

**NEWSLETTER OF THE PARISHES OF BALMAIN AND ROZELLE,
ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY
St MARY OF THE CROSS McKILLOP
(YEAR B) 8 August 2021**

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

Dear Parishioners,

This Sunday is the **Solemnity of St Mary of the Cross McKillop**. St Mary McKillop was a Scottish Catholic, from the highlands of Scotland where the people never forsook the faith of their forebears, despite the persecution which accompanied the Reformation. It is a rugged and beautiful part of Scotland, itself a country with a proud history of achievement. It is interesting to consider how many Scots have exercised leadership in scholarship and politics – they have won a disproportionate number of Nobel prizes and, in the UK and Australia, provided us with quite a number of Prime Ministers. In the Middle Ages, Scotland had five universities when England only had two. I think it is Edinburgh and Glasgow Universities whose degrees are, strictly speaking, Pontifical degrees, both universities having been established by Papal Bull. One of them still has their copy of the Bull, the other has lost it. There are fascinating connections between Greece and Scotland – the earliest forms of Celtic Christianity derived their shape from the eastern monastic tradition and it is no accident that the name 'Scotland' is derived from the Greek word Σκότος (skotos) (meaning darkness – the dark land – no doubt a reference to the weather and the sunlight) (I have to add that this view is not widely accepted and the alternative explanation has something to do with a description of people from Scotland as pirates and, therefore, very bad people – not entirely flattering) and the nation's patron – St Andrew – and the colours of its flag – blue and white – quintessentially Greek. The Scots have also always been quite closely connected to France – often an opportunistic relationship, both countries having a common enemy from time to time (or quite a lot of the time, actually). Scotland not only has its own currency (the Scottish pound) but its own unique law and legal system (quite different in many ways from the English common law). Last but not least, Scotland has provided us all the finest drink in the world. It is, therefore, not surprising and entirely fitting that Australia's first saint is from Scotland.

Parishioners will be pleased to know that **John Blunt** has fully recovered from his nasty fall in the garden some time ago and we look forward to seeing him and Gretta back at St Augustine's when we are all allowed out of our homes.

You will recall that last week, I offered parishioners pastoral visits to **their homes**. Fr Victor has pointed out to me an inconsistency or ambiguity in the present NSW Covid Restrictions. It is a 'reasonable excuse' for a priest, minister of religion, or a member of a religious order to leave his or her home to make a pastoral visit. On the other hand, when it comes to the rules about receiving visitors, the following applies:

Visitors to a residence

Generally, visiting another person is not a reasonable excuse to leave your home. You must not allow a person to visit your home, except if it is for [permitted work](#)

- for childcare
- to give effect to arrangements between parents and children under 18 or their siblings
- to assist a person to move places of residence
- to avoid an injury or serious risk of harm
- because of an emergency
- to view or inspect property to lease or purchase it.

Socialising isn't a reasonable excuse to have visitors or leave home unless you live on your own. If you do live on your own, your nominated visitor can visit you.

It seems to me that **the effect of the regulations** is that Fr Victor and I are able to go out to make a pastoral visit which does not involve visiting a person in their home (say, going to the hospital) but may visit a home where that person is living on his or her own and has invited one of us to visit. This is my tentative view, anyway, and I would be interested to hear from any of you with arguments favouring either a more liberal or more restricted interpretation.

Therefore, on my present understanding of the restrictions, **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.)

I have recently received, via the email, **an interesting historical document connected to Rozelle Parish**. I have attached it to this *eBulletin*. The document has been provided by a resident of Gladesville whose late mother in law, **Philomena Jones (née Johnson)** had kept it in her papers – she died 7 January 2004. It is an edition of the *Catholic Record – St Joseph', Rozelle* – for October 1928, recording on page two Philomena's baptism on 19 August 1928. My correspondent has undertaken to provide us with the original after I have obtained advice from the Archdiocesan Archivist regarding what I should do with it. Does anyone remember Philomena Jones?

Colleen Meehan has provided a short tribute to her aunt **Margaret Meehan** whom many Balmain parishioners will remember. I had intended to publish it in a hard copy *Newsletter* but that seems like a distant prospect so I have included it in this *eBulletin*. The lockdown has provided some more time for reading. **One of the books** I have going is Gary Cox's *How to be Good or How to Be Moral and Virtuous in a Wicked World* (Bloomsbury Academic: London 2020) (something I have always wondered about. I bought the book on impulse at a Balmain bookshop). He lists the noble eight-fold path of Buddhism, which is worth considering alongside the Sermon on the Mount, while at the same time remembering that Buddhism is a philosophy of life, a path of

Godless meditation, and that Christianity is a religion with a mystical identification with life, death, and resurrection of Christ and involves a relationship with God and the workings of divine grace. Nevertheless, with respect to ethics, there is an intersection. I have included the noble eight-fold path below for your thoughts.

Another book I am reading is Peter France's, *Hermits: The Insights of Solitude* (Pimlico: London, 1996). The first chapter describes various religious and philosophical movements in classical Greece which had an influence on the later desert monasticism of Egypt, in particular, the Cynics. I have extracted a few amusing passages below.

As I have mentioned before, some parents have enquired about the celebration of **First Confessions and First Communions** for their children this year. Obviously, everything has 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*.

Fr Richard Waddell

Parish Administrator

IN MEMORIAM

Margaret Mary Meehan (Born: 17th April 1935, Died: 25th June 2021)

The family of Margaret Mary Meehan are sad to inform the congregation of St Augustine's that our beloved sister and Aunt left to be with our Eternal Saviour and God on Friday the 25th of June 2021. Many of the congregation would remember Mollie Margaret as a dedicated choir member.

David Hinder who is the organist for the choir and an ABC work colleague with Margaret recalls that Margaret was at times the prima donna of the choir, and was able to sing a top C and solo items. Jenny Edwards, who was a conductor for the choir, shared that Margaret was, such an important part of the choir for so very many years and she had a great voice and knowledge of music. David remembers that Margaret was part of a choir that had glorious voices with wonderful sopranos, men with big Balmain voices and strong trusty altos.

Margaret sang at ordinations, first Masses (including Chris Toohey a Balmain boy who became a Bishop) and many other BIG Masses as well as Easter and Christmas services. Margaret was part of great days of music at St. Augustine's Balmain. Margaret loved her Catholic faith and was always grateful to have the opportunity to inspire others in worship through the choir at St Augustine's. Colleen Meehan 16.07.21

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>



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. Is there any point in hosting a party for time travellers? Would you hope anyone would turn up? In 2009, I held a party for time travellers in my college, Gonville and Gaius in Cambridge, for a film about time travel. To ensure that only genuine time travellers came, I didn't send out the invitations until after the party. On the day of the party, I sat in college hoping, but no one came. I was disappointed, but not surprised, because I had shown that if general relativity is correct and energy density is positive, time travel is not possible. I would have been delighted if one of my assumptions had turned out to be wrong. - Stephen Hawking, *Brief Answers to the Big Questions*, 141.

THE NOBLE EIGHT-FOLD PATH

Right understanding: Seeing life as it really is rather than as you want it to be.

Right intent: Heartfelt commitment to following the path.

Right speech: Be careful what you say and how you say it. Words are deeds.

Right action: Ethical conduct. Treat others and the world with respect.

Right livelihood: Find socially constructive employment, avoid socially destructive employment.

Right effort: Enthusiasm for all you do but not too slow and not too hasty.

Right mindfulness: Be aware of the present moment, not constantly distracted.

Right concentration: Full, calming focus on objects and concepts. Basis meditation. More advanced meditation dispenses with objects and concepts.

- Cox, *How to be Good*, pp. 88-89.

REGARDING DIOGENES

Plato is said to have referred to Diogenes as 'Socrates gone mad'. An instance of his madness was the occasion when he went to a meal at Plato's house and trampled all over the embroidered cushions with his muddy feet. 'Thus I trample on the pride of Plato', he cried. 'With the pride of Diogenes', replied Plato...Diogenes enjoyed a joke and once, when watching an incompetent bowman at an archery contest, walked over and sat down right next to the target, explaining that it was the only place where he felt safe.

- France, *Hermits*, pp. 12-13.



FORTHCOMING BAPTISM

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



FORTHCOMING WEDDINGS

Ben Vittorio WEISSEL with Rossy Giovannella GUTIERREZ-DALY

Michael GALLARDO with Thalia FLOGERAS

Mak CAVANAGH with Gabrielle Anna SMALL

† 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, and Ray.

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 McMahan, 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: The Parish Office will be attended on Tuesdays and Fridays only and the 'phone monitored at other times.

Parish Secretary: Lorraine Thomy

Ministry Coordinator: Barbara Howard

Parish Safeguarding Officers: David Kelaher 0458 352 257 & Kathleen Curry 0410 877 227

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