

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

TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

(YEAR B) 20 June 2021

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

Dear Parishioners,

Our condolences to our parishioner Lois Blakemore and her family on the death of her brother Eric on 29 May 2021 after a long illness.

Genesian Theatre: The Development Application by the Genesian Theatre Company Inc for alterations for the adaptive reuse of the ground floor of the Parish Hall as a licensed theatre was determined and granted consent subject to various conditions on 8 June 2021 by the Inner West Council. It is anticipated that the necessary building works will commence in the very near future. This is thrilling news both for Rozelle Parish and the Genesian Theatre. It is foreseeable that a productive symbiotic relationship will develop between the Parish, the Theatre, and the Sydney Community College.

We are very grateful to James Bichard, the Director of Property and Infrastructure in the Archdiocese, and his staff, for all the work they have done to bring this project to this stage and look forward to future developments.

Picture hanging: The Presbytery has a considerable collection of reproduction paintings and historic photographs which have accumulated over the years and, until recently, were stacked against the walls of several rooms. There are also some historical prints which are currently being framed. Through recommendations of a parish councillor and a framer, a picture hanger was recommended and I am happy to report that he has done a splendid job. The downstairs Presbytery now looks much tidier and cared for and the good taste of Fr Joe Camilleri demonstrated for all to enjoy. I unhesitatingly recommend Stephen Gray of About Picture Hanging – Fine art installations, security hanging, gallery systems, and mirrors:

aboutpicturehanging@hotmail.com; 0438 196 435.

Our parishioner, Liz Adcock, is performing in the well-known play **84 Charing Cross Road** by James Roose-Evans (based on the book of the same name by Helen Hanff), directed by Maggie Scott and staged by the Hunters Hill Theatre [founded in 1930] at Club Ryde (728 Victoria Road, Ryde). The season is running from 18 June to 4 July. I am proposing to go on **Saturday 26 June at 7.30 pm**. We could have a small theatre party! Bookings: 9879 7765; www.huntershilltheatre.com.au.

The Cemeteries Controversy: Over the last week, we received a number of brochures for distribution among parishioners as part of the Archdiocese's campaign 'Save our Graves'. It seems, however, that the NSW Government has relented of its plan to confiscate Catholic cemeteries (in a move redolent of Henry VIII's destruction of the medieval chantries in the sixteenth century). Amusingly and aptly, the Premier has transferred the resolution of this matter to the care of the Minister for Disaster Recovery.

An extract from the obituary of Baroness Williams of Crosby in a recent edition of *The Tablet* (see *infra*) is a demonstration of how important it is that we make families and young children welcome at our Sunday Masses and, also, the memorable impact upon the young mind and sensibility of the traditional riches of Catholic music and liturgy. Perhaps this has something to say to us today?

The Big Questions: Some parishioners may remember that a few weeks ago I included a reference in my homily to a book written by Stephen Hawking, *Brief Answers to the Big Questions* (John Murray 2020). In the book there is a pithy extract from each of the chapters dealing with each question which will appear in the Bulletin over the next few weeks – the views of the author are not necessarily endorsed by the management.

Planned Giving Envelopes: Parishioners who are part of the planned giving scheme are urged to collect their new set of envelopes which are available near the entrances to both of our churches. If you would like to join the planned giving scheme, please be in touch with our Parish Office.

Fr Richard Waddell
Parish Administrator

READERS AT BALMAIN

THIS WEEK 19/20.vi.21

5pm – Bernadette Fisk
9am – Jocelyn Morris
6pm – Mark Dal Maso

NEXT WEEK 26/27.vi.21

5pm - Tilly Hopkins (Pope Francis student)
9am - Jocelyn Morris
6pm - Sophia Stanley (Pope Francis student)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

On **Friday 9 July 2021 Professor Barry Spurr** will be conducting an evening seminar on "John Donne and the Poetry of Meditation".

On **Thursday 2 December 2021, Fr Richard Leonard SJ** will be speaking about Ignatian spirituality. Both events will be at 7.30 pm and in the Presbytery. Light refreshments will be provided. More details to come. Bookings essential.

SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL

20 for One Meal Delivery Programme.

This is a recently established programme to deliver restaurant meals to families and people in our area. Originally the initiative of Marco de Angelis of "Our Place", meals are now provided by a number of restaurants and generous donors. They provide meals which are delivered weekly by teams of volunteers. The expanded program is administered jointly by Vinnies and Rozelle Neighbourhood Centre, with volunteer deliverers already involved, but we would welcome more people who could deliver meals one afternoon or evening a fortnight. We would

also welcome suggestions from parishioners, of people who would benefit from a meal delivery every week from one of our restaurants.

If you would like more details or you would like to volunteer, or nominate a recipient or family, please contact Maureen Robinson on 0414 634 208 or at Maureen.e.m.robinson@gmail.com.

SUNDAY MASSES

Balmain: Vigil Mass on Saturday at 5pm; Sunday at 9am and 6pm.

Rozelle: Sunday at 10.30am.

DAILY MASSES THIS WEEK

(Monday: *St Aloysius Gonzaga*; Tuesday: *Sts John Fisher and Thomas More*;
Thursday: *The Nativity of St John the Baptist*)

Balmain: Monday to Friday at 7.30 am and Saturday at 9 am (Tridentine Mass on the 3rd Saturday of the month). **Rozelle:** Wednesday 7. 30 am.

EXPOSITION AND BENEDICTION ON THE FIRST FRIDAY

After the 7.30am Mass at Balmain.

CONFESSIONS

Balmain: On Saturday after the morning Mass and 4.15 to 4.45pm; after any other Mass; and by appointment.

FORTHCOMING BAPTISMS

Layla MASTRANTUONI on Sunday 20 June at 11.30 at Balmain

Sunny James NEICH on Sunday 4 July at 12 noon at Balmain

Luka HOBSON on Friday 16 July at 4pm at Balmain

Leo Stan on Saturday 17 July at 12 noon at Balmain

Sebastian Paul CORREIA on Saturday 24 July at Balmain

Oliver Cameron HOLLAND on Sunday 25 July at 12 noon at Balmain

Auguste Benedict BERTAUD on the Assumption 15 August at 10.15am at Balmain



Please Note:

Dates for the 1st Reconciliation and 1st Eucharist(Communion) have changed.

1st Reconciliation: 19 August – 2 September

1st Eucharist: 21 October – 13/14 November

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, John Blunt, Pina Borg, Margo Buckingham, Tony Carbon, Paul Joseph Clark, Edward Day,

Ann Diver, Brent Egan, Vincent, Catherine and Eric Erskine, Mary Ferguson, Bruce Fernandez, Christine Forner, Sylvia Gallagher, Martha Lucia Gomez, Marcella Holsten, Beverley Kerin, Joan Leonard, Rosemarie Longworth, Shirley Lowe, Marie Meyrick, Roger Parsons, Anna Pasqua, Patricia Webster, Lyn Wilson, Keith Yates, John, Karen, and Ray. **For the faithful departed – those recently deceased:** Millie Leung, Pat Britton, Mary Haylen (23.04.21), and Carmelo Battaglia (30.04.21).

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.

SHIRLEY WILLIAMS

In a recent obituary by Catherine Pepinster of Baroness Williams of Crosby, one of the most successful and inspiring women in British public life since the Second World War, who died 11 April 2021, it was noted that her values were rooted in her Catholic faith. The author writes as follows:

Her Anglican mother and Catholic father decided that they would leave Shirley and her brother John free to make up their own minds about faith when they became adults. As a child she went to Mass most Sundays with Amy Burnett, the family's beloved cook-housekeeper, and, she wrote later: "The insistent rise and fall of Gregorian chant and the smell of incense infused my being." At Oxford, she had intense conversations about theology with another student, Robert Runcie, who was considering entering the Anglican priesthood. She decided to be baptised as a Catholic; he went on to become the Archbishop of Canterbury.

- from *The Tablet* 24 April 2021

BRIEF ANSWERS TO THE BIG QUESTIONS

Q. How does God's existence fit into your understanding of the beginning and the end of the universe? And if God was (sic) to exist and you had the chance to meet him, what would you ask him?¹

The question is, 'Is the way the universe began chosen by God for reasons we can't understand, or was it determined by a law of science?' I believe the second. If you like, you can call the laws of science 'God', but it wouldn't be a personal God that you would meet and put questions to. Although, if there were such a God, I would like to ask how ever did he think of anything as complicated as M-theory in eleven dimensions. - Stephen Hawking, *Brief Answers to the Big Questions*, 36.

CATHOLIC WEEKLY - 20 JUNE 2021

- Queen's Birthday Honours: Catholics feature
- The beauty of Palliative Care
- Pilgrimage makes a comeback
- Parish opens library for the homeless
- Book review: Holy Land Pilgrimage by Stephen J. Binz
- Drop the virtue-signalling



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



PLEASE NOTE THAT DUE TO COVID WE DO NOT TAKE UP COLLECTIONS DURING OUR SERVICES. AT THE WEST ENTRANCE IN BOTH OUR CHURCHES, THERE ARE TWO COLLECTION BOXES. THE FIRST COLLECTION GOES TO THE DIOCESAN FUND FOR THE SUPPORT OF ALL OUR PRIESTS. THE SECOND COLLECTION GOES TO THE EXPENSES OF EACH PARISH. AT BALMAIN THERE IS A TAP AND PAY SYSTEM – IT IS A BIT SLOW BUT IT WORKS.

Apostolic Exhortation *Gaudete et exultate* of the Holy Father Francis on the call to holiness in today's world (continued)

CHAPTER FOUR

SIGNS OF HOLINESS IN TODAY'S WORLD

IN CONSTANT PRAYER

147. Finally, though it may seem obvious, we should remember that holiness consists in a habitual openness to the transcendent, expressed in prayer and adoration. The saints are distinguished by a spirit of prayer and a need for communion with God. They find an exclusive concern with this world to be narrow and stifling, and, amid their own concerns and commitments, they long for God, losing themselves in praise and contemplation of the Lord. I do not believe in holiness without prayer, even though that prayer need not be lengthy or involve intense emotions.

148. Saint John of the Cross tells us: "Endeavour to remain always in the presence of God, either real, imaginative, or unitive, insofar as is permitted by your works".^[109] In the end, our desire for God will surely find expression in our daily lives: "Try to be continuous in prayer, and in the midst of bodily exercises do not leave it. Whether you eat, drink, talk with others, or do anything, always go to God and attach your heart to him".^[110]

149. For this to happen, however, some moments spent alone with God are also necessary. For Saint Teresa of Avila, prayer "is nothing but friendly intercourse, and frequent solitary converse, with him who we know loves us".^[111] I would insist that this is true not only for a privileged few, but for all of us, for "we all have need of this silence, filled with the presence of him who is adored".^[112] Trust-filled prayer is a response of a heart open to encountering God face to face, where all is peaceful and the quiet voice of the Lord can be heard in the midst of silence.

150. In that silence, we can discern, in the light of the Spirit, the paths of holiness to which the Lord is calling us. Otherwise, any decisions we make may only be window-dressing that, rather than exalting the Gospel in our lives, will mask or submerge it. For each disciple, it is essential to spend time with the Master, to listen to his words, and to learn from him always. Unless we listen, all our words will be nothing but useless chatter.

151. We need to remember that "contemplation of the face of Jesus, died and risen, restores our humanity, even when it has been broken by the troubles of this life or marred by sin. We must not domesticate the power of the face of Christ".^[113] So let me ask you: Are there moments when you place yourself quietly in the Lord's presence, when you calmly spend time with him, when you bask in his gaze? Do you let his fire inflame your heart? Unless you let him warm you more and more with his love and tenderness, you will not catch fire. How will you then be able to set the hearts of others on fire by your words and witness? If, gazing on the face of Christ, you feel unable to let yourself be healed and transformed, then enter into the Lord's heart, into his wounds, for that is the abode of divine mercy.^[114]

152. I ask that we never regard prayerful silence as a form of escape and rejection of the world around us. The Russian pilgrim, who prayed constantly, says that such prayer did not separate him from what was happening all around him. "Everybody was kind to me; it was as though everyone loved me... Not only did I feel [happiness and consolation] in my own soul, but the whole outside world also seemed to me full of charm and delight".^[115]

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: Tuesday to Friday 9am to 3.30pm

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)

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Balmain Website: www.staugbalmain.org.au

Rozelle Website: www.stjosephrozelle.org.au