

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

TWENTY SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

(YEAR B) 3 October 2021

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

Dear Parishioners,

Day light saving commences on Sunday (3 October). We 'wind' our clocks **forward** one hour.

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.

A Messages from the leaders of Christendom

The Pope, the Ecumenical Patriarch, and the Archbishop of Canterbury have issued a Joint Message for the Protection of Creation (dated 1 September 2021). This does not appear to have been given much publicity but it is an important statement and the first of its kind. One cannot help noticing that there seems to be quite an interesting confluence of different developments at the moment and all with potential global consequences – the pandemic (yet to wreak its full havoc in the underdeveloped nations) – the looming energy crisis in Europe and Asian – potential financial instability in China – hints of inflation just around the corner – and the continuing and perhaps even accelerating degradation of the earth. It is hard to believe that by the time we reach Stage Three everything will be back to normal. Instead, it is easier to believe that everything will have changed. We Christians have something worthwhile to say about all of this and the Pope, the Patriarch, and the Archbishop are giving a good lead. Please take to heart what they are saying to us (the plain text is found below and a more attractive format of the letter is attached or found at: https://uploads-ssl.webflow.com/5de57b035c2d611637fa27da/613bfb6b879d5484b2db09d4_Joint%20Statement%20on%20the%20Environment.pdf).

Times of daily Mass: I am wondering whether parishioners who are accustomed to come or *would like to come* to the daily Mass in either St Augustine's or St Joseph's have any views about the time or times for Mass. Before the latest lockdown, the daily Mass was at 7.30 am from Monday to Friday and 9 am on Saturday. During the lockdown it has usually been at noon but, when it has been more convenient, we have celebrated Mass at 9.30 am or 4 pm or 5 pm. The advantage of an early Mass is that it is possible for people to go before heading off to work but I am not sure how many daily Mass attenders are in that position. If we were to have Mass at 9.15 am (after the children have been dropped off at the schools), it may be more convenient for more parishioners and even some parents (and easier during the winter months). A midday Mass would probably not suit as many people and an evening Mass may be too late in the day for most. If you have any views, please send an email or leave a message on the Parish Office phone in the coming week and I will publish the results next weekend, in time for the Stage One Mass schedule. Meanwhile, the private Mass for two rostered people will continue this week at noon or other times arranged by mutual convenience.

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.

Charitable Works Fund: You will also find attached a document regarding the appeals for the Charitable Works Fund. Once again it has a lot of material on it and various links to videos and so on. An awful lot of work goes into all this and I am not sure how many people actually download and read or watch these communications – there is so much stuff coming in through the internet that it is a full time occupation reading it all and by the time one has finished an entire working day has passed without actually having done anything. So much information! Some of you will make contributions but I think this is something we may respond to from our general parish revenue this year.

Fr Richard Waddell

Parish Administrator

A Joint Message for Protection of Creation

For more than a year, we have all experienced the devastating effects of a global pandemic—all of us, whether poor or wealthy, weak or strong. Some were more protected or vulnerable than others, but the rapidly-spreading infection meant that we have depended on each other in our efforts to stay safe. We realised that, in facing this worldwide calamity, no one is safe until everyone is safe, that our actions really do affect one another, and that what we do today affects what happens tomorrow.

These are not new lessons, but we have had to face them anew. May we not waste this moment. We must decide what kind of world we want to leave to future generations. God mandates: 'Choose life, so that you and your children might live' (Dt 30:19). We must choose to live differently; we must choose life.

September is celebrated by many Christians as the Season of Creation, an opportunity to pray and care for God's creation. As world leaders prepare to meet in November at Glasgow to deliberate on the future of our planet, we pray for them and consider what the choices we must all make. Accordingly, as leaders of our Churches, we call on everyone, whatever their belief or worldview, to endeavour to listen to the cry of the earth and of people who are poor, examining their behaviour and pledging meaningful sacrifices for the sake of the earth which God has given us.

The Importance of Sustainability

In our common Christian tradition, the Scriptures and the Saints provide illuminating perspectives for comprehending both the realities of the present and the promise of something larger than what we see in the moment. The concept of stewardship—of individual and collective responsibility for our God-given endowment—presents a vital starting-point for social, economic and environmental sustainability. In the New Testament, we read of the rich and foolish man who stores great wealth of grain while forgetting about his finite end (Lk 12.13–21). We learn of the prodigal son who takes his inheritance early, only to squander it and end up hungry (Lk 15.11–32). We are cautioned against adopting short term and seemingly inexpensive options of building on sand, instead of building on rock for our common home to withstand storms (Mt 7.24–27). These stories invite us to adopt a broader outlook and recognise our place in the extended story of humanity.

But we have taken the opposite direction. We have maximised our own interest at the expense of future generations. By concentrating on our wealth, we find that long-term assets, including the bounty of nature, are depleted for short-term advantage. Technology has unfolded new possibilities for progress but also for accumulating unrestrained wealth, and many of us behave in ways which demonstrate little concern for other people or the limits of the planet. Nature is resilient, yet delicate. We are already witnessing the consequences of our refusal to protect and preserve it (Gn 2.15). Now, in this moment, we have an opportunity to repent, to turn around in resolve, to head in the opposite direction. We must pursue generosity and fairness in the ways that we live, work and use money, instead of selfish gain.

The Impact on People Living with Poverty

The current climate crisis speaks volumes about who we are and how we view and treat God's creation. We stand before a harsh justice: biodiversity loss, environmental degradation and climate change are the inevitable consequences of our actions, since we have greedily consumed more of the earth's resources than the planet can endure. But we also face a profound injustice: the people bearing the most catastrophic consequences of these abuses are the poorest on the planet and have been the least responsible for causing them. We serve a God of justice, who delights in creation and creates every person in God's image, but also hears the cry of people who are poor. Accordingly, there is an innate call within us to respond with anguish when we see such devastating injustice.

Today, we are paying the price. The extreme weather and natural disasters of recent months reveal afresh to us with great force and at great human cost that climate change is not only a future challenge, but an immediate and urgent matter of survival. Widespread floods, fires and droughts threaten entire continents. Sea levels rise, forcing whole communities to relocate; cyclones devastate entire regions, ruining lives and livelihoods. Water has become scarce and food supplies insecure, causing conflict and displacement for millions of people. We have already seen this in places where people rely on small scale agricultural holdings.

Today we see it in more industrialised countries where even sophisticated infrastructure cannot completely prevent extraordinary destruction.

Tomorrow could be worse. Today's children and teenagers will face catastrophic consequences unless we take responsibility now, as 'fellow workers with God' (Gn 2.4–7), to sustain our world. We frequently hear from young people who understand that their futures are under threat. For their sake, we must choose to eat, travel, spend, invest and live differently, thinking not only of immediate interest and gains but also of future benefits. We repent of our generation's sins. We stand alongside our younger sisters and brothers throughout the world in committed prayer and dedicated action for a future which corresponds ever more to the promises of God.

The Imperative of Cooperation

Over the course of the pandemic, we have learned how vulnerable we are. Our social systems frayed, and we found that we cannot control everything. We must acknowledge that the ways we use money and organize our societies have not benefited everyone. We find ourselves weak and anxious, submersed in a series of crises; health, environmental, food, economic and social, which are all deeply interconnected.

These crises present us with a choice. We are in a unique position either to address them with shortsightedness and profiteering or seize this as an opportunity for conversion and transformation. If we think of humanity as a family and work together towards a future based on the common good, we could find ourselves living in a very different world. Together we can share a vision for life where everyone flourishes. Together we can choose to act with love, justice and mercy. Together we can walk towards a fairer and fulfilling society with those who are most vulnerable at the centre.

But this involves making changes. Each of us, individually, must take responsibility for the ways we use our resources. This path requires an ever-closer collaboration among all churches in their commitment to care for creation. Together, as communities, churches, cities and nations, we must change route and discover new ways of working together to break down the traditional barriers between peoples, to stop competing for resources and start collaborating.

To those with more far-reaching responsibilities—heading administrations, running companies, employing people or investing funds—we say: choose people-centred profits; make short-term sacrifices to safeguard all our futures; become leaders in the transition to just and sustainable economies. 'To whom much is given, much is required.' (Lk 12:48)

This is the first time that the three of us feel compelled to address together the urgency of environmental sustainability, its impact on persistent poverty, and the importance of global cooperation. Together, on behalf of our communities, we appeal to the heart and mind of every Christian, every believer and every person of good will. We pray for our leaders who will gather in Glasgow to decide the future of our planet and its people. Again, we recall Scripture: 'choose life, so that you and your children may live' (Dt 30:19). Choosing life means making sacrifices and exercising self-restraint.

All of us—whoever and wherever we are—can play a part in changing our collective response to the unprecedented threat of climate change and environmental degradation.

Caring for God's creation is a spiritual commission requiring a response of commitment. This is a critical moment. Our children's future and the future of our common home depend on it.

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>

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.

THE FIFTH PLENARY COUNCIL

The first session of the Plenary Council begins on Sunday 3 October. Parishioners may be interested in the Schedule and in using the following links. We have attached a list of delegates or members (which, strangely, has not been updated to take account of Wagga Wagga Diocese having a new bishop).

For Sydney

Archbishop Fisher will be celebrating an Opening Mass at the Cathedral on Sunday morning at 10.30 am. This may be accessed from

3rd October - <https://youtu.be/gkDKyUm2-3I>

10th October - <https://youtu.be/j-svTTMmlFo>

October 4-9: Daily Mass broadcast at 9.30am AEDT and on demand afterwards.

October 4-6 and October 8-9: Plenary session livestream starts at 11am AEDT and runs until approximately 12.15pm AEDT.

October 7: Plenary session livestream starts at 12 noon AEDT and runs until approximately 12.45pm AEDT.

October 10: Closing Mass of the First General Assembly, 11am AEDT from St Stephen's Cathedral, Brisbane. There will be a daily blog from some of the Sydney members.

Additional Information

We were provided with a link that will enable you to access the documents related to the Assembly.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1fD09cfa5UsG3zIncZIJzBde5yQIY-AeE?usp=sharing>

Please continue to pray that the Holy Spirit will inspire all those involved in the Assembly.

BRIEF ANSWERS TO THE BIG QUESTIONS

Q. How do you explain that, from time to time, the general public needs a kind of scientific icon (Einstein in his time, you now)? Comparisons with Einstein are just media hype. Among physicists, I'm respected, I hope. But I'm just one of a number of people who have helped shape our modern view of the universe. We all need to know where we belong, and where we came from. But I'm not a genius, like Einstein was. – Stephen Hawking, *Brief Answers to the Big Questions*, 236.

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.

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.



FORTHCOMING BAPTISM

Leo BARBAGALLO on Saturday 22 January 2022 at 11.30 am at Balmain



FORTHCOMING WEDDINGS

Ben WEISSEL with Giovannella GUTIERREZ-DALY on Thursday 18 November 2021

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

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.

BALMAIN AS IT IS NOW (1906)

S.N. Hogg

ANGLICAN CHURCH

The earliest official records in connection with the Anglican Church in Balmain go back to the 19th March, 1843, when the Rev. Frederick Wilkinson M.A., was appointed minister of the united parishes of Balmain and Ashfield. On 1st January, 1845, the Lord Bishop of Australia laid the foundation stone of a church and school-house to be called "St Mary the Virgin" on a site given for the purpose by Michael Metcalf. I believe, but am not quite sure, that this was in Adolphus-street. On 1st January, 1848, the Rev. F. Wilkinson appears to have had a curate under him of the same surname, and from this date the name of the church appears as St Mary's. On 1st January, 1849, the Rev. F. Cameron, B.A., late of Marsfield, was licensed as minister of the church of St Mary's. Unless this gentleman's likeness misleads us, he must have been a man of striking personality, aristocratic bearing, and marked ability. On 1st July, 1855, the Rev. William Stack, B.A., afterwards Canon Stack, was licensed as minister, vice Rev. C.F.D. Priddle, transferred to Liverpool. After a pastorate of 16 years Canon Stack's useful life was abruptly closed. He received a telegram from Walgett, informing him that his son was lying there dangerously ill. He hastened to see him, but the coach he was travelling by was capsized, and the Canon dangerously injured. He died on 14th June, 1871, the same day that the accident occurred. After having prophetically preached his last sermon from the 3 v. of 17 ch. St John "I have finished the work thou gavest me to do". It was in Canon Stack's time that St Mary's Church was added to and greatly improved. I have in my possession a list of some of the names of people who subscribed towards the funds 50 years ago. Here are a few of them: K.W. Cameron, Thos. Perkins, Alex. Stuart, Dr Evans, J.G. Cohen, W. Howard, James Looke, Captain Deloitte, Mr Fitzhardinge, John Bood, and Henry Perdrian, Father Therry (£25). On 22nd September 1871, Rev. Henry Archdall Langley was licensed as minister. He resigned six years later, and died as Bishop of Bendigo only a few months ago. The Rev. T.B. Tress succeeded Mr Langley, and remained in charge of the parish for five years. He was followed on 16th June, 1882, by a cousin of the late Bishop of Bendigo, the Rev. Mervy Archdall, M.A., now Canon Archdall, who is still with us.

(To be continued)

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

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