

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

**SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY**

24 July 2022 (YEAR C)



**FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR**

Dear Parishioners,

**Final Confirmation preparation sessions** will continue under the leadership of Angela Mills on this Sunday straight after 5 pm Mass (at about 5.45 pm) and this Wednesday 27 July at 7 pm.

**Confirmation candidates** are encouraged to make their **Confessions** before receiving this second Sacrament of Christian Initiation: the times are this Saturday 23 July 3.30-4.30 pm and Tuesday 26 July 5-6 pm.

The **Adult Catechesis Group** is an ongoing group and meets for 1½ hours every second Sunday after Mass (at about 5.45 pm) in the Presbytery. Please contact Angela Finnigan on 0414 684 447 or Parish Office. The next meeting will be Sunday 31 July.

**2022 Plenary Council:** At my invitation, Mr John Dickie, the Chairman of Balmain Parish Pastoral Council, has provided a Report on the **2022 Plenary Council**...for your interest and information.

In future, there will be only **one Mass on Wednesdays at St Joseph's at 7.30 am**. This is to enable me to spend a full day at the Tribunal.

Fr Richard Waddell

*Parish Administrator*

**Working With Children - Parish Volunteers:** Working With Children Clearance Checks (WWCC) must be obtained and verified before any Church volunteer can assist with any activity or event where they may or will come in contact with children. (It is a legal requirement under the relevant NSW legislation). WWCC are for 5 years.

Volunteers must complete a Safeguarding Induction Training course before assisting with Parish activities or events and is available online at [safeguardingtraining@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingtraining@sydneycatholic.org).

**Catholic Weekly** 24 July 2022

- BE THERE! Parish Renewal Conference to drive evangelisation.
- Dallas McInerney: Our strength is who we are.
- Home is where the heart is: Sr Miriam.
- Catholic and proud: Talks explore Humanae Vitae.
- Movie review: Dark Winds.
- Man of Honour: Sir Gerard Brennan.

**Planned Giving:** Parishioners who are part of the planned giving scheme can collect their new set of envelopes at the entrances of our churches.

## *Can you undertake an Overseas Mission?*

Our sister churches in Africa, Asia and the Pacific are requesting Australian Catholics to join them to build the skills of those in their community who have had less opportunity than ourselves. Please consider these Mission opportunities abroad.

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference provide support. Palms Australia, who have prepared Australian Catholics for global mission since 1961, will ensure accommodation and a living allowance is provided to you during your time away. Enquire online or Ph: 0422 742 567 to find out about a placement to engage your skills.

You can also Register for a Webinar on Monday August 1st at 7:00 pm to talk directly with a Palms' partner community in Timor Leste and two Australians recently posted to work with them. Invite your friends. The stories will inspire.



**Confirmations** will be held next **Saturday 30 July 2022 at 11 am at St Joseph's and 2 pm at St Augustine's.** Bishop Meagher will be the confirming prelate.

**First Confessions/Reconciliations** will be celebrated during the week of Monday 5 September to Saturday 10 September.

**First Communions:** Masses for the First Communions will be celebrated on Sundays 27 November and Sunday 4 December but the times will not be settled until the availability of priests becomes clear. They will both be in the morning.

All candidates are expected to participate in a **4-week preparation course** and to go to Confession prior to making their First Communions. Register through the church website [https://www.staugbalmain.org.au/sacraments/first\\_reconciliation-first\\_eucharist-confirmation/](https://www.staugbalmain.org.au/sacraments/first_reconciliation-first_eucharist-confirmation/) Contact Angela Mills [balrozparishes@gmail.com](mailto:balrozparishes@gmail.com)

### **DAILY MASSES THIS COMING WEEK**

**Balmain:** Friday 7.30 am, Monday, Thursday, and Saturday at 9.15 am. (this week Friday School Mass Year 3 at 9.15 am) and Tuesday at 6 pm. **NO MASS AT BALMAIN ON WEDNESDAY.**

**Rozelle:** Wednesday 7.30 am.

### **WEEKEND MASSES**

**Balmain:** Vigil Mass on Saturday at 5 pm; Sunday at 9 am and 5 pm.

**Rozelle:** Sunday at 10.30 am.

### **CONFESSIONS**

Tuesdays 5-6 pm; Saturday (23.vii.22 only) 3.30-4.30 pm; and before or after any Mass and by appointment

### **EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

After Mass until 8.30 am every Friday at St Augustine's.

## PARISH INTERCESSIONS

**For the sick and those in old age:** Mary Rooney, Keith Yates, John, Karen, Ray, Jaime Aponte, Brenda Atkinson, Nela and Brian Blakemore, Margo Buckingham, Pina Borg, Tony Carbon, Paul Joseph Clark, Ann Diver, Brent Egan, Catherine Erskine, Mary Ferguson, Christine Forner, Martha Lucia Gomez, Marcella Holsten, Beverley Kerin, Joan Leonard, Jill Losurdo, Shirley Lowe, Anna Pasqua, Lyn Wilson,

**With those more recently added to our list:** Lucy Tyler, Christine Mangala Frost, Michael Fitzpatrick, Bryan Fitzpatrick, Laura Quintili, Jeanette Hickey, Allan Lee, Silvana Cocilova, Peter Kingston, Elio Cacciotti, Christine Leaver, Lois Blakemore and Colleen Power.

**For the faithful departed – those recently deceased:** Brian Davies (19.02.22), Graham Bouwer (09.06.22), Patricia Webster (10.06.22), Sarina Roppolo Navarra (12.06.22), Pasqua Squadrito (01.07.22), John Hill (02.07.22), and Sylvia Gallagher (05.07.22).

**For the faithful departed – year's mind:** Gail Anne Markland (16.06.17).

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

### ST AUGUSTINE'S & ST JOSEPH'S DETAILS

**Parish Office:** Tuesday to Friday 9 am to 3 pm.

**Parish Secretary:** Lorraine Thomy      **Phone:** 61 2 9810 1157 (for both parishes)

Balmain Email:      [office@staugbalmain.org.au](mailto:office@staugbalmain.org.au)

Rozelle Email:      [office@stjosephrozelle.org.au](mailto:office@stjosephrozelle.org.au)

## THE FIFTH PLENARY COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

A Report to St Augustine's Parish

**John Dickie**

**Parish Ambassador.**

### **Plenary Council Assessment**

The Plenary Council has now concluded.

It was a momentous event for the Catholic Church in Australia. It broke new ground, considered a wide range of issues and has ushered in new approaches and fresh ideas about how our church should operate.

Assessments about the degree of success of the Plenary vary but the prevailing opinion is that the outcome was positive and that the items discussed and voted upon will help rejuvenate the way our church functions.

It also marked a turning point between the laity of the Church and the bishops which will be discussed more fully later.

From our point of view here at Augustine's, we hope that the resolution passed at the plenary will enhance the work of the church in this congregation and Australia wide.

When we were asked as far back as 2018 to listen to the Holy Spirit and to speak boldly and listen humbly, we embraced the exhortation. So did 17500 parishes and individuals throughout Australia.

Many of the suggestions we decided as a parish during that time did not unfortunately make the agenda for the Council. The 17500 submissions were assessed and subjected to a "discernment" process.

We had listed, for instance, the role of women in the church, the issue of celibacy, of inclusion with the difficulties facing groups such as the LGBTQ1A+ community, divorced people and their place in the church and what is meant to be part of the church community.

We also listed accountability, governance issues and the third rite of confession and the role of the church in the sexual abuse of minors disclosed in tragic detail by the Royal Commission.

Not all of these made the grade through the discernment process to be considered by the assembly of the Council.

### **Plenary Structure**

The structure of the Plenary was important to assess the overall outcome of the Plenary. There were some 260 lay members of the Plenary from dioceses all over Australia along with 37 bishops from all the dioceses. Each of these groups was able to vote on matters under consideration, but to get the Council's approval, the topic had to receive a majority of two third from each group when the vote was taken.

The results of these matter were published in the Parish Bulletin last Sunday.

The items which the Plenary signed off on include saying sorry to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in and beyond the Church for the part the church played in the harms they have suffered. The Church committed to work with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait people in working toward reconciliation and justice.

The plenary also endorsed the Uluru Statement from the heart and encouraged its implementation.

The most challenging discussion came early on the second day of debate when the Plenary was dealing with motions concerning the equality and dignity of women in the

church. The members of the plenary voted for the proposal, but the proposition failed to get the necessary two thirds majority by the bishops.

The reaction of the lay members was remarkable – so much so that it became news in the media in Australia and in overseas religious publications.

Francis Sullivan, the Chair of Catholic Social Services throughout Australia and the Catholic Church’s representative during Royal Commission into Child Abuse and a member of the Plenary, said in a media release that the reaction of the assembly was visceral.

“No other issue had been consistently front of mind in the years of consultation for the Council,” he said in the release.

“There was an immediate protest. Wordsmithing would never be sufficient to turn around the self-imposed plenary crisis of the episcopal vote. Only an attitudinal change would.

“Almost immediately after the morning tea break protest, the dynamics shifted. A tangible change in attitude and approach moved across the workings of the assembly.

Council members realised that the stakes were high. None more so than the bishops.

“Although we will never know what led them to make such a damaging decision, it was clear to me that whatever was to return for a second round of voting was going to be received by the bishops in a completely different light.

“And what was put back on the table was different. It was pleasing to see that not only were motions grounded in equality and dignity between women and men but there was a strong recognition of the need for the ‘protection of the personal dignity and the rights of women.

“An acknowledgement that the right to participate in Church decision making is equally shared between men and women. This is a paradigm shift.

“As a further indicator of the breakdown of episcopal resistance, the motion calling for openness by the bishops to the prospect of women deacons passed with an overwhelming majority”, Francis Sullivan said in the release.

### **Building Relationships**

In another session allocated for building relationships and compassion, members discussed the Church’s mission directed to us to be in active solidarity with all those who experience disadvantage or exclusion, people with disabilities, people on low incomes,

refugees and asylum seekers and people experiencing mental health. Especially those who hold a grievance against us.

“Listening has the power to open us to the Spirit’s work of transformation enabling genuine encounter and giving rise to missionary encounter. In the first assembly we devoted time to thinking of and praying for people who have experienced marginalisation within the church, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, those who have been divorced, those who identify as LGBTIQ+ and those who have suffered abuse in any form.”

### **Comforter and Disruptor**

In its concluding statement the members of the Council said some moments in the discussions had been calm and harmonious, others tense and difficult. The Holy Spirit had been both comforter and disrupter.

“Throughout the assembly, diverse views and approaches were named, occasionally appearing to be irreconcilable. At a pivotal juncture in the assembly, some of these differences helped move the Council from having a process to being in a process; from following an agenda to following the Holy Spirit into the unknown,” the concluding statement said.

### **Parish interests**

In the submission we made to the Plenary from the parish, there were many issues we thought could profitably be discussed by the Council. Some were, some were not. Some seemed too difficult for this assembly.

However, the effort which went into the submission to the Council will not be wasted. In the latter half of next year Pope Francis has called together an international Synod to discuss matters which are affecting the Church worldwide.

At some of the preparatory meetings for the Plenary, Bishop Terry Brady suggested that the Synod called by the Pope could well be a better forum for discussion and decision for some of the matters we raised.

We hope that the issues raised, and particularly those which received approval from the Plenary, will contribute to a more cohesive and Christ like Church to do its work among our people in the way He would have approved.