

**eNEWSLETTER OF THE PARISHES OF BALMAIN AND ROZELLE,
ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY
TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
(YEAR B) 22 August 2021**

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

Dear Parishioners,

Our condolences to Les and Pauline Galea of Rozelle parish on the death of Les's sister, **Grace de Bono** who died on Monday 16 August 2021 after a painful illness. We were able to offer a Mass for the repose of her soul on Tuesday 17 August 2021.

As you all must know by now, **the lockdown** has been extended another month. The five-kilometre restriction means that our Parish Secretary is unable to physically attend the Parish Office.

Barbara Howard has been doing some work at the Parish Office and from home on the sacramental registers of both Parishes. The project began as a compilation of the list of anniversaries of the faithful departed for inclusion in our prayers and a book of remembrance but is developing into something of a history research project into the families of Balmain and Rozelle. Barbara is writing this up and there is something in this eBulletin from her.

Barbara's researches reminded me that my great-grandfather (on my mother's side), **Samuel Nisbett Hogg**, did a little research into Balmain's history early last century. On 5 May 1923, the *Daily Telegraph* reported as follows:

Mr S.N. Hogg, who for 23 years had the position of manager of the Bank of New South Wales at Balmain, is writing a book on the historic borough of Balmain. An interesting feature will be short biographical sketches of a few of the really eminent men who have lived in Balmain.

I have not been able to find a copy of this book but in the National Library of Australia there are newspaper cuttings of a paper "Balmain Past and Present" which great grandfather gave in about 1906. I will include a few extracts over the next few issues which may interest parishioners.

On Tuesday at 2 pm, we had a **FJT School Zoom Liturgy of the Word** organised by the School's Family Education Coordinator, our parishioner **Angela Mills**. We had a large attendance with participation in readings and intercessions by many pupils. We also did some singing and I am hoping that this could be heard all over Balmain and Rozelle, rather like the cheering audible all over Kensington (London) when I was there in **1994** during the **World Cup Final**. The finalists in 1994 were Brazil and Italy and I am wondering who everyone was barracking for but it was very exciting. Anyway, we must all sing up.

Parish pastoral visits: If you are living alone and would like either Fr Victor or myself to visit, please ring the Office and leave a message with contact details or send an email. (While the Parish Office is closed, the telephone is still working.)

Parents have enquired about the celebration of **First Confessions and First Communions** for their children this year have had to be postponed and it is pointless to reschedule matters until we have some certainty about future restrictions. In any case, we will make what arrangements are necessary for these events to be held before the end of the year, if at all possible, and we will all have to be flexible.

Baptisms and Weddings have all had to be rearranged – it looks as if January is going to be a busy month except that I will be away from 9th to 15th January, attending a Latin school in Hobart, *Deo volente*.

Just a reminder that both **St Joseph's and St Augustine's are CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC** but **Mass is celebrated in St Augustine's daily** at 12 noon (and 10 am when Fr Victor is in residence) and you may make a booking to attend (maximum two people) by contacting Jill Ditton: jditton@bigpond.net.au; 0419 635 761. All the necessary Covid regulations must be observed.

Engaging Our Faith: There is some information below about some online courses being provided by Catholic Theological College, many of which could be of great interest to parishioners. Some of the enforced leisure of Covid-time could be directed to further education (and prayer), although I realise also that many families are busier than ever during Covid, combining work, school, and normal family life all under the same roof and in each other's company *all the time!*

During the last week, I had some handyman jobs done around the Presbytery. **Mr Tim Cousins of Mr FixIt Property Maintenance** (his own business) did several tricky jobs excellently. His contact details are: 0408 883 886; mrfixit.timc@gmail.com. I recommend him to parishioners.

I would also like to thank **John Navarra and Renato Sabatini** for helping move some heavy items around the Presbytery on Friday.

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>

ENGAGING OUR FAITH

Please find attached a flyer for the Catholic Theological College *Engaging Your Faith* online sessions running in August and September 2021. You or people you know may be interested in theology, spirituality or pastoral studies at CTC in 2021.

Application to MACS has been made for all sessions to be approved for accreditation purposes. There will also be provision of a certificate of attendance for those who require it.

Each session costs \$20. Book and pay directly through our website.

Note that there are a number of courses available for audit (no assessment or credit), or at undergraduate, and postgraduate levels.

Register for one of the online sessions or contact us for further information.

(**Note from RW:** Unfortunately, the Trybooking system is not very friendly. Booking for the first three sessions – among the most interesting, to me at least – were closed on Saturday morning. I have written to the organisers indicating how off-putting this is to anyone who might otherwise be interested.)

THE FLYER IS ATTACHED TO THIS eBULLETIN

SOME MORE INFORMATION IS ON THE LAST PAGE OF THIS eBULLETIN – THE LINK IS <https://ctc.edu.au/news-and-events/engaging-your-faith/>

BALMAIN AS IT IS NOW (1906)

S.N. Hogg

It may seem to some of us who live in Balmain almost superfluous to say much about our suburb as it is now, for have we not the evidence before our own eyes?

In these days of extensive reading and of newspapers dealing with world-wide subjects of interest, we are not likely to take our own horizon to be the boundary of the whole world, and the gossip of the village counts for but little. It may be that we do not even know *accurately* the population of our own suburb. In 1861, it was 3482; in 1871, 6272; in 1881, 15,073; in 1901, 23,475; and it is now estimated at 32,750.

Our worthy Mayor has kindly supplied me with the following facts, which I think will interest all ratepayers. The numbers of electors liable to be rated is 7628. The number of electors who have paid rates and are entitled to vote is 5335, 70 per cent of the 7628. The estimated capital value of all rateable property in "poor Balmain" is very nearly 4 millions (viz. £3,918,430). The total rates in 1904 were £13,617, which are only exceeded by those of North Sydney, £15,678, and the unimproved capital value of land in the municipality is £1,204,372 (again only exceeded by North Sydney with its £1,694,305). I gather from official records that the deposits in our local branch of the Barrick street Savings Bank approximate £94,000, a larger amount than in any other suburb of Sydney.

The number of dwellings and shops, etc, on 5th February, 1906, was 6542, namely 6032 inhabited, 350 uninhabited, and 160 shops and stores without residence attached. In 1901 the average number of inhabitants per occupied house in the municipality was 5.19.

We have 610 lamps in Balmain, 59 miles of asphalted footpaths, 21 miles footpaths formed only, and 76 miles kerbing and guttering, and the total estimated value of improvements in £80,313.

One of the things that make Balmain differ from the other suburbs is that it is not merely a residential quarter, but it has industries and factories, docks, wharves, and a harbor of its own. Probably it was only the accident that Sydney Cove was a little nearer the Heads than Mort's Bay that gave the priority of settlement to Sydney in the first instance, but however that may be, there can be no question as to the splendid position occupied by Balmain or its wonderful progress as an industrial centre. Our industries are so numerous that it is impossible to refer to more than a very few, and in a short paper like this I can only speak of those which come most readily in my mind, and not necessarily the most important.

(To be continued)

SOME SAYINGS AND STORIES OF THE FATHERS:

Abbas Megethios

They say that Abbas Megethios was always very humble. He was brought up by the Egyptians and had stayed with a lot of the Fathers, among others Sisoes and Poemen. He lived at Sinai close to the river. He himself told the story that one of the saints came to see him and said: 'How do you live, brother, in the desert?' He replied: 'I only eat one day in two, and only one piece of bread'. And the saint said: 'If you'll take my advice, eat half the piece of bread every day'. He did this and his spiritual progress improved.

Abbas Sisoes

One of the Fathers told a story of Abbas Sisoes: that one day, wishing to conquer sleep, he had himself hung over the precipice at Petra. But an angel came and untied him and told him never to do this again and never to give such an example to the others.

- from Peter France, *Hermits*, p. 45.

THE INTELLIGENCE OF ANIMALS AND THE BEAUTY OF PLANTS

Admire the instinctive intelligence of animals and explain it if you can. Look how the birds build their nests, between rocks, in trees, and under roofs. They make them in such a way that they can be safe and have a nice, comfortable place in which to raise their young.

And look at the bees and the spiders. Where do their love of work and their ingenuity come from?

I am not speaking of the ants, which have stores where they pile up great quantities of provisions, nor of their continual comings and goings, nor of their leaders, or of the order they keep while they are working.

Can you explain all that and arrive at an understanding of the wisdom they point to?

Look in addition at the different kinds of plants, at the elegance of their leaves. They are delightful to the eye, and useful for the fruits they produce.

No! We cannot understand the nature of these things. Much less are we likely to be able to understand the nature of the first Being, the unique Being who is the fullness of everything.

- Gregory Nazianzen, *Oration 28*, 25 (PG36, 60), in Thomas Spidlik, *Drinking from the Hidden Fountain – Patristic Breviary: Ancient Wisdom for Today's World*, New York 1992, p. 259.

BRIEF ANSWERS TO THE BIG QUESTIONS

Q. The era of civilian space travel is coming. What do you think it means to us? I look forward to space travel. I would be one of the first to buy a ticket. I expect that within the next hundred years we will be able to travel anywhere in the solar system, except maybe the outer planets. But travel to the stars will take a bit longer. I reckon in 500 years, we will have visited some of the nearby stars. It won't be like Star Trek. We won't be able to travel at warp speed. So a round trip will take at least ten years and probably much longer.. - Stephen Hawking, *Brief Answers to the Big Questions*, 177.

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.



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



FORTHCOMING BAPTISM

Luka Bailey HOBSON on a date to be fixed

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 and Eric 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.

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), Bruce Fernandez (19.07.21) and Grace de Bono (16.08.21)

- **those whose year's mind occurs at around this time:** Thea Mary Waddell (13.07.08), Margaret Gye (20.08.20), Don Allen.

- **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: 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

Phone: 61 2 9810 1157 (for both parishes)

Email addresses: balrozparishes@gmail.com (Barbara Howard)

office@staugbalmain.org.au (Lorraine Thomy)

office@stjosephrozelle.org.au (Lorraine Thomy)

ENGAGING OUR FAITH

Book online

All sessions are to be booked directly through TryBooking.

Book via TryBooking

Session Information

Mercy (ἔλεος) in the Gospel According to Mark

Monday 23 August: 7.00pm – 8.30pm

Christian Meditation in the Early Church of the 2nd and 8th Centuries

Tuesday 24 August: 3.00pm – 5.00pm

Is Assisted Death a Form of Palliative Care? A Philosophical Bioethical Response

Thursday 26 August: 10.00am – 11.30am

Can a Scientist Believe in God?

Wednesday 1 September: 7.00pm – 8.30pm

Physically Distant, Spiritually Close: How Saint Paul Kept In Touch With the Churches He Founded

Thursday 2 September: 7.30pm – 9.00pm

Interfaith Relations: Enhancing Our Connection with Other Faiths

Saturday 4 September: 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Who is Bernard Lonergan?

Monday 6 September: 7.30pm – 8.30pm

Teresa of Avila for Today

Wednesday 8 September: 10.00am – 11.30am

Meditation and Compassion

Wednesday 8 September: 7.00pm – 8.30pm

The Bible as the Great War Story to End All War Stories

Tuesday 14 September: 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Lydia: Open-Hearted to Mission

Wednesday 15 September: 7.00pm – 8.30pm

Exploring a Theological Framework of Christian Spirituality for Today

Thursday 16 September: 7.00pm – 9.00pm