

**eNEWSLETTER OF THE PARISHES OF BALMAIN AND ROZELLE,
ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY
TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
(YEAR B) 5 September 2021**

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

Dear Parishioners,

This Sunday is Father's Day. Fathers and mothers are seeing a great deal more of their children and each other during the Covid restrictions and this is no doubt changing some of the dynamics of family life. A great deal of good can out of this – a new awareness of family life as a team effort and the level of interdependence between the generations. On Friday afternoon, FJT School had a virtual assembly when we celebrated Father's Day with some edifying and amusing videos and some lovely tributes to their fathers from many children. The session, organised by a Family Education Coordinator, Angela Mills, included a Prayer for Fathers, the *Our Father*, and a blessing. May we all give thanks and pray for our fathers, both alive and departed, united in the communion of saints.

The weeks under the Covid restrictions seem to pass quickly. I have spent a solid week catching up on **canon law work** where I had fallen behind. I have been writing 'Observations' for nullity proceedings where, as a Defender of the Bond (*Defensor vinculi*), I must direct the Tribunal's attention to deficiencies in the evidence in the case for nullity. It is not my job to argue for the validity of marriage – every marriage is presumed to be valid – but to make sure that evidence and arguments against the validity of the marriage are sufficiently strong to result in a decree of nullity. In other words, to make sure it is done properly. This is, in a way, in order to protect the dignity of marriage.

Frankly, most applications for nullity succeed because it is the practice of the Tribunal to only commence cases with reasonable prospects of success. There is quite a complex jurisprudence supporting this type of legal work – the question is really about the couple's capacity to enter the marriage in the first place and it is answered by looking at many aspects of human behaviour, intellectual, emotional, psychological, social, and cultural, both at the time of the wedding and in the history of the marriage.

Most of the cases involve very short marriages and are fairly straight forward. People often seek an annulment because they want to marry again in the Catholic Church. The process for the parties can one of learning from one's mistakes and growing in self-knowledge. Writing the Observations can be amazingly time consuming, because one looks at the evidence very closely. Sometimes the stories are rather heart rending. Nevertheless, there is always an aspect of hope, as people seek to turn their lives around and seek to find fulfilment and happiness in a loving marriage and family life blessed by God, so the work of the Tribunal is very rewarding.

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. I have made a few calls but understandably there have not been many requests, partly I think because of the restrictions on who we can have in our homes and for what reason (While the Parish Office is closed, the telephone is still working.)

Parents have enquired about the celebration of **First Confessions and First Communion**s 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!*

Fr Richard Waddell
Parish Administrator

THE CLOUD OF UNKNOWING

Since God cannot be known by any activity of the reasoning power, the English author of *The Cloud of Unknowing* tells his disciple to bury all conceptual thinking and rational discourse beneath a cloud of forgetting; he keeps emphasizing that no amount of syllogistic thinking will bring a person to God as He is in Himself. Therefore, forgetting everything, one should think of nothing. Forget, forget, forget, is the advice of the author. Empty your mind of all images, and thus you will allow to rise in your heart 'the blind stirring of love' that will pierce the cloud of unknowing bringing you a knowledge, supraconceptual and dark, that is the supreme wisdom. Normally, in the abandonment of conceptual knowledge, the mind will be dark though filled with love;

sometimes, however, God may pierce the cloud with a 'beam of ghostly light' filling the contemplative with an intense and inexpressible joy, knowledge, and love.

From WILLIAM JOHNSTON, *The Mysticism of the Cloud of Unknowing* (Anthony Clarke: 1978), p. 18.

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 – courteously – to the organisers indicating how off-putting this is to anyone who might otherwise be interested. They have not bothered to reply.)

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/>

CHILD PROTECTION WEEK AND SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY NEXT WEEK



Safeguarding Sunday, 12 September 2021

This week the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney celebrated National Child Protection Week for the fifth year in a row, and today, the week culminates with the celebration of Safeguarding Sunday. The celebration of this past week, leading up to Safeguarding Sunday, has provided us with an opportunity to reflect on how we can improve the ways we care for, protect and listen to the Children and Young People in our communities.

To help us reflect, the Safeguarding Office has developed two new resources; the *Children's Activity Book* and *A Guide for Young People to Better Understand their Wellbeing*.

Additionally, the Safeguarding Offices of the Archdiocese of Sydney, the Diocese of Parramatta and the Diocese of Broken Bay, have collaborated on the development of a resource. Entitled *Children and Young People's Participation in Catholic Communities*, this guide promotes community awareness to support, engage, listen to and communicate with Children and Young People.

These resources can be accessed on the Safeguarding website:
<https://www.sydneycatholic.org/safeguarding-and-child-protection/>

I encourage you all to take the time to reflect on how we can all participate in the shared responsibility of caring for and protecting our Children and Young People.

BALMAIN AS IT IS NOW (1906)

S.N. Hogg

Time will not permit me to do much more than remind you of our coal mine, piercing the earth by two shafts to a depth of 3000 ft., only exceeded in depth, I understand, by a

few other mines in Belgium, a Company whose pluck and dogged perseverance command the respect and admiration of everyone in Balmain, and the universal hope is that success may some day crown their efforts.

From the "Balmain Banner" of 4th August, 1906, I extract the following information:

"The Balmain coal mine was started in 1894 with half a million capital, and is progressing steadily towards completion. The site covers five acres, and the area of the Company's working concession about 11,000 acres.

"A great claim is put forward for the colliery should coal be raised in sufficient quantity – it will hold a unique position as regards shipping. The distance from the pit's mouth to the quay wall is less than 100 yards: the largest ships coming to the port can be berthed close to the pit's mouth, and by automatic screening and delivery by telescope shoots, can be rapidly and safely filled, and all this can be done with better despatch and economy than in any other part of Australia. The courage of the men who have persevered in this long, costly, and arduous work is magnificent, and without impugning the value of the services of those at present in charge of the mine, the name of Mr J.L.C. Rae as one of the pioneers will long be remembered in Balmain".

BRIEF ANSWERS TO THE BIG QUESTIONS

Q. What world-changing idea, small or big, would you like to see implemented by humanity? This is easy. I would like to see the development of fusion power to give an unlimited supply of clean energy, and a switch to electric cars. Nuclear fusion would become a practical power source and would provide us with an inexhaustible supply of energy, without pollution or global warming. - Stephen Hawking, *Brief Answers to the Big Questions*, 209.

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 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 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, Jill Losurdo and Lucy Tyler.

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

- **those whose year's mind occurs at around this time:** 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

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