

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

TWENTY EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

(YEAR B) *10 October 2021*

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

Dear Parishioners,

Here are the new rules, taken from a letter from the Vicar-General:

1. Our **churches are still closed** and there will be **no public masses until the 80% vaccination threshold is reached.**
2. Churches may be opened for weddings and funerals, and **for services restricted to those who are fully vaccinated (e.g. for baptisms; or for a 'private' Mass with a priest who is fully vaccinated.)**
3. **Whenever people gather in a place of worship, the number permitted is according to the 4 sqm rule, and masks must be worn. Covid Check-in is also required via the Service NSW App or a written record.**
4. **If all those present are vaccinated**, the permitted number for weddings and funerals will be 100 (but subject to the 4 sqm rule).
5. **If some of those attending a funeral or wedding are not vaccinated**, then the ceremony must be "small": maximum 5 at a wedding and 10 at a funeral. (I anticipate there will be some confusions around the status of funerals, and I suggest we let the Undertakers manage the issue of numbers.)
6. **Schools** will reopen by October 25. Like teachers and others, **clergy will be required to be vaccinated** before ministering in a school. In the case of our own Sydney Catholic Schools, each school has a church engagement officer who will contact you directly and assist with registering your vaccination (or approved exemption).
7. If a **priest who is not yet fully vaccinated** is approached for ministry at this time (e.g. for a baptism or hospital visit), **he should arrange for a 'supply' priest to replace him.**
8. When 80% vaccination is reached, Churches and places of worship may open for mass with one person per 4 sqm, and with no singing (apart from up to 10 vaccinated cantors). Those who are not fully vaccinated will be allowed to participate.

Accordingly, from Monday 11 October, it will be possible for *invited parishioners to attend 'private' Masses in the churches.* Here follows an invitation and also schedules for weekdays and weekends.

YOU ARE INVITED TO DAILY AND SUNDAY MASSES **IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED YOUR DOUBLE VACCINATION. PLEASE WEAR A MASK AND OBSERVE THE 4 SQM PHYSICAL DISTANCING RULES. (FR VICTOR AND I HAVE RECEIVED OUR DOUBLE JABS.) RSVP NOT REQUIRED BUT QR OR MANUAL REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.**

NEW SCHEDULE FOR WEEKDAYS STARTING MON 11TH OCTOBER

I would like to introduce a **new schedule for the weekday Masses** after receiving quite a few responses to my proposal set out in last week's *eBulletin*. This new schedule will commence on Monday 11 October. It is *ad experimentum* – subject to your further feedback. N.B. These Masses, until 25 October, are by invitation only – see the above Invitation.

WEEKDAYS (COMMENCING 11TH OCTOBER 2021)

Accordingly, the new schedule *ad experimentum* for weekdays is as follows:

Monday 9.15 am (Balmain)
Tuesday 6.00 pm (Balmain) (Confessions from 5 pm)
Wednesday 7.30 am (Rozelle) (which will always be a Mass) 9.15 am (Balmain)
(depending on availability of clergy, it will be either a Mass or a Communion Service)
Thursday 9.15 am (Balmain)
Friday 7.30 am (Balmain) (early because Friday is my day at the Tribunal)
Saturday 9.15 am (Balmain)

Most respondents to my request for feedback have thought that 9.15 am is a good time. Two parishioners prefer to start the day with an early Mass. Another parishioner likes the idea of an evening Mass.

I have spoken to Fr Victor about this and he has agreed that when he is in residence, we could retain this basic structure but schedule an additional Mass at 7.30 am so that opportunity will quite often be available.

Sometimes, the weekday Mass at 9.15 am will be a School Mass but it will begin on time and will only last a little longer than the normal weekday Mass. The schedule will indicate when the daily Mass is also a School Mass.

THE WEEKEND SCHEDULE REMAINS UNCHANGED

WEEKENDS (COMMENCING 16TH AND 17TH OCTOBER 2021)

SATURDAY VIGIL 05.00 PM (BALMAIN)
SUNDAY 09.00 AM (BALMAIN)
10.30 AM (ROZELLE)
06.00 PM (BALMAIN)

With respect to the schedule of Masses over the weekend, the only suggestion I have received is that the Sunday night Mass be brought forward to 5 pm. This is, apparently, a preferred time for families across the Archdiocese. *Before changing the time of the Sunday evening Mass, we will conduct a formal consultation with the normal 6 pm congregation.* WATCH THIS SPACE.

THE LATEST INFORMATION ABOUT COVID RESTRICTIONS IS AS FOLLOWS:

Stage One – when 70% are fully vaccinated – estimated date 11 October

The NSW Government would require the Church to identify and turn unvaccinated people away from public celebrations of Mass during Stage One so the Archbishop has decided that a more seemly arrangement is for priests to celebrate 'private' Masses to which only the vaccinated are invited. Accordingly, I will be celebrating a daily Mass in St Augustine's from Monday 11 October onwards to which any fully vaccinated parishioner is warmly invited. Masks must be worn, physical distancing must be maintained, and no singing! See below for some thoughts about times for the daily Masses.

Stage Two – when 80% are fully vaccinated – estimated date 25 October

When Stage Two is reached, the churches will once again be open to the general public (fully vaccinated, partially vaccinated, and the unvaccinated). The 4 sqm rule will apply and masks will be worn indoors.

Stage Three – when 90% are fully vaccinated – estimated date 1 December

Churches will be open to the public with a 2 sqm rule for physical distancing but masks will not be required. Nothing specific about singing yet.

Parish Council meetings: If possible, these will resume in November (to be on the safe side).

List of departed for October: Barbara Howard has researched the Balmain records for names of deceased from 2000 onwards and they are now included in the intercessions. We are working on the Rozelle records.

Fr Richard Waddell

Parish Administrator

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

The local Conference of the **Society of St Vincent de Paul** has a message as follows: Vinnies are available to help families and individuals in need. We can help with food assistance, financial assistance, clothing, counselling as a start. If you or anyone you know needs help, we can help. Just have to call the Vinnies office on 98184365 or Maureen Robinson on 0414 634208 and we will be there.

BRIEF ANSWERS TO THE BIG QUESTIONS

Q. Has your disability influenced the way you do science? My disease has hardly affected my work. That is because I was lucky enough to choose theoretical physics, which is one of the fields in which amyotrophic lateral sclerosis is not a serious handicap. I wouldn't have been able to continue had I been working in almost any other field.

What is your message to other people with disabilities? My advice to other disabled people would be: concentrate on things your disability doesn't prevent you doing well, and don't regret the things it interferes with. Don't be disabled in spirit, as well as physically – Stephen Hawking, *Brief Answers to the Big Questions*, 236-237.

POSTPONED EVENTS

The following events have been postponed: **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**.

The Hunter's Hill Theatre Company have advised that their production of **84 Charing Cross Road** will be staged in February 2022 – dates and times to be advised in the near future.

Further details regarding the other events will be provided when the future becomes a bit more certain.



Humanitarian crises unfolding in Afghanistan and Lebanon

As the situations in **Afghanistan** and **Lebanon** deteriorate, you can help to support families caught up in the crises.

In **Afghanistan**, people have been forced from their homes, with half of the population in urgent need of food, water, shelter and protection.

In **Lebanon**, the country is running out of power, water, fuel, medicine and food. Even hospitals are facing massive fuel shortages and will soon have to turn off the lights.

Please donate to Caritas Australia so that we are able to respond to crises like these and others across the world.

Visit caritas.org.au/lebanon or www.caritas.org.au/afghanistan or call 1800 024 413 toll free to provide much needed support.

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/>



FORTHCOMING BAPTISM

Auguste Benedict BERTAUD on Saturday 27 November at 10.15 am at Balmain
Alessia Daniela MUSCAT on Sunday 12 December at 12 noon at Balmain
Isla Marie FORREST on Saturday 18 December at 12 noon at Balmain
Leo BARBAGALLO on Saturday 22 January 2022 at 11.30 am at Balmain
Luca Bailey HOBSON on Sunday 23 January 2022 at 12 noon at Balmain



FORTHCOMING WEDDINGS

Dylan HARVEY with Brittani BATTLE on Saturday 15 January 2022
Michael GALLARDO with Thalia FLOGERAS on Sunday 23 January 2022
Mak CAVANAGH with Gabrielle Anna SMALL on Saturday 23 April 2022
Ben WEISSEL with Giovannella GUTIERREZ-DALY on Friday 4 March 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 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, Jill Losurdo, Lucy Tyler, John Coorey, and Vincent Erskine.

For the faithful departed – those recently deceased: Grace de Bono (16.08.21), Elaine Eleanor Salvestro (20.09.21), and Lucien Leech-Larkin (26.09.21).

- those whose year's mind occurs this month: Sally Bisat (01.10.02); Noel Fehon (01.10.09); Graeme Barlow (03.10.15); Mary Goeley (03.10.00); Stephen Peters (03.10.06); Antonio Bianchino (04.10.04); Marcia Hammond (05.10.10); Stephen Carter (06.10.13); Saverio Aliperti (09.10.03); Joyce Argent (10.10.05); Barry Walker (10.10.12); Shirley Austin (11.10.13) John Brennan (11.10.06); Beverley Leis (13.10.13); Michael Carroll (14.10.11); Robyn Cruden (16.10.08); Mervyn Houghton (18.10.09); Poline Hacio (18.10.15); Donald Allen (19.10.19); Margaret Keegan (21.10.03); Cameron Books (22.10.07); Allan White (26.10.03); Ida Jensen (31.10.12).

- 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.



See what's happening in our parishes – find us on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/staugbalmain>

BALMAIN AS IT IS NOW (1906)

S.N. Hogg

ST AUGUSTINE'S

The old church of St Augustine's is a land mark in Balmain, and was built as far back as the time of the late Archbishop Polding. A new church is in course of erection, but the affectionate regard of the Roman Catholic community for a building where their fathers before them worshipped as children, will not permit of its demolition, at present at any rate. The fact that arch-priest J.J. Therry – the father of the Australian priesthood – passed his last days as pastor of St Augustine's, lends an interest to the old church. St Augustine's has counted among its pastors since the death of arch-priest Therry, the late Rev. George Dillon, the Very Rev. Dr. Forrest, Monsignor Carroll, and Dean Healey. The old building with its extremely narrow windows and miniature tower is still standing. It is a small structure of stone, and from the outside view has suffered but little from Time's defacing finger. But the noble structure now in course of erection will quite eclipse it. It will be two feet wider and three feet longer than St Patrick's Church, Sydney, and will cost over £7,000.

The parish priest here now is Father Rohan, who is very popular among his own people and highly respected, not only by Roman Catholics, but by Protestants also.

(To be continued)

APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION
EVANGELII GAUDIUM
OF THE HOLY FATHER
FRANCIS
TO THE BISHOPS, CLERGY,
CONSECRATED PERSONS
AND THE LAY FAITHFUL
ON THE PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL
IN TODAY'S WORLD
(24 November 2013)

1. The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Christ joy is constantly born anew. In this Exhortation I wish to encourage the Christian faithful to embark upon a new chapter of evangelization marked by this joy, while pointing out new paths for the Church's journey in years to come.

I. A joy ever new, a joy which is shared

2. The great danger in today's world, pervaded as it is by consumerism, is the desolation and anguish born of a complacent yet covetous heart, the feverish pursuit of frivolous pleasures, and a blunted conscience. Whenever our interior life becomes caught up in its own interests and concerns, there is no longer room for others, no place for the poor. God's voice is no longer heard, the quiet joy of his love is no longer felt, and the desire to do good fades. This is a very real danger for believers too. Many fall prey to it, and end up resentful, angry and listless. That is no way to live a dignified and fulfilled life; it is not God's will for us, nor is it the life in the Spirit which has its source in the heart of the risen Christ.

3. I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to

do this unflinchingly each day. No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her, since "no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord".^[1] The Lord does not disappoint those who take this risk; whenever we take a step towards Jesus, we come to realize that he is already there, waiting for us with open arms. Now is the time to say to Jesus: "Lord, I have let myself be deceived; in a thousand ways I have shunned your love, yet here I am once more, to renew my covenant with you. I need you. Save me once again, Lord, take me once more into your redeeming embrace". How good it feels to come back to him whenever we are lost! Let me say this once more: God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy. Christ, who told us to forgive one another "seventy times seven" (*Mt* 18:22) has given us his example: he has forgiven us seventy times seven. Time and time again he bears us on his shoulders. No one can strip us of the dignity bestowed upon us by this boundless and unflinching love. With a tenderness which never disappoints, but is always capable of restoring our joy, he makes it possible for us to lift up our heads and to start anew. Let us not flee from the resurrection of Jesus, let us never give up, come what will. May nothing inspire more than his life, which impels us onwards!

4. The books of the Old Testament predicted that the joy of salvation would abound in messianic times. The prophet Isaiah exultantly salutes the awaited Messiah: "You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy" (9:3). He exhorts those who dwell on Zion to go forth to meet him with song: "Shout aloud and sing for joy!" (12:6). The prophet tells those who have already seen him from afar to bring the message to others: "Get you up to a high mountain, O herald of good tidings to Zion; lift up your voice with strength, O herald of good tidings to Jerusalem" (40:9). All creation shares in the joy of salvation: "Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth! Break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the Lord has comforted his people, and will have compassion on his suffering ones" (49:13).

Zechariah, looking to the day of the Lord, invites the people to acclaim the king who comes "humble and riding on a donkey": "Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he" (9:9).

Perhaps the most exciting invitation is that of the prophet Zephaniah, who presents God with his people in the midst of a celebration overflowing with the joy of salvation. I find it thrilling to reread this text: "The Lord, your God is in your midst, a warrior who gives you the victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing, as on a day of festival" (3:17).

This is the joy which we experience daily, amid the little things of life, as a response to the loving invitation of God our Father: "My child, treat yourself well, according to your means... Do not deprive yourself of the day's enjoyment" (*Sir* 14:11, 14). What tender paternal love echoes in these words!

5. The Gospel, radiant with the glory of Christ's cross, constantly invites us to rejoice. A few examples will suffice. "Rejoice!" is the angel's greeting to Mary (*Lk* 1:28). Mary's visit to Elizabeth makes John leap for joy in his mother's womb (cf. *Lk* 1:41). In her song of praise, Mary proclaims: "My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour" (*Lk* 1:47). When Jesus begins his ministry, John cries out: "For this reason, my joy has been fulfilled" (*Jn* 3:29). Jesus himself "rejoiced in the Holy Spirit" (*Lk* 10:21). His message brings us joy: "I have said these things to you, so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete" (*Jn* 15:11). Our Christian joy drinks of the wellspring of his brimming heart. He promises his disciples: "You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy" (*Jn* 16:20). He then goes on to say: "But I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you" (*Jn* 16:22). The disciples "rejoiced" (*Jn* 20:20) at the sight of the risen Christ. In the Acts of the Apostles we read that the first Christians "ate their food with glad and generous hearts" (2:46). Wherever the disciples went, "there was great joy" (8:8); even amid persecution they

continued to be "filled with joy" (13:52). The newly baptized eunuch "went on his way rejoicing" (8:39), while Paul's jailer "and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God" (16:34). Why should we not also enter into this great stream of joy?

6. There are Christians whose lives seem like Lent without Easter. I realize of course that joy is not expressed the same way at all times in life, especially at moments of great difficulty. Joy adapts and changes, but it always endures, even as a flicker of light born of our personal certainty that, when everything is said and done, we are infinitely loved. I understand the grief of people who have to endure great suffering, yet slowly but surely we all have to let the joy of faith slowly revive as a quiet yet firm trust, even amid the greatest distress: "My soul is bereft of peace; I have forgotten what happiness is... But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning. Great is your faithfulness... It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord" (*Lam* 3:17, 21-23, 26).

7. Sometimes we are tempted to find excuses and complain, acting as if we could only be happy if a thousand conditions were met. To some extent this is because our "technological society has succeeded in multiplying occasions of pleasure, yet has found it very difficult to engender joy".^[2] I can say that the most beautiful and natural expressions of joy which I have seen in my life were in poor people who had little to hold on to. I also think of the real joy shown by others who, even amid pressing professional obligations, were able to preserve, in detachment and simplicity, a heart full of faith. In their own way, all these instances of joy flow from the infinite love of God, who has revealed himself to us in Jesus Christ. I never tire of repeating those words of [Benedict XVI](#) which take us to the very heart of the Gospel: "Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction".^[3]

8. Thanks solely to this encounter – or renewed encounter – with God's love, which blossoms into an enriching friendship, we are liberated from our narrowness and self-absorption. We become fully human when we become more than human, when we let God bring us beyond ourselves in order to attain the fullest truth of our being. Here we find the source and inspiration of all our efforts at evangelization. For if we have received the love which restores meaning to our lives, how can we fail to share that love with others?

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 & 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

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