

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

(YEAR B) *26 September 2021*
FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

Dear Parishioners,

Day light saving commences next weekend on Sunday (3 October). We 'wind' our clocks **forward** one hour.

The vaccination debate: There is some controversy about treatment of people who, for various reasons, do not wish to be vaccinated against Covid-19. My understanding is that an unvaccinated person who is infected (presumably without knowing it) can carry a higher viral load making him or her more infectious as well as being more vulnerable to more serious symptoms. Therefore, the consequences of remaining unvaccinated affect both one's neighbour and oneself. Further, if one requires hospitalisation, one may be using medical resources which are then denied to someone else requiring treatment for other ailments (and who is vaccinated). These are moral issues which are at least as important as some other moral issues, for example, the origins of some vaccines in research using tissue from aborted foetuses. In other words, it is quite a complicated and subtle debate.

It seems to me that, with respect to whether clergy and parishioners should be given the odious task of excluding people from Mass, the best thing to do is to simply retain, for the time being, the rules which we all followed when no one was vaccinated, that is, masks and social distancing (and no congregational singing). So much time is already spent by the clergy and parish staff on policing Covid regulations and filling in endless forms on Safeguarding that it simply is not practicable for us to be organising and supervising vigilantes at every Mass, even if we could find volunteers to do it. What do you think?

Last week, I mentioned **Pope Francis's suggestion that we all read Dante's Divine Comedy in the coming year, and asked for expressions of interest.** One parishioner has suggested using Clive James's translation, which he says is very readable. Please find the details of James's book and a review. I am wondering whether anyone would like to undertake researching an introduction to Dante and his great work – I know we all have so much spare time during Covid! Another parishioner has suggested establishing a schedule for private reading and then meeting regularly to talk about it – say once a week or fortnightly. We still have time to think about all this things but it would be good to begin by Advent Sunday, I think.

The Plenary Council: John Dickie has provided more materials about the Plenary Council which begins next Sunday 3 October – it is being conducted by Zoom. See below.

Charitable Works Fund: You will also find attached a document regarding the appeals for the Charitable Works Fund. Once again it has a lot of material on it and various links to videos and so on. An awful lot of work goes into all this and I am not sure how many people actually download and read or watch these communications – there is so much stuff

coming in through the internet that it is a full time occupation reading it all and by the time one has finished an entire working day has passed without actually having done anything. So much information! Some of you will make contributions but I think this is something we may respond to from our general parish revenue this year.

Fr Richard Waddell
Parish Administrator

BISHOPS' SOCIAL JUSTICE REPORT 2021

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>

Please consider making a **tax-deductible donation** to the CWF and assist those suffering with mental illness, mothers facing homelessness and members of our deaf and disabled community here, See the attached for details.

STAY CONNECTED with Social Media

The Catholic Weekly: A free digital edition of *The Catholic Weekly* is available while churches are closed during the COVID-19 lockdown at <https://www.catholicweekly.com.au/catholic-weekly-newspaper-online/>

“**Like**” us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/staugbalmain> to see what’s happening in our parishes

Sunday Evening Rosary: join St Brendan’s Annandale online Rosary by Zoom every Sunday at 6pm. Details: Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81061374441> Meeting ID: 810 6137 4441 or go to their website to follow the link.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL ARE HERE TO HELP!

Vinnies are available to help families and individuals in need. They can help with food assistance, financial assistance, clothing, counselling as a start. If you or anyone you know

needs help, they can help. Just call the Vinnies office on 98184365 or Maureen Robinson on 0414 634208.

Rozelle Conference : **Society of St Vincent de Paul**

THE FIFTH PLENARY COUNCIL

The first session of the Plenary Council begins on Sunday 3 October. Parishioners may be interested in the Schedule and in using the following links. We have attached a list of delegates or members (which, strangely, has not been updated to take account of Wagga Wagga Diocese having a new bishop).

For Sydney

Archbishop Fisher will be celebrating an Opening Mass at the Cathedral on Sunday morning at 10.30 am.

This may be accessed from

3rd October - <https://youtu.be/gkDKyUm2-3I>

10th October - <https://youtu.be/j-svTmMIFo>

October 4-9: Daily Mass broadcast at 9.30am AEDT and on demand afterwards.

October 4-6 and October 8-9: Plenary session livestream starts at 11am AEDT and runs until approximately 12.15pm AEDT.

October 7: Plenary session livestream starts at 12 noon AEDT and runs until approximately 12.45pm AEDT.

October 10: Closing Mass of the First General Assembly, 11am AEDT from St Stephen's Cathedral, Brisbane

There will be a daily blog from some of the Sydney members.

Additional Information

We were provided with a link that will enable you to access the documents related to the Assembly.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1fD09cfa5UsG3zlnCZlJzBde5yQIY-AeE?usp=sharing>

Please continue to pray that the Holy Spirit will inspire all those involved in the Assembly.

Humanitarian crises unfolding in Afghanistan and Lebanon

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.

1906: BALMAIN AS IT IS NOW

S.N. Hogg

Our new Sugar Refining Coy, Poolman Bros. and Co., will relieve many of the unemployed in Balmain, giving them honest work. They are capital of £30,000 invested in land plant and buildings. The partners in the firm are the sons of the late highly respected Frederick Poolman. Many old members will remember him as the many for many years of the Colonial Sugar Co. at Pymont, associated with Mr Knox.

We have in our midst the Working Men's Institute, peculiarly adapted to meet the tastes and habits of residents of a suburb pre-eminently industrial in their modes of livelihood. By the courtesy of their secretary, Mr Lewis, and of their president, Mr Goodsir, I have been supplied with the following facts.

The Institute was founded on 21st May, 1865, very nearly 40 years ago. The first office bearers were, President, E.W. Cameron: Trustees, Rev. A. Mansfield, and Messrs John Booth, and H. Perdrian. Two rooms at the rear and under the present Oddfellow's Hall were rented at 6s per week and 96 members joined the first quarter. The number of members now on the roll is about 700. The site on which the present buildings stands was purchased in 1887, and the first portion – ground floor – of the present edifice erected the same year. In 1903 the building was added to, and again in 1896, and finally in 1903 it was completed as it now stands. The Institute is of a nature which cannot fail to commend itself to those who avail themselves of the rational amusements so necessary in a working community. Mr Irwin A. Lewis has been secretary continuously since 1882 and he tells me that the Institute is flourishing most satisfactorily, and that they have now 5000 volumes in their circulating library.

(The Working Men's Institute is still standing and is at 332, Darling Street)

James Fleming 1878-1938. James Fleming was the Manager of Callan Park Mental Hospital when died in September 1938. His funeral was held at St Joseph's Rozelle and described as "an excellent Catholic" in the Death Register. Mr Fleming had been associated with the Mental Hospital Department for 42 years as manager at Stockton, Kenmore and most recently Callan Park. He also served at Parramatta, Rydalmere, Gladesville and Morisset Mental Hospitals.

Continuing the Fleming family's involvement in medical areas, his son, Justin graduated from Medicine at Sydney University in 1940 and took up a residency at St Vincent's Hospital. During WW2 he joined the medical branch of the Royal Australasian Air Force, serving at home and abroad for three and a half years. On demobilization he took on further study building up a large practice that was noted for his technical skill and his kindness to his patients. He was highly regarded by his colleagues as an original thinker: he introduced and

fostered the idea of surgical audit and developed new methods in teaching and patient care. He was a pioneer of peripheral vascular surgery in Australia where he was one of the first to resect an abdominal aortic aneurysm. He travelled abroad extensively to visit vascular centres in Britain and the USA and was deeply concerned with achieving the highest possible standards throughout Australia.

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.

BRIEF ANSWERS TO THE BIG QUESTIONS

Q. What do you think are the most important unasked or unexplored questions by humans today? I can only echo Einstein's comment: the most incomprehensible thing about the world is that it is comprehensible. Why do we find ourselves in a vast and complicated universe that obeys laws that we can discover and understand? - Stephen Hawking, *Brief Answers to the Big Questions*, 236.

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 McIvenna*, 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.

FORTHCOMING BAPTISM

Leo BARBAGALLO on Saturday 22 January 2022 at 11.30 am at Balmain

FORTHCOMING WEDDINGS

Michael GALLARDO with Thalia FLOGERAS on Sunday 23 January 2022

Ben WEISSEL with Giovannella GUTIERREZ-DALY on Thursday 18 November 2021

Dylan HARVEY with Brittani BATTLE on Saturday 15 January 2022

Mak CAVANAGH with Gabrielle Anna SMALL on Saturday 23 April 2022

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)

Humanitarian crises are unfolding in Afghanistan and Lebanon

Please consider a donation to Caritas Australia to help support families caught up in these crises.

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