

**NEWSLETTER OF THE PARISHES OF BALMAIN AND ROZELLE,
ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY
THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
(YEAR B) 15 August 2021**

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

Dear Parishioners,

Today is the **Solemnity of the Assumption of Our Lady**. I heard the meaning of the feast described memorably by a Dominican priest in Bomana, PNG, on 15 August 1979, as 'By his resurrection, Our Lord opened the door to eternal life and his mother was the first to walk through it'. It is basically a feast of the resurrection, it seems to me, and for us in the southern hemisphere, like Easter in the northern hemisphere, a feast of spring (or almost spring down here), when in nature new life springs forth, giving fresh hope and bringing new beauty into the world, just as the resurrection of Christ has for all of us who have faith in Him who died and rose again.

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. (While the Parish Office is closed, the telephone is still working.)

Parents have enquired about the celebration of **First Confessions and First Communions** 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, 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 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.

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/>

SOME SAYINGS OF THE FATHERS

Abbas Maroes said:

When anybody speaks about anything, don't argue with him. If he speaks well, agree with him. If he speaks ill, say: 'I suppose you know what you are saying' and don't argue with him about what he has said. That is humility.

A story about two monks:

Two brothers had lived together for many years and never had a quarrel. One day, the first said: 'Let's have a quarrel like men in the world outside do'. The second replied: 'But I don't know how to have a quarrel'. So the first said: 'Look I'll put down a brick between us and I'll say: "It's mine". Then you must reply: "No, it's mine". And so the quarrel will begin'. So they found a brick and put it between them and the first said: 'It's mine', and the second said: 'No, it's mine'. So the first replied: 'Oh well then, if it's yours, take it'. And so they did not succeed in having a quarrel.

- from Peter France, *Hermits*, pp. 40-41.

WHEN THE SWAN SPREADS HER WINGS

Study fish. In the water they fly, so to speak, and they find the air they need in the water. They would die in our atmosphere, just as we would die in the water. Watch their habits, their way of mating and procreating their kind, their beauty, their permanent homes and their wanderings.

Study the enormous number of different kinds of birds, the variety of their shapes and colours. Some are mute, others sing. Who gave them the gift of song?

Who placed a tiny lyre in the breast of the cicada? Who has arranged things in such a way that this little creature gets excited in hot weather and fills the woods with its music and accompanies passers-by with it? And who helps the swan to compose its song when it spreads its wings to the blowing of the breeze?

It gives me joy to speak of these things because they unfold to us the greatness of God.

- Gregory Nazianzen, *Oration 28, 23* (PG36, 57), in Thomas Spidlik, *Drinking from the Hidden Fountain – Patristic Breviary: Ancient Wisdom for Today's World*, New York 1992, pp. 258-259.

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.

BRIEF ANSWERS TO THE BIG QUESTIONS

Q. What is the biggest threat to the future of this planet? An asteroid collision would be – a threat against we have no defence. But the last big such asteroid collision was about sixty-six million years ago and killed the dinosaurs. A more immediate danger is runaway climate change. A rise in ocean temperature would melt the ice caps and cause the release of large amounts of carbon dioxide. Both effects would make our climate like that of Venus, but with a temperature of 250 degrees Celsius. - Stephen Hawking, *Brief Answers to the Big Questions*, 159.



FORTHCOMING WEDDINGS

Michael GALLARDO with Thalia FLOGERAS on 21 September 2021
Ben WEISSEL with Giovannella GUTIERREZ-DALY on 21 October 2021
Dylan HARVEY with Brittani BATTLE on 15 January 2022
Mak CAVANAGH with Gabrielle Anna SMALL on 23 April 2022



FORTHCOMING BAPTISM

Luka Bailey HOBSON on Sunday 29 August 2021 at 12 noon at St Augustine's

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.

For the faithful departed – those recently deceased: Red O'Connor (06.02.21), Millie Leung (22.02.21), Veronica Jardin (27.02.21), Wendy Wheatley, Harry Fullerton, and Charlie Veech, Millie Leung, Pat Britton, Mary Haylen (23.04.21), Carmelo Battaglia (30.04.21) and Margaret May Meehan (25.06.21), and Bruce Fernandez (19.07.21)

- **those whose year's mind occurs at around this time:** Thea Mary Waddell (13.07.08), Margaret Gye (20.08.20), 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

Lectio Divina: A Contemplative Way of Reading the Bible

Saturday 21 August: 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Mercy (ἐλέεω) in the Gospel According to Mark

Monday 23 August: 7.00pm – 8.30pm

Christian Meditation in the Early Church of the 2nd and 8th Centuries

Tuesday 24 August: 3.00pm – 5.00pm

Is Assisted Death a Form of Palliative Care? A Philosophical Bioethical Response

Thursday 26 August: 10.00am – 11.30am

Can a Scientist Believe in God?

Wednesday 1 September: 7.00pm – 8.30pm

Physically Distant, Spiritually Close: How Saint Paul Kept In Touch With the Churches He Founded

Thursday 2 September: 7.30pm – 9.00pm

Interfaith Relations: Enhancing Our Connection with Other Faiths

Saturday 4 September: 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Who is Bernard Lonergan?

Monday 6 September: 7.30pm – 8.30pm

Teresa of Avila for Today

Wednesday 8 September: 10.00am – 11.30am

Meditation and Compassion

Wednesday 8 September: 7.00pm – 8.30pm

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