership, the sentiment was that women could and should occupy positions of influence and power within the church structure and that authorities should begin to implement this process as a matter of urgency.

Women often view a problem or a situation differently and their input can make the difference to any proposed solution. It was also observed that on occasions women felt more comfortable dealing with another woman rather than with a priest.

The group recognised that for major changes to take place there would be a need to involve the Church worldwide but that there were measures which could be taken now without any need to seek worldwide approval.

Consultation and accountability

There was discussion about the administration and accountability of the Church at diocesan and parish level including the need for active involvement of pastoral councils in decision making. The view was that the Light from the Southern Cross had provided a blueprint for proper administration in the Church at all levels. This governance review incorporated measures which would make the administration of the Church absolutely transparent. It had been praised internationally in the Church as a major step forward in good governance and accountability and work should begin on its implementation as quickly as possible.

Simplicity of message

One of the main considerations should be the simplicity of the message that Jesus proclaimed. He did not discriminate when asking disciples to follow him and to follow the message he brought. He did not

turn anyone away. In practical terms we should consider how this relates to the attitude of the church towards those who are not in the mainstream because of their race, positions in the community, their sexual orientation, whether their marriages had failed or other reasons which might have marginalised them. The emphasis should be that ours is an inclusive rather than exclusive church

Lavish vestments

There was also the view that the ornate trappings and vestments of the senior ranks of the clergy and the ceremonial accoutrements did not seem to replicate the simplicity of Jesus and the way he went about his ministry. This ornate ceremonial dress seemed to be more in line with that of kings and princes and was in stark contrast to Pope Francis who preferred simplicity in dress and manner even on ceremonial occasions. One member of the group said the ornate ceremonial dress was a “real turn off” in the parish.

Concern for young people

There was concern about the fall away of young people in the church. One member who prepared young people for the sacraments observed that while there was participation in church activities while the children were in primary school, the numbers dropped away dramatically when the children reached secondary level. The Plenary should consider what measures might be taken to continue to attract young people to the more formal aspects of the Church – Mass and the sacraments for example – as well as some of the less formal associations.

There was general concern about the lessons which could be learned from the Royal Commission and the protection of young people. The issue of safeguarding was a central issue. Fortunately here in Balmain we have one of the most advanced safeguarding regimes.

Future developments

These are just some of the matters which came before the group and the full list of topics will be among the submission to the Council by the archdiocese. I should imagine it might have to go through a number of hoops before the submission is finalised.

Should there be any further material, either before or after the first session in a few weeks’ time, I shall report them to the parish.

Could if just say in conclusion it was pleasing to see many of the issues which we discussed a couple of years back when we were preparing the parish’s submission now seem that they might have a chance of coming before the Council for discussion.

John Dickie

Parish Ambassador



Humanitarian crises unfolding in Afghanistan and Lebanon

As the situations in **Afghanistan** and **Lebanon** deteriorate, you can help to support families caught up in the crises.

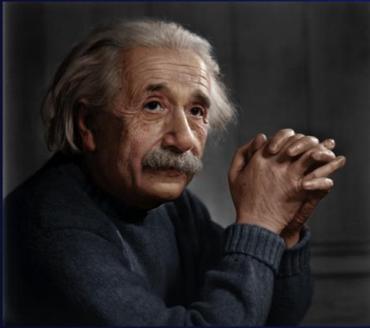
In **Afghanistan**, people have been forced from their homes, with half of the population in urgent need of food, water, shelter and protection.

In **Lebanon**, the country is running out of power, water, fuel, medicine and food. Even hospitals are facing massive fuel shortages and will soon have to turn off the lights.

Please donate to Caritas Australia so that we are able to respond to crises like these and others across the world.

Visit caritas.org.au/lebanon or www.caritas.org.au/afghanistan or call 1800 024 413 toll free to provide much needed support.

Albert Einstein on the Catholic Church



"Only the Church stood squarely across the path of Hitler's campaign for suppressing truth. I never had any special interest in the Church before, but now I feel a great affection and admiration because the Church alone has had the courage and persistence to stand for intellectual truth and moral freedom. I am forced thus to confess that what I once despised I now praise unreservedly."

-- Albert Einstein, *Time* magazine, 23rd December, 1940 p. 38

BRIEF ANSWERS TO THE BIG QUESTIONS

Q. Among all scientists, who inspired you most, and why? Galileo and Einstein. Galileo was the first modern scientist who realised the importance of observation, and Einstein was the greatest but, reassuringly, he had a number of blind spots, like quantum mechanics and gravitational collapse. - Stephen Hawking, *Brief Answers to the Big Questions*, 235.

POSTPONED EVENTS

The following events have been postponed: **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**.

The Hunter's Hill Theatre Company have advised that their production of **84 Charing Cross Road** will be staged in February 2022 – dates and times to be advised in the near future.

Further details regarding the other events will be provided when the future becomes a bit more certain.



FORTHCOMING BAPTISM

Luka Bailey HOBSON on a date to be fixed



FORTHCOMING WEDDINGS

Michael GALLARDO with Thalia FLOGERAS on a date to be fixed
Ben WEISSEL with Giovannella GUTIERREZ-DALY on 18 November 2021
Dylan HARVEY with Brittani BATTLE on 15 January 2022
Mak CAVANAGH with Gabrielle Anna SMALL on 23 April 2022

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, Pina Borg, Margo Buckingham, Tony Carbon, Paul Joseph Clark, Ann Diver, Brent Egan, Vincent, Catherine Erskine, Mary Ferguson, Christine Forner, Sylvia Gallagher, Martha Lucia Gomez, Marcella Holsten, Beverley Kerin, Joan Leonard, Shirley Lowe, Marie Meyrick, Roger Parsons, Anna Pasqua, Patricia Webster, Lyn Wilson, Keith Yates, John, Karen, Ray, Henry Nicholls, Jill Losurdo, Lucy Tyler, John Coorey, and Vincent Erskine.

For the faithful departed – those recently deceased: Grace de Bono (16.08.21)

- those whose year's mind occurs at around this time: Wayne John McIlvenna (07.09.81), Edward Settree (08.09.99), Irma Kerin (14.09.14), Felice Dinicolamaria (25.09.16), Jean Chianea (4.10.10), Jerry Andre (9.10.18); James Reginald Turner (13.10.57); Donald Allen (18.10.17), Peter Brennan and Tara Cameron.

- 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 McMahan, 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: Due to the 'ring of steel' around Strathfield, the Parish Secretary is unable to attend the Parish Office. The 'phone is being monitored.

Parish Secretary: Lorraine Thomy

Ministry Coordinator: Barbara Howard

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

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