

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



TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

(YEAR B) *12 September 2021*

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

Dear Parishioners,

There has been quite a bit of reporting of increased levels of mental ill health in the community as a result of Covid 19. Many people must be experiencing severe anxiety about their ability to feed, shelter, and clothe their families or even just themselves, especially the vast cohort who are employed as casual workers, even in our most essential services (like health care). It is easy to imagine that many people could also be suffering from either too much isolation or too much interaction or a mixture of both

Although religious faith does not solve basic and practical problems of survival, there seems to be a general consensus among psychologists – though not conclusive proof – that church-going people are more resilient under stress, finding the strength and support they need in their relationship with God and in the Christian values which underpin their daily lives. It is interesting that these benefits are said to accrue not so much to those who are just 'spiritual' but to the overtly 'religious', that is, people who are part of a religious community and share with it a religious routine like 'going to church' and 'saying their prayers'.

My guess is that during Covid, it is difficult for many of us to find the right balance between time to ourselves and time with others. Introverts are struggling to recharge by getting away from everybody and extraverts are struggling to recharge by getting together with everybody. I suppose that Christians basically believe that we find God in being alone *and* in the company of others so that both aspects of our lives have a Godward aspect but there is, of course, still a question of balance.

Even before Covid, the continuous presence of devices and their continual demands on us at all times of the day and night, must be a major threat to mental health, possibly now even worse for those of us who 'work at home'. One feels like a rabbit being pursued by foxes (or wolves) and not a burrow anywhere to be seen. Life seems to be always on the run. In the long term, this is not a viable way to live.

One solution may be to rediscover the 'sabbath principle' (a term I thought I had just made up but – *quelle surprise!* – there it is on the internet!). We need to take time out. The Sabbath principle is, of course, connected to the commandment to set some time aside every week for God and for spiritual recreation but it is also connected to the need to rest – not to 'do' but to 'be'.

There was a famous Anglican priest in England who spent many years travelling around the country hearing confessions (about a thousand a year, apparently, from regular penitents) and giving spiritual direction. He was, apparently, a marvellously human person and his penitents reported that there was always much laughter and joy when they made their confessions.

One of the foundations of his advice in relation to the spiritual life was to be absolutely strict about stopping work – setting a time to stop work and sticking to it. It is easier said than done as I think most of us experience but we also know how, unless we do say 'enough is enough' (at least for the moment), our whole schedule can be knocked out of whack and a whole lot of other problems caused.

So, may I suggest to you (and to myself as well), that we make a big effort to plan for balance in our daily lives and those of our families and households, not just during the time of Covid, but also when we come out of this and resume our normal routines, except that this time we will also try very hard to set aside some time every day and every week to find that necessary balance in our lives and the opportunity to re-create ourselves in the image and likeness of God. In this way, we will not only live healthier lives but *better* lives – of loving service to God and to our neighbour.

Please see the attached document on Religion and Psychological Distress.

Fr Richard Waddell
Parish Administrator

CHILD PROTECTION WEEK AND SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY



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.

* 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.

* **Parish pastoral visits:** Please ring the parish office to arrange a suitable time if you would like either Fr Richard or Fr Victor to visit.

* **First Confessions and First Communions** have had to be postponed. Those registered will be advised of the new arrangements once restrictions are lifted. Registrations can be made at <https://www.staugbalmmain.org.au/>

* **Baptisms and Weddings** will be rescheduled.



FROM THE RECORDS

St Joseph's Rozelle parish registers have provided a little reality check for us as we move into yet another week of isolation to protect us from the menace of Covid 19. Of the 59 funerals conducted at the church throughout 1919, it has been noted that 21 parishioners died from the Spanish "flu" or Great Influenza that killed an estimated 25-50 million people world wide after WW1.



One of those who died that year was 4 year old Gustave Libbesson from Red Lion St Rozelle. His father, Gustave M Libbesson had joined the NSW Citizens Bushman's Contingent for service in South Africa (Boar War) between February 1900 and June 1901. He later joined the AIF in 1914, around the time of Gustave's birth, and fought in Egypt.

CONNECT 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/staugbalmmain> 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.

ENGAGING OUR FAITH: Final 3 Sessions

The Catholic Theological College *Engaging Your Faith* online sessions will finish next week. 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 the website.

Register for one of the online sessions or contact. <https://ctc.edu.au/news-and-events/engaging-your-faith/> for further information

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

BRIEF ANSWERS TO THE BIG QUESTIONS

Q. Does it feel like a huge responsibility to have people expecting you to have all the answers to life's mysteries? I certainly don't have the answers to all of life's questions. While physics and mathematics can tell us about how the universe began, they are not much use in predicting human behaviour because there are far too many equations to solve. I'm no better than anyone else at knowing what makes people tick, particularly women. - Stephen Hawking, *Brief Answers to the Big Questions*, 235.

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 *Love*, Marie *Meyrick*, Roger *Parsons*, Anna *Pasqua*, Patricia *Webster*, Lyn *Wilson*, Keith *Yates*, John, Karen, Ray, Henry *Nicholls*, Jill *Losurdo*, Lucy *Tyler*, and John *Coorey*.

† **For the faithful departed – those recently deceased:** Grace de Bono (16.08.21), Wayne John McIlvenna (18 years) (07.09)

- **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 *Love*, 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:

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