

**NEWSLETTER OF THE PARISHES OF BALMAIN AND ROZELLE,
ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY
TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
(YEAR B) 29 August 2021**

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

Dear Parishioners,

The five-kilometre restriction has had a great impact on many of the projects which were underway at the beginning of the lockdowns in July. Our parish secretary – **Lorraine Thomy** – has been able to attend the Parish Office to do some essential accounting work by reason of her access to the relevant computer requiring her physical presence. **Barbara** has been in for one day examining the records of Balmain Parish for her history write-ups, an example of which is included in this Bulletin. For the first time, I spoke to a patient at Balmain Hospital by zoom.

I think that our **confinement to our quarters** under this lockdown is one of the most difficult aspects. For many people it is an experience of solitary confinement and for many families a great strain on all the generations who are forced to spend all their time in close proximity to each other.

It will help us all if we acknowledge the difficulties each one of us is having and not be embarrassed by admitting them. It is a time for special sensitivity to others but also for a self-awareness of how we ourselves, individually, are being affected by the lock down. With proper self-knowledge and an empathy with others, we can make something of this experience which will improve all of our lives in the long run.

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 (and prayer), 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.

(**Note from RW:** Unfortunately, the Trybooking system is not very friendly. Booking for the first three sessions – among the most interesting, to me at least – were closed on Saturday morning. I have written to the organisers indicating how off-putting this is to anyone who might otherwise be interested.)

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/>

BALMAIN AS IT IS NOW (1906)

S.N. Hogg

MORT'S DOCK AND ENGINEERING CO LTD

Here in our midst we have a Company in a position to deal with a total tonnage of 26,000 at one time. They have a large graving dock at Balmain with two slips, and two floating docks at Johnstone's Bay. They have also a large graving dock at Woolwich, 600 ft long, and a floating dock there also. Unfortunately, this Company employ only about 700 hands, which is less than were at work there 20 years ago, but the manager, Mr Franki, tells us that with the latest machinery available Mort's Dock *could* keep in employment 2000 workmen if only protection to the extent of 25 per cent was imposed, to recompense the Company for payment of wages 87 per cent higher than obtained in the old country.

It may not be out of [place?] to say a few words about one of Balmain's noblest sons, Thomas Sutcliffe Mort.

At the close of an eloquent sermon preached at the Congregational Church, Pitt-street, Sydney, on 19 May, 1878, I find that the Rev J. Jeffries, L.L.D. delivered himself as follows:

"I praise this brother of ours that beyond graceful spending and charitable giving, *he used his wealth chivalrously, even in the production of other wealth.* He invested his means in enterprises that appeared to him most likely to promote the general good. He believed in the conquest of the forces of Nature and in making them minister to the wants of man. He believed, as we do, that Australia is capable of supporting untold millions, and that all genuine material advancement will prepare the way for the settlement of a contented and happy people.

"He built a dock for ships and a foundry for forging iron, and workshops for the construction of engines. But I reserve for the last what I deem to be one of the truest life lessons to be gained from the career of Thomas Sutcliffe Mort – he promoted the union of capital and labor. With many hundreds of working men engaged he is said to have not made an enemy. The feeling of reverence for his memory is not confined to the leading citizens; it extends to the working men of the city and to the inhabitants of the whole colony."

(To be continued)

SOME SAYINGS OF THE FATHERS

Abbas Poemen

A brother asked Abbas Poemen: 'Some brothers have come to settle near to me; do you want me to give them orders?' The Abbas said: 'No! You must first act, and then, if they want to live, they will watch you'. The brother then said: 'But they themselves want me to command them'. The Abbas said: 'Not at all! Be a model for them, not a lawgiver'.

Abbas Romanos

Abbas Romanos, close to death, his disciples gathered around him asked: 'How to we behave?' He replied: 'I don't remember every having told one of you to do anything without having previously made a resolution not to be angry if he didn't do what I said. That's why we have lived the whole of our lives in peace.

- from Peter France, *Hermits*, p. 48.

BRIEF ANSWERS TO THE BIG QUESTIONS

Q. Why are we so worried about artificial intelligence? Surely humans are always able to pull the plug? People asked a computer, "Is there a God?" And the computer said, there is now, and fused the plug. - Stephen Hawking, *Brief Answers to the Big Questions*, 193.

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 Lowe, Marie Meyrick, Roger Parsons, Anna Pasqua, Patricia Webster, Lyn Wilson, Keith Yates, John, Karen, Ray, Henry Nicholls, and Jill Losurdo.

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), Bruce Fernandez (19.07.21) and Grace de Bono (16.08.21)

- **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

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